

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

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Members held at Double Tree by Hilton, Lydiard Fields, Great Western Way, Swindon, SN5 8UZ at 1.00 pm on Saturday 1st April 2017

PRESENT

The President, Mrs E French, and 196 members who signed the attendance books.

IN ATTENDANCE

Mr R Allen (CEO), Ms J Taylor (Broomfield Alexander), Ms S Jones (Smart Desk) – minute taker.

WELCOME

The President welcomed all members and declared the meeting open.

The President notified attendees 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.

The President noted a change in the agenda whereby item 12, to receive the recommendation from Council for Honorary Life Members and Honorary Vice-Presidents is moved to immediately after the Report of Chair of Council and before the awarding of the Miss Brodrick Memorial Trophy. The President explained that Dr Wynne has forwarded his apologies. As a result item 8, the resumes for the honorary life members, and item 9, the publicity officers report, will be presented by trustee Jo Sheil.

The President introduced Joanne Taylor from Broomfield Alexander and Sarah Jones from Smart Desk who is taking the minutes. The Trustees introduced themselves.

APOLOGIES

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

OBITUARIES

The President noted that regrettably a number of members have passed away this year and extended the Society's sympathy to the families and friends of all its departed members. The President invited members to stand as a mark of respect and a silence was held.

VOTING PROCEDURE

The CEO explained the voting procedure and asked if there were any objections to the procedure. There were no objections.

CONFIRMATION OF THE AGM MINUTES OF 2ND APRIL 2016

The President asked the floor for any corrections to the minutes. There were no corrections.

The President moved to propose, seconded by Rosemary Philipson-Stow, that the minutes are recorded to the meeting's satisfaction.

Put to the floor.

All those in favour: Majority

Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

Motion carried.

The President signed the minutes in front of the AGM.

Matters arising

None.

CORRESPONDENCE

One item of correspondence was received. The President invited the CEO to read the correspondence and the Society's response.

From Mrs C Fell – “I note that council has decided against having a family membership. Please could consideration be given to offering a showing membership. We have an obligation to promote our wonderful breeds, nowadays their value as performance animals is well known. By instituting a showing membership we could lure in the hundreds of people who ride and have no interest in breeding. Eventually some of these could become so enamoured with our wonderful welsh ponies & cobs that they may upgrade to full membership. To enter HOYS classes you need to be a member of a society, if this was ours we could offer great value to potential members who could then choose not to join other extremely expensive organisations. Unless you want to compete at Olympia there is no need to join the BSPS.”

Mr R Allen, CEO - The Welsh Pony and Cob Society agrees that a showing membership is a good idea and will explore it during the next few months in the run up to the autumn budget and preparation for the 2018 AGM. The Society is committed to attracting new people to the Welsh Breed, and to increasing its membership, and all suggestions are welcome.

1210 TO RECEIVE AND APPROVE THE AUDITED BALANCE SHEETS AND ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2016 (COPY ENCLOSED)

The President invited the chair of the Finance Committee, Mr P Morgan, to present the report to members.

Mr P Morgan – “Madam President, fellow members - on behalf of Council I have pleasure in presenting to you the audited accounts which includes the balance sheet and profit and loss for the year ending December 31st 2016.

During this financial year, we have made an overall surplus of £110,240. However, once removing the gain on investments and the generous donation from The Queens 90th Birthday Celebration Fund the Society is looking at a deficit of over £76k. We are committed to spending the Queen's birthday fund donation during 2017. As can be seen the financial uncertainty impacts on all areas of our society. The next few years may impact upon investments and we as a society should not rely upon making such returns in future years.

As stated previously once investment income and the Queens donation has been removed the deficit is explained as follows:

- The refurbishment of the exterior of the Royal Welsh Pavilion. This first stage refurbishment has brought new life to the Society's presence on the RWAS Showground. The next stage in 2017 will be to address the interior of the building. During 2016 the Pavilion made an income of £11,800, an increase of over £1k upon last year.
- The Judging and Showing Committee decided to make a bulk purchase of medals, and had been undertaken to ensure best value when using Society funds.
- Purchasing the new exhibition unit was successfully completed and is providing a much more user friendly and versatile unit with reduced running costs.
- The development of the office's IT software is vital to best place the Society. Especially as the UK Central Equine Database is due to be introduced this Summer. Again these upgrades will benefit us for future years.

These areas of expenditure have met the Society's objectives for this financial year.

The Society has also had to endure further financial turbulence and has continued to see an annual decline of 5% in its membership income. It is fundamentally due to the continued decline in income that the Society sought to act proactively in implementing a financial review, seeking to control its expenditure. The Society has been able to reduce costs on its charitable activities by nearly £8k in areas such as:

- Membership direct costs such as Journal publishing saving over £1k.
- Membership mailings saving over £4k.
- Judging and Showing direct costs have been reduced by over £2k

There has been significant savings in the Governance and Support costs and staff numbers have been reduced from 14 full time equivalent to 8.2 during the year bringing a reduction in costs of £25k. This has been as a result of a re-structuring of staff during the Spring of 2016 and staff seeking different career paths. Since 2014 there has been a decrease in staff costs of over £28k.

At this point may I personally thank them all for their contribution to the Society and we continue to wish them well for their future careers.

The society is currently recruiting staff to ensure it complies with its core functions and to align to the staffing review recommendations.

- During the year there has been the introduction of the new workplace pension requirements and pension costs have fallen as a result of the reduced staffing structure and the remaining staff working with the Society to reduce the employer's contribution
- Legal fees have fallen by over £10k during the year a significant saving.
- Professional fees have risen costing an additional £18k compared to the previous year. However as disappointing as this may seem, it is explained in the preventative measures taken by the society to reduce potential litigation and conduct its business in accordance with company and charity rules. This spend creates a platform of good governance for the future.
- An example of where the Society has used professional fees during 2016 is an internal review of the gift aid process. Following advice and guidance from HMRC, and from the retained professional advice, the Society has ceased using Gift Aid for the foreseeable future.
- Repairs and maintenance costs have increased with the boiler at Bronaeron requiring major repairs resulting in the need to factor in a replacement. investment during 2017.

