

***Pedigree Welsh Pig Society - Minutes of AGM held
on 4th December 2011 at The International Pavilion, Royal Welsh Show Ground,
Llanelwedd, Builth Wells, Powys LD2 3NJ***

Apologies: Barry Bovington, David Finch, Peter Hopkins, Stevie Wake

In Attendance: Bob Stevenson Helen Tongue, John Hitchcox, Chris Jenkins, Andrew Davies, Carwyn Evans, Teifi Evans, Ken Stebbings, Christine Vaughan , Brian Evans , Linda Evans, Joyce Owens, Geralt Owen, John Flay, David Moorhouse, Ken Austin, Mike Evans TDE Associates, Pat Stebbings.

Meeting Opened at 11.30am

Item 1 – Presidents Address by Bob Stevenson (BS)

The PWPS started as a vision by forward looking individuals. This vision was recognised by the Welsh Government who turned the vision into money which resulted in misunderstanding within the membership. ADAS brought in new vision. The future of the society is focussing on growing the project to enable the breed to survive and grow. The society will grow with the project. We are lucky to have David Moorhouse as project leader.

BS would like to see the enhancement of the Web site and see the members playing their role alongside the directors. Everybody has a part to play

Growth of the project should ensure the health status of the pig is secured. Pork from the Welsh pig should be fit for purpose, healthy for both humans and the pigs. We must not over use antibiotics, use vaccination and health planning to reduce disease

Item 2 – 2010 Minutes

Helen Tongue read the main sections of minutes of the 2010 AGM. These were proposed being accurate by Christine Vaughan and seconded by Brian Evans

Item 3 – Chairman's Report

Helen Tongue delivered the chairman's report: A Full copy of which is appended to the minutes.

Item 4 – Financial Report

Ken Stebbings reported on the financial year ending 31st Oct 2010. This is the first full year for which accounts were prepared. The accountants are Kevin Feldon & Co. A copy of the accounts are available for anyone to see and will be placed on the web site.

A profit and loss account sheet is provided tonight.

Money received was £62,867, primarily the Grant and membership fees

A breakdown of what the money was spent on is shown on the sheet to be mainly wages/NI, promotions and events .Expenditure totalled £82,851

The deficit of £19,984 was due to a delay in the grant income which is claimed every 3 months in arrears. The money is spent and claimed back on receipt of payment. The

£19,984 was expenditure not yet reclaimed from the Welsh Government **not bank overdraught**

The accounts for the year ending Oct 2011 have not yet been prepared and therefore are not available. A summary of the situation from Oct 2010 to Oct 2011 was given.

Bob Stevenson asked for a breakdown of expenditure to be placed alongside the accounts on the web page, for transparency.

Item 5 - Resolution to amend the article of Association 16.5

Helen Tongue read the current article to the room and then read the changed version. The change was proposed by Teifi Evans and seconded by John Flay.

The change will be written into the articles and Companies house advised.

Item 6 – Election of Directors

Pat Stebbings read out the nominations for directorship, with their proposers and seconders. Members had a show of hands in favour or against each candidate. The wishes of the two postal voters, Sue Evans and David Finch were added to each hand count. The results were:

Ken Austin 15 voted in favour

Ken Stebbings 15 voted in favour

Helen Tongue 14 voted in favour, one vote against

Christine Vaughan 14 voted in favour, one vote against

The nominees were all elected onto the board to fill the 4 vacant positions

Item 7 – Appointment of Auditors

Helen Tongue reported that Accountant Kevin Feldon considers that the accounts do not need to be audited. Bob Stevenson thinks that they should be done to reassure the membership. Ken Stebbings pointed out that they are submitted to Companies House and all the bank statements with receipts go to the WAG. Bob Stevenson said it should be left to the decision of the directors.

Item 8 - Presentation by David Moorhouse

David introduced himself and stated that we must “secure the future without plundering the present” It is important to understand the perception the Welsh pig has in the stakeholder community i.e. everybody involved in the chain. The results of the recent stakeholder survey were discussed. 26 survey forms showed that the breeding attributes of the Welsh pig are well recognised, pig enterprises can operate out of simple buildings the breed is easy to manage. The survey showed variable opinions on the commercial rates of growth, leanness. – feeding management is very important to produce good carcasses.

