

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

**Minutes of the Council meeting held in the Pembroke Suite, Mercure Holland House Hotel, Cardiff at 10.00 am on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2015**

**Present:** Tom Hughes (Chair), Ann Bigley, David Blair, Elgan Evans, Betty French (President-Elect), Ed Gummery, Dai Harris (President), Angela Kember, John Kirk (Vice-Chair), Dania Leyson, Peter Morgan, Jeff Parry, David Roberts, Jo Sheil-Morgan, Colin Thomas, Gilly Thomson

**Apologies:** Stewart Franklin

**In Attendance:** Andrew Johnstone (Secretary)

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

**Welcome & Apologies**

A minute's silence was held in respect of Miss M J Gethin (Mynach), Mr R N Mason (Tullibardine), Mr B Jones, Frongoy, and all members recently departed.

The Chair offered congratulations to the President, Dai Harris on his Birthday.

AOB items were put forward and it was proposed by Jeff Parry, seconded by John Kirk that the list be prioritised. All in favour. Motion carried.

**Action Points**

**9392 a) MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 27 MARCH 2015**

It was proposed by David Blair, seconded by Jo Sheil-Morgan that the minutes are a true record of the meeting. Majority in favour.

**Abstentions:** Elgan Evans, Ed Gummery, Tom Hughes, Jeff Parry, Colin Thomas.

**MATTERS ARISING**

**p.1 9357 a) Matters Arising 2<sup>rd</sup> para** – The Secretary reported that the Society has recently received copies of the Welsh Belgium stud books.

**p.1 9357 a) Matters Arising 3<sup>rd</sup> para, HPIS** – Colin Thomas noted that there is now funding available.

Peter Morgan noted that he is supposed to be on the HPIS committee but this has never been captured in these minutes.

**p.2 9357 a) Matters Arising 1<sup>st</sup> para** – The Secretary reported that a meeting with Ceri Bevan at Brecon Beacons National Park will take place on Monday 11 May 2015.

**p.2 9354 Correspondence, c) Mr P Gray, Thorneyside** – the service certificate has now been received and the registration and licence has now been completed for the 3 year old.

**p.6 9366 c) Social Media** – Peter Morgan asked if any action had been taken against that judge. The Chair noted that it would be addressed later in the meeting.

**p.7 9366 d) Teleconferencing** – Following a question from Ann Bigley, the Secretary confirmed that a meeting had been arranged to test the system.

*10.25 am Angela Kember left the room*

*10.30 am David Blair left the room*

*10.30 am Betty French left the room, returning at 10.40 am*

*Confidential Minutes available*

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## **b) MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 28 MARCH 2015**

**It was proposed by Jeff Parry, seconded by David Blair that the minutes are a true record of the meeting. All in favour.**

### **9393 ELECTION OF TRUSTEES TO STANDING COMMITTEES**

These were previously agreed following the Strategy meeting on 20 April 2015, and are listed below for information, along with the Chair and Vice Chair of each committee:

#### **Education & Welfare (8)**

*Chair: Dania Leyson*

*Vice Chair: Peter Morgan*

Ed Gummery

Tom Hughes

Jeff Parry

Colin Thomas

Gilly Thomson

Roland Michell (Honorary Vet)

#### **Judging & Showing (8)**

*Chair: Ann Bigley*

*Vice Chair: David Blair*

Elgan Evans

Stewart Franklin

Angela Kember

John Kirk

David Roberts

Jo Sheil-Morgan

#### **Member Services (7)**

*Chair: Ed Gummery*

*Vice Chair: Colin Thomas*

Stewart Franklin

Tom Hughes

Angela Kember

Dania Leyson

David Roberts

#### **Promotions (9)**

*Chair: Gilly Thomson*

*Vice Chair: Peter Morgan*

Ann Bigley

David Blair

Elgan Evans

John Kirk

Jeff Parry

Jo Sheil-Morgan

Niki Brewer (Staff)

