

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

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Members held at The Vale Resort Hotel,  
Hensol Park, Vale of Glamorgan CF72 8JY on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2016**

**PRESENT**

The President, Mr D R Harris, and 246 members who signed the attendance books

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Mrs N Thomas (Resourcing Manager), Ms J Willis (PA to the CEO)

**WELCOME**

The President noted that someone once told him that if you go in front of an audience always remember your x-y-z - examine your zip. I've examined my zip and I am quite happy to be in front of you.

Mr D R Harris welcomed all British and overseas members from Holland, Sweden, Denmark and South Africa to a very international Annual General Meeting of The Welsh Pony and Cob Society at The Vale Resort Hotel and informed the meeting of the location of the fire escapes.

The President noted that the meeting was being taped and asked if anyone objected, and if anyone proposed taping the meeting themselves to disclose it now. There were no objections or disclosures. Members were asked to turn off all mobile phones and reminded to sign the Attendance Books circulating in the room. Members receiving awards were requested to stay behind at the close of the AGM for photographs as these would not be taken during the meeting. It was noted that roving microphones are available and Members were asked to wait until the microphone is brought to them before speaking, and to introduce themselves in order that their comments are attributed to them in the minutes.

The President asked if there were any objections to a number of non-members attending the meeting, who were present to represent proxy votes or accepting awards. There were no objections.

**APOLOGIES**

Apologies for the inability to attend the meeting were taken as read.

**OBITUARIES**

The President noted that this would be a hard few minutes for him, reporting that during the last month the Society saw the passing of the Chair of Council, Mr Thomas Geraint Hughes of the Ionos Stud. Unfortunately because he was hospitalised during the funeral he was unable to attend, and would say a few words today.

My sympathy goes out to his wife, children and close family. Twelve months ago Geraint Hughes became a trustee and within the hour he became Chair of this wonderful Society. A very hard task for a member who had been a trustee for a while, but for someone newly appointed it was very hard. I remember clearly our first boardroom meeting. My good friend from the west Mr Elgan Evans and I travelled up to Birmingham for it, and I remember saying that I hoped he would be happy in his role as Chair, but I had my worries as he had been put into the fire immediately on becoming a trustee.

This is what I want to say to you ladies and gentlemen, if I had any doubts on the way to that meeting, they had all been forgotten on the way home. Because I had actually seen a craftsman at work. A man who could actually deal with people, a man who had a vision, but a man also – and I mean this from my heart – who had the same vision as myself. He was for the breed, for the Society and for the members and I applauded him from that first day for standing for those principles. A truly amazing man. During the next three to four months I came to know him better as a person, and this is where I realised - I should have met this man a number of years ago, because he would have made a difference in my life because he was an incredible person.

I also learned a few new words in vocabulary things that I, as a country bumpkin, didn't realise existed. Such as "staff review" and I remember him telling me what it meant and how it would take the Society forward. The other word I didn't know was "headhunted." He said to me one day "we might have to go headhunting for a chief executive." Before, to me it meant going hunting for the head of someone, but with Geraint Hughes by my side he told me what it meant. But what I and the trustees didn't realise was that he was being headhunted himself by God to share heaven.

That was the credibility of this man, he was an amazing individual. Jose Mourinho says, as a football manager, he is the "special one." Well ladies and gentlemen I can honestly tell you that in the eleven months I worked with Geraint Hughes, I knew that we had the "special one". That is why as President, I want to dedicate this day to the memory of Mr Thomas Geraint Hughes, our past Chairman.

Ladies and gentlemen, in addition a number of members have passed away this year and the Society extends its sympathy to the families and friends of all departed members. Please be upstanding for a minute's silence.

#### **9860 CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE AGM HELD ON SATURDAY 28<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2015.**

The President asked the floor for any corrections.

p.6, line 5, Dr E.W. Jones to read "Dr E.W. Davies"

**Subject to the above correction the President moved to propose, seconded by Mrs K Sheil that the minutes are recorded to the meeting's satisfaction.**

Put to the Floor

All those in favour: Majority

Against:

Motion carried

**MATTERS ARISING** – none on this occasion

#### **9861 CORRESPONDENCE**

**From Mr A S Everitt –**

- 1. Would the Society please explain how two current trustees who, under the rules detailed in the Articles of Association are deemed to have served two full terms, have been allowed to stand for election for a further three year term without taking the obligatory three year break?*

**Mr S F Franklin, Chair of Finance & HR** – Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen. The trustees concerned were elected in 2014 to serve until 2016. The appointment of trustees in 2013 was not valid, and we attempted to validate the appointments at the EGM in 2013 but this failed. Therefore the trustees were deemed not to have taken office at the 2014 AGM, and we were advised that there is no reason why they cannot stand for election at this AGM. At a future EGM the council hopes to adjust the Articles of Association to overcome the loophole.

- 2. What amount of the £51,000+ legal expenses in the accounts can be attributed to obtaining this ruling?*

**Mr S F Franklin, Chair of Finance & HR** – It was £2,197.

#### **9862 TO RECEIVE AND APPROVE THE AUDITED BALANCE SHEETS AND ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>st</sup> DECEMBER 2014**

The President invited Mr S F Franklin to present the report to members.

**Mr S F Franklin** - President, fellow members – on behalf of Council I have pleasure in presenting to you the audited accounts which include the balance sheet and profit and loss for the year ending 31 December 2015.

Many of you will note that this financial year we have made a small deficit of £38,905. However, £15,000 of this deficit can be explained by the way of depreciation on over £70,000 of new capital expenditure and a further £10,000 on a one off legal expense in relation to redevelopment plans on the Society's Pavilion at the Royal Welsh Showground; both of which should benefit us in future years. In many other ways the accounts are very similar to those of twelve months ago in December 2014. This is despite a continued decline in registrations which fortunately reduced less than anticipated. Let's hope that we have reached the bottom of the trough as the economy slowly recovers.

I shall comment on the Balance Sheet which is on page 13 of the accounts – where assets less liabilities stand at £1,748,567, a £38,904 decrease on 2014 and a minor reduction in reserve for future cost of life membership.

