

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

**Minutes of the Council meeting held at Bronaeron, Felinfach, Lampeter, SA48 8AG
at 10.00 am on Monday 9 February 2015**

Present: Ann Bigley (Chair), 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, Jo Sheil-Morgan, Gethin Williams

Attendance via Teleconference: David Blair, Elizabeth Russell, Gilly Thomson

Apologies: None

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

Minute Taker: Jayne Willis (PA)

Welcome & Apologies

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting with apologies as noted above.

A minute's silence was held in respect of Mrs E A Williams (Crawel), Miss A K Lumsden (Ashdownforest), Mrs A J Edwards (Sarnau), Mrs J Rowlands, Mr M Rowlands who have passed away, and all members recently departed.

Action Points

9350 a) MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 8 DECEMBER 2014

It was proposed by Gethin Williams, seconded by John Kirk that the minutes of the meeting are a true record of the meeting subject to the following corrections:

p.1 Members passed away – Mrs Staple should read Mrs Staples and the stud name should read Bushmere.

p.1 b) Confidential Minutes of the Meeting held on 13/10/14 - Angela Kember also left the meeting.

p.2 9300 c) Minutes of the Meeting held on 10 November 2014 - Should also read that Angela Kember was not present at the meeting as she hadn't received a phone call from the office.

p.4 – first line should read "*booked for 2015*" not 2016.

p.5 9302 Election on the Nominees a) Honorary Life Member 2015 – David Blair's reason for abstaining was for "irregular paperwork".

p.6 9305 Correspondence a) 2014 to read 2015.

MATTERS ARISING

p.5 9302 Election on the Nominees for Honorary Life Member/

Honorary Vice President – It was confirmed that the office deals with all of the action points relevant to them as soon as possible, and replies had been received from the award recipients.

p.6 9305 d) Netherlands WPCS – Following a question from Angela Kember, Bethan Jones noted that they had requested access to the pedigrees to copy the information into their database. Peter Cooper to liaise with Netherlands WPCS direct.

BJ/Peter Cooper to action

XXXXX

Gilly Thomson suggested that confidential minutes should be circulated to Trustees before a meeting. It was generally agreed that the current process remains, in that minutes are circulated in the room and returned.

Minutes recorded in agenda order

b) XXXXX

c) XXXXX

d) MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 12 JANUARY 2015

It was proposed by Stewart Franklin seconded by Lisa Reed, with all in favour that the minutes are a true record of the meeting subject to the following correction:

p.1 9314 HR ITEM – Angela Kember noted that she left the room at approximately 09.45 am and Elizabeth Russell left the room at 10.30am with both returning at 10.45am.

MATTERS ARISING

p.2 9316 AOB a) Geldards Training Day – This has been arranged for Friday 17 April 2015 at Geldards offices in Cardiff.

e) XXXXX

9351 REPORTS FROM THE STANDING COMMITTEES

a) Finance & HR

- i) 13 January 2015** – Mrs Russell noted that the minutes were passed at the 29/01/15 FHR meeting.
- ii) 29 January 2015**
 - Minute 9348 a) HMRC Employers Allowance, had been dealt with by Chris Hodgson as noted in the minutes.
 - Minute 9348 f) SORP – the reported change to the new FR012 SORP system will provide more transparent accounts

for the members and will be easier to administer.

- The Society has broken even over the year, and the profit made has come from the Society's investment income.
- **Year End Accounts to 31 December 2014 – It was proposed by Gethin Williams, seconded by Stewart Franklin that Council accepts the 2014 year end accounts subject to the required correction to the D D Morgan £38 / P N E Morgan £627 expense figures. All in favour.**

AJ / BJ to action

b) Education & Welfare – 12 January 2015

- Dania Leyson spoke to the minutes, noting the committee's thanks to Niki Brewer and Gareth Evans for the very successful educational presentations on their visits to colleges; and to Jo Sheil-Morgan for updating the PowerPoint presentation.
- Gelding Days will be a future agenda item following receipt of Angela Kember's letter.
- Interviews took place for the Honorary Welfare Co-ordinator and the committee subsequently selected Ed Gummery who has accepted the position.

c) Judging & Showing (Assessment Review) – 12 January 2015

- 2016 Assessment return to applicants applying for ridden panel, must already be on in-hand panel to ensure breed standards are adhered to.
- Any judge on the ridden panel will remain as such without having to sit an in-hand assessment.
- David Blair's paper supplied 6 February to next J&S agenda.
- Mentoring – Society decides who goes with which Mentor at the Association Shows.