#### **Finance & HR (6)**

*Chair: Stewart Franklin*

*Vice Chair: Colin Thomas*

Ann Bigley

Peter Morgan

Gilly Thomson

Chris Hodgson (Staff)

### **9394 NOMINATION OF TRUSTEES TO WORKING GROUPS & COMMITTEES**

- i. **International Committee** – Ann Bigley, David Blair, Peter Morgan, Stewart Franklin, Gilly Thomson, Angela Kember
- ii. **Sales** – John Kirk, David Roberts, Elgan Evans, Jo Sheil-Morgan

- iii. **Pavilion & Estates Group** – John Kirk, Ann Bigley, Stewart Franklin.  
**Co-opted:** Steve Everitt, Edwin Prosser, Gethin Williams
- iv. **RWAS** – Elgan Evans, Tom Hughes, David Roberts, President Dai Harris and President-Elect Betty French.
- v. **White Markings & Criteria Group** – David Blair, Angela Kember, John Kirk, David Roberts, Jo Sheil-Morgan.

**9395 CONFIRMATION OF SOCIETY OFFICERS**

Gilly Thomson noted that these positions should be opened up for others to apply every three years, but this has not been done. It was agreed that the office investigates this and report back at the Council meeting on 8 June 2015.

- i. **Honorary National Welfare Co-ordinator**  
Ed Gummery confirmed, proposed by Colin Thomas, seconded by John Kirk.
- ii. **Honorary Veterinary Surgeon**  
Roland Michell confirmed, proposed by Jo Sheil-Morgan, seconded by David Roberts.
- iii. **Publicity Officer & Assistant Publicity Officers**  
Agreed to support Dr Wynne and investigate a team to work with him. Promotions to address.

**Office to action for 8 June agenda**

**To Promotions July agenda**

**9396 CONFIRMATION OF DELEGATES TO REPRESENT THE SOCIETY ON VARIOUS COMMITTEES**

Representatives were appointed as follows:

<b>Committee</b>	<b>2015-2016 Representative</b>
BHS Horse & Pony Breeds	Ed Gummery
British Central Prefix Register	Angela Kember
National Equine Forum	Andrew Johnstone, Secretary
Horserace Betting Levy Board	Gilly Thomson
International Show Committee	Gilly Thomson
Joint Measurement Board	Ann Bigley
National Equine Welfare Council	Ed Gummery & Dania Leyson, Chair of Education & Welfare
National Stallion Association	Andrew Johnstone, Secretary
NPS /Ponies UK / BSPS	Ann Bigley /Angela Kember
Welsh Equine Council	Ed Gummery & Colin Thomas (HPIS rep)
Welsh Part-bred Horse Group	Ann Bigley
All Party Parliamentary Equine Welfare Group	Ed Gummery

The Scottish Horse Society, although it does exist, was deleted from the list as it does not operate.

It was suggested by Ann Bigley that the Secretary approaches *The Showing Council* to ask if the Society could have a representative at their meetings.

**AJ to action**

Ed Gummery reported that he had been approached by the National Equine Welfare Council and, following advice from the office, he will represent the WPCS on the All Party Parliamentary Equine Welfare Group, which is attended by Ministers.

## **9397 CONFIRMATION OF DATES FOR MEETINGS 2015-2016**

### **Standing Orders**

Following a request from the office, **it was proposed by Jo Sheil-Morgan, seconded by David Roberts that “Point 1 g) Meetings” of the standing orders be amended to read “No Standing Committee meetings will be held for three weeks’ prior to a Council meeting, except in exceptional circumstances.” All in favour.**

Meetings will take place at 10.00 am at Bronaeron, Felinfach, Lampeter.

**It was proposed by David Roberts, seconded by Elgan Evans that the proposed dates be accepted. All in favour. Motion carried.**

#### **i) Council**

Monday 08 June 2015

Monday 10 August 2015

Monday 12 October 2015

Monday 07 December 2015

Monday 08 February 2016

Friday 01 April 2016, AGM Weekend, The Vale Resort Hotel, Cardiff

#### **ii) Standing Committees**

Meetings will take place at least three weeks before Council at Bronaeron, with two committee meetings in the morning, and two in the afternoon.

