

**THE WELSH PONY AND COB SOCIETY**  
**CYMDEITHAS Y MERLOD A'R COBIAU CYMREIG**

**Minutes of the Council meeting held at Hatherley Manor Hotel,  
Gloucester, GL2 9QA on Friday 27 March 2015 at 12 noon**

**Present:** Ann Bigley (Chair), David Blair, Steve Everitt, Stuart Franklin, Dai Harris (President Elect), Angela Kember, John Kirk (Vice Chair), Dania Leyson, Peter Morgan, Mary Redvers (President), Lisa Reed, David Roberts, Elizabeth Russell, Jo Sheil-Morgan, Gilly Thomson, Gethin Williams

**Apologies:** None

**In Attendance:** Andrew Johnstone (Secretary), Bethan Jones (Assistant Secretary)

**Minute Taker:** Jayne Willis (PA)

**Welcome**

The Chair welcomed all to the final meeting of the 2014-2015 Council. It was reported that the Society had received notification that the following members had recently passed away; Mr D A Lewis (Railway), Mr T L Davies (Drygarn) passed away in 2009, Mr R Card (Desarbre), Mr B J Jones, Mrs R Andrew (Bronheulog), Mr R Graham (Balone) died October 2014, Mr T L Davies passed away in 2009, Mrs A Colbatch-Clark (Collenna), Mrs L Byrne (former member of staff). A minute's silence was held in respect of all members recently departed.

**Action Points**

**9357 MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON 9 FEBRUARY 2015**

- a) **Council Meeting** – It was proposed by **Elizabeth Russell**, seconded by **John Kirk** that the minutes be accepted as a true record of the meeting. All in favour.

**Matters Arising**

**p.2 2<sup>nd</sup> para, 9305 d) Netherlands WPCS** – Mrs Jones reported that Netherlands WPCS have liaised with Peter Cooper regarding access to the Society's pedigrees on the website and discussions are on-going.

**p.3 d) Members Services – 12 January 2015, 2<sup>nd</sup> bullet point**

Mrs Jones reported that she had spoken to Welsh Belgium and they are arranging to forward further copies of their stud book. Anna Prytherch had also been in touch after a private message from Angela Kember; she couldn't remember exactly but she thought she had passed them on to staff members, but they cannot be found in the office.

**p.5 h) Hill Pony Improvement Societies Meeting – 03 Dec 2014**

Mrs Jones confirmed that the DNA samples have all been completed; however the funding received is less than the invoice sent in by Aberystwyth University. Council to look at future funding for the Hill Ponies, as money will be required for the Premiums. The office understood that the grant would cover this, when in fact it only covered the DNA project.

Gethin Williams suggested speaking to Mrs Ceri Bevan, Sustainable Communities Officer, Brecon Beacons National Park, who may well have access to further funding strands on an annual basis.

AJ/BJ to contact

In addition Colin Thomas and Rosemary Philipson-Stow have contacted the Rare Breeds Survival Trust to see if the Rare Breed status could be reinstated.

**p.6 9354 Correspondence c) Mr P Gray, Thorneyside**

Mrs Jones tabled a further letter from Mr Gray regarding the registration of a 3 yr old without a service certificate, and read out an email from the Livestock Officer at the RWAS which noted that “...an animal can be entered with ‘registration applied for’, but if this has not been granted by the time the WPCS receive the Royal Welsh catalogue, then the entry would have to be cancelled. All Mr Gray’s questions were regarding entering, not showing.... I can therefore confirm that I have not told Mr Gray that I am happy for the horse to be shown unregistered..... I believe there is an element of playing one Society off against the other.”

Mrs Bigley noted that under the RWAS Rule 21, Eligibility of Entries, “all exhibitors and exhibits must be registered with their respective breed society. All horses except for foals entered in sections requiring them to be registered, should be formally registered with the registration number supplied by the closing date for entries.”

