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## **GRANTS TO HORSE AND PONY BREED SOCIETIES**

### **Policies and Conditions of Grants**

#### **1 Introduction**

This paper sets out the policies and conditions for the Horserace Betting Levy Board (HBLB) grants to horse and pony breed societies.

For further information please contact the HBLB Equine Grants Team.

#### **2 Purpose of the Grants**

##### **2.1 Scope**

The HBLB makes grants to rare, native British breeds of horse and pony. "Rare" is defined as being included on the Rare Breeds Survival Trust (RBST) Equine Watchlist (in category 1 'Critical'; category 2 'Endangered'; category 3 'Vulnerable'; category 4 'At risk' or category 5 'Minority').

##### **2.2 Aim**

The grants are made under Section 24(1)(a) of the Betting, Gaming and Lotteries Act 1963 for the purpose of improvement of breeds of horse.

Since the inception of the grants in the 1960s, the recipient breed societies have made significant progress in improving the quality and numbers of rare British horses and ponies. Grants are made to improve or maintain quality standards and numbers as appropriate to the breed.

##### **2.3 Pure Breeding/Cross Breeding/Upgrading**

The grants are made only to support pure breeding and cannot be used for crossbreeding schemes, but may be used to support upgrading programmes. The HBLB does not discourage societies from promoting crossbreeding at their own expense because such schemes can preserve demand for high quality pure bred animals.

##### **2.4 Quality Standards**

As grants are made to improve breeds, they must not be used to fund incentives for horses and ponies registered in any part of the studbook for horses/ponies that:

- do not meet the breed standard;
- are considered unsuitable for breeding;
- have identified genetic defects;
- have failed inspection and/or approval for breeding purposes.

Exceptions may be made where a society's rules allow horses/ponies in these categories to enter an upgrading programme.

### **3 Use of the Grants**

#### **3.1 Approved uses of the grant**

Societies must use their HBLB grant to support their breed improvement programme. It is for each society to design its programme according to the needs of the breed concerned.

HBLB grants may only be used for items shown in the list below. The list may be modified from time to time. Modifications will be notified to societies.

It is up to each society to decide which item(s) in this list will most efficiently and effectively further the improvement of the breed, taking into account the breed's particular needs and circumstances at the time.

If a society wishes to use its grant for an item that is not in the list but that may be relevant to the improvement of the breed, it should consult the HBLB first.

The list is as follows:

- Premiums, including:
  - Stallion premiums and super premiums
  - Mare premiums and super premiums (see Note 1)
  - Foal and youngstock premiums
  - Gelding premiums(NB: premiums may be known by another name e.g. merits, awards)
- Foal/progeny grants (paid to mare or stallion owners)
- Grants to mare or stallion owners to subsidise premium stallion covering fees
- Hire by the society of premium stallion(s) to stand at stud for pure breeding
- Grants to hiring societies allied to the parent society
- Grants to premium stallions standing at stud
- Travel grants to assist with owners' costs of travelling premium stallions to mares or vice versa
- Blood typing, DNA testing or, for Fell and Dales ponies, Foal Immunodeficiency Syndrome (FIS) testing
- Subsidies towards society registration or licensing fees charged to owners
- Subsidised costs of inspection/grading by veterinary surgeons and/or expert judges
- Travel grants to assist costs of travel of horses to inspection/grading points
- Training for judges
- Occasional breed seminars
- Stallion performance testing/awards schemes (see Note 2)
- Testing of stallion fertility, semen freezing and storage and AI schemes (see Note 3)
- Breed prizes
- Specialised mountain and moorland schemes (pony societies only)
- Contribution towards the stud book/year book (see Note 4)
- Contribution towards national breed shows, or premium parades, or affiliated shows at which premium/prestige classes for quality registered stock are held (see Note 4)
- Random drug testing at national breed shows or premium parades
- Travel grants to assist costs of travel of horses to national breed shows or premium parades

- Advertisement of premium stallions (see Note 5)
- Contribution towards the costs of installing and/or maintaining the PedeWeb or similar electronic database

**Note 1: Mare premiums**

These may be awarded as covering vouchers to be offset against covering fees of premium stallions.

**Note 2: Stallion performance testing**

Grants may be used to subsidise pure bred stallion performance testing. Assistance may be a) payments to stallion owners to help cover testing costs or b) a contribution to the central costs of the testing. Where a society makes a contribution from the HBLB grant to central costs of testing organised by another society, the HBLB's contribution must not exceed the proportion of the costs attributable to testing the stallions of the supported breed.