I, on behalf of the Finance and HR Committee, would like to thank all staff for their hard work during the year. Like many other organisations we have found costs across the Society will continue to rise and it is vital that the Society continues to monitor its income against its expenditure, making savings where it realistically can and securing best value when committing funds. Sadly these measures alone will not insulate the society from future financial pressures and Council has sought to look closely at its Reserves Policy to enable the Society to better protect itself. The main risks that the society faces are external and beyond its control namely Brexit and the implementation of the new Equine Database. To that end it has put in place an operational reserve based upon 12 months' operating costs.

It is a mixed financial picture this year, with a surplus at one end. But upon closer scrutiny it is clear that the Society needs to act now to preserve a sustainable future. The proposed changes to membership have been put to you with a view to secure an increase of income to meet the increase in costs faced by the Society. There have been no changes to membership rates for many years and like many other organisations we have had to seek to raise our fees. Without such action and with the continued decline in membership year on year it would not take long for the Society to be faced with a real risk to its economic future.

Therefore I would encourage all members to accept this modest increase in fees to assist the Society in securing its future. I would like to thank our main sponsor for 2016, Greenlands Insurance for their support during the year. I would like to thank our Chief Executive Officer Rob Allen, Finance Officer Chris Hodgson and Sarah Case of Broomfield Alexander, together with my fellow Finance & HR committee members.

May I thank and congratulate our outgoing President Mrs Elizabeth French for her inspirational guidance and utmost enthusiasm in her role and welcome our new President Mr Ifor Lloyd for the coming year. May I add it has been a pleasure working with both of you."

Mr P Morgan invited questions from the floor. There were no questions.

Mr P Morgan proposed, seconded by Mr C Thomas, the adoption of the Balance Sheets and Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2016.

Put to the floor.

All those in favour:	Majority	Proxy votes: 0
Against:	0	Proxy votes: 0
Abstentions:	0	

Motion carried.

1211 TO APPOINT BROOMFIELD ALEXANDER AS THE SOCIETY'S AUDITORS

Mr P Morgan proposed, seconded by Stuart Franklin the appointment of Broomfield Alexander as the Society's auditors for 2017.

Put to the floor.

All those in favour:	Majority	Proxy votes: 0
Against:	0	Proxy votes: 0
Any abstentions:	1	

Motion carried.

1212 TO CONSIDER AND VOTE UPON THE FOLLOWING:

Special Resolution 1

That the regulations set out in the document produced to the meeting and, for the purpose of identification, initialled by the Chairman be adopted as the articles of association of the Society in substitution for all existing articles of association of the Society.

The regulations will be as follows:

- To remove the gender bias, to change Chairman to Chair and change references to be less gender specific
- To include a Chairman (Chair) of Finance and HR in article 22 (vi) and (vii)
- To replace article 25 ii) c) with the member will not have served more than two terms as a trustee in the eight years previous to the date of the general meeting at which the results of the election are to be announced and to replace d) with at least three years have passed since the member was last a trustee if, as that the time, the member last ceased to serve as a trustee, the member had served two terms within eight years as a trustee.
- For the purposes of this article 25, a "Year" shall mean the period of time between an annual general meeting and the subsequent annual general meeting.

The President called for a proposer and seconder.

It was proposed by Mr G Williams, seconded by Mrs A Bigley, that this special resolution be adopted.

Put to the floor.

All those in favour:	Majority	Proxy votes: 0
Against:	0	Proxy votes: 0
Any abstentions:	0	

Motion carried.

The CEO signed the resolution in front of the AGM. The resolution will be sent to Companies House and the Charity Commission.

Special Resolution 2

That the Society's annual membership fee increases from £35.50 (£30.50 if paid by direct debit) to £40.50 (£35.50 if paid by direct debit) with effect from 1 January 2018.

The President called for a proposer and seconder.

It was proposed by Ms C Pearce, seconded by Mr P Sherlock, that this special resolution be adopted.

Put to the floor.

All those in favour:	Majority	Proxy votes:	2
Against:	4	Proxy votes:	0
Any abstentions:	3		

Motion carried.

1213 REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF COUNCIL

The President invited the Chair of Council, Mr J Kirk, to submit his report.

Mr J Kirk - "President French, trustees and honorary officers, ladies and gentlemen. I am proud of having been Chair of Council this past year and how positively trustees, honorary officers and staff have responded to my twin requests of working as "one team" and "doing less but doing it well". I have often found myself leaving meetings feeling both upbeat and optimistic about the future of our Society.

During the past year the Welsh Pony and Cob Society has delivered a number of aims and objectives. The Society has replaced the previous Exhibition Unit with a more economical vehicle better suited to the needs of our Society today. Launched at the Builth Wells Cob Sales the Society immediately received positive feedback from our members.

The exterior of the Society's Pavilion was refurbished. I believe that the Society made the right choice in not building a new Pavilion at the Royal Welsh showground as it could not in the long term have afforded this. Again, there has been very positive feedback from members and when President French officially opened the Pavilion last July it was one of my proudest moments as Chair and trustee.

Earlier this year the publication of the 2017 Journal with trustees, honorary officers and staff all contributing to ensuring this work was completed within timescale and budget. There have been some errors, for which the Society has received constructive feedback from members, and when the Journal is discussed this feedback will help Council in planning for the 2018 Journal.

There has been the continuing development and implementation of the DNA testing policy, the aim of which has always been to improve the integrity of the stud book for years to come. I would like to recognise the work of the Member Services and Promotions Standing Committee, chaired by the very capable Jo Sheil, in progressing this work.

On the 10th of September last year the Judging and Showing Standing Committee, led by the very passionate Elgan Evans, delivered the Judges assessment for 2016. The Society has received constructive criticism, in particular around the probationary judging rules, and the Council, and Judging and Showing Committee, will continue to review these over the next few months. I have no doubt it will also be an agenda item for the Judges' Conference on the 23rd of September in Builth Wells.

Last July the Society reviewed and, I believe, improved its welfare service, and I would like to thank the Chair of Education and Welfare, Ed Gummery, for leading on this piece of work.

A key objective for the past year has been to review the costs and Chair of Finance and HR, Peter Morgan, has had one of the most difficult challenges in finding ways to reduce costs and in completing the re-structuring of operational staff which began in the Spring of 2016. Along with his Standing Committee, and our Chief Executive Officer, Rob Allen, he has achieved some practical and sustainable reductions so that the Society can start to focus on income generation moving forward.

