

The Welsh Pony and Cob Society

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Members held at Venue Cymru, Llandudno
1 pm on Saturday 7 April 2018

Present

The President, Mr Ifor Lloyd and 233 members who signed the attendance registers.

In Attendance

Sarah Case, MHA Broomfield Alexander and Doreen Walford, taking the minutes.

The President welcomed everyone and declared the meeting open.

The President noted that the meeting was also being audio-recorded and asked if there were any objections; there were none. He asked if anyone was making their own recording; there were none. He noted the Venue housekeeping matters. Members receiving awards were asked to remain at the close of the AGM for photographs. He asked if there were any objections to non-members attending, representing proxy votes or accepting awards. There were no objections. The President introduced Sarah Case from Broomfield Alexander who would declare the result of the ballot and Doreen Walford, taking shorthand minutes.

Obituaries

The President noted that a number of members had died during the year and extended the Society's sympathy to families and friends. He called the meeting to stand for a moment's silence.

1. Apologies

Taken as read.

2. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 17 April 2017

The President noted all the pages of the minutes individually and asked if there were any comments: there were none. The President called for adoption of the minutes. Seconded: Peter Rutherford. Carried by show of hands; no objections; no abstentions.

Matters arising: None

3. Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

4. Audited Balance Sheets and Accounts for year ended 31 December 2017

Chair of Finance, Geraint Davies, presented the audited accounts for the year ending 31 December 2017, including the balance sheet and profit and loss account.

President, fellow members -on behalf of Council I have pleasure in presenting to you the audited accounts for the year ending 31st December 2017 which includes the balance sheet and profit and loss account. During the financial year an overall surplus of £62743 was made. However once removing the gain on investments a deficit of £31K has been made. One of the main reasons for the deficit is the £45K spent on the internal refurbishment of the pavilion on the Royal Welsh Showground. This was funded from Her Majesty the Queen's generous donation which was included in the 2016 accounts. We have also invested in a new door entry system, a new clocking in system for staff, and a laminator and riveter which means that the passports can be done in house. Also, the rent for the pavilion increased from £2.5K per annum to £9k per annum in 2017.

I shall comment on the Balance Sheet on Page 15 of the accounts where assets less liabilities stand at £1,912,550 an increase of £62,743 from 2016. Our investments have again stood us in good stead and have ended 2017 at a market value of £1,282,913 an increase of £84,376 from 2016. The portfolio is based on medium risk investment and has again subsidised our core business. The Finance and Human Resources standing committee meets annually in January with the chosen investment company, to review what an important element of income it is for the Society.

The last 2 years have seen an excellent return on our investments but our financial advisers Investec fear that this may not be so in 2018.

The Society has had to endure further financial turbulence and has seen a decline of 2% in its membership income (previous years decline 5%). Overall income dropped by £5,000 in 2017 which is a fall of 1%. However a pleasing trend is that registrations increased by 5%. With the encouraging prices in last Octobers breed sales hopefully we can maintain this trend.

The Board has reacted positively to the need to save money and has undertaken a restructure of the office which has led to savings of £51K in staffing costs. Another area where we have achieved substantial savings is the legal and professional fees with reduced costs of £35k from the previous financial year. However, we expect legal fees to increase in 2018 as Geldards are guiding us through the General Data Protection Regulation process and are drawing up contracts for our new IT supplier.

Designated funds for 2018 include; -

- New IT System which will avoid duplication of certain duties especially regarding the Finance System
- New Broadband system and website
- Till on the Exhibition Unit to help with stock control
- New energy efficient lighting system in Bronaeron
- Covered area to house the Exhibition Unit

Unfortunately, no suitable applications were received for Educational Bursaries and it was agreed that the funds be carried over for future applicants. We are seeking to increase income via Gift Aid in 2018 – please continue to sign the Gift Aid forms as this source of income is much required.

I, on behalf of the Finance and HR Committee, would like to thank the staff for their hard work during the year. Like many other organisations we have found that costs across the Society will continue to rise and it is vital that the Society continues to monitor its income against expenditure, making savings where it realistically can and securing best value when committing funds. The main risks that the Society faces are external and beyond its control namely Brexit and the implementation of the new equine database.

