



# ZWARTBLES SHEEP ASSOCIATION

## Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Zwartbles Sheep Association Held on 14th November 2024 at 6pm at The Premier Inn (Junct 44), Carlisle

The Chairman Mrs. G Blamire opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and thanking them for attending this annual general meeting. The Chairman asked all members present to give a minute's silence for members we had sadly lost during the year.

The Chairman introduced the top table.

**Present:** Mrs. G Blamire (Chairman), M Preston (President), C Cormack (Secretary), C Cromie (Treasurer)

**Apologies:** Hannah Petrie, Vincent Davies, Bob Gibson, Ailsa Dickinson, Sammy Stewart, Kevin Robinson, Becky Hird and Kate Flynn.

### 2. **To approve the minutes of the Last Annual General Meeting held on 16th November 2023**

Anne Robinson proposed that they were a true and correct record, seconded by Martin Pearse. All present were in agreement.

### 3. **Matters Arising from the 2022 minutes**

No matters were arising

### 4. **To Receive the President's comments**

(Mr Martin Preston)

The President stated that it was nice to see so many members here in attendance for the AGM. It was pleasing to see so many Zwartbles sheep recognized in interbreeds at shows this year. He encouraged members to keep on supporting the show and sales and thanked them for showcasing the breed.

### 5. **To Receive the Chairman's report on the Company's activities since the previous Annual General Meeting (Mrs. Gillian Blamire)**

Good evening, Mr President and fellow members, it is so good to see you all here at the AGM of the Zwartbles Sheep association.

It has again been both a privilege and an honor to the Chair of council and the association for the last year. Council has met 4 times since your last AGM, 2 full meetings and by zoom. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all council members, Christin and our President for their time and commitment to council and the work they do behind the scenes to help keep the association running smoothly.

There are three trustees standing down this year as they reach the end of the three-year rotation, myself, Cyril Cromie and Peter Addison. Thank you to you both for all you have done.

Over the last year we have had 5 association sales and 2 branch sales that were ran by Carrie Bissett and the Scottish as well as Dylan Jones and the Welsh branch. The honor of top price at an Association sale goes jointly to the Pistyll and Hayberries flocks at the Premier sale of 3000gns.

Thank you to all who volunteer or are coerced into helping at the sales. Be it inspecting, numbering lots or scribing. It is often a thankless task, but it has to be done.

Thank you to Carrie Bissett for her continued work keeping Instagram and Facebook up to speed and to Elaine Anderson for the webpage. I know the webpage isn't working as it should be and at our last meeting it was discussed working to update and renew it. This will be continued by the new council.

Thanks, must also go to all of our Judges who have travelled the country, without a judge and fellow competitors we have no competition, and I think the shows are such a great shop window for our wonderful black sheep.

The national show this year was held at The Three Counties and was judged by Mr John Stevenson from the Liverton flock. The national show champion is Mr J Thorburn of the Homlea flock and the ewe went on to win her section of the interbreed. Next year the National show moves to the Great Yorkshire Show.

All through the year there have been notable wins by members in the interbreed so well done to you all. I love scrolling through Facebook usually on a Saturday night to see people posting their show results.

Young handlers has been a big part of any showing experience since we got our sheep through Tom. He learned a lot from it as I did. However, I think I'm safe in saying that the standard and number of young we have as a breed is at its highest point so far. I love watching them and their skill and professionalism puts some of us older ones to shame. I set off to write their names down but was afraid I would miss someone, so I stopped. They are a credit to

themselves, the breed and their parents, who deserve thanks for all they do as I know it can sometimes be a tint bit stressful!!

To those of you who have put your names forward to become trustees, thank you for doing so and good luck. To those that are appointed I hope you find it an enjoyable and rewarding experience.

On a personal note as I step away from Council, I would like to thank everyone who has helped and supported me in my time as a trustee and Chair both fellow trustees and members.

As we head into our 30<sup>th</sup> year I wish the association and its members all the very best. There are some wonderful people in our association but more importantly we have these wonderful black sheep at the heart of it all.

To those selling tomorrow good luck and to those buying the best of luck with your purchases.

#### **6. To receive the Treasurers Report and the Income and Expenditure account for the period ended 28<sup>th</sup> February 2025 and the balance sheet as at 28<sup>th</sup> February 2025.** (Mr. Cyril Cromie)

The Report of Financial Accounts for the year ended 29 February 2024 has been approved by our reporting Accountants, Dafferns LLP and by Council. They are now awaiting adoption by the membership at this AGM.

Dear Members.

The accounts that have been forwarded to you cover the period from 1 March '23 through to 29 February '24 ie the reporting period.

I am once again pleased to report that the Association's finances remain in a sound position with fund balances of £111,848. This is an increase from the previous reporting period (1 March '22 – 28 February '23) of £88 (£111,760).

If you can remember this time last year I was reporting a deficit of £10,928 and I told you that Council had taken the decision to increase membership fees (£10 & £5) and ram lamb registrations (£5). It was hoped that by taking these decisions the deficit would be reversed. So as you can see this certainly worked, admittedly just to the tune of £88. Council continues to closely monitor the Association's income/expenditure and ensures there is justification for all outgoings.

During the reporting period the Associations income was £49,102 and for the same period the expenditure was £49,014. This leaves the Association with an increase of £88 whereas last year the Association had a deficit of £10,928. Council is currently looking at measures to reduce its expenditure even further and believes further savings may be made on postage. For instance, it costs in the region of £2,500 to post all of the yearbooks to our members.