Next J&S agenda

In addition a brief meeting was held today regarding the Breeding /Judging Conference on Saturday 31 October 2015 when it **was proposed by John Kirk, seconded by Gethin Williams that this should take place at Stoneleigh, Warwickshire, CV8 2LZ. Majority in favour. Abstentions: Elizabeth Russell, Angela Kember. Motion carried.**

NT to action

d) Members Services – 12 January 2015

- Bethan Jones to contact Netherlands WPCS re Daughter Society status and update the website.
- Stewart Franklin to cost the process, and contact WPCS Belgium for a copy of their Stud Book.
- Bethan Jones noted that a decision needs to be made regarding the way forward with the Daughter Societies. Ann Bigley suggested that a small committee be set up from the new Trustees to look at the issue and to report back to Council with Bethan to be on the committee.
- It was noted that full office details to be added to the new membership card from 2016. Telephone number and website details added this year. Jo Sheil-Morgan suggested a return to the old membership cards which could be either pinned or tied and perhaps a more robust card.

BJ to action

SFF to action

Next MS agenda

Office to action

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2015 Open Forums: Three replies from Scotland, Ceredigion and West Yorkshire area associations to say they will provide the venue. It was noted by David Roberts that Clwyd Association had not received anything – office to resend via post and email. 	Office to action
<p>Lisa Reed proposed, seconded by Gethin Williams that the office arranges dates with the three Associations who have replied and that adjacent associations are notified of those dates should they wish to combine their meetings. All in favour.</p>	Office to action
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gelding Days for next agenda. • Young Ambassador’s report to be placed in the Journal each year. • Early Years booklet has been reprinted. • Young Ambassador terms of reference to be reviewed by new committee. 	Next Members’ Services agenda
<p>e) Promotions – 12 January 2015</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New App put on hold • Journal & magazine mailing will leave the office on 20/02/15 • Website specification sent to Gary Atkinson • Exhibition Unit – HOYS report with suggestions from Niki Brewer. She is also exploring ideas/way forward for the exhibition unit. 	Next Members’ Services agenda
<p>f) Estates Group – WPCS Pavilion Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Steve Everitt noted that tenders from three architects are expected in this week and one will be appointed. • Both Steve Everitt and Gethin Williams will be standing down after the AGM and it was proposed by Lisa Reed, seconded by Gethin Williams that Ann Bigley and Stewart Franklin be co-opted onto the Estates Group. All in favour. • Recommended that Steve Everitt, Gethin Williams and Edwin Prosser be co-opted onto the Estates Group by the new Council. It was proposed by Lisa Reed, seconded by Angela Kember that the Estates Group has the right to act on behalf of Council when selecting tenders for the Pavilion. Majority in favour. Abstentions: Steve Everitt. • Mrs Russell noted that the Society needed an income of £1.2million to stay in the black and a third of this will be going on the Pavilion - Council needs to discuss the generation of funds. • Office to investigate the “Buy a Brick” scheme used by the Charolais Society to raise funds for the Pavilion. • Andrew Johnstone to write to Royal Welsh updating them on progress to date, and the proposed start date for the new build after the Royal Welsh Show. The Society would also like to use the old pavilion until the end of the year, as a catering contract is in place for the sales, and negotiation will be needed regarding the contract on the new build. 	MAB & SFF co-opted onto Estates Group To first Council Office to action
<p>g) International Meeting- 16 October 2014</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People are keen to attend meetings via Skype. • 2015 Denmark International Show /National Welsh Show Clash 	AJ to action

Both events are due to take place on the same weekend – 8 & 9 August 2015. Mrs Russell noted that the Danish Association had approached the Society three years ago to book the event.

- Transfers on the day when people arrive at Bronaeron's reception were discussed. It was noted that people have been rude to staff in the past, and they do their best to accommodate people turning up, but a phone call beforehand would help. People are charged the priority fee of £20.50 if the office is two weeks behind and those arriving are effectively jumping to the top of the queue.
- DNA testing information to be updated before circulation to Overseas Associations.

Office /ASE to action

h) Hill Pony Improvement Societies Meeting – 03 December 2014

- DNA of Hill Mares continuing
- Ceri Bevan, Brecon Beacons National Park, updated the meeting on funding to date and the possibility of further funding, and noted her wish to help promote the breed in any way she can.
- Miss Philipson-Stow had spoken to the Rare Breeds Survival Trust and they will be reviewing the status of the Mountain Pony at their next meeting, in the hope that it will be reinstated.

i) Young Peoples Committee – 12 January 2015

- John Kirk noted that it was a good meeting, and the enthusiasm of the attendees was encouraging.
- Young Judges competition and packs to be discussed at next J&S meeting
- Maximum age of 30 was discussed further, and confirmed that Council had set that age limit not the Young Peoples' Committee. Discussion re maximum age for next YPC agenda.
- The YPC are organising an event to take place on the evening of Friday 27 March 2015, the day before the AGM.