Our investments have again stood us in good stead and we have ended 2015 at a market value of £1,213,661, yielding 2.63% overall which is marginally up on last year. The portfolio is based on medium/low risk investments and has again subsidised our core business. The Finance and HR committee meets annually in January with the chosen investment company to review what an important element of income it is for the Society.

Despite a continued decline in registrations, overall income from all sources is up some £4,000 from 2014 at £668,086. However, our core membership has unfortunately decreased by nearly 5% and transfers

and gelding registrations are also down.

Gift Aid continues to be an important revenue source and approximately £14,000 has been provisioned for in this year's accounts. Please continue to sign the Gift Aid forms as this easy source of income is much required. I would like to thank our main sponsor, Greenlands Insurance, whose telephone number is on the back of your membership card. Their support with providing the Society's insurance and their sponsorship of our events is invaluable. I would also like to thank Brightwells for their continued support throughout the year.

Income from the WPCS Pavilion was just over £10,000. Employment costs, which are our largest expenditure, have remained stable as have accounting and scrutineering charges. During 2015 the Society incurred significant legal costs. As you are aware this is due to the fact that the Society has continued to upgrade their governance processes and as a result we now have new codes of conduct in place for both trustees and members, new complaints and disciplinary procedures which are suitable for the modern day. These are "one-off" costs and will ensure that the Society will have ensured its governance structure is fit for purpose and in line with current legislation.

I bring to your attention that 2016 will see the Society moving from SORP 2005 to FRS102 SORP which is a new set of financial standards implemented by the Charity Commission. These new standards require increased transparency in relation to risks, reserves and key management personnel.

To return to the accounts, applications for funding have been received from Northleach Show, the WPCS Performance Awards, Aberaeron Festival of Welsh Ponies and Cobs, the WPCS Performance Show, the Welsh Part-bred Horse Group and the National Welsh, all of which were approved. Unfortunately no applications for Educational Bursaries were received this year and it was agreed that the funds be carried over for future applications.

In July of last year, in our endeavour to achieve the strategies of the Society, so ably penned by Anthony Booth, we decided to embark on a major IT revamp. Much of the software used by the Society was creaking and had not been updated for a number of years. As of January 2016 there was also a legal requirement from Defra to amend passport design and turn registrations around within fifteen working days.

The following IT improvements have been made:

- A rewrite of the old XiS in modern technology: this makes it easier to train new staff, is quicker to use and is able to be maintained by other suppliers
- Online Purchasing – The customers and members of any modern organisation expect to do business and interact via the web and emails. WPCS Online is a solid foundation on which to build these facilities
- Enhancements and New Features include
- Internet Payment Processing b) Scanning of membership cards and other paperwork
- Better credit card processing
- Membership cards
- Judges' Conference, Affiliated Shows and lease and loan of animals

The improvements and investment will provide a solid foundation for the next 10-15 years. Members and customers expect a modern service such as communication via email and on-line facilities. The new XiS system provides a solid foundation on which to build for the future.

Ladies and gentlemen if anyone has any questions regarding the accounts I shall endeavour to answer them.

**Mr P Wilding-Davies** – Is the proposed expenditure on the pavilion consistent with the Society's objects?

**Mr S F Franklin** – We felt it was at the time, yes. It is educational, recreational and enables us to carry out our charitable works.

**Mr P Wilding-Davies** – Can you say what public benefit the pavilion will offer during the Royal Welsh Show?

**Mr S F Franklin** – It offers facilities for our members. They can collect paperwork such as registration forms, and in the new pavilion there would be a museum which a lot more members could access.

**Mr P Wilding-Davies** – The members are not the public, admission to the pavilion is restricted to members only.

**Mr S F Franklin** – Yes you are right, but how many members have the opportunity to go to the current museum?

Before asking you to adopt the accounts I would like to thank our Finance Officer, Mr Chris Hodgson, Claire Phillips, Claire Thompson and Sarah Case of Broomfield Alexander, the Society's Auditors, as well as my fellow trustees on Finance and HR – Gilly Thomson, Peter Morgan and Colin Thomas my Vice-Chair who has assisted me greatly during the last year.

I move to approve the Audited Balance Sheet and Accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2015.

**Do I have a seconder? Mr C Thomas**

**Put to the floor**

All those in favour: Majority

Against:

Abstentions:

Motion carried.

**9863 TO APPOINT BROOMFIELD ALEXANDER AS THE SOCIETY'S AUDITORS**

**Mr S F Franklin** – I propose that Broomfield Alexander be appointed as the Society's Auditors.

**Secunder:** Mrs G R Thomson

**Put to the floor**

All those in favour: Majority

Against:

Abstentions:

Motion carried

**9864 PRESENTATION OF THE MISS BRODRICK MEMORIAL TROPHY**

The President Mr D R Harris announced that this year the prestigious Miss Brodrick Memorial Trophy has been returned to its original, earlier place on the agenda as the first award of the day. The Trophy is awarded by Council to an individual or animal in recognition of distinguished services to the Society. It is the highest honour the Society can bestow.

Members were informed that this year Council had great pleasure in announcing that for 2015 the award is presented to HENIARTH QUINNELL 60323 owned by Stewart Franklin of the Sarum Stud, to be collected by Miss Katie Parry.

**9865 TO RECEIVE RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COUNCIL FOR HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS AND HONORARY VICE PRESIDENTS**

The President, Mr D R Harris, noted that once again this year members were provided with the opportunity to nominate people for honorary awards, with those receiving 75% of Council's support being given an award.

**Honorary Vice-Presidents** – No awards this year.

**Honorary Life Members**

The President, Mr D R Harris put forward on behalf of Council, and for the approval of the Annual General Meeting, the appointment of the following Honorary Life Member awards:

Mr Clive A Hoyles of the Llangybi Stud, proposed by A J G Williams, seconded by I.J.R. Lloyd.

**All in favour. Motion carried.**

Mr Eric & Mrs Dilys Roberts of the Erdyl Stud, proposed B C Cotterill, seconded by H L Shaw

**All in favour. Motion carried.**

Mrs Diana Thomas of the Dyfed Stud, proposed by Mrs K Sheil, seconded by Mrs D Leyson.

