



## CATTLE BREEDERS SOCIETY BEESTELERGENOOTSKAP™

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Tel: (051) 448 7302 / 3 | Fax: (051) 448 7304 | Email: [louisa@studbook.co.za](mailto:louisa@studbook.co.za) / [yolanda@studbook.co.za](mailto:yolanda@studbook.co.za)  
P.O. Box 506 | Bloemfontein | 9300

16 January 2007

### News Brief

As part of our strategic effort to improve communication between the Society and its members, the council is committed to keeping members informed via regular news briefs. These are intended to keep members updated on council issues, and will not take the place of the quarterly news letter, which will continue to be published, as in the past.

As you may well know, the AGM of the Society was held in Fort Beaufort on 16th November 2006, and some important decisions were made.

Firstly, a revised constitution for the society was approved which features a number of changes arising out of decisions taken at the council "bosberaad" held in Bloemfontein during July 2006. The most important of these concerns is the restructuring of the council to comprise six members (as opposed to eight previously), with the intention that the council now focuses primarily on issues of policy and strategy. To oversee the operational business of the society, subcommittees of council have been formed to deal with finance and administration, technical matters, training, and breed promotion and marketing. A communications portfolio has also been assigned.

The new constitution also formally recognizes the important role which the clubs play in the development of the breed and furthering the objectives of the Society.

Other decisions taken by the AGM concerned financial matters. As part of the approval of the 2007 budget, it was agreed that the *per capita* fee be increased from R20.00 (exc) to R22.00 (exc). In addition, the fee for the reinstatement of bulls was agreed to be increased from R50.00 (exc) to R500.00 (exc), effective from 1 April 2007.

Another significant development of the AGM, saw the retirement of five of our longer serving council members. Pat Hobbs, Ben Fyfer, Gerrit Oosthuizen, Mike Greyling and Freddie Besselaar had indicated prior to the AGM, their intention to stand down and not submit themselves for re-election. This constitutes a loss of many years of collective experience, but we are consoled that they have all offered to give of their time and wisdom to assist the new council in taking forward the business of the society. Three new council members have been elected to replace those retiring being Stian van As of the Highveld Club, Kevin Watermeyer of the Karoo Club, and Barry Tapson of the East Cape Club.

The new council is as follows:

Deon Richter	President
Barry Tapson	Vice President and communications portfolio
Giel Van Niekerk	Chairperson – Finance and Administration
Auvinus Martens	Chairperson – Technical
Stian van As	Chairperson – Training
Kevin Watermeyer	Chairperson – Breed promotion and marketing

Elected members of council held a work session in December to review strategy and to prepare for the year ahead. The first formal meeting of the council will take place during the week of 26<sup>th</sup> February 2007, and as in the past, club nominees and co-opted representatives will be invited to attend.

The consensus on policy changes agreed at the July bosberaad, and ratified at the AGM, sets some serious objectives for the council to meet during the course of this year. The implementation of the new governance structure, and the establishment of the sub-committees, is critical to ensuring that service to members is maintained and enhanced. The role of the clubs as important sub-organs of the Society needs to be clarified in order to optimize the relationship between the national and regional levels. Our new office, independent of the Studbook secretariate, requires further management input in order to meet the growing administrative needs of the society.

Our most immediate challenge, however, is to review the policy and procedural issues concerning the annual inspection programme. Of concern here is:

- The shortage of inspectors
- Minimizing disruption to the personal farming activities of individual inspectors
- Ensuring that inspectors are fairly recompensed for their efforts
- Ensuring breeder compliance and cooperation
- Managing the process efficiently and cost effectively

Members of council are currently working on this, and it is intended that a revised policy document be tabled for approval at the February council meeting, and for immediate implementation thereafter. This process will include consultation with some of our well experienced senior inspectors.

During this time of transition, as we implement the new structures and procedures, we will endeavour to ensure a consistent service to our members. In turn, we believe that we can rely on your cooperation in assisting us through this process.

We wish you and your families all the best for the New Year ahead.