BJ to action

**It was proposed by Ann Bigley, seconded by Gethin Williams that the office writes to Mr Gray, copying in Mr Williams at the RWAS Livestock Committee. All in favour.**

**p.6 9354 Correspondence e) i) Premium Judges**

Chris Cobley had contacted the office regarding the new judging rule – i.e. a family member not being able to compete in other sections. Mr Cobley has since confirmed that he is available; Phil Williams has declined and Dennis Price has accepted in his place.

It was noted that Tom Roberts would be asked to take his second year next year. Office to note for 2016.

Office to action

**p.7 9354 g) Mr J Griffiths, Geldards Solicitors** - Following a question from the Chair, Andrew Johnstone reported that Geldards had not yet provided a cost for the cataloguing of the files copied by Hugh James Solicitors.

AJ to action

13:00 Mrs Leyson left the room

**p.9 9356 AOB, h) Police letter -**

Mrs Jones read out a letter from Mr D Thomas of Dyfed-Powys Police Force dated 19 March 2015, which noted that -

*“I can confirm that Mrs Leyson has made a complaint that the police have failed to properly investigate an allegation of forgery. The investigation into the complaint is nearing its conclusion. Once completed Mrs Leyson will be provided with a copy of the investigation report and a right of appeal against its findings. It will be for her to decide if she wishes to inform the*

*Welsh Pony and Cob Society of the result of that investigation.”*

*13:05 Mrs Leyson returned to the room*

Mrs Leyson tabled an undated letter addressed to Council members –

*“I refer to a recent conversation with a Trustee and his insistence that he has a right to see confidential correspondence off Dyfed Powys Police. If he chooses.... I have no objection to this Trustee personally writing to the Police, but must remind you at this point of the Data Protection Act 1998. I believe that the original letter from Carmarthenshire Council has been afforded this right and as I understand only one Trustee has seen this a day before my complaint was presented to Council by the President in 2011.*

*You will note from the letter from Dyfed Powys Police that has been addressed to Mrs Bethan Jones dated 19<sup>th</sup> March 2015 – the content is self-explanatory, to clarify – “The investigation into the complaint is nearing its conclusion. Once completed Mrs Leyson will be provided with a copy of the investigation report and a right of appeal against its findings. It will be for her to decide if she wishes to inform the Welsh Pony and Cob Society of the result of the investigation.”*

*I have no intention of jeopardising any investigation by the Investigator Professional Standard Department, or if desired, hindering my right of appeal against its findings.*

*D Leyson”*

*13:07 David Blair, Angela Kember & Elizabeth Russell left the room*

**b) Confidential Minutes 1 (DB) – Minutes available**

**c) Confidential Minutes 2 (ALP/FHR Audit) - Minutes available**

**d) Confidential Minutes 3 (DB) - Minutes available**

**e) Confidential Minutes 4 (DB) - Minutes available**

*David Blair, Angela Kember & Elizabeth Russell returned to the room*

## **9358 SECRETARY'S UPDATE**

Andrew Johnstone presented a brief update on his ten weeks to date:

- No great changes for now, spent time getting to know staff and trustees
- The RWAS Pavilion is progressing – more information under the Estates Group report
- Busy time with the Journal mailing, with the assistance of Bethan, Natasha and Jayne. Only a couple of complaints about the positioning of the membership card – a couple of people had thrown the packaging away
- This year's membership cards were sponsored by Greenlands Insurance Services Ltd. Will be working with them further in the future
- PV panels installation was completed in time for the 31 March feed-in tariff cut-off
- Investigating deals for Members from large suppliers
- New website is ongoing

*13:30 David Blair, Angela Kember & Elizabeth Russell left the room*

*Confidential minutes available*

14:00 David Blair, Angela Kember & Elizabeth Russell returned to the room

**9359 REPORTS FROM THE STANDING COMMITTEES & WORKING GROUPS**

- a) **Estates Group Report** – The Secretary reported on progress to date, noting that three submissions were received as a result of the tender process. The decision was made on a cost basis and the Estates Group had selected the Garner Southall Partnership, based in Llandrindod Wells. *Copies of the first drawings were tabled.*

Christina Nixon is currently looking into requirements for the catering units which will be placed in the designated area as and when required.