I would like to thank our Finance Officer Chris Hodgson for his sterling work, my Vice Chair Peter Morgan and fellow Finance and HR Committee members, and our auditors Sarah Case and Claire Thompson from Broomfield Alexander. Also, a special mention to the Chair and Vice Chair of Council John Kirk and Colin Thomas for guiding me through my first year as a trustee.

May I thank and congratulate our outgoing President Ifor Lloyd for his inspirational guidance and also welcome our new President Elizabeth Russell.

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

I move to approve the audited Balance Sheet and Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2017. Do I have a seconder?

Geraint Davies proposed adoption of the balance sheets and accounts: seconded by Colin Thomas. Carried by show of hands. No objections; no abstentions.

5. Appointment of Auditors

The Chair of Finance proposed the re-appointment of MHA Broomfield Alexander as the Society's auditors. Seconded: Edwin Prosser. Carried by show of hands. No objections; no abstentions.

6. Report by the Chair of Council

John Kirk, Chair of Council read his report:

President Lloyd, trustees and honorary officers, ladies and gentlemen. I am proud of having been Chair of Council in this past term of office, the Board of trustees, honorary officers and staff have responded to my requests of working as 'a team' and acting at all times in the interest of the Society. There has been a very constructive and positive approach in Board and Committee meetings and I have been very encouraged and optimistic about the future of the Society.

During the past year the Welsh Pony and Cob Society has delivered a number of aims and objectives. One of the major developments has been to negotiate the setting up of a new IT system that takes the office and the Society, forward into the modern era. The exhibition unit has promoted the Society at events and sales, and trustees and volunteers have supported the staff at busy periods. Although we are behind with the publishing of the Studbook, we have produced issue 2015 and this is available for purchase. The next issue is in progress and will be available in the next few months.

Phase 2 of the Pavilion has been completed with £50K donated by our esteemed Patron Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth. It would be wrong of me not to thank Geraint Davies, Elgan Evans, Colin Thomas and Richard Morgan (Ormond) for overseeing the work.

The feedback from the publication of the 2018 Journal has been extremely positive and I thank trustees, staff, honorary officers and volunteers for contributing and ensuring that the membership receives this very popular publication.

As you are all aware there was a slight delay in issuing the Journal because of the need to ensure that the Society was compliant with the forthcoming General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). To comply with the new legislation, the Council and staff undertook a risk and fact finding exercise in order that we put a process in place for us to take to the Society solicitors. For the Society to be compliant with the new requirements, the solicitors, council and staff did significant work to meet the requirements within the Regulations. There is still work ongoing and a timetable in place for achieving full compliance. Any failures would mean substantial financial penalties and reputational harm for the Society.

There has been the continuing implementation of the DNA testing policy, this falls in line with our aims and objectives of reinforcing the integrity of the Stud Book. I would like to recognise the work of Member Services Committee and Chair Tracy Hook who is keen to develop key areas of member services.

On 23 September a successful Judge's conference was held in Builth Wells, the success of the event was down to the Judging and Showing committee and staff, ably led by Chair Elgan Evans. I would like to thank Elgan for his dedication and hard work as Chair of Judging and Showing. He has not had an easy two years but things can only get better. I thank Ed Gummery, National Welfare Officer, for his hard work and dedication over the past year and I thank Daniel Morgan in his role as Chair of Promotions.

Peter Morgan stood down as Chair of Finance and his position was taken by Geraint Davies who has worked tirelessly to lead the finance into a healthy position despite the downward trends in the equine industry. He has come in with gusto and has been a rock in his position as Chair of Finance and Human Resources.

I would like to thank Brightwell's and their team for their continued professionalism and support of the Welsh Pony and Cob Society. We have recently secured a formal contract and I am very pleased to report that our autumn sales are secure for the next four years at the Royal Welsh Showground. We are very fortunate as a society to have Brightwell's as our official auctioneers and I encourage you, the members, to support these sales as they are attended by buyers from all over the world.

The objectives of Council have been achieved by a committed approach by the standing committees. I am very proud and privileged to be a part of this team. I wish to recognise the work of Vice Chair Colin Thomas.