In addition to all of this the Society has adopted an improved policy for processing comments and feedback from members including a stepped approach to timescales and clear response times as targets.

No one of these objectives could have been achieved without our one team approach. I am very proud of leading the trustees of the Council and how well we have worked together even with the reduced number of just 12. Once the Council is up to capacity I believe that the Society will continue to deliver improved services for its members. I would like to recognise the work of Vice Chair Colin Thomas who, I believe, speaks to me more than his wife. Colin's knowledge of our Society is second to none. I have learnt from experience that behind every Chair is a very good Vice Chair and Colin has been this and a lot more to me.

I would like to thank the commitment and dedication of our Honorary Officers, President French, President-Elect Ifor Lloyd, Welfare Co-ordinator Ed Gummery, Honorary Veterinary Surgeon Rowland Michell, Publicity Officer Dr Wynne Davies and Young Persons Ambassador Eleri Evans, thank you. Also a word of thanks to the Society's volunteers who have contributed to the work during the past year: Christopher Jones, Jo Filmer and Jane Weller; David Blair, our publicity assistants Angela Kember, Vicky Thomas and Owen Griffiths; and Gethin Williams, Eric Davies and William Lloyd who have helped

us out. And I would like to thank all those people who have contributed to the 2017 Journal, you know who you are.

Trustees, honorary officers and volunteers are a crucial part of the working of the Society but, of course, so are our staff, led by our Chief Executive Officer Rob Allen. I would like to thank our staff for their continued patience, their support and their hard work during, what at times, has been a difficult period of change. I would like to thank Rob Allen for his professional manner, the time he has committed and his dedication to the Welsh Pony and Cob Society.

I would like to finish with a quick look towards the future. Planned for 2017 are:

- Phase II of the Pavilion refurbishment, focussing on the interior, and using the funds generously donated by our esteemed patron, Her Majesty the Queen
- The Judges Conference on the 23rd of September 2017 in Builth Wells
- A welfare media presentation focusing on obesity
- The 2018 Journal
- The launch of a new online web shop
- An investment in a replacement telephone system at Bronaeron and the recruitment of a Marketing Officer
- And an EU exit strategy taking the opportunity to develop and build upon existing partnerships with our overseas associations

And finally I would like to thank President French for all of her sterling work over the past year and to wish her successor, Ivor Lloyd, all the best wishes for the coming year. Thank you.

I will now ad lib. We don't always get it right ladies and gentlemen, as a Council. I'm extremely passionate for the Welsh Pony and Cob Society. I am extremely proud to stand here as Chair of Council. This Council that stands in front of you this afternoon have worked so hard and worked as a team. They have made my job as Chair very, very easy. We work so well together, there is no bad feeling or anything like that and a good lesson has been learnt from this. Hopefully new Trustees that will be coming onto Council will continue with this attitude and I think it's the best attitude for the future of our Society. Criticism we will always have I'm afraid and mistakes we will always make. But providing we learn from the mistakes which we make in my opinion it's forgivable. So when we look round at what has gone on in our country in the last couple of weeks, before you rush to your keyboard to call us over or make a statement, stop and think how lucky we are to have what we have got in our Society. Diolch yn fawr. Thank you."

1214 TO RECEIVE RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COUNCIL FOR HONORARY AWARDS

The President informed attendees that once again members were provided with the opportunity to nominate members for honorary awards, with those receiving 75% of Council's support being presented with an award.

Honorary Vice-Presidents - No awards this year.

Honorary Life Members

The President put forward on behalf of Council, and for approval of the AGM, the appointment of the following Life Member awards:

Mrs J Abrahall of the Flydon Stud, proposed by Yvonne Small, seconded by Stuart Franklin.

All in favour. Motion carried.

Mr D R Jones of the Tremymor Stud, proposed by Dai Harris, seconded by Emma Edwards.

All in favour. Motion carried.

Mr D Nicholls of the Knolton Stud, proposed by Jeff Parry, seconded by Ken Roberts.

All in favour. Motion carried.

Mr G Price of the Littlewern Stud, proposed by Kathy Shiel, seconded by S Franklin.

All in favour. Motion carried.

Ms J Sheil read a brief résumé for each recipient in Dr Wynne's absence.

1215 THE MISS BRODRICK MEMORIAL TROPHY

Chair of Council noted that the Miss Brodrick Memorial 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 the great pleasure in announcing that for 2016 the award is presented to Mr Terry Court, formerly of Brightwell's Auctioneers, for his support of The Welsh Pony and Cob Society and the Welsh Breeds over many years. The President presented Mr Court with the trophy.

YOUNG AMBASSADOR

Outgoing Young Ambassador

Chair of Council thanked Miss Eleri Evans, the 2016 Young Ambassador, for her work over the year. The President presented Miss Evans with the Past Ambassador badge of office which was kindly sponsored by Mr and Mrs Parry of the Talponciau Stud.

Miss E Evans – “Madam President, members of Council, ladies and gentlemen. As my year as Young Ambassador comes to an end I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all members of the Society in making this year an enjoyable year. During my time I have been privileged enough to have been invited numerous shows, events and Area Associations. This has been a great honour and a delight, especially in meeting the young people of the Society, watching them blossom and grow throughout the year, showing great enthusiasm for the breed and the prosperous future that the Society has.

I'd like to take the opportunity also to thank members of Council for their support and guidance throughout the year, for offering an ear to listen and advice and guidance when needed. I feel lucky to have worked with this Council who have been so eager to assist and provide time and listen to the opinions of the young people when I have gone to them and offered feedback to the questions that have been asked. I'd also like to take the opportunity to thank Mrs French for all of the giggles and the times we have shared through my year. I am a little concerned what Rosie will do for the rest of the time as her busy year going from here to there and every corner of the UK, for a Jack Russell she has travelled more miles than a lot of people.