**All in favour. Motion carried.**

*Dr E W Davies gave a short resume for each recipient.*

## **COUNCIL'S REPORT**

### **Mr J T Kirk, Vice-Chair of Council**

Mr President, Fellow Members.

It is obviously tremendously sad as this should have been Mr T G Hughes's report to the Annual General Meeting today. Much has already been said but Tom brought his broad business experience and insight to the workings of the Society. He targeted the council with dynamism and we should be proud of what he achieved in such a short time.

It has been a busy year, without the continuity and experience of senior leadership within the administrative function of the Society, which includes the regrettable resignation of Bethan Jones our Office Manager after 26 years of loyal service, the challenges have been extremely demanding. More so with the recent amicable resignation of the Secretary Andrew Johnstone as he leaves to further his career elsewhere.

Council has continued to review and implement the Society's Business Plan to ensure that the vision and main aims of the Society are achieved. Trustees are well aware of the expectations of members and have been determined to deliver. They committed themselves to purposeful objectives, most of which have been met. The relevant Chairs of each Standing Committee reported their achievements in detail in the spring newsletter.

In our autumn mailing we asked you the Members, for views and feedback regarding future investment at the Royal Welsh Showground. May I take this opportunity to thank all respondents who engaged and collectively advised against investing approximately £450,000 on a new pavilion on leased ground. Their observations helped the trustees to decide unanimously against this project and rather to protect our capital return on investment. On a positive note a presence at the showground at Builth Wells is fundamentally important to us. Indeed as we, the Society, are important to the RWAS. Plans are in place to refurbish our existing pavilion for a significantly reduced cost and members will hopefully see the benefit of all this by the summer.

Updating our IT system is near completion and this expenditure will provide a modern foundation for the next 10/15 years. Members and customers rightly expect a modern service, email communication and on-line facilities etc. The new XIS system provides a solid platform to build new facilities in the future. Modern technology allows for a much slicker and streamlined way of communicating with our worldwide members.

It is important to note that our income and revenue remain in decline and the return on the total portfolio is down some 4.47% on the same period last year. This financial model, compared to our operating model, with limited evidence that a return to higher volumes of business and income is forthcoming, drove the decision by council to conduct a full review of our staff structure. This had not been undertaken for many years. A comprehensive evaluation of current job roles and formulating updated job descriptions, aligned with a 'fit for purpose' structure to face a modern culture, has been completed. It is essential that we utilize the right people in the right place at the right time to ensure that we operate a successful, effective business and provide an improved high standard of service. We must acknowledge the substantial contribution to the restructuring of the office by Andrew Johnstone in cooperation with the retained HR company. The council would like to applaud our staff for their co-operation during this sensitive process and wish them all well in their future ambitions.

The recent Judges Conference was very well received by the majority of attendees and we are confident from the theme of the day, that of open debate and listening to our Members, that this was positively reflected in the amendments made for the forthcoming season.

The Welsh Breeds excelled at HOYS and Olympia once again this year whilst the Performance Award Presentations, where young members and their families who, through their hard work and dedication, were presented with wonderful trophies for their outstanding achievements was again a great success. All this clearly demonstrates the enormous versatility and diversity of our breed which needs to be promoted worldwide. Despite the current economic climate we have a responsibility to accelerate the marketing of our fantastic product into open markets until "*the Welsh Breed for every need*" becomes globally recognised. Indeed production took place of two new promotional DVDs and thanks must be extended to Amanda Harris, Manon Volk (from Boom Pictures) and Grandstand Media for their professional assistance in their production. It is hoped that these are to be regarded as 'a work in progress' and be built on year on year. Council fully recognises the need to further improve communication with Society members and the general public. Our IT upgrade should assist with this as the Society needs to maximise the use of modern technology.

To conclude, as Vice-Chair despite some challenging times, I would like to thank the staff, my fellow Trustees past and present and you the Members for your continued support of the Society. Please remember on a personal note, The Welsh Pony and Cob Society is a big family. Diolch yn fawr. Thank you.

## **PRESENTATION OF AWARDS**

The President Dai Harris presented Gareth Watkins, the retiring Young Ambassador, with a Past Young Ambassador badge and invited him to say a few words.

**Mr G D Watkins** – Welcome ladies and gentleman to this fantastic resort for the AGM weekend. Thank you all for your support at the young peoples' fundraising event last night which has raised just over £3,000 for the British Heart Foundation, and I would like to thank Council for their support of the group. The Young People's Group has been busy this year and for the first time via the Young Peoples' Educational Bursary Fund, made two bursary awards. The new and future Young Ambassadors will need the support of Council and seek more input from others further afield as it is a niche group at the moment. My thanks to the Young People's Group, Council, the President and the late Tom Hughes. Thank you very much.

## **YOUNG AMBASSADOR 2016**

Mr Kirk invited Miss Eleri Evans of the Cathedine Stud to take up the office of Young Ambassador for 2016. Mr Harris presented her with the badge of office, a sash sponsored by Mr C Thomas of Rhosbren Stud and the Young Ambassador's Harp kindly donated by Mr & Mrs Ifor Lloyd of the Derwen Stud.

**Miss E A Evans** – Good afternoon Mr President, members of Council and members of the Society. Prynawn da Mr Llywydd aelodau'r cyngor ac aelodau'r Gymdeithas.

It is frightening to think it is a year since I stood here as Young Ambassador-Elect. The 2015 year flew but then again every calendar year flies when following the Welsh Pony and Cob agenda with shows, area association meetings and other social gatherings. It's one of the reasons I love this society, not the competing but the social life it brings, the friends and close community. My love of Welsh ponies and cobs is something I have always remembered. From days of listening to Uncle Tom on the phone, to Sam Parc, Dai Dobbs, Frongoy and others about the importance of the breed. To watching my dad shoeing in the shed outside our front door being lucky enough to see these prize winning ponies and cobs preparing for the big season ahead.