I should like to thank the commitment and dedication of our Honorary Officers, President Ifor Lloyd, President-Elect Elizabeth Russell, Honorary Veterinary Surgeon Roland Michell, and Area Publicity Officers Owen Griffiths and Angela Kember. It would be amiss of me not to recognise the sterling work of our young ambassador Euros Llŷr Morgan. Over the past year he has proved a great asset to the Society

Thanks also go to the Society's volunteers who have contributed to the work during the last year: the Area Associations for their ongoing support of the breed: Jo Filmer, Kathleen James, Christopher Jones, Janice Parry, Lisa Reed, Mandy Davies, Malcolm Cross, Alison Squire, Sandy Goodwin and Eric Jones. And I thank all those people who have contributed to the 2018 Journal: you know who you are. I apologise for any names that I may have inadvertently omitted. Diolch yn fawr.

Trustees, honorary officers and volunteers are a crucial part of the working of the Society, but of course, so are our staff. Karen Barker-Moore left due to family commitments. She ably led and developed the office and staff through a difficult period and forged closer links with Council and staff. I am sure that any members visiting the office will appreciate the improved atmosphere. I thank our staff for their continuing support through a period of office changes in 2017.

I would like to finish with a quick look towards the future. Planned in 2018 are

- the Judges Assessment
- the major IT upgrade
- working on the new website.

And finally I thank President Ifor Lloyd for his sterling work over the past year and to wish his successor, Elizabeth Russell, best wishes for the coming year. Diolch yn fawr.

To conclude, ladies and gentlemen, we don't always get all decisions right. As a Council, I am extremely passionate to lead Council for the Welsh Pony and Cob Society. I am also extremely proud to stand here as Chair of Council. This Council that stands in front of you today has worked so hard as a team to fulfil the aims of the Society. They have helped me in my leadership and made my role as Chair very easy. We work so well together, there have been healthy debates on differences, but we always work and finalise in the interest of the membership. I sincerely hope the new Board formed today will continue this attitude for the future and well-being of the Society. Mistakes are always made in all walks of life and criticisms will always be out there. We as a Board can accept constructive criticism and we will always aim to rectify any mistake as soon as possible.

Our members have a wonderful Society - derogatory remarks on social media about members, judges, Council and the office, in my view do the name of the Society no good whatsoever. I should like to point out that the WPCS is totally committed to the promotion of our wonderful breed. I need to thank our members and volunteers who tirelessly promote our breed through many disciplines around the world. Just think how lucky we are to have the finest breed in the World. Diolch yn fawr Thank you.

President Lloyd thanked John Kirk for all the work he has done. He said he, Colin Thomas and the Trustees had worked so hard together, taking on a lot of different tasks. He said there are criticisms but also, sometimes, thanks and it was good to be positive. The President said they had the best product in the world, and they need to promote them. For instance, a group of Americans had visited and he asked them if they'd heard of Welsh Cobs and not one of them had. But they all knew of Shetland Ponies and Arabians. He said they had the greatest secret in the world and they need to promote their breed and everyone should 'go out there' and highlight how good they are. He said this was particularly important for the young people in the Association.

7. Young Ambassador

The Chair of Council thanked the outgoing Young Ambassador, Euros Llŷr Morgan, for his work over the past year and presented him with the Past Ambassador badge of office, kindly sponsored by the Rhosbren Stud. The outgoing ambassador read his report.

The President said he had been very fortunate in having such a Young Ambassador as Euros and all the young people with him. He said an event organised the previous evening would not have happened without tremendous effort and he congratulated him on the successful fund-raising activities organised over the past year. He said he was pleased to announce Euros had agreed to continue as Young Ambassador for the forthcoming year and that Euros has agreed to mentor the new Young Ambassador.

Incoming Young Ambassador

The President invited Euros Llŷr Morgan to receive his badge and sash, kindly sponsored by Colin Thomas of the Rhosbren Stud and the Young Ambassador Harp, kindly donated by Mr & Mrs Ifor Lloyd of the Derwen Stud.