Before I hand my title over to my successor Euros, I would like to leave one thought with all members: the lesson I have learnt throughout my time as Young Ambassador. While I watched from the side of the ring at the animals being shown and bred, this is achieved by families working together as a team. The elder and wiser members of the family with their knowledge and understanding of the breed, the finance of the parents and the full time occupations and the fuel to take the animals and finally the dedication and hard work of the younger members of the family to show the animals in the ring, whether it's a small child on a ridden pony or a stronger teenager running a cob. As a Society and as members I ask that we keep this in mind and work together as a unit, as a family, to ensure all members have a role and a place in the Society. As the Welsh football team stated throughout the Euros 2016, we are stronger together. As a Society of 5,000 members we are a family, united to ensure our Welsh Breeds can prosper for another 100 years at least with great family and friends made and memories that will live with us until the day that we day.

Good luck Euros and enjoy every second as blink and it's gone. Llongyfarchiadau ...

Thank you Mr Lloyd for the support that you have provided also throughout the year and good luck to you in 2017. Thank you.”

Incoming Young Ambassador

The Chair of Council invited Mr Euros Llŷr Morgan to take up the office of Young Ambassador for 2017. The President presented Mr Llŷr Morgan with the Young Ambassador badge, tie and harp which were kindly donated by Mr and Mrs Ifor Lloyd of the Derwen Stud.

Mr Llŷr Morgan – “Y Llywydd, Cadeirydd y gymdeithas a chyd aelodau, Madam President, President Elect, Chairman and fellow members. I am totally committed to fulfilling the role of the Young Ambassador both in the expected capacities and in generating new ideas and initiatives to enhance the Welsh Pony and Cob Society's attraction to younger members. The continued and future development of interest and enjoyment with the Welsh breeds is of great personal interest to me.

The future of the WPCS is very important and much of it will be determined by the involvement and commitment of young people. With this in mind the role of the Young Ambassador is very influential, a role which will allow me the opportunity to work with and to encourage the young people to become more involved in the society and therefore ensure its progression. I am enthused by the prospects of the

year ahead.

Cwmtawe Stud was established over 40 years ago by my grandfather and over the years as a family we have made lifelong friends. Gobeithiaf trwy gydol y flwyddyn nesaf I adeiladu ac ychwanegu at y ffrindiau yma! Y bridiau cymreig yw'n cyd ddi-ddordeb, gobeithiaf allwn dathlu a hyrwydo ein bridiau er mwyn sicrhau dyfodol disglair l'n gymdeithas ni!

Hoffwn cymryd y cyfle hwn i ddiolch I Eleri am ei blwyddyn fel llys genhades ac i'r cyngor am ymddired ynof gan fy mhenodi gyda'r rol hynod bwysig yma. Yr wyf yn edrych ymlaen at fwrw ati I rhannu fy mhalchder ac angerdd at y bridiau cymreig gyda gweddill y pobl ifanc ym mhrydain a thu hwnt.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Eleri for her year in office and to the council and members of the society for their support and faith in allowing me to take on this exciting role. I shall look forward to sharing my passion and enthusiasm for the Welsh breeds with the young people in the UK and beyond.

Diolch yn fawr iawn I chi! Thank you very much!"

YOUNG ACHIEVER'S AWARD

The Chair of Council explained that the Young Achiever Award recognises the achievements of young people in the Society and is this year being awarded to Miss Lydia Grace Stokes.

The President presented Miss Stokes with a certificate, badge and the Glyncoch Young Achiever's Trophy which were kindly sponsored by Mr and Mrs Pearce of the Glyncoch Stud.

IN-HAND SIRE RATINGS SCHEME 2016

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

PERFORMANCE SIRE RATINGS SCHEME 2016

Tireve Trophy	Plasderw Hallmark 52935
Harness Driving	S A Hooper (6536)
Highland Cup	Ringstead Candi 43868
Lead Rein / First Ridden	Edwards & Golding
Llanarth Salver	Friars Concorde 48280
Working Hunter Pony	K & Mrs E E Dart
Teifi Trophy	Trevallion Picasso 60734
Welsh Under Saddle	Mr & Mrs J Batt

ROYAL WELSH SIRE RATINGS

Gwyn Price Perpetual Trophy Section A	Penboeth Tantrum 66554 Mr & Mrs Goggin
Reserve:	Frongoch Cardi 54004 Miss E Payne (121559)
Nell Pennell Perpetual Trophy Section B	Eyarth Mercury 56767 Mrs Bell (115513)
Joint reserve 1:	Douthwaite Signwriter 37526 Mr & Mrs Bigley
Joint reserve 2:	Moelview Prince Consort 87432 Mrs H Skirton
Synod Perpetual Trophy Section C	Moorcroft The Master 71128 Mr & Mrs Howard

Joint reserve 1:	Dony's Llawen 52934 Mrs J Kirk
Joint reserve 2:	Parc Hebog 56536 W G Davies (3816)
Yeomans Perpetual Plaque Section D	Geler Sparc 59434 D W Lloyd
Joint reserve 1:	Gwynfaes Culhwch 50060 D.M. & Mrs E.D. & C.M. Evans (158152)
Joint reserve 2:	Haighmoor Orient Express 81471 D Lloyd (194799)

HOYS – HIGHEST PLACED WELSH ANIMAL

Section A	Powys (NI) Sprite Miss I Latter
Section B	Cadlanvalley Buzby Mrs H Grota
Section C	Tonlyn Tigger Two K Brown
Section D	Renvarg The Mystic L Wiggleswell
WPBR	Rotherwood Rainmaker R Till

HOYS HIGHEST PLACED WELSH IN FOLLOWING CATEGORIES

M&M Lead Rein	Thistledown Van Der Vaart
M&M First Ridden	Glebedale Jubilee
WHP - Under 122cm Small	Kyregate Peter Pan
WHP - Under 133cm Medium	Birkenbrook Cello
WHP - Under 143cm Large	Gwerniago Gethin
WHP – Exc 143	Wealdstone Prince

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

Mintfield Trophy Section A	Uphill James Fox T Hughes
Moelgarnedd Trophy Section B	Cadlanvalley Sandpiper Mrs K Scott
Parc Trophy Section C	Lynuck The Showman L M Scott
Llanarth Braint Section D	Swchyrhafod Brenin P Travers

ROYAL WELSH SPOONS

Section A	Caerhosyn Ennillwr Bred by Mrs K Matthews
Section B	Waxwing Macavity Bred by Waxwing Stud
Section C	Glynwyn The Living Daylights Bred by Miss Heppenstall
Section D	Nantwood Solomon Mr & Mrs Bentley