When I look around this room I see many a familiar face and some new. This year I look forward to working with you all to build strong foundations and friendships with young and older members. To be part of building an even greater future for this Society and the Young People's Committee. Over the past year I have been lucky enough to work with Gareth and the Young Committee. However, this was under the watchful eye of one of our greatest leaders Mr David Harris. A man who has seen the importance of supporting and encouraging the young members, in showing that they have a place and voice within this Society. I look forward to working with our new leader Mrs French although I am sure, as some have already pointed out, with two such mischievous characters at the helm. However, it can be argued that we both aim for the same goal, to ensure that everyone has an enjoyable year.

On that note I am extremely proud to be stood here today accepting the role of Young Ambassador to a society which has been in our family's hearts for generations. Twenty one years' since my great uncle T B J Evans, Cathedine Stud became President of this great society, 40 years since Welsh Maid won the Royal of England Show and took champion and 59 years since he won the George Prince of Wales Cup with his homebred mare Princess and also winning under saddle the same year. A mean feat which only he has ever achieved. Pob lwc I bawb yn 2016 a mwynhewch. Good luck to you all in 2016, enjoy, as I'm sure I will. Thank you.

## **YOUNG ACHIEVER AWARD**

The Young Achiever Award recognises the achievements of young people in the Society and this year we have joint winners. I would like to invite Huw Emrys Williams to receive a certificate, badge, tie and The Young Achiever's Glyncoch Trophy which is kindly sponsored by Mr & Mrs Pearce of the Glyncoch Stud.

Unfortunately Ben Spoor cannot attend today as he is helping to organise and run an NCPA Show, but Angela Jordan is here to collect his certificate, badge and tie with the trophy to be forwarded to him in six months' time by Huw Emrys Williams.

## IN-HAND SIRE RATINGS SCHEME 2015

<b>Carnalw Cup A</b>	Cwmhendy Buster 50728 Mr G & Mrs M Parry (104451)
<b>Paddock Trophy B</b>	Laithehill Oberon 57302 G R Hensby (1488)
<b>Saltmarsh Trophy C</b>	Moorcroft The Master 71128 R Howard (6156)
<b>Hengwm Trophy D</b>	Gwynfaes Culhwch D M & Mrs E D & C Evans

## PERFORMANCE SIRE RATINGS SCHEME 2015

<b>Tireve Trophy</b> Harness Driving	Plasderw Hallmark 52935 Mr J G Jones (63489)
<b>Highland Cup</b> Lead Rein / First Ridden	Nantdywyll Telor 59107 Mrs E.B. Devenish & Mrs A Overton-Ablitt (128057)
<b>Llanarth Salver</b> Working Hunter Pony	Tynwydd Cardi 44854 Mr O M Davies (5083)
<b>Teifi Trophy</b> Welsh Under Saddle	Tafarnaubach Sion 33301 Mr J L Owen 117213

## ROYAL WELSH SIRE RATINGS

<b>Gwyn Price Perpetual Trophy Section A</b> Reserve:	Cwmhendy Buster 50728 Mr G & Mrs M Parry Heniarth Quip 47099 R L Miller & D M Davies (86279)
<b>Nell Pennell Perpetual Trophy Section B</b> Reserve:	Heniarth Wood-Wind 76856 R L Miller & D M Davies (86279) Paddock Rio 88691 Mrs L Wilson (68118)
<b>Synod Perpetual Trophy Section C</b> Joint Reserve 1: Joint Reserve 2:	Blaencila Bonheddwr 65510 Mrs C Pearce-Morgan & Mr S Morgan (108028) Fronarth Robben 66238 Jones Bros & Mr & Mrs G Jones (80395) Parvadean Reaction 38091 Ms E Wyn (125226)
<b>Yeomans Perpetual Plaque Section D</b> Reserve:	Cascob Jack Flash 69717 Mr A Thomas (109515) Gwenllan Brynmor 50822 Ms K N Isaac (211275)

## HOYS GOLD PERFORMANCE MEDAL AWARDS – HIGHEST PLACED WELSH IN EACH SECTION

These are awarded to the highest placed Welsh animal in each Section.

<b>Section A</b>	Sarum Rembrandt 77330 Miss S.L. & J.M. Joyner (194456)
<b>Section B</b>	Cadlanvalley Sandpiper 72738 Mrs C.H. Higham (68066)
<b>Section C</b>	Glynwyn The Living Daylights 88725 Ms L. Jackson (200413)
<b>Section D</b>	Ringside Game Over 81533 Mrs. C.J. Williams (89321)
<b>WPBR</b>	Moluccas Bengal Beauty 12277 Dr M Taylor

## HOYS CERTIFICATES

<b>M&amp;M Lead Rein</b>	Thistledown Van-der-Vaart 82129 Mr & Mrs D Wilson (211882)
<b>M&amp;M First Ridden</b>	Glebedale Mumbo Jumbo 78723 Miss Z Holmes (216794)
<b>WHP Under 122cm small</b>	Doylan Chilli Pepper 74768 Ms C Barker (171710)
<b>WHP Under 133cm medium</b>	131459 Tynwydd Good Friday Mrs S J Darlington (102598)
<b>WHP Under 143cm large</b>	G.23886 Peasedown Mr Muddle Mrs K Wheway (136596)

## OLYMPIA (BSPS M&M) – HIGHEST PLACED WELSH

<b>Mintfield Trophy</b> Section A	Powys (NL) Sprite (OS) 70189 Miss I Latter (123259)
<b>Moelgarnedd Trophy</b> Section B	Cadlanvalley Sandpiper 72738 Mrs K E Scott (5785)
<b>Parc Trophy</b> Section C	Menai Celtic-Hero 82197 Mrs I M Gawith (14546)
<b>Llanarth Braint</b> Section D	Ringside Game Over 81533 Mrs C J Williams (89321)

## ROYAL WELSH SPOONS

<b>Section A</b>	Caerhosyn Ennillwr 68469 Bred by Mrs K Matthews (92893)
<b>Section B</b>	Gigman Boy George 91958, Bred by Ms S J E Easton (4661)
<b>Section C</b>	Menai Radium 86325, Bred by D P & Mrs M A Jones (98707)
<b>Section D</b>	Brynmeillion Del Boy 72994 Bred by Mr A J Davies (76250)

## NATIONAL HIGH-POINT JUNIOR GELDING AWARDS

For the first time these are being awarded at the AGM, to those geldings receiving the highest points in each section.

