MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE ManxSPCA
HELD ON 29th[th] July 2024 7.30pm
AT ARD JERKYLL, EAST FOXDALE

Board Members and Officers Present

President	Alex Downie OBE (AD)
Chairman	Stuart Mills (SM)
Treasurer	Grant Evans (GE)
Assistant Treasurer	Sue Waring (SW)
Board Members	Jagoda Barber (JB)
	Iain Bell (IB)
	Phillip Dearden (PD)
	Lyn Renshaw (LR) – lapsed on AGM date
	Daren Ward (DW)
General Manager	Juana Warburton (JW)
Veterinary Surgeon	Katerina Clarke (KC)

Item 1: Welcome (Stuart Mills, Chairman of the ManxSPCA)

The Chairman of the Board:
- Called the meeting to order at 19.30pm and welcomed everyone attending.
- Introduced the President and Directors / Charity Trustees of the Society, including co-opted Directors Iain Bell, Jagoda Barber and Grant Evans.
- Advised that Debbie Clague, now the ManxSPCA's Company Secretary, was abroad on holiday and passed on her apologies for her absence from the AGM.
- Touched briefly on the current status of the ManxSPCA, with 2023 having been a productive year thanks to the public's generosity.
- Convened the meeting and proposed the President as Chairman of the meeting, which was unanimously approved by those present.

Item 2: Apologies and Quorum (Alex Downie, President of the ManxSPCA)

The President of the ManxSPCA added his welcome to those attending and asked all to rise in tribute to those Members no longer with us, in particular Mason Beggs who died recently, which all those present did.

2.1 The President confirmed that a number of apologies had been received from Members [see schedule in Appendix 1].

2.2 The President asked for confirmation that the meeting was quorate with the required minimum of 20 'A' Members in attendance, which was confirmed by JW.

Item 3: Minutes (Alex Downie, President of the ManxSPCA)

3.1 The President confirmed that the Board had already approved the minutes of the AGM held 17th July 2023, but asked that they be formally approved. The President then asked the Members for a show of hands and those present at the meeting unanimously approved the adoption of the 2023 AGM Minutes. The President also asked if those present had any questions relating to the minutes, there being none.

Item 4: Financial Statements and Audit (Grant Evans, Treasurer)

4.1 The President then asked the Members to receive and adopt the Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December 2023 and invited GE to speak about them.

GE briefly introduced himself as a new Board member. He then summarised 2023 as a successful year financially, with a healthy operating surplus. He added that the balance sheet is also healthy, with substantial sums invested, and three years' operating expenses in reserve.

In response to a question from Pat Fitzgerald about why there had only been bank interest income of circa 1%, GE replied that the Board had a very low risk approach to investments, with a strategy to protect capital and limit exposures.

PD added that the Board did not want too much of the ManxSPCA's reserves placed with banks, and so had placed some funds into cash investment funds.

PF asked where the funds were invested, and PD replied that £1 million was placed with a local investment broker at the beginning of 2024, and that the income from that investment was rolling up. PF then asked why the interest income is not recorded in the ManxSPCA's books, and whether it was placed on a cash or accrual basis, to which PD replied that it was placed on an accrual basis.

PF then asked why the average market rate of, say, 2.5% had not been reflected in the interest received, at which point the President advised that the matter should be taken 'off line' and that the Board would liaise directly with PF. He asked whether there were any other questions, and there being none he asked that the 2023 accounts be adopted.

Rosie Scott asked whether the accounts could be adopted conditionally based on a satisfactory response to the query raised by PF, and PF added that it was reasonable for Members to be assured that money is not missing. The President replied that PF's query would be dealt with, but that this should not affect the acceptance of the accounts.

PF then asked whether the investments made with the local broker were made in sovereign debt and, again, the President assured him that any queries he had about the detail of investments would be dealt with, and that a promise had been made that the Board would liaise with him.

PD advised that the Board had already approved the 2023 accounts, and that they are presented to the Members as a matter of procedure. The President asked those present to adopt the Annual Report and Financial Statements - Shely Bryon proposed; and Richard Rake seconded.

The President then asked the Members for a show of hands and those present at the meeting approved the adoption of the Annual Report and Financial Statements, with one Member voting against.

Shely Bryon then requested that the Board make every effort to ensure that investments were avoided that took advantage of animals.

4.2 The President advised the Members that Callow Matthewman and Co. had indicated their willingness to be reappointed as auditors until the conclusion of the next Annual General Meeting, and asked for formal approval. The President then asked the Members for a show of hands and those present at the meeting unanimously approved Callow Matthewman's continuation as the Society's auditors.

Carol Manley asked whether there was a tender process for the appointment of auditors, and the President replied that Callow Matthewman had been auditing the ManxSPCA's accounts for a long time, doing an outstanding job, and that he was very grateful for their support.

PD added that the role of the ManxSPCA's auditor, and who does it, is considered every year by the Board, but to-date Callow Matthewman had provided a good service at a cost far lower than would be charged by other firms. He added that if Members thought that the role should go out to tender, then the Board would consider this.

David Callin of Callow Matthewman then briefly addressed the Members, advising them that by company law the firm became auditors again automatically every year unless the Board decide otherwise and put that to the Members for a decision.

4.3 The President asked if those present were happy to delegate the authority for remuneration of the Society's auditors to the Board and asked the Members for a show of hands. Those present at the meeting unanimously approved the delegation of remuneration of the Society's auditors to the Board.