NATIONAL HIGH-POINT JUNIOR GELDING AWARDS

Section A	Kindly sponsored by the Sarum Stud
1 st	Marsh Casius Ms Reynolds
2 nd	Arvon Samuel Mrs Mackay Williams
3 rd	Weston Mr Boss S Gamon
Section B	Kindly sponsored by the Cadlanvalley Stud
1 st	Violetgrange Ray of Gold 96742 Mrs. J. Aldred 69973
2 nd	Silmarillion Court Jester Mrs D Shaw
3 rd	Antsar Prince Royale 99185 Mrs H.W. Cornes
Section C	No Section C awards for 2016
Section D	Kindly sponsored by the Pennal Stud
1 st	Fwrog Sam Crosbie & Rodgers
2 nd	Alltwallis Jack 96260 Mr & Mrs M Rees (210586)

EDUCATIONAL BURSARIES

In 2007 the Society introduced Educational Bursaries to support the education and development of young people within the equine industry. This year the bursary was awarded to Ms Georgia Palmer and Mr Euros Llyr Morgan.

DEBBIE DUNBAR PORTRAIT

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

The 2016 Overall Champion of the Welsh Section Bs is Valeur Dancing Fairy Lustre owned by AJP Landon.

BRIGHTWELLS SPECIAL AWARDS

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

Champagne Moment Trophy Autumn Cob Sale 2016	Mr J. Gray & sons (Thorneynewside)
Champagne Moment Trophy Fayre Oaks 2016	Mrs J. E. S. Pearce (Glyncoch)
The Brightwells 150th Perpetual Challenge Trophy 2016	Cascob Stud
The Brightwells Perpetual Award for the Highest Priced Brood Mare 2016	Mr E. Emanuel Blaencila Locket (£4,400)
The Highest Priced Foal Trophy 2016	Cascob Stud for Cascob Red Ribbons (£5,800)
Downland Perpetual Trophy presented in memory of Mrs Kathleen Cuff for highest priced Section B at Fayre Oaks 2016	Mr S. Anderson for Thistledown Eye of the Tiger (£8,500)

THE KENTCHURCH TROPHY FOR WELFARE

For 2016 the Kentchurch Trophy for Welfare is being presented to Mr Rowland Michell, for the excellent work he has undertaken on behalf of horses and ponies.

SUPREME CHAMPION OF THE 2016 PERFORMANCE SHOW

Large Part Bred	Hope Henrietta
Joint	Owner rider: Jodie Aston
Section A	Butleigh Silver Flyer
Joint	Owner rider: Violet Ward

1216 TO RECEIVE THE REPORT OF THE SOCIETY'S PUBLICITY OFFICER

The President invited Ms J Sheil to present the Publicity Report on behalf of Dr Wynne Davies.

Ms J Sheil – “Madam President and fellow members. I am very sorry that I am unable to attend the AGM. I have attended 69 AGMs and have kept all 69 minutes. Also I have given the Publicity Report for 39 years and was Assistant PO to the late incomparable Mrs Nell Pennell for 20 years prior to this.

2016 was a fantastic year for the WPCS against all other breeds. At the HOYS Show Moelgarnedd Stadros (B) was In-hand Cuddy champion, Cadlanvalley Buzby (B) was M&M Ridden pony champion, the third Cadlanvalley champion in succession, Thistledown Van-de-Vaart (A) was M&M Mini Pony Of The Year, Laithehill Flute (B) was Junior M&M champion, Gryngallt Picture Frame (B) was LR SHP Of The Year and Fowfantina Hetty and Hocus-Pocus (B) were scurry champions with the Part-bred champions: Rotherwood Rainmaker (ridden PB) and Wytchwood Love Potion (Mini SP). The Supreme Pony Litton Enterprise is a descendant of the WPB Chirk Catmint. After 7 section B champions at Olympia, 2 @ Cs, and 4 @ Ds, we eventually got a section A champion which was Tonwen Hughes' Uphill James Fox ridden by Katy Marriott-Payne.

The WPCS web-site was kept busy during the first part of the year with reports of AGM (1282 words, 59 photos), Lampeter (630 words, 16 photos), Glanusk (945 words, 19 photos) and Brightwells Spring Sale (615 words, 6 photos). Council in August decided not to duplicate reports on the web-site and the usual reports from Northleach, RW (where Gryngallt Page Too (B) was overall supreme with the harness Ciffyg Cymro Du (D) reserve, also Valeur Dancing Fairy Lustre (B) won the Cuddy qualifier with Brookvale Celtic Isle (WPB) reserve), National Championships, Fayre Oaks and Cob Sales, National Foal Show and RW Winter Fair appeared in the WPCS Magazine or in the Journal.

The Native Pony Magazine published all 15 Reports and 57 photos plus SE by Angela Kember, Performance Show by Mili Lampard, SW by Janet Hardy, Ceredigion Foal Show by Owen Griffiths and the Performance Presentation by Jo Filmer along with additional photos from Sarah Hayman and Equinepix for which we thank them. Some reports appeared in the Daily Press e.g. Fayre Oaks and Cob Sales in the Daily Post. We had a generous 3 pages and 5 photos in the NPS Review and the story of Brockwell Spider in the Canadian Journal.

The main article in the Autumn Magazine was the “Celebration of our Patron's 90th Birthday” with 8 photographs. The Magazine went to Buckingham Palace and you will see on p.35 of the Balance Sheet that Her Majesty very generously donated £50,000 to WPCS funds. There have been interesting queries from the Office. A member of the NZ Trotting Association asked if we had a photo of Login Bess who won 64 trotting races in England and Wales in the 1870s; I don't think there were cameras in those days but it was interesting to know that some of today's NZ trotters trace back to her son Login Briton who was exported in 1894. Another member asked who the signatories were on the 1978 WPCS First Day cover; they were our late secretary Mr Tom Roberts and the designer of the stamp Patrick Oxenham. I had been in touch with Patrick since his original design was of a grey mare and I suggested it was changed to the roan section B Criban Victor and I was supported by the Chairman, Lord Kenyon, owner of Victor!