It was also noted that Council recommends that the new Estates Group co-opts Steve Everitt, Gethin Williams and Edwin Prosser onto the committee given their involvement over the previous 12 months.

Ann Bigley reminded trustees that a pavilion fundraising committee should be established by the new Council as soon as possible.

*Office note – the 2015 AGM collection for the Pavilion raised £204.31*

- b) **Education & Welfare Report**  
*E Gummery unable to attend on the day.*

**9360 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – Saturday 28 March 2015**

Discussion ensued regarding procedure on the day of the AGM.

Elizabeth Russell spoke to the questions already submitted by Paul Wilding-Davies, which will be addressed at the AGM.

**9361 TRUSTEES TRAINING DAY**

This was confirmed as taking place on Wednesday 6 May 2015 at the offices of Geldards Solicitors, Dumfries House, Dumfries Place, Cardiff, CF10 3ZF, a five minute walk from Cardiff Queen Street railway station.

The first Council meeting will take place the following day Thursday 7 May 2015 at 10.00 am at the Mercure Holland House Hotel & Spa, 24-26 Newport Road, Cardiff, CF24 0DD.

**9362 WHITE MARKINGS**

- a) David Blair spoke to the issue noting that criteria is required for the White Markings Group, and that breeding should not be encouraged with animals having excessive white.

Following a discussion regarding Section X, Bethan Jones confirmed that if an animal goes into Section X on a colour basis, it stays in; if the progeny from a pure bred section X female is a solid colour this can be registered in the main stud book.

To Estates Group agenda

To early Council agenda

John Kirk noted that this is a breed society and Council should be very careful if a foal is out of two registered parents; it hasn't been challenged yet, but it will be.

**Further discussion ensued and it was proposed by Jo Sheil-Morgan, seconded by Dania Leyson that a small committee is created to tighten up the white markings description, bearing in mind the Bowen line and phenotype; For: 7; Against: 6; Abstentions: David Blair. Motion carried.**

To Council 7 May

**It was counter-proposed by Steve Everitt, seconded by David Roberts that the issue is left until after the Judging/ Breeding Conference later this year when it is discussed with breeders and members, before a decision is made on the new description. For: 7; Against: 4; Abstentions: David Blair. Motion carried.**

To Conference agenda

- b) Bethan Jones tabled photographs of an animal with white markings. Following a discussion it was agreed that the animal should be entered into Section X. For: 10; Against: 0; Abstentions: Mrs E A Russell. Motion carried.**

BJ to action

#### **9363 CORRESPONDENCE**

**WPCV Holland** – An email had been received from the association's chair, Mrs Wilma Bijma, offering their thanks for the acceptance of WPCV Holland as a daughter society of the Welsh Pony & Cob Society, noting particularly the help received from Bethan Jones.

It was suggested by Elizabeth Russell that the software to be used for the daughter societies should be decided upon as soon as possible before too many overseas associations go through the same process. Bethan Jones reported that Peter Cooper can send a .csv file to the societies, and is currently liaising with NWPCS on a similar matter.

Ongoing/P Cooper

Mr H van Dijk will be attending the office at Bronaeron on 17 April 2015 to discuss the next stage of the harmonisation process.

BJ to action

Peter Morgan also suggested a secure members' area for the Society's new system which sits behind the website and can save costs.

#### **9364 ENROLMENT OF NEW MEMBERS & RENEWAL OF MEMBERSHIPS**

**It was proposed by Steve Everitt, seconded by Gilly Thomson that 92 members be accepted. All in favour.**

Members accepted

#### **9365 INFORMATION REGARDING PONY THAT FAILED DNA TEST**

Dania Leyson spoke to the issue noting that it was regarding the case which was reported to last council, where a stallion whose DNA parentage test had returned confirming the registered sire was incorrect, but has since been rectified following a parentage test by DNA. She was a bit confused because she had been told by Bethan Jones that under the Data Protection Act the office would not supply a

list of its progeny to Mrs Leyson as requested, Mrs Leyson did not agree with this as Thorneyside The Terminator went to the Trustees and everything should come to Council to ratify before the office changes everything. She felt that as a Trustee she is entitled to this information.