Office to action

Office to action

j) White Markings Committee

Discussion ensued regarding the entry of foals with white markings onto the pure bred register. Following a comment by Gilly Thomson that she understood there were no white marks allowed on the body, Steve Everitt confirmed that the Society had never had that ruling; the only ruling in the Society's Regulations is that a foal cannot be piebald or skewbald.

It was agreed to add "White Markings" to the October 2015 breeding conference agenda.

NT to action

9352 REVIEW OF ANGLO WELSH

Due to the low numbers (6) registered in the past year, it was **proposed by Gilly Thomson, seconded by Elizabeth Russell that the register be closed and the 6 animals be transferred to the Part-bred register. For: 8, Against: 5. Motion carried.**

BJ to action

It was counter-proposed by Steve Everitt, seconded by David Roberts that the Anglo Welsh register continues, given that there is no cost to the Society to keep it. For: 5, Against: 8. Motion not

carried.

9353 YOUNG PEOPLES COMMITTEE SCHOLARSHIP

It was proposed by Stewart Franklin, seconded by Gethin Williams that Council accepts the Scholarship Form subject to the following amendments:

- Last bullet point – “compromise” should read “comprise”
- Closing date to be added

BJ to action

9354 CORRESPONDENCE

a) Mr G W Jones, Nerwyn – Mr Jones had written to thank Council and accept the award of Honorary Life Membership to be awarded at the 2015 AGM.

Letter received

b) Mr J J T Davies, Rhoson – Mr Davies had written to thank Council and accept the award of Honorary Life Membership to be awarded at the 2015 AGM.

Letter received

c) Mr P Gray, Thorneyside – Mr Gray had written requesting that a registration be accepted without a service certificate.

Following a discussion it was proposed by Gilly Thomson, seconded by Dania Leyson that the Secretary replies noting that the office has done as much as it can by adhering to the Society’s rules, and the colt cannot be registered as a pure bred without the provision of a properly signed service certificate.

AJ to action

d) Anonymous judging letter – *for information only.*

e) Mr C Thomas, HPIS - Emails had been sent to the President and it was noted that all such correspondence should be sent to the office for the attention of the relevant committee or Council.

- i) Premium Judges** - Mr Thomas had written regarding the 2015 selection of judges for the 2015 Glanusk Premium Stallion Inspection.

Following a discussion it was proposed by Gethin Williams, seconded by Angela Kember that the Premium Judges for 2015 should be Phil Williams and Chris Cobley with Dennis Price as reserve. All in favour.

AJ to write

It was further proposed by Steve Everitt, seconded by Dania Leyson that “Selection of Judges” should be added to the next HPIS agenda for Autumn 2015 to include discussion on more judges being added to the selection list. All in favour.

Office to action

- ii) DNA Testing** – Following a discussion it was agreed that the Secretary should reply to Mr Thomas noting that at the Council meeting of 1st May 2014, it was agreed to test one in every 300 foals with immediate effect and all maiden mares from 2016.

This decision was taken by the Society to protect the Stud Book, and not made because of any EU Directive which came after Council's decision.

Office to action

Elizabeth Russell left the meeting

Gilly Thomson returned to the meeting via teleconference

f) Mrs A J Kember - The Chair addressed the letter sent by Angela Kember querying how shows were expected to know which Section of the Stud Book a Dutch animal is registered in, if it doesn't have a UK equine passport. The Chair noted that they are on Defra recognised passports and that an animal registered with a Daughter Society does not need a UK passport and all Dutch Stamboek passports do have the animal's section in them. In addition the onus is upon the competitor to enter their animal into the correct class.

g) Mr J Griffiths, Geldards Solicitors – The Chair reported that Hugh James Solicitors had spent two to three weeks photocopying the files it holds relating to the Society, which amounted to nine bankers' boxes. These have now been forwarded to Geldards and if they are to retain them on the Society's behalf they will have to look at, and catalogue them but this will incur a cost.

It was agreed that the Secretary asks for a schedule of costs from Geldards for this work.