**Note 3: Testing of stallion fertility, semen freezing and storage and AI schemes**

Grants may not be used for these purposes until a society's proposals have been discussed with, and agreed by, the HBLB.

**Note 4: Stud/Year books and National Breed Shows**

Grants may be applied to these items where they would make a loss without any contribution from the grant.

**Note 5: Advertisement of Premium Stallions**

Grants may be used towards the cost of advertising the society's premium stallions in magazines.

**3.2 Restrictions on the uses of the grant**

HBLB grants must not, under any circumstances, be used for the society's general administration costs.

When societies make their annual proposals for expenditure of the forthcoming year's anticipated grant, HBLB expects the majority of the grant to be used for items (e.g. premium schemes) that will act as direct incentives to horse/pony owners to keep and breed high quality pure bred animals.

Where the HBLB grant is used to make awards to individuals, the recipient must be a person resident in Britain at the time that they became eligible for the award. If the grant is used for supporting a collective event such as breed show or a training session, the HBLB expects the event to benefit mainly British attendees but does not seek to exclude others who meet criteria described by the society. The society should refer any issues of eligibility to HBLB, whose decision on the matter is final.

**4 Societies' additions to HBLB grants**

Each society must supplement its grant with a contribution of 20% from its own funds. This contribution must, like the grant, be applied to items in the list above.

If, for any year, a society is unable to supplement the proposed grant by 20%, it may contribute a lower percentage subject to the HBLB's prior approval. Any request to make a lower contribution must be made in line with section 9 below, and must be supported by relevant financial information.

**5 Annual review of grants**

The HBLB reviews the grants to breed societies annually. Depending on prevailing financial circumstances, grants may be increased by an inflationary amount, maintained or decreased in any year.

## **6 Real increases in grants**

### **6.1 Permanent increases**

Societies may apply for permanent increases in their grants to extend or enhance their breed improvement programmes.

Applications for increases will be considered on their merits and will be subject to the availability of funds. They may be made when:

- i) there is demonstrable need for extension or enhancement of the breed improvement programme;
- ii) the extension or enhancement cannot be sufficiently funded from the society's own resources.

Societies should consult the HBLB informally in the first instance to a) establish the availability of funds and b) outline the proposal in principle. HBLB will advise on the requirements and deadline of a written application and any supporting information.

### **6.2 One-off increases**

Societies may also apply for funds for one-off special projects relevant to the protection, preservation and improvement of their breed.

These applications will also be considered on their merits and will be subject to the availability of funds; they should be made when either:

- i) partial funding has already been obtained from other sources; or
- ii) funding cannot be obtained from other sources.

The timing and procedure for applications is the same as at 6.1 above.

## **7 Expenditure**

Societies must budget to spend the full amount of their grant (including their 20% contribution) each year. However, balances at the end of any year that have not been spent for unforeseeable reasons, may be carried over to the next year subject to HBLB's approval.

The budget for the next year must then describe how the carry forward will be spent, in addition to the annual grant plus society contribution.

Societies must avoid building up an increasing unspent balance year on year. If this occurs, a reduction in grant may be imposed by the HBLB.

## **8 Self help**

The primary responsibility for the improvement of breeds rests with the society. The HBLB's grants are intended to assist the improvement of breeds, and the HBLB expects all societies to pursue self-help measures vigorously and to provide evidence of this when required.

## **9 Annual returns**

Each society must complete an annual return form issued by HBLB. The information given in the annual return is used by HBLB to review its grants. Additional information is also provided by the RBST. The annual return must be completed and returned as instructed and within the given deadline. Late applications will not be considered.

If a society is unable to contribute 20% to the anticipated grant for the coming year, it must notify the HBLB in writing when the return form is submitted.

## **10 Timing of approval and payment of grants**

The HBLB usually pays approved grants to societies in January in a single instalment.

## **11 Information to be provided to the HBLB**

Societies should send their annual reports and accounts to the HBLB, as soon as they are available, each year.

Societies may send other information to the HBLB if they wish. Any information, e.g. on progress, events and activities within the society, and particularly any information relevant to the improvement of the breed will be welcome.

Societies may be required to provide reasonable additional information at any time for any purpose relevant to the HBLB's support of the society concerned.

## **12 Society accounts**

The receipt and use of the HBLB's grant should be clearly shown in the society's annual accounts.

## **13 Publicity and acknowledgement of HBLB grants**

Societies must acknowledge the HBLB's support at all appropriate opportunities (e.g. in written communications to members, at annual shows and other appropriate times) and with due prominence.