Other notable events: 7th June: Presentation of Trooper Forlan Emrys Jones to the 1st The Queen Dragoon Guards at the Mansion House, Cardiff. 12th June: members of WPCS attended the Patron's Lunch in London. 7th July Caebryn Endeavour (C) from the Royal Highland appeared on the front cover of “Horse and Hound”. 8th July: Ceulan Calon Lan represented the WPCS at the Display of Welsh breeds at the Senedd, Cardiff. 14th August: President's Open Day at Forlan Stud. 19th August: Presentation of cheque for £11,077 by Mr Dai Harris to the Cardiac Unit of Abertawe Bro Morgannwg Health Board. 21st October: The appearance of the Society's new Exhibition unit at the Cob Sale thanks to Messrs Elgan Evans, John Kirk and Colin Thomas for organising the purchase. Also at Fayre Oaks and the Cob Sales: Courty's Last Stand, the retirement of Mr Terry Court the best Auctioneer in the world. My health problems but more significantly Ruth's force my resignation as Publicity Officer. I wish to put on record my enormous thanks to everyone who has assisted me over the 39 years. I could not have continued without their unfailing support. We are lucky that we have very able young members to

continue the work.”

The President advised that the report will be published on the website from the end of the AGM. The President invited the Chair of Council to say a few words on behalf of Council with reference to Dr Wynne’s retirement announcement.

Mr J Kirk – “Upon receiving the very sad news that Dr Wynne had decided to retire as our Publicity Officer, it was a very sad day for myself and the Welsh Pony and Cob Society. Dr Wynne is an institution. You can’t put into words what he has done for our Society. In my view there is no honour that would be high enough to bestow on Dr Wynne for his contribution to the breed, the Society. His life has been spent, but also Ruth must be mentioned because she has been at Dr Wynne’s side all along the way. I can’t really imagine an AGM without Dr Wynne. Dr Wynne is the AGM. I have grown up in this Society with Dr Wynne Davies and the Society is much the poorer for losing a Publicity Officer such as Dr Wynne. He’s one of our great treasures as I’ve quoted. I don’t think there’s any more to say. I think we’re all quite shocked by the news of him standing down and he’s got very big shoes to fill for the next person. But we can only wish Dr Wynne and Ruth well for the future and hopefully we will still see Wynne around and his usual wit and charm will be very welcome in the home of the Welsh Pony and Cob Society. Thank you.”

1217 VOTE OF THANKS TO THE RETIRING PRESIDENT: MRS ER FRENCH

The Chair of Council invited Mrs M Redvers to propose a vote of thanks to the retiring President.

Mrs M Redvers – “It is a great honour and a pleasure to propose a vote of thanks to our retiring President, Mrs Betty French. I was first told about Mrs French by Rosemary Phillipson-Stowe some time ago when we were discussing the problems with the hill ponies. She told me of the wonderful couple, Mr and Mrs French, who have made a survey of all the hill ponies in Wales. For someone to undertake and make such an efficient job of such a task, it’s no wonder she has made such an outstanding President.

Reading an account of Betty’s extremely busy year I would think the height of it must have been representing the Society at the patrons’ lunch in The Mall and meeting Prince Harry, and the low surely must have been the injury to her knee. I know how painful that can be and I think to continue as she did showed great courage and stamina. I also took the train to north Wales when I was President and I would highly recommend it as it is not only so much less exhausting than driving but you also have a marvellous view of the beautiful Welsh countryside.

I was so sorry to miss her open day as we were away at the sales in France. I heard later that it was most enjoyable and the ponies were beautifully presented. To have Forlan Honey Kisskadee nominated as the first ever equine mascot to 1st The Queen’s Dragoon Guards is a great achievement and a splendid advertisement for the breed. She told me that being President had been a big learning curve. I quite agree but she didn’t have to learn half as much as I did and I found just as I was starting to get the hang of it it was the end of my year. I can only say I’m very glad that my year was before the last two as they will both be a very hard act to follow. Thank you Betty.”

Seconded by Mrs E Edwards.

Mrs E Edwards – “Lady President, President-Elect, fellow members and friends. It is a great honour to be able to second the vote of thanks for our retiring President, Elizabeth French. Betty as she is known to most of us, along with her late husband Brian, has a long connection spanning over 30 years with my husband Gwyndaf and his late parents, Emyr and Beryl Edwards. For those of us who have been lucky enough to hear Betty’s stories during her visits to Association Meetings across the country, Betty and Brian had a number of Fronbach ponies over the years and it is this joint passion for breeding and bloodlines and a love of Welsh Mountain Ponies that has cemented our friendship over the years. During her visiting to entertain the Gwynedd Breeders Association earlier this year we spent a lovely weekend catching up on stories, talking ponies and reliving many an AGM story. I’m sure many of you here will have fond memories of Brian leading Betty around a dancefloor, they were very much accomplished ballroom dancers.

Indeed Betty’s passion for the Hill Pony is well documented in her work over the years in both monitoring and promoting the breed in her work, surveying the animals in their natural habitat. She and Brian have spent much time roaming the hills and the marshes of Wales collecting valuable information for the Society’s gain.

On a personal level I have great admiration for our retiring lady President. Energetic, fun and enthusiastic are just some of the words that come to mind. She is also an inspiration having grasped the advantages of modern technology. Betty has over the past 12 months entertained us all with her regular blogs, keeping Society members across the globe up to date with her work as our President, along with

running the farm and keeping active on Wii Fit. This has indeed been a great success and underpins the fact that her popularity and enthusiasm for life may be one of the reasons she was voted the Society's first People's President following the change in the Society's Articles a few years ago. In closing I would like to thank Betty for her work not only over the past 12 months as our President but over the years of supporting the Society in its work. I know Betty has already started to talk about her new to do list: visiting areas and studs that she has not yet managed to get to. There has also been talk of a ride on the Snowdonia zip wire. So my advice to you all would be keep following Betty on Facebook, I'm sure there are many more stories to come. Betty, thank you."

Mrs E French – "Thank you very much, that was lovely and reminded me of the many things I have done. To fellow members and guests, it has been an amazing year and a step into the unknown and I thank the members that voted for me and gave me the opportunity to promote this wonderful Society and our lovely ponies and cobs. Throughout the year invitations have flooded in. Visiting our wonderful associations to talk and make presentations has been a pleasure and I cannot thank them enough for their welcome and hospitality. But one thing I just must mention is when I visited the Glanusk Glamorgan Association I belonged to that when I started and I visited at Christmas time. As I went through the door it was as though time had stood still. There was Ruth, Wynne and Jean Pritchard and a many of the people that I knew. As I was talking to them we were working out our ages. There were four senior citizens there, collectively there was 333 years. So we had something we were very proud of.

