

SUMMARY OF THE TRUSTEES BOARD MEETINGS

FOR ISSUE TO CLUB SECRETARIES & HYB COORDINATORS

Chairman: Michael Smale (MS)

Trustees (1st July onwards):

Andrew Williamson, David Jones, David Yates, Edward Griffiths, Iwan Morgan, Jane Targett, Jane Whittaker, John Hartley, Matthew Winter, Peter Prior, Sandy Pirie, Stephen Hill, Wallace Gregg, William Williamson

In attendance: Stephen Brough, Aled Jones, Sue Cope, Melanie Harmitt

Minute Taker: Hannah Williams

INTRODUCTION

Due to the current situation with COVID-19 it has not been possible for the Holstein UK Board to meet in person since the February Board Meeting. The trustees however have been continuing to hold meetings via Zoom on the following dates;

- 14th May 2020
- 29th June 2020
- 1st July 2020
- 10th July 2020
- 6th August 2020

Below is a summary of the business discussed within these meetings.

APOLOGIES

14/05/20 – No Apologies

29/06/20 – Jane Targett

01/07/20 – No Apologies

10/07/20 – Peter Prior & William Williams

16/08/20 – No Apologies

MEMBERS FOR ELECTION

Members for election were proposed to the board on two occasions during May and August. On both occasions the board approved the members for election.

HOLSTEIN UK EVENTS & AWARDS ACTION PLAN DUE TO COVID-19

The trustees considered the viability of running the following events in 2020

- UK Dairy Day
- Holstein UK Premier Herd Competition
- All Breeds All Britain Calf Show

The trustees discussed the options for the above events due to the COVID-19 situation and the government restrictions currently in place. The trustees were informed that costs would soon be incurred for the above events due to the requirement for venue deposits and ordering of services and equipment that could not be left any longer if the event was going to run. The trustees agreed that it was extremely difficult to be at all sure that any of the above events would be able to be run on the proposed dates due to the ongoing pandemic. The trustees were clear that the safety of attendees, members, exhibitors and staff were of the utmost importance and that it was also important to safeguard against any financial loss. The trustees therefore made the decision that the events should be cancelled for 2020.

NEW HQ OPTIONS

The trustees have been considering for some time the future HQ building for Holstein UK, CIS and NBDC, that could also house the expanding laboratory. The trustees had previously agreed that the current HQ site at Telford had become too small for the size of the business and had agreed for the management team to explore opportunities for expansion either on the current site or on a new site in the area. The trustees agreed that expanding on the current site was not ideal as it would be costly, cause an element of disruption to the business and would not solve the issue of car parking at the site.

An ideal building became available four miles away from the current Speir House site. The trustees reviewed the information on the building and agreed for an offer to be placed. Stephen Hill and Jane Whittaker also attended a viewing of the property and reported its suitability for the business. The offer has been accepted and the required surveys and valuations are proceeding in readiness for the exchange of contracts.

MALE GENOMIC TESTING

A paper was put forward to the trustees by the Science committee on Male Genomic Parentage Testing. The proposal put forward by the Science Committee was that all male calves registered would have to have a genomic parentage test going forward. David Jones, Chairman of the Science Committee, informed the board that therefore the cost of registering a male calf would be £32.50 and an additional £23 if the dam needed to be genomically tested if not already done so. The trustees agreed the Herd Book integrity was of the upmost importance and this move would continue to protect the Herd Book going forward. The trustees agreed that this should be brought into effect from 1st January 2021. The proposal was proposed to the trustees by David Jones and seconded by Jane Targett and the Board agreed the proposal.

SBH UPDATE

The trustees are pleased that the sale of Scotsbridge House continues to progress well. There have been continuing conversations with Millen Homes to tie up any outstanding queries with the potential finalisation of the sale. The trustees were asked to consider an additional element of the sale that Millen Homes had requested which included some additional land surrounding the car park. The trustees considered the options and agreed to proceed with firming up a final agreement on the sale of this extra land.

PROPOSED MEETING DATES

The trustees reviewed the proposed meeting dates for 2021 and agreed them in principle as follows;

February Committee & Board Meetings:	10 th & 11 th February
May Committee & Board Meetings:	5 th & 6 th May
Trustee Training & Reference Meeting	28 th June
Holstein UK AGM	30 th June
Holstein Trustee Election Meeting	1 st July
August Committee & Board Meetings	4 th & 5 th August
November Committee & Board Meetings	3 rd & 4 th November

COMMITTEE UPDATES

Following the 2020 Holstein UK AGM, the Board voted on the committee structures for the next 12 months. The board agreed the membership of the committees as follows;

Finance	Michael Smale (Chairperson), Jane Targett & Stephen Hill
Science	David Jones (Chairperson), Sandy Pirie, Wallace Gregg & Matthew Winter
Show & Sale	Edward Griffiths (Chairperson), Iwan Morgan, Peter Prior & David Yates
Operations	John Hartley (Chairperson), Jane Whittaker, Andrew Williamson & William Williams

The trustees also agreed that it would be beneficial to the Society to ask retiring trustees Mr Stephen Brough & Mr Aled Jones to remain as invited guests to the board until the end of the calendar year due to their wealth of experience especially with the inability at present for the Board to meet in person. The retiring trustees were asked if they would be willing to continue as invited guests of the Board and they both agreed.

FINANCE

The Board were advised that the cash position was still very positive.

The Board were pleased to understand that despite the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the business had not been too adversely affected.

The Board were made aware of the staff that had been Furloughed during the lock down period and have been informed that, as of the beginning of August, there were still two members of staff on Furlough and two members on Flexi-Furlough.

The Board were made aware of the fluctuating position with the investment portfolio and understood that this will likely continue to be volatile over the coming months.

OPERATIONS

Registration year to date are up by 1% over the previous year

TCS inspections were halted due to the pandemic which reflected in a 14,759 reduction in cattle seen, but since the easing of restrictions the Field Officers have seen a record number of cattle, with inspections in July being 64% up on July 2019 an increase of 7,139.

Since 2012 all males entering the Herd Book must have their parentage verified. The Operations Committee are concerned that they are still receiving males to consider because the dam has not been sampled, they would like to remind all members to take a hair or tissue sample from any dam and have asked for an educational piece to be done for The Journal, highlighting that if a sample needs to be sent to prove maternal parents to USA, the costs can be in the region of £2,000 for the member. This high cost is mainly due to the cost of royalties on males.

SHOW & SALE

The trustees made the decision to combine the August and October Journals into one September issue due to the lack of Show & Sales reports.

The Events & Marketing team have been working on a “just for fun” campaign to keep both members and HYB engaged during the lock down period and going forward. A number of competitions have been launched and continue to be launched to support members as they are unable to attend shows and events due to COVID-19. A dedicated web page has been set up for both the Club Herd Competitions and Club Calf Shows for those clubs able to continue doing their local events. Coverage of the events that have been able to take place will also go in the December Journal to help promote the clubs.

The trustees agreed that the 2020 All Britain Awards would not be able to be run for 2020 due to the lack of Shows that have taken place throughout the year.

SCIENCE

The Science Committee are undertaking a review of the Master Breeder Award criteria to make sure it is still Fit for Purpose.

The Science Committee agreed to default the inbreeding calculation in WebMate to 10 generations to avoid confusion with AHDB inbreeding checker.

The new classification traits are continuing to be analysed.