<b>Section A</b>	No Section A awards for 2015
<b>Section B</b>	<b>Kindly sponsored by Cadlanvalley Stud</b> <b>1<sup>st</sup></b> Violetgrange Ray of Gold 96742 Mrs J Aldred 69973 <b>2<sup>nd</sup></b> Gorawen Pasodoble 94389 Mr G S Smith (145742) <b>3<sup>rd</sup></b> Antsar Prince Royale 99185 Mrs H W Cornes & P J Cornes.
<b>Section C</b>	<b>Kindly sponsored by the Dorneyrow Stud</b> <b>1<sup>st</sup></b> Glynwyn Charlie Brown 94830 Mrs J Aldred (69973) <b>2<sup>nd</sup></b> Llafar Matador 94196 Miss J L Dart (140019) <b>3<sup>rd</sup></b> Winton Romany-Prince 94863 Mrs H M Brockbank (75228) <b>4<sup>th</sup></b> Meiktila Celt 96004 Mrs S Prescott (210168)
<b>Section D</b>	<b>Kindly sponsored by the Fronarth Stud</b> <b>1<sup>st</sup></b> Ronin Black Flash 94552 R K & Miss N K James (85492)



	<b>2<sup>nd</sup></b>	Alltwallis Jack 96260 Mr & Mrs M Rees (210586)
	<b>3<sup>rd</sup></b>	Derwen Sior 94222 Mrs K Chiverton (205555)
<b>Supreme Champion</b>		Glynwyn Charlie Brown 94830 Mrs J Aldred (69973)
<b>Reserve Supreme Champion</b>		Llafar Matador 94196 Miss J L Dart (140019)

### **EDUCATIONAL BURSARY AWARDS**

In 2007 the Society introduced Educational Bursaries to support the education and development of young people within the equine industry.

This year a bursary was awarded to Mr R Jones, which will go towards his Veterinary Science tuition fees at the University of Liverpool.

And a further award to Miss T Watkins which will go towards her NVQ Horse Care & Management course at Popsters Stud.

### **YOUNG PEOPLE'S GROUP SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS**

This is a new award and the recipients this year are Mr O Griffiths and Miss Amy Pugh.

### **DEBBIE DUNBAR PORTRAIT**

Kindly painted by Debbie Dunbar, and awarded to the overall Champion of Section A, B, C or D of the Welsh Breeds in rotation.

The 2015 Overall Champion of the Welsh Section A's is Ceulan Calon Lan 79956 owned by Mr & Mrs Donati.

A second, surprise award of a painting of Ceulan Calon Lan was presented to Dr Wynne Davies.

### **BRIGHTWELLS SPECIAL AWARDS**

These trophies are awarded in recognition of their contribution to the Sales, as a vendor or purchaser.

<b>Champagne Moment Trophy Autumn Cob Sale 2015</b>	The McNeal family (Hillgarth)
<b>Champagne Moment Trophy Fayre Oaks 2015</b>	Mr G R Hensby (Laithehill)
<b>The Brightwells 150<sup>th</sup> Perpetual Challenge Trophy 2015</b>	Fronarth Stud
<b>The Brightwells Perpetual Award for the Highest Priced Brood Mare 2015</b>	Mrs J A Evans (Haighmoor) for Haighmoor Seren Wen (£7,000)
<b>The Highest Priced Foal Trophy 2015</b>	Fronarth Stud for Fronarth Royal Queen (£10,000)
<b>Downland Perpetual Trophy presented in memory of Mrs Kathleen Cuff for highest priced Section B at Fayre Oaks 2015</b>	This year's award will be shared between Messrs C E R & M E W Tamplin for Griashall Legend and Mr S D Walker for Littlebyrom Harry Potter (£4,000)

### **KENTCHURCH TROPHY FOR WELFARE**

For 2015 the Kentchurch Trophy for Welfare is presented to Mr Alan Pearce for the excellent work he undertook on behalf of horses and ponies.

### **SUPREME CHAMPION OF THE 2015 PERFORMANCE SHOW**

Mrs Christine Latter kindly donated a painting to the Supreme Champion of the 2013 Performance Show and has agreed to continue to supply a painting for the next 5 years.

The Supreme Points Champion for the second year running was the Section C gelding Dycott Mark of Excellence ridden by Violet Ward and owned by her mother Alex.

As Miss Ward is already a proud owner of a portrait of her pony, presented at last year's AGM, and as it would be a bit awkward for Mrs Latter to donate the award to her daughter India, on discussion with the committee and winning exhibitors, it was agreed that the painting would be made of the First Reserve W.P-B.R, 15480 Darcie's Law, exhibited and ridden by Catherine Westran.

## **9867 PUBLICITY OFFICER'S REPORT**

Dr E W Davies presented his report:

Madam President and Fellow Members

Putting publicity items on the WPCS website kept me busy again in 2014 with reports of the AGM, shows and sales – a total of 26 events, 73 pages and 329 photographs. These were publicity items from me in addition to the official WPCS information. Thanks to Anna Goodwin at Bronaeron (in some cases we had results up the same day) and people who sent me photographs. Welsh ponies and cobs had a very successful 2015 at HOYS, Olympia, Fayre Oaks Sale, Cob Sales, Performance competition (thanks to Jane Weller, Kathleen James, Janice Parry and helpers).

The viewing figures for these from all over the world are about 15,000 a month with over 60,000 page views. These reports were also sent to the Western Mail, Daily Post, Welsh Rider, Native Pony, Showing World. I also forward them to 15 Overseas Associations who are delighted to have them and they publish them in their own Journals with credits. There was a photograph of the Alison Mountain Memorial Cabinet in the South Africa Journal. We are very lucky to have Owen Griffiths who reports for Horse & Hound. After 58 years I thought I had done my stint - and Owen's cousin Margaret is married to my nephew.