The trend in the 1980's to drive down back fat did not help the eating quality of commercial pork. Welsh pork has excellent eating quality. It is necessary to target all markets for Welsh pork including new markets such as Charcuterie which requires fat pigs. The value of the pigs must increase.

The knowledge of the current members must be harnessed to encourage new members to join and encourage new pig keepers

The Welsh pig is the only national pig of Wales and we should be working towards the "Pedigree Welsh Brand" We must learn how to produce the carcass required for the market with the most money. To do this we must be able to back up the claims made about the Welsh Pig

Meeting adjourned at 12.45pm

Appendix 1

CHAIRMANS REPORT

It must probably seem to members that very little has been happening, but in reality The Society has been steered through some major changes.

Rhys Evans was relieved of his post last December and Ros Bickham resigned in May. It was disturbing to find that office administration in some disarray. Pat Stebbings the new Project Administrator, myself and Mike Cross have put in many extra hours putting things back in order. What is worrying is that the Members data base is incomplete and we would ask for patience while we collate all your details once again.

Project management went out to Tender in May. To provide knowledge of the procedures necessary for this, assistance was sort from Consultancy Services. There are strict guidelines to be followed and a lot of work was involved for myself and Mike Cross. A final decision to employ ADAS was made and a new way of managing The Project is now in place.

The initial work related to Performance testing has been slow but with David's expertise we can now go forward. I cannot emphasize how important this work is for the future of the Breed.

The initial Project timetable covered by the Welsh Government Grant was to run for three years. Due to all the disruption suffered by the Society last year Project work was delayed. The Board have now submitted a successful application for an extension to the project and we now have until Oct. 2013 to complete our objectives. The Board will of course apply for any future funding that may become available. But it is imperative that projects are put in place so that the Society can become self- sustaining and continue long into the future.

As part of the Grant funding a mid-term Evaluation of the Project has taken place. Again Consultants experienced with this work have been employed. This is a useful activity to determine the strengths and weaknesses of how the Project is managed, records achievements so far and highlights the work that still needs to be completed. A final Evaluation of the Project will be made in 2013.

The Annual Show & Sale is proving to be a very successful venture. We shall maintain the standards expected for such an event. The Auctioneers have asked us to complete both The

Show & Sale in one day. With good management this is possible and may be advantageous to vendors who do not want spend so much time away from home.

Last week The Society attended the Winter Fair. The decision to move the Stand from the pig building to Trade Stand area proved to be a great success. St Fagan's Museum of Rural Life kindly supplied an excellent pen of Welsh Pigs. Interest in the Stand was a times overwhelming. We now have many contacts to target and we were surprised at the amount of Welsh Pigs out there that we did not know about.

We congratulate Andrew Davies for his triumph in the show ring winning the overall Championship and to Joyce & Geralt Owens winning the Pork Class.

The Society is built on its Membership. Every member and potential member holds the key to the success of The Society. The Board would like more interaction with its members and is putting together a plan to achieve this aim. Our goal is to call and eventually visit every member over the next few months so that we get a better understanding of the role each person wants to play in The Society.

Directors are expected to give their time on a voluntary basis. I would like to thank them all for their contribution to the running of The Society. Three Directors have come to the end of their three year term of office and have gone through very difficult times. Ken and Christine have remained constant and not wavered. They have kindly offered themselves for re-election so that The Board can continue the tasks we set out to achieve. Peter Hopkins has retired. He will be missed for his thoughtful appraisal of every situation. John is the logistics man, full of ideas and how to make them work. The van is always at our disposal, hauling pigs and carrying the stand to any Show.

Once elected The Board will look forward to a New Year, New challenges and build on successes already achieved. We thank the current membership for their wholehearted support and trust in us to manage the Society to the best of our ability.

Helen Tongue

Special Thanks

We are grateful to Mole Valley Farmers for the sponsorship of £100 to help towards the cost of the refreshments. This sponsorship was due to the work of Joyce Owens and the board applaud for her this and for her work in preparing the food on offer.

Thanks are also due to Lynda Evans, Joyce Owens and Carwyn Evans for the serving this excellent lunch after the AGM. Lynda Evans donated a beautiful Xmas cake for auction. The Auction raised £48 which will be placed in the Membership Account.

Thank you all your efforts were much appreciated.