AJ to action

9355 ENROLMENT OF NEW MEMBERS & RENEWAL OF MEMBERSHIPS

It was proposed by Gethin Williams, seconded by Dania Leyson to accept 37 applications for membership except for that of Mr T Gibson following the decision of Council, Minute 9356 AOB b) below. For 9. Against 0 Abstentions: Lisa Reed, Jo Sheil-Morgan

37 Members accepted

Elizabeth Russell noted that Council had agreed to supply Area Associations with the names of new members in their area, and the current format of the list does not enable this. Bethan Jones confirmed that the list supplied to Council is not typed but spooled from XiS to a .csv file. Bethan Jones to discuss the list for Area Associations with Peter Cooper and report back to Council.

BJ to action

9356 AOB

a) XXXXX

b) South Western Association Show 31 August 2014 –

Mr T Gibson was awarded the C rosette, but unfortunately the Judge on the day did not check the membership cards. It now appears that Mr Gibson is not a member but has refused to return the rosette.

In addition Mr T Gibson paid for his WPCS membership on 29 January 2015.

Following a discussion it was agreed that the office writes to Mr Gibson noting that if he returns the rosette to the Show, Council will consider his request for Membership, but at this time it has no choice but to refuse it and return his money.

Office to action

David Blair asked that his email of 9 February be added to the minutes:

From: waxwing [<mailto:tom.best@btinternet.com>] **Sent:** 09 February 2015 20:26.
To: Trustees

Meeting today AOB: Membership re Mr Gibson

When this came before me for discussion this afternoon I had not received my copy. Jayne emailed me it at 16.50. I quickly read the top copy of the correspondence not knowing there was a host of various correspondence attached regarding the matter of the rosette. I have since 'found' it. The one piece of correspondence I wish to address is the letter sent to Mr Gibson from Natasha Thomas on behalf of WPCS on January 12th. This clearly states that a card was shown to the judge Miss Hardy. This I was not aware of at the time we were discussing and therefore I wish to withdraw my suggestion re a reminder letter to be sent to Miss Hardy. If I had been in the same circumstance I would have accepted the card and awarded the rosette. X I would appreciate if this email could be added as a note to the minute of that particular discussion. -David Blair

- c) **Trustees Training Day at Geldards** - Council were notified that the training day has been arranged for Friday 17 April 2015.

It was agreed to set the date of the Strategy meeting and the new Council's first meeting at the short meeting after the AGM on Saturday 28 March 2015.

Office to action

- d) **Helen McBride letter** – Ms McBride had written requesting leniency for the extra registration payment for submitting the form after 31 January 2015.

It was proposed by Gethin Williams, seconded by Peter Morgan that Ms McBride must pay the relevant fee to register the animal.

- e) **Animal Health Trust** – AHT had written to inform the Society that its fee for a DNA kit has risen to £49.50 incl VAT. Bethan Jones is speaking to them to negotiate, if not the price list will be updated on the website and paper list.

BJ to action

- f) **Pony of the Year** – Synod Lady Lilian, Supreme Champion at Royal Welsh and the Cuddy competition at HOYS.

- g) **Minutes** – Gilly Thomson requested timely receipt of minutes, and asked that Chairs ensure they check and return the minutes to the office as soon as possible.

Gethin Williams noted his concern with minutes – they are a legal document and Council need to look at the minutes. They need to be checked and could perhaps go to all Council members before circulation.

Geldards and Broomfield Alexander have both expressed concern regarding a lack of clarity in a meeting. Perhaps Andrew Johnstone

could provide a paper. Ann Bigley confirmed that she has already spoken to him about minutes and he will be looking at the issue.

AJ to action

h) **Police letter** – Gethin Williams noted that a Police letter had been received 9 months ago, and requested an update regarding that situation. Can the Society contact the police officer concerned and ask where the investigation is up to, and some sort of timeframe and whether it is relevant to us. It was agreed that the office contacts them to see if it is complete.

BJ to action

i) **AGM Collection** – It was proposed by Lisa Reed, seconded by John Kirk that the 2015 AGM collection should be in aid of the Pavilion. All in favour.

Office to action

Staff left the meeting

j) **HR Item**

k) **IT Update**

Council received its monthly IT update. The office now has a new XiS server and the web server has been upgraded, WPCS Online continues to be developed. Peter Cooper is to attend the AGM where he hopes to showcase Sire Ratings and In Hand Medal class results from 1999 – over 28,000 classes – by show, by animal and also the results of animals' progeny.

The next meeting will take place at 1.00 pm on Friday 27 March 2015 in the Hatherley Suite at Hatherley Manor Hotel, Gloucester.

With no further business the Chair closed the meeting.

This report is prepared solely for the purpose of Council. It is private and confidential to members of Council. They must not be reproduced or disclosed to any other individual. The remarks made by any specific members of Council as reported in these Minutes are their personal views and not the views of the Society unless ratified by the Society.