There are also one-off reports which I supply e.g. NPS Review where WPCS has 3 pages and 7 photos, AGM (Doreen & Edwin), Lampeter, Glanusk, Royal Welsh, Fayre Oaks, Cob Sales. The other Breed Societies only have 1 or 2 pages! Also articles like 20 pages and photographs about my ten visits to Denmark for their Anniversary and International Show.

I often get interesting queries sent on from the Office such as a phone call from Mrs Alman from Kington whose cousin had given her two medals won by his father, one WPCS and the other one from the Polo Pony Society (which is now the NPS). I asked her to read out the assay marks: anchor + lion + letter and before tea-time I informed her that the PPS medal was won by Newchurch Lady (f.1892) at Hay-on-Wye in 1902 and the WPCS medal by Little Star (f.1903) at Kington Show in 1919. David Blair was telling someone about these medals and said I even told the lady what clothes her cousin's father was wearing at the Show but I don't think I got as far as that.

Mrs Alman has now had the medals engraved so they will always be kept in her family. I thought our Journal and Magazine were brilliant and they were ready two weeks before time, congratulations to David Blair, Owain Hammond (type-setter) and everyone else involved. Also the Calendar, which has sold very well and thanks to the staff that produced it. There is a "Ceulan" pony for June (not mine) but I didn't select the photos and didn't know until I bought a Calendar.

Wynne Davies books still sell well. There was one "The Welsh Cob" recently on Amazon for £3,874.48. I made a copy of the Amazon offer and sent it to Bronaeron and asked them to hunt in their cupboards to see if they had any hidden away. There could be another Wynne Davies book coming up with Gomer Press before too long!!

I have managed to collect 60 photographs for the retiring President's album. What I liked so much was that he decided to hold the AGM at this site because I can walk here in 10 minutes.

**D R Harris:** Well there is only one Dr Wynne and I do thank him from the bottom of my heart for this wonderful album. Diolch Dr Wynne am bopeth.

## **9868 VOTE OF THANKS TO THE RETIRING PRESIDENT, MR D R HARRIS**

Following a request by the Chair, D P Jones of the Menai Stud proposed a vote of thanks to the retiring President, Mr D R Harris.

**Mr D P Jones:** Ladies and Gentlemen, this is probably the fifth time that I have had the great pleasure and honour to propose or second a vote of thanks to a retiring president of this Society. But I can honestly say that none of them gives me more pleasure, and I feel very, very honoured to do it on this occasion.

I would like you to put your hands together for the very professional way that David Rowland Harris – Dai Pennal as we affectionately know him – has conducted this meeting today.

Dai and I have a lot in common – we both got dickie hearts – Dai’s electrics are all wrong and my plumbing is all wrong! So if there is a sparky and a plumber in the room that can fix us both we will see you later! It gave me tremendous satisfaction to be part of the “£1 for a 1lb” event last night. And great thinking on Dai’s behalf to raise money for something that we both – and I think there is probably another one of the four of us – I think there is only one of them, and he’s so slim, I’m referring to David Roberts as losing 5 stone is no joke, I’m just worried he might get anorexic or something! Thank you Dai for organising that and for allowing me to be part of it. Thank you also - and I say this very, very sincerely - for embracing the young people. I’ve got two lads who think Dai is a hero, and I think they all think you’re a hero. You have been a great inspiration and a great leader to those youngsters and I thank you for that.

Those of us that went to the International Show in Denmark probably heard, what I can honestly say, was the best after-dinner speech that I have ever, ever witnessed. There were 500 people present and I felt sorry for him when he went up on stage thinking they won’t listen to him. He went up and captured the audience, there was not a whisper and everyone was waiting for the next punch line. Do you know something – and this shows the magnitude of the man – he never mentioned one of his cobs. All he did was make fun of himself. He told us how tragic a life he’d led. He was born premature and he suffered throughout his life from being underdeveloped. I can tell you now, Dai is not underdeveloped anymore - in fact he’s overdeveloped.

If you look back at Brian Webster’s video that Dr Wynne mentioned, and Brian sent me one the other day and I showed it to the boys and they said, who’s that? I said it’s Dai Pennal and they said no, never! Dai did not look the sort of person that would be President of the Welsh Pony and Cob Society. Dai had a mop of curly ginger hair at Lampeter Stallion Show with some mustard coloured jerkin on, you never would think he’d become President of this Society, and look at him today and the way he has conducted this meeting. He was a great man before, but he has grown, and when he puts a bowler hat on and judges in the ring, I don’t know whether he is short-sighted – and this is a private joke between Dai and myself – he was judging at the Royal and for some reason that’s probably why the Royal has folded I suppose because they kept on employing blind judges. Two or three of them are present here today and I have reminded him that in the ring they were blind. I was standing 4<sup>th</sup> and I went up and very, very sheepishly I said “Mr Judge, please have a good look at this one I don’t think you’ve seen her”. He had a look at her and left me 4<sup>th</sup>. I told him afterwards that it just goes to explain, the Royal keep on employing blind judges.

It has been the greatest pleasure for me to propose this vote of thanks today. There is one person I must mention and that is Sian. For the last three weeks and probably longer, Sian has wrapped Dai up in bubble wrap and cotton wool to make sure she got him here today. Three weeks' ago I phoned Sian to see how Dai was and she was at her wits end because Dai was in Morryston Hospital with an infection of his face, and she said “he looked like a rabbit with myxomatosis, but thank God he is a little bit better and walking around the wards talking to everybody.” She told him to stay in his room or he’d catch every germ in Morryston and he wouldn’t make the AGM. But she took him home the next day and wrapped him up in cotton wool and bubble wrap or she’d have had to go down and camp by his bedside to keep him there. She has been a tremendous support to him during his Presidential year. Thank you Sian for looking after Dai.

In concluding I will recite a little pennill that Merion “Rhoson” composed in McDonalds last night. I was going to take the credit for it but the only problem is that if I took the credit, no-one would believe me. He’s very clever - he has written the poem in Welsh and provided an English version of it.