It was again confirmed by Bethan Jones that if anyone asks for a list of an animal's progeny, which they do not own, the office would not divulge the information. It would only be provided to the registered owner of the animal.

**It was proposed by John Kirk, seconded by Gethin Williams that staff be allowed to continue to do their job, and not be micro-managed by Council. There is no mileage in Trustees knowing the progeny information. For: 8; Against: 1; Abstentions: Stewart Franklin, Peter Morgan, Gilly Thomson. Motion carried.**

Peter Morgan noted that if it became a regular thing, then Council would need to know.

## 9366 AOB

- a) **Welsh Belgium** – Angela Kember spoke to the issue of Welsh Belgium applying to be a daughter society, noting that they had not had any communication, and had sent two sets of their Stud Books to the office, but the office did not have them.

Elizabeth Russell reported that she had emailed them in December to let them know that it would be raised at the January 2015 Council meeting, and they were perfectly happy with that.

It was further noted by Bethan Jones that it had never been raised at any of the International Meetings.

- b) **Judging Rule Clarification** – David Roberts had been asked for clarification on rule 4.4 and 4.7 on p.8 of the Handbook; has the slate been wiped clean or are they carrying on from what had been done previously?

*4.4 An exhibitor or producer must not enter any animal in a class under a judge who has produced an animal for that person in the previous and current showing season.*

*4.7 An animal must not be exhibited if under the ownership or production of any person for whom the judge has obtained or provided livery in the last and current showing season.*

It was noted that the Judging & Showing committee had defined what a season was – 1<sup>st</sup> January to 31<sup>st</sup> December – as it had not been done before, but that the slate had not been wiped clean.

- c) **Social Media** – xxx

Given the new rule book there is an expectation from the membership that we will enforce the rules; a judge is expected to work in a professional manner.

It was suggested that Trustees look at the Social Media statement on the front page of the NPS website (below) and consider putting a similar statement on the WPCS website.

NPS Social Media Policy

*It has come to our attention that some National Pony Society members are posting derogatory comments regarding our Judges on Social Media. We do monitor social media, and keep a record of both past and current inflammatory or derogatory posts. The rules of the NPS apply to members when using social media and the internet. Please be aware that failure to adhere to the Social Media and Internet Policy Rule 5, could lead to disciplinary action being taken against a member.*

The Secretary noted that the Society can monitor such websites but it has no control over them. .

- d) **Teleconferencing at Bronaeron** – The Chair queried progress with the proposed system, and staff reported that the office has looked into the one currently used by Lampeter University, but wish to trial it before any purchase is made and this will be done within the next few weeks before the first Council meeting at Bronaeron.
- e) **Rule Book** – David Blair referred to rule 3.9 in the Handbook, when a Judge is judging a silver medal it is incumbent upon them to sign the card and check that the animal is the one named. The show then has the responsibility of sending that card and result into the office. In this year's Journal there is a correction about a pony who hasn't won a medal. The card had been incorrectly completed by the Judge at the National Show, but it is incumbent upon the Secretary to check, but this was not done.

The Chair suggested that Rule 3.9 be addressed at this year's Judges Conference on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2015 as a reminder.

John Kirk addressed Council noting that Trustees have been very lucky to have Ann Bigley as Chair; she stepped in at an awkward moment and took up the gauntlet, through what has not been the easiest of times.

The Chair replied asking Trustees to show their appreciation for those leaving Council today and for all their hard work over the years; and wished Mrs Redvers well for her AGM and Dinner tomorrow. President-Elect Dai Harris thanked Trustees for making him so welcome.

The Chair presented flowers to Bethan Jones for all her hard work over the past year.

With no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 4.30 p.m.

**Next Council meeting**

**AJ to action**

**To Conference agenda**

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