Monday 18 May 2015

Monday 13 July 2015

Monday 21 September 2015

Monday 16 November 2015

Monday 18 January 2016

10.00 am – 1.00 pm Education & Welfare / Judging & Showing

1.00 pm – 1.30 pm Lunch

1.30 pm – 4.30 pm Members Services / Promotion

#### **Finance & HR**

Meetings will take place on Tuesdays following the four standing committees.

Tuesday 19 May 2015

Tuesday 14 July 2015

Tuesday 22 September 2015

Tuesday 17 November 2015

Tuesday 19 January 2016

**9398 CORRESPONDENCE**

*Ann Bigley left the room – conflict of interest*

- a) **Brightwells letter & email from a vendor** – Terry Court had written requesting that Council considers creating a “Sales Membership” of around £10 for the official sales, in order to attract this type of vendor who would not normally sell through the official sales.

**Following a discussion it was proposed by Angela Kember, seconded by Elgan Evans, that Council rejects the request for a Sale Membership rate. Majority in favour. Motion carried.**

**AJ to write**

*Ann Bigley returned to the room*

**9399 ENROLMENT OF NEW MEMBERS & RENEWAL OF MEMBERSHIPS**

**It was proposed by Angela Kember, seconded by Ed Gummery to accept the applications from new members and renewal of memberships.**

**Members accepted**

*Minutes recorded in agenda order*

**9400 AOB**

- a) **Trouble at AGM** – John Kirk noted that the trouble caused by a few at the 2015 AGM Dinner was unacceptable, and Council should act to prevent it happening again next year.

It was agreed that in the first instance that Council address this year’s issues; look at future AGMs going forward; and the possibility of handing the issue to the HR committee to take action.

It was further agreed that the Society should distinguish between the actions of members and non-members, and that no action can be taken unless there is an official, written complaint from a member in attendance on the night.

**To 8 June Council**

- b) **i) Letter from Mrs S A Harries** - Mrs Harries wrote to express her concern with rule 3.30, and the new social media restrictions for Judges. Secretary to reply.

**Office to action**

**ii) Contact with / use of Social Media** – Referring to 4.1 and 4.2 of the Trustees Code of Conduct, it was agreed that Colin Thomas can speak to Media when they ring him for a comment, or to speak live on air regarding the hill ponies; but to let the office know as soon as possible so that the Secretary is aware of it.

Discussion ensued regarding interpretation of the new Rule 3.30, when it was confirmed that “liking” a photograph on Facebook by a Judge could be construed to be a comment.

- c) **Letters from I J R Lloyd & Miss D Chambers - DNA Testing of Maiden Mares** – Letters were received from Mr I J R Lloyd and Miss D Chambers noting their disagreement with the move to DNA test all maiden mares.

Ann Bigley noted that the decision was taken by Council in 2014 – unanimously – to DNA test maiden mares. Some had wanted to DNA all mares, but it was agreed not to do that because of the expense. It was done in order to meet the Society's PIO status – which is a real issue for the Society, we aren't risk losing that – and it is a risk, Defra do want to have just one PIO. Other societies do it - Fell, Dales - and the Shetland Society have been doing it for 15 years. The members at the last International Committee meeting were really pleased that we have gone down this route.

John Kirk agreed, noting that the Society is the biggest UK breed society as well as an international society. The decision was not taken lightly by the previous Council it was agreed after a lot of debate.

**Following a discussion it was agreed to reply noting that Council made its decision to protect the future integrity of the Stud Book, its PIO status, selling animals abroad and the fact that the draft zootechnicals legislation included the requirement to DNA animals entered in the studbook of breed societies.**

Office to action

**It was agreed that the Secretary writes a press release to publicise the positive elements involved and the reasons the Society has taken this decision.**

AJ to action

- d) **Welfare Update** – Ed Gummery updated Council members on issues to date, noting that there is now an email address for people to contact him regarding welfare issues – welfare@wpcs.uk.com

In addition meetings have been arranged with the RSPCA and the National Equine Council, and the team is pleased with the process so far.