Un dyn yn Dal Penllin  
Cymdeithas a theulu'r cobin  
Un dyn ar ddawn o gynnal  
Dai Pennal yn galon i gyd

One man leads our Society  
by his rein and cob family  
One man gifted to carry and hold  
Dai Pennal true heart of gold

Diolch yn fawr

**Seconder: Mr A J G Williams**

**Mr A J G Williams** - I am not as gifted as Peter, I’ve had to write down what I am going to say.

Diolch Peter, barchus gadeirydd Mr Llywydd ac aelodau. Pleser or mwyaf yw cael ailio geiriau pwrpasol Peter. Thank you Peter, Mr Chairman, Mr President and fellow members. It is an absolute honour for me to second the tribute to our retiring President Mr David Harris.

We are all well aware of Dai's standing in the Cob world, his enthusiasm and love of the Welsh breeds knows no bounds. His dedication and meticulous breeding has assured him a place alongside the great cob men and his continued success in the show ring including the coveted Prince of Wales Cup that many would like to emulate. In 2014, my final year on Council, and Dai's first year as President-Elect, it was a privilege to work alongside him.

What rapidly became evident was that his resolute commitment not only to the society but to the membership as a whole. He is totally committed to the aims of the society, and has worked tirelessly and selflessly with honesty and integrity. We shared many a journey to various meetings and events around the country and they passed in a flash due to Dai's informative, entertaining and humorous conversation.

He took to the role of President with gusto, and utmost dedication to the role, travelling the length and breadth of Britain and abroad to meet members and promote the Welsh ponies and cobs. I firmly believe Dai that the Society has benefitted from your term in office. I don't think this tribute would be complete without mentioning Sian who has supported you throughout the last two years and we as members are grateful to her also.

Dai, you have been an exemplary President and you leave some very large boots to fill. Many thanks. Many, many thanks and we all wish you the best for the future. Diolch.

**The retiring President, Mr D R Harris responded:** I am not usually an emotional person but this day has got to me. I have to say that I hope my wife listened to all that, because I believe now she knows she married the perfect man. But unfortunately I will look in the mirror tomorrow and know it means nothing.

Ladies and gentlemen, it has been my pride and joy to have served you as President of this Welsh Pony and Cob Society. There is no Society in the world that gives me more enthusiasm than the Welsh Pony and Cob. When I was chosen as President-Elect I did not know what was ahead of me, but my friendship with a wonderful lady who was President during my term as President-Elect, Mrs Mary Redvers. She made me feel at home immediately. I found she was also a great horsewoman, but more important to me was that she is a lovely, lovely lady and friend. I can honestly say today that we have kept that friendship and I shall endeavour to carry on until we take our last breath. Thank you Mary.

They do say I was born lucky, and I have, because when I became President, Betty French was appointed President-Elect, and I have had the honour of her sitting beside me at Council meetings and I wish her success in the coming year.

I have to thank all the staff in Bronaeron. Whenever I open that door to go in I see a smile, every time, and a huge welcome. Whenever I ask for something to be done, it is done immediately. I am proud to tell you that we have the best staff of all, and I appreciate all they have done for me. Over the last 24 months I have work alongside 20 Trustees and I can honestly say, and am proud to say, all of them are my friends and I love each and every one of them. I don't always agree on their decision making at times, but that is another thing.

I am going to thank a group now that is close to my heart, the Young People's Group. Over the last year I have worked alongside them, they made me laugh, they made me enjoy being in their company and I only wish that I could be young forever to be alongside them. They are decent human beings and they are the future of our Society. And for what they did for me last night I shall always be in debt to each and every one of them. I do thank you Young People. Diolch yn fawr.

I have two ladies to thank, very important ladies in my life. A young girl called Zoe Beddows has been working for me for the last four years. I don't know if she is in this room today, but if she's not I would like one of you here today to tell her that I mentioned her. Without her it would have been impossible for me to have travelled the length and breadth of the country to visit the associations. She took care of all my livestock and, I must say, never rang me or Sian once. That is how good this young lady is, and I thank her from the bottom of my heart and would do anything for that young lady.

Yes, my wife's name has been mentioned today and rightly so. Sian has been my backbone, I always look at clothes as a piece of cloth that hides parts of my body that I don't want you to see. She has always made sure I was respectable for you to see and I do thank her for that. But she is also a hard worker, but the most important thing of all, and I mean this hand on my heart, she allows me to be Dai Harris. I was asked the other day what I had will remember about my time as President, and I can honestly say that the association meetings have been absolutely fantastic. I have travelled up to Scotland, down to Devon, Kent and home occasionally to see Zoe and to see if the farm still existed, but everything was always fine. The Association meetings gave me an opportunity, not to talk about the

politics of our society, but to talk about the breed and the breeding side of things. I was treated with great enthusiasm wherever I went, and I respect all the associations wherever I went for welcoming me with open arms on each occasion. Diolch yn fawr associations.

Another visit I enjoyed, and Peter Jones has already mentioned it, I was asked to attend the International Show in Denmark, and it gave me the greatest of pleasures. I saw something there that I would also like to see happening in this country, were spectators and competitors were like one. Every animal from the best to the worst, and I am not saying they were the worst, but as you know in showing you have to have first and last. But each animal was greeted with a great hand and great enthusiasm by the audience, and that was something of a pleasure to see, and should be the way forward for every show in our country. I would like to see the cheering, the clapping and the enthusiasm back for our breed, and like John said this morning at the Area Associations meeting, let's become a family where we can enjoy together and bring this Society forward.

When I was a young lad about 16 years' of age my idol was my great-grandfather who was a shepherd, my mother's father. Every night I would go up to the hill farm to be with him and his two sons, he was a very clever man and we all love our grandfathers. I remember being on the hill shepherding with him and four dogs. It was a lovely spring morning and the ewes were lambing and I said, shall I go down and catch her, and he said you only interfere when you see things go wrong. If you touch that lamb the bond between the ewe and lamb will never be the same, so you spoil everything. Sometimes we need to keep away from things and don't interfere when things are going smoothly and nicely. Another thing he told me - I was 16 and he was 88 and only lived for another year – he said there is only one person in life that we should be afraid of, and that's yourself. Don't harm yourself and you won't harm anyone else. I respected him for that and as I get older I understand where he came from. So, ladies and gentlemen, if you don't listen to me think about my great-grandfather because I often speak of him and his wonderful words on many occasions.