Item 5: 2023 Operational Report (Juana Warburton, General Manager)

The President asked the Members to receive and adopt the 2023 Operational Report and asked the General Manager, Juana Warburton, to comment on it.

JW thanked those present for attending, in particular several of the Bucks Road volunteers, and said she hoped that Members had enjoyed the written review that they had received. She emphasised the range of animals that the Society helps, from the smallest bird to the largest horse, and she thanked the amazing team of staff and volunteers who make this possible – many of whom were present. JW also thanked the Board for their support and encouragement.

JW asked Krysia Boruch to outline the trends we are currently seeing in young dogs and puppies, and KB gave a detailed and impassioned account of poor breeding standards and irresponsible ownership leading to these dogs ending up in the care of the ManxSPCA.

JW then reflected that it was still early days as to whether the Animal Welfare Bill would have an impact on the work of the ManxSPCA. She added that another recent development was the death of Sue Critchley of the Mann Cat Sanctuary, and that the ManxSPCA would work with SC's successors to assist them if necessary (and that it was a co-incidence that SC's passing coincided with the completion of the ManxSPCA's new Cattery pens).

Shely Bryon asked whether the ManxSPCA would be campaigning for the Isle of Man to outlaw glue traps, and JW replied that this was definitely on the agenda.

The President then asked the Members to adopt the 2023 Operational Report. Ann Hunter proposed; and Georgie Dempsey-Moore seconded. The President then asked the Members for a show of hands, and those present at the meeting unanimously approved the adoption of the 2023 Operational Report.

Item 6: 2023 Veterinary Report (Katerina Clarke, Point of Care Vets)

JW introduced KC to the Members, and advised them that Point of Care had successfully tendered for the role of the ManxSPCA's principal veterinary provider earlier in 2024 (having been doing a great deal of the routine work for the ManxSPCA since the Covid pandemic). The President then invited KC to comment.

KC described Point of Care's practice as a small team of two vets and a veterinary nurse providing primary care out of a mobile clinic, and also providing home visits. She advised that being on-site at the ManxSPCA minimised stress for the animals, and that she undertook to spend a day a week at Ard Jerkyll undertaking routine operations such as neuters and spays, health checks and vaccinations.

KC went on to explain that she was trying to find a solution to a big problem that the veterinary profession were facing (imposed by the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons) – namely that a vet cannot issue prescription medications without seeing the animals involved individually. She added that this is a particular problem for rescue charities and farms where a large number of animals need generic treatments. KC said that she was working on a solution that involved developing standard processes and health plan arrangements.

KC then advised that another problem facing vets was the shortage of some medications (e.g. kennel cough vaccines), due in part to Brexit, and that she has applied for import licences herself in order to obtain supplies.

KC went on to explain how she and her team enjoyed working with the ManxSPCA, which enables them to treat a large volume of animals (e.g. undertaking 18 neuters and spays in one day in order to overcome a backlog), in a supportive environment. She added that volumes of spays had increased in the year-to-date from 67 to 129, with castrations rising from 39 to 105 (with about 60 of these procedures being on feral cats).

JW added that a number of discounted neuters and spays had been done by way of financial support for owners who were genuinely struggling; and that the Trap, Neuter, Release scheme was still only offered on a reactive basis (given the huge feral cat population on the Island and the impossibility of trapping them all).

KC went on to add that rabbit neuters and spays had doubled in 2024, and JW commented that this showed an upward trend in these animals being brought in for rehoming.

KC then explained that she and her team were undertaking an increasing amount of dental procedures on animals, even young ones – not for cosmetic reasons, but more often than not involving extractions. She put this down to poor breeding and poor dental hygiene.

There being no questions, the President then asked the Members to adopt the 2023 Veterinary Report and asked for a show of hands. Those present at the meeting approved the adoption of the 2023 Veterinary Report.

Item 7: Election of members to the Board of Management

The President advised that PD and DW were retiring by rotation and seeking re-election, and that IB, JB and GE, who had been co-opted onto the Board earlier in 2024, were seeking election. He then asked them to introduce themselves (which they duly did).

7.1 IB's election was proposed by Georgie Dempsey-Moore; and seconded by Debi Michelson.

7.2 JB's election was proposed by Rosie Scott; and seconded by Richard Rake.
7.3 GE's election was proposed by Karen Mills; and seconded by Leonard Main
7.4 PD's re-election was proposed by Alan Ormsby; and seconded by Claire Baker.
7.5 DW's re-election was proposed by Karen Mills; and seconded by Anna Dearden.

The President asked the Members for a show of hands and those present at the meeting approved the election of IB, JB and GE, and the re-election of PD and DW. JW advised that five proxy voting forms had been received.

Before the conclusion of the meeting, Krysia Boruch asked those present to remember a much-loved volunteer, Harry Porter, who died recently. She explained that Harry had helped rehabilitate many rescue dogs in the years he spent volunteering, in particular the larger, more challenging ones.

The President asked if the Members had any questions, and there being none he drew the meeting to a formal end, and thanked those present for attending.

The formal proceedings closed at 21.15.

Appendix 1

Apologies received:

G Dale
P Hall
M Josem
D Main
C & S Roberts
K & P Quirk
A & B Rolli
C Sugden
E Watson
E Wilson