I apologise that I was unable to accept the invitation to visit Scotland Welsh Pony and Cob Association and the Performance Awards as they clashed with other invitations that I'd previously accepted. I understand that in the future Council are setting out a diary to assist future Presidents so that this won't happen again.

Every President brings a different take on the role. Mine was to meet as many members as possible during the year. It's also been an eye opener in the many issues expected by Council to resolve. I would like to express my gratitude to them all and thank them sincerely for their hard work. Presiding at meetings was made easy. And of course to our CEO and staff.

On a lighter note the last invite of 2016 was to judge on 4 December 2016 a show that had a Christmas theme. I was asked to be Christmassy. Now it's very difficult to behave as a judge with decorum with flashing Father Christmas lights in your ears and a sprig of holly with bells pinned to your hat. During the judging my hearing aid was making strange noises. I kept taking it out and tapping it and shaking it. We all have these senior moments and this one surely was mine. 'What was the noise?' I pondered. I'd only forgotten the bells in my hat were the culprits.

Before I finish I must say a word about Dr Wynne. Everyone has spoken about this but when I started 59 years ago I thought the Society was Dr Wynne and Dr Wynne was the Society. To finish I will forever remember the members I have met and the fun and laughter during my year and I thank you. Diolch yn fawr for making it possible. You don't know how proud you make me here today."

1218 TO APPOINT ON THE RECOMMENDATION OF COUNCIL, MR IJR LLOYD AS PRESIDENT FOR 2017/2018

The Chair, Mr J Kirk on behalf of Council proposed the appointment of Mr IJR Lloyd as President for 2017-2018. Seconded by Mr L Shaw.

Put to the floor:

In favour:	All	Proxy vote in favour:
Against:		Proxy votes against:
Abstentions:		

It was resolved that Mr IJR Lloyd be appointed President for 2017/2018.

Mrs ER French presented Mr IJR Lloyd with the Chain of Office. Mr IJR Lloyd presented Mrs ER French with the Past President's Badge.

Mr IJR Lloyd, President, accepted the appointment and addressed the meeting.

Mr IJR Lloyd – "Well ladies and gentleman there is an old cliché: follow that. I don't promise to be able to do what Betty has done but I will do my best. In speaking of Dr Wynne, as you already know he had a well-deserved MBE. I think we should award him the WPCS as well so he has the two honours. As has been said many a time, he has been an institution that has led this Society and we'll be much the poorer for his resignation. But let us hope, as has been said by our Chair, that he and Ruth will have good health for a very healthy and happy retirement. Diolch yn fawr iawn.

In taking the Presidency it gave me such a great honour because as Dr Wynne would say, the family has been involved with the Welsh Pony and Cob Society from the very beginning. My grandfather was a founder member, my father followed on in 1944, I became life in 1967 so this is my 50th year. Myfanwy became a life member in 1974, Dyfed in 1985 and now the youngest, 5th generation, Rhys who joined the Society at four hours old on 28th February this year, so it's quite a family affair. I'm beginning to emulate Dr Wynne now but I'll never get into his shoes.

It's a very, very great honour that you have bestowed upon me. It's something that I never thought I would attain to but you did me proud. I have a few notes here, for example the AGM next year will be in Llandudno, bring your bucket and spade with you. It will be on 7th April. There are leaflets at the back regarding accommodation. Venue Cymru will host both the AGM and the dinner but on the Friday night at the St George the young people, Owen Griffiths and our new Young Ambassador Euros, and I'm hoping Eleri will still be shall we say in situ with them to help, so come along on the Friday night wherever you're staying to the St George."

1219 TO RECEIVE A REPORT ON THE ELECTION OF PRESIDENT-ELECT FOR 2017-2018

The President invited Ms J Taylor from Broomfield Alexander to announce the name of the President-Elect for 2017/2018.

Ms J Taylor – "On behalf of Broomfield & Alexander Limited, being the duly appointed scrutineers for the election of the President-Elect for 2017, I confirm that we have examined the 349 voting papers returned to us as at the 24th March 2017. Of the 349 voting papers received, 348 were accepted and 1 was rejected. I therefore formally declare that the number of valid votes cast for each candidate, in order of total votes received were as follows:

Mrs E Russell 348

The President on behalf of the Society proposed the appointment of Mrs E Russell as President-Elect for 2017/2018. Seconded by Mr J Parry.

In favour: All Proxy vote in favour:
Against: Proxy votes against:
Abstentions:

It was resolved that Mrs E Russell be appointed President-Elect for 2017/2018.

Mrs E Russell accepted the appointment and addressed the meeting.

Mrs E Russell – "Ladies and Gentlemen, fellow members. This has been quite a journey for me. I think it must be for anybody who stands in this position. Not only is it an extreme privilege and an honour, but it is something I never ever thought would happen to me. My dear late husband John was a huge enthusiast and had a passion for the Welsh Ponies and Cobs and also for the Society, a passion which he passed on to both myself and my children. He, Lord Kenyon, the charismatic Gordon Jones, and Big John, or John Jones from Llantidwell, were a huge influence in this journey with their generous transfer of knowledge, help and encouragement. We are indeed indebted to those who have gone before us. We are blessed to be able to share the spirit of these magnificent and beautiful animals which have the ability to make us smile with our hearts. During my period of office I will do my utmost to help the Society and all members. Thank you enormously."

1220 TO RECEIVE A REPORT ON THE ELECTION OF FIVE MEMBERS TO SERVE ON COUNCIL FOR THE PERIOD 2017-2020

The President invited Ms J Taylor of Broomfield Alexander to present her report.

Ms J Taylor - On behalf of Broomfield & Alexander Limited, being the duly appointed scrutineers for the election of the five council members for the period 2017 – 2020, I confirm that we have examined the 602 voting papers returned to us as at the 24th March 2017. Of the 602 voting papers received, 593 were accepted and 9 were 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 JT Kirk	361	Elected
Mr GPJ Jones	347	Elected
Mr DD Morgan	331	Elected
Mrs JP Price	321	Elected
Mr WG Davies	305	Elected

Mrs J C Sheil	232	Not elected
Mrs S E Goodwin	212	Not elected

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The President invited the floor to provide any opinions or suggestions.