The Associations income increased by £7,121. This was due to members' subscriptions increasing by £5,127. Interest on our investment was £3,900. In April '20 £30,000 was invested in a three year plan with the Investec Bank. This plan was based on the performance of the FTSE 100 and would pay out if at maturity the FTSE 100 was at 90% of its starting level. Fortunately this plan reached its target and in April '23 paid out £3,900. Other income (from Belted Galloway Society) increased by £431. This income is money the Association receives for use of office equipment (franking machine and photocopier).

Income from lamb registrations fell by £1,252, even though ram lamb registrations were increased by £5. Income from AGM, year book and advertising fell by £1,177.

When compared against the previous reporting period the Association's expenditure decreased by £3,895. Printing, stationery, postage and telephone costs fell by £2,106 as did most other costs apart from insurance (181) and hire of equipment (511). Council meeting costs (room hire and travelling) increased by £195. Council continues to look at ways where savings can be made but is conscious that this is not to the detriment of the Association.

The vast majority of the Associations income continues to come from lamb registrations and membership subscriptions whilst the majority of the outgoings are for administration/office costs.

This is my ninth year as Treasurer of the ZSA and I continue to keep a close eye on all of the ZSAs financial transactions and to ensure that all of the money spent is approved and justified. There must always be transparency and accountability.

Earlier on this year £80,000 was invested through Insignis with the Hampshire Trust Bank with a guaranteed pay out of 5%. This is an 18 month investment and unfortunately will mature outside the next reporting period. All investments made by the Association are safe; we don't take any risks at all. If Council did decide to take risks with the investments we would get better interest rates but as it's the members money and not Councils we'd rather keep it safe.

The Associations assets depreciate at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life: Fixtures and fitting 20% Computer equipment 33.3%

Finally, I would like to thank Council, especially our Chairman Gillian and Vice Chairman Ally for all their help and support throughout the year. A special word of thanks also goes to Christina for all your help and support.

Thank you.

Raymond Heigh proposed that we accept the Treasurers report and accounts for the period ending February 2025, seconded by Christine Caunter, all present were in favour.

#### **7. To appoint Auditors, Dafferns of Coventry**

Joan Rowlands proposed that we appoint Dafferns of Coventry as the accountants for the forthcoming year, seconded by Brian Gibson, all present were in favour.

**8. To accept the Secretary's report (Mrs Christina Cormack)**

Good evening, its nice to see some many people come along and join us.

As usual its been a busy year in the office. Something new this year for me was attending the major shows and putting the results and some photos onto facebook during the judging, the shows I attended were Balmoral, Royal Three Counties, Royal Highland and Royal Welsh. It was great to get to these events and meet members that I haven't met in person before, the standard of sheep at these shows was excellent and the Judges were all very professional and had hard tasks to pick their winners.

We currently have 580 paid up members of the association. Since the last AGM we have had 56 new members join the association, new members joining is up on previous years.

Registrations are down again compared to last year. In 2024 we have registered 2204 lambs, with the breakdown being 1871 Females and 333 Males. Compared to last year Female registrations are down by 472 and Males are up by 21.

The Sales that have taken place have seen a good trade and demand for the sheep which is promising. I would like to thank the members that supported the sales either by selling or buying and hopefully we have a good in-lamb sale tomorrow.

The Yearbook will be due to be started again soon and the new style has been received well and it looks very professional now, why not advertise your flock or your holiday cottage

If you would like to advertize, please get in touch and let me have your advert by the end of February.

A reminder to all members that in December we will be sending out the flock return and we would encourage members to complete this as soon as possible to enable our records to be up to date and in line with our CIO governing document which says that every member has to complete this each year.

I would like to specially thank a couple of people the first being our Chairman Gillian for all the work she has put in for the last 6 years during her time as Chairman, Cyril the Treasurer who has been in charge of our finances for the last 9 years. Also thanks goes to all of the Council members for the support they have given me throughout the year, and I look forward to having some new faces and ideas on council next year. A big thank also goes to you the membership who are always friendly when you come on the phone and are patient with me when the office is busy, and things aren't getting done maybe as quickly as should be.

**9. To accept the retirement of those Trustees who wish to retire or who are retiring by rotation.**

Three members of Council were due to retire at the 2024 AGM, those being Peter Addison, Gillian Blamire and Cyril Cromie, all three have served two terms and have to stand down for a year. The chair thanked them all for their time on Council and for the help they had given over their term.

**10. To elect Members of the Council to fill any vacancies arising**

Eight members had been nominated for Council and members were entitled to vote for up to 5 of the candidates. The results of the voting were as follows.

Pam Browne	60 votes
Kate Flynn	28 votes
Bob Gibson	45 votes
Rebecca Hurd	63 votes
Allison Metcalfe	34 votes
Anne Robinson	49 votes
Joan Rowlands	42 votes
Janet Ward	26 votes

The five candidates who were elected onto Council were: Pam Browne, Bob Gibson, Rebecca Hurd, Anne Robinson and Joan Rowlands,

**11. To transact any other ordinary business of the Company**

Iain Bissett asked about Judges training as he felt we don't have enough Judges on our official judges panel, and we need to get more on the list. Judges who have attended a Judges Day and failed have been told to go away and gain experience and he is asking how they can gain experience if shows don't know about them. He would like to suggest that we don't have a Judges day and that if two members propose and second someone to be a Judge then it should go to council to be approved and then they are added to the list.

There being no further business the Chair thanked everyone for attending and the meeting closed.