I have been told over the last two or three weeks that the AGM should only be about business and business only. There is part of me that agrees with that but always ask the members, ask the sponsors, because it is also the time to give back to the people that keep the society going, and that's why I love you the members so, so much, because you are the society and no-one else. There is one person who has had to take up a position of taking the helm as Chair, and thanks must go to John Kirk who has been a backbone for me for the last two to three weeks. Thank you John for that.

I think I have said enough, but one thing I do need to say, I want to wish Betty French all the best for her year in office when she becomes President in the next few minutes. Whenever you need a helping hand you only have to ring, I might say no, but you might be surprised and I might say yes. The door is always open to a lovely lady like yourself and I wish you all the best.

I will finish with this little story – a mother takes her child to the bedroom and as the child is about to fall asleep he says "Mummy, thank you for having me." And I want to thank you, the members of this wonderful society for having me as your President. Thank you.

Mrs E R French presented Mr D R Harris with a Past President's badge.

**9869 TO APPOINT, ON THE RECOMMENDATION OF COUNCIL, MRS E R FRENCH AS PRESIDENT FOR 2016/2017**

The Chair Mr J T Kirk on behalf of Council proposed the appointment of Mrs E R French as President for the ensuing year.

Secunder: Mrs E A Russell

**Mr J T Kirk:** Put to the floor

<b>Those in favour:</b>	<b>All in favour</b>
<b>Against:</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Any abstentions:</b>	<b>0</b>

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT

Mrs E R French be appointed President for 2016/2017.

**Mrs E R French, President, accepted the appointment and addressed the meeting:**

Well I cannot follow anything like that in fact it would be very difficult for me to. Ladies and gentleman, prynhawn da, good afternoon.

I never in my wildest dreams thought I would stand here today as President of such a great Society. I am very well aware that Mr David Harris has given me a very hard act to follow, and I sincerely thank David for being a President of a very high standard. I am keen to represent this society of ours to the very best of my ability and to continue to promote this lovely breed that has been handed down to us. We should all work together to take all sections forward, poor vision only damages the Society. I would also like to pay tribute to our last Chairman Mr Tom Hughes. A friend, a wonderful caring person and a Chairman, that in my opinion epitomised everything that this society needed for its future wellbeing.

I have a personal plea – legal fees in recent years have been far too high and we all need to follow the codes of conduct that are before us, or we are at risk of failing charitable guidelines. So please, members, don't put the board of directors in a position where they are compelled to seek costly legal advice.

I have been told recently that I no longer have the agility to show my ponies to their full potential in the ring. However, those who know me are well aware that I have still, unbounding energy. We should only be focussing on what really matters the general welfare of the breed we love. I hope you will all join me in this. As I am President, I am here for the membership and my role will be to promote the Society.

I hope to preside over as many Council meetings as possible. I do not mean to interfere with the workings of Council, but do all I can in support.

I would like to announce that the next AGM will take place on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017 at the Hilton Hotel, Swindon. I hope to see you there. I intend to hold an open day at Forlan in August 2017, the date yet to be decided and I welcome you all to come and enjoy the day. Thank you very much. There is just something I should say, my husband would say "remember to breathe" so I am still standing and I am still breathing. Thank you.

#### **9870 TO APPOINT ON THE RECOMMENDATION OF COUNCIL, THE PRESIDENT-ELECT FOR 2016-2017**

The President invited Sarah Case of Broomfield Alexander to announce the name of the President-Elect for 2016-2017.

**Mrs S Case** – On behalf of Broomfield & Alexander, being the duly appointed scrutineers for the election of President-Elect 2016, I confirm that we examined 810 voting papers returned to us by 30<sup>th</sup> March 2016. Of the 810 voting papers received, 805 were accepted and 5 rejected.

I therefore formally declare the number of valid votes cast for each candidate in order of total votes received.

Mr I J R Lloyd	554
Mr A S Everitt	251

I congratulate Mr I J R Lloyd

The President, Mrs E R French, on behalf of the Society proposed the appointment of Mr I J R Lloyd as President-Elect for 2016/2017.

Secunder: Mr C Hoyles

**Mrs E R French:** Put to the floor

All those in favour: Majority  
Against: 1

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT

Mr I J R Lloyd be appointed President-Elect for 2016/2017

Mr I J R Lloyd accepted the appointment and addressed the meeting

**President-Elect, Mr I J R Lloyd** – Madam President, I was told once that being a friend of yours was a privilege, well I never thought I had so many friends.

#### **9871 REPORT OF THE ELECTION OF FIVE MEMBERS TO SERVE ON COUNCIL FOR THE PERIOD 2016-2019, AND ONE TO SERVE ON COUNCIL FOR THE PERIOD 2016-2018**

The President invited Sarah Case of Broomfield Alexander to present her report.

**Mrs S Case, Broomfield Alexander** - On behalf of Broomfield Alexander, being the duly appointed Scrutineers of the election of five Council members for the period 2016-2019, and one Council member for the period 2016-2018, I confirm that we have examined 756 voting papers returned to us as at 30 March 2016, and of the 756 voting papers received, 749 were accepted and 7 rejected.

I therefore formally declare that the number of valid votes cast for each candidate, in order of total votes received were as follows:

Mr R J Davies	398	Elected
Mrs R A Holland	394	Elected
Mr D W Roberts	375	Elected
Mrs T Hook	291	Elected
Mr P N E Morgan	286	Elected
Miss D Chambers	268	Elected for a two year period

**9872 ANY OTHER BUSINESS** – None on this occasion

#### **Annual Collection**

Members were asked to donate generously to this year's collection, with funds raised going to Riding for the Disabled.

**With no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 3.40 pm**

*The remarks made by any specific members as reported in these minutes are their personal views and not the views of the Society unless ratified by the Society.*