- e) **Overseas Association, New Zealand letter** – Had written to request a commemorative medal for their long serving Council member Robin Collier in their Society's 50<sup>th</sup> year. **It was proposed by Ann Bigley, seconded by John Kirk that the office arranges to give them an unengraved Silver medal free of charge. All in favour. Motion carried.**

Office to action

- f) **Rosettes** – Examples were tabled with the suggestion from the office that the velvet rosettes, which would now be selling at £5.50, be replaced by ribbon rosettes as the cheaper option. **It was proposed by John Kirk, seconded by David Roberts, that the velvet rosettes remain as they are sold out to the shows. All in favour.**

Office to action

- g) **British Dressage** – An email had been received from British Dressage asking if the Society would be interested in supporting a Native Breed Dressage event. Costs will be £80 per Breed Society, plus three Breed Society rosettes to be provided by WPCS for the highest placed Welsh.

The £80 contribution will provide:

- Winner–10<sup>th</sup> Place 5 tier rosettes in each level (Intro, Prelim & Novice)
- Sashes for the winners of each level (Intro, Prelim & Novice)

- Prize Money of £100, £75, £50 to each level (Intro, Prelim & Novice).  
British Dressage will tender for one of their experienced organisers to deliver the championship at no cost to the breed societies.
- It was proposed by Jo Sheil-Morgan, seconded by Angela Kember that the Society pays £80 to be involved in the event and supplies the three requested rosettes. All in favour.**
- h) **Shae Price letter** – The previous Young Ambassador had written to request that in future the Young Ambassador’s report is placed in the Journal. David Blair explained the chain of events leading to the publication of the Journal, confirming that a report had not been received by the closing date.
- Ann Bigley suggested that the Members Services committee might consider mentoring the Young Ambassador.
- It was proposed by Jo Sheil-Morgan, seconded by Colin Thomas that the office replies thanking him for his letter, and noting that his points had been taken on board.**
- i) **WPCV Holland** – *Copies were tabled of a letter from WPCV Holland, along with a copy of Bethan Jones’ report of a meeting between herself, Henk van Dijk and Geert van Beek of WPCV.*
- The office report noted various points raised by WPCV, and following a discussion **it was proposed by Ann Bigley, seconded by John Kirk that the suggested working group and various administration issues should be discussed by David Blair and Bethan Jones, and an update supplied at the next Council meeting.**
- j) **WPCS Pavilion at Royal Welsh Showground** – Ann Bigley reported on progress to date, noting that the two demountable catering units will now be replaced with a kitchen. Edwin Prosser had provided a plan of a state-of-the-art kitchen as an example and this will be used as a guide for the architects to work on with an additional estimated cost of £15,000. The Secretary noted that the aim is to make the pavilion as future proof as possible, and it is hoped that a new 30 year lease will be agreed with the RWAS, and that this will allow the Society to rent out the pavilion.
- It was proposed by Gilly Thomson, seconded by David Roberts that Council approves a budget of £400,000 with a contingency of £15,000 for the new pavilion. Majority in favour. Abstentions: John Kirk and Ann Bigley. Motion carried.**
- It was also agreed to seek funding from the WCVA amongst others, and commercial sponsors, and a small fundraising committee was also discussed.
- k) **Mynach Prefix** – The office had received a request for the Mynach prefix to be protected. **It was proposed by John Kirk, seconded by Jeff Parry that the Society respects their wishes and protects the Mynach prefix indefinitely. Majority in favour. Abstentions: David Blair**
- The next meeting will take place at 10.00 am on Monday 8 June 2015.  
With no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 4.02 pm

Office to action

To Members  
Services agenda

AJ to action

DB & BJ to action

Estates Group

AJ to action

Office to action