Thank you card to Dr Wynne

Ms A Bigley requested a card is sent to Dr Wynne this week from the meeting to say how very sorry everyone is that he is not present at the AGM and to wish him all the best in the future. The President stated that will be done.

Judges Assessments for Section Cs and Ds

Ms Y Small – I have brought this up before in previous AGMs and at the forum in Devon earlier this year. According to the breed description a Section C is a small Section D as the only difference is height. If the Society deems they are the same apart from height, why are there two separate assessments required for judges? I think that leaves the Society with two options: either change the breed description so the Section C does differ from a Section D more so than height, or there should be one assessment for Section Cs and Ds.

Mr E Evans - As I said in Devon, we will be bringing to Judging and Showing Standing Committee and making a decision on it then. When I did the assessment myself I did the C and D together. Somehow with different Trustees involved the process has changed.

Mrs C Fell – Should we not discuss the type of the animal as being more important than whether the Judges should be on the C and D panel for the assessment? I think it's much more profound that Council addresses the issue of the breed type.

Journal timescales

Ms C Newman – I request the timescales for receiving the Journal are made fairer. I received mine about 8-10 days ago. I'm horrified as I don't get first look at anything for sale or entries for shows. My voting papers came with it. I'm bitterly disappointed I had to chase the Society three times to get my Journal. Some of my friends had theirs three weeks before I received mine.

The President thanked Ms Newman for her feedback and stated this will be put to the relevant Standing Committee.

Panel of Judges Assessment

Mr D Harris – I disagree with the current Panel of Judges Assessment where people are assessed whether they should go on the panel were selected but then had to do probationary shows afterwards. I totally disagree with that because if you're fit to judge you're fit to judge. I believe all members should be treated equally. If that is so, all of the judges that are on the panel today should also undertake probation to see that they're up to scratch. Because I feel so strongly that the members should be equal, it's a Society today of us and them and I believe in a Society of we, we the members, on 1 January 2017 I resigned from the panel of judges because of the thought that these poor people who have to go through the probation it's not fair.

Mr E Evans – I agree with you. I'm not one for having probation after and we have reviewed it. From the next assessment probation will be before, not after.

Mrs Roberts – I've had trouble trying to arrange for my own daughter to do her probationary judging. I phoned one county show and she was refused because they couldn't have public liability insurance to cover probationary judges. I know it's been reduced to four instead of six but I've still only managed to get three. If you say you're going to change it next year, that won't help the ones who have to do it this year and I think that's very unfair.

Mr E Evans – There's nothing we can do about it at the present time. We are where we are.

The President – As President-Elect I was able to attend Council meetings and I can assure you as a completely independent person that the Judging and Showing Standing Committee and the Council itself is taking this matter seriously. They inherited this system. They couldn't change it overnight but I can tell you they're in the process of returning it to normality.

Mr G Williams – I think there's a lot of unhappiness about it. If Mr E Evans, Judging and Showing Standing Committee and Council agree, why can't you void what has happened in fairness to the ones

that have been passed and have to resort to four, six or however many probationary shows? If people have passed they're good enough on the day to be a judge. Who checks them after they have done their six shows? Is there a system? Otherwise it's a laugh.

Mr J Kirk – I sympathise with the new people coming on to the judges panel. People joined the assessment knowing there would be a probationary period. It was made clear on the day that the assessor's decision would be final. To become a judge for the Society is an honour. It's becoming a competition who can be a judge and how many shows you can judge. I'd like the new judges to enter into the spirit of it. We don't want to start swapping and changing rules. I don't feel Council should start changing rules back. That would make Council look very weak.

Mr G Williams – It would make you look very strong. You mentioned in your speech we all make mistakes. It would be the strength of Council to admit it got it wrong and will put it right.

Mrs C Fell – People were not informed about the probation before the assessment. They were told on the day. It's the first year it's happened. The rules were changed without proper consultation or discussion. That has been the problem over the years and is something for Council to think about in advance of any more rule changes.

Mr E Evans – The information was on the website prior to people applying. We stated at the assessment that if people weren't happy they could leave the room and have their money back. Nobody left the room and they all continued.

Ms L Reed – I believe if you sit an assessment with the Society, if the assessors prove that you are fit to go on the panel we should abide by the assessor's rules. Having to go forward to then do the probation doesn't mean you're going to learn anything stood in the ring with a co-judge. You start learning when you're in the ring on your own.

Barbara Green – Pembrokeshire County Show, which is a silver medal show, is willing to take probationary judges as long as the judges that are invited are willing to have them with them in the ring. I would hope other show organisers present will offer the same.

The President – No. The Council has decreed that no one can probation at a silver medal show.

Barbara Green – I wasn't aware of that. That's probably a reason why any of these county shows won't take them. It's very disappointing to know that.

Ms A Kember – Can Council say what went on in the Area Associations meeting this morning? We discussed insurance and what Judging and Showing Standing Committee are going to go away and find. I think it will be helpful for everyone here to know what was discussed regarding the insurance for probationary judges.

Mr R Allan – The Society is going to look at the situation regarding insurance. Mr E Evans and I will discuss this next week. The challenge with the probationary rules has been it's a piece of work that commenced two years ago. The rules have been updated with different Trustees involved. The lesson to the Society is new rules should be developed over shorter periods of time with the same Trustees involved from start to finish.

The President drew the discussion on this matter to a close.

Proposal of thanks to Chair of Council and Vice-Chair of Council

Mrs R Phillipson-Stowe – Proposed a vote of thanks to the Chair of Council and Vice-Chair of Council on behalf of the AGM.

A member highlighted that they felt one of the reasons for the lack of income to the Society is the lack of new members. I think the Society would do well to look at why it isn't getting new members. What is the Society providing for people that aren't breeders? I think you need to think about what you can offer people that ride and do things other than showing.

The President – That is under consideration in the form of showing membership.

Annual collection

Members were asked to donate generously to this year's collection is for the International League for the Protection of Horses.

With no further business the President closed the meeting at 3.45 pm.