Young Achiever's Award

This award recognises the achievements of young people in the Society and this year it was presented to Jessica Pritchard-Simons who received a certificate, badge and the Glyncoch Young Achiever's Trophy kindly sponsored by Mr & Mrs Pearce of the Glyncoch Stud. Jessica said winning the Royal Show was amazing and winning a rosette at the National Welsh Show was a great achievement; now she was very proud to receive the Society's Young Achiever Award and thanked everyone for their help and support.

8. The Miss Brodrick Memorial Trophy

The Chair of Council said the Miss Brodrick Memorial Trophy is awarded by Council to an individual or animal in recognition of distinguished services to the Society and is the highest honour the Society can bestow. He had great pleasure in announcing that for 2018 the award is presented to Mathrafal. He invited the President to present the trophy and a copy of the painting to Nicola Jones of the Fronarth Stud.

9. Recommendations from Council for Honorary Awards

The President said that, once again, members had the opportunity to put forward nominations for honorary awards, with those receiving 75% of Council's support being presented with an award. He said there were four honorary life members and one honorary vice-president award this year.

Honorary Life Members

Mr G Edwards, Fronbach Stud. Proposed by Ed Gummery; seconded by Peter Sherlock. Motion carried.

Mr G Greenow of the Blaenau Stud. Proposed by Cemaes Evans; seconded by Betty French. Motion carried.

Mrs M F Jackson-Edwards of the Ashgrove Stud. Proposed by David Roberts; seconded by Roger Davies Motion carried.

Mr T A Orrey of the Gydros Stud. Proposed by Calvert Williams; seconded by Gethin Williams. Motion carried. Award collected on his behalf by Mrs Mary Jones.

Honorary Vice-President

Mr C J Jones of the Llamri Stud. Proposed by Dafydd Griffiths. Seconded by Emma Edwards. Motion carried.

10. Presentation of Awards

In-hand Sire Ratings Scheme 2017

Carnalw Cup A	Cwmhendy Buster 50728 Mr G & Mrs M Parry (104451) received the trophy.
Paddock Trophy B	Laithehill Oberon 57302 G R Hensby (1488) received the trophy.
Saltmarsh Trophy C	Tyrlawn Rolls-Royce 93194. J K Walters received the trophy.
Hengwm Trophy D	Gwynfaes Culhwch. D M and Mrs E D & C Evans. Trophy received by Merion.

Performance Sire Ratings Scheme 2017

Tireve Trophy	Erwwastad Rhys 54222
Harness Driving	Trophy received by Aled Rees
Highland Cup	Blackhill Picalo 34102
Lead Rein/First Ridden	Mr & Mrs Watkins c/o Lacy Stud. Trophy received by Colin Tibbey
Llanarth Salver	Cwmhendy Buster 50728
Working Hunter Pony	Mr G & Mrs M Parry received the trophy.
Teifi Trophy	Trevallion Picasso 60734
Welsh Under Saddle	Mr & Mrs J Batt received the trophy.

Royal Welsh Sire Ratings

The Royal Welsh Certificates and Rosettes were presented by John Kirk on behalf of the Royal Welsh Agricultural Society. He said the trophies remain at the RWAS; winners can make an appointment to attend to have their photograph taken with the trophy.

Gwyn Price Perpetual Trophy	Cascob Red Kite
Section A	J H & H A Williams received the trophy.
Section A Reserve	Ceulan Cariadog H Leenwenhaag. Trophy received by Tanya Jones.

Nell Pennell Perpetual Trophy	Paddock Rio
Section B	Mrs L Wilson. Trophy received on her behalf by Colin Tibbey
Section B Reserve	Eyarth Beau Guest Waxwing Stud
Synod Perpetual Trophy	Moorcroft The Master 71128
Section C	Mrs Howard received the trophy.
Section C Reserve – Joint	Fronarth Ginola Jones Family: trophy received by Nicola Jones
Section C Reserve – Joint	Rhoswen Guardsman David Oliver received the trophy.
Section C Reserve – Joint	Tyrlawn Rolls Royce Justin Walters received the trophy.
Yeomans Perpetual Plaque	Geler Sparc 59434
Section D	Wendy Lloyd received the trophy.
Section D – Reserve	Trevallion Hooch Dean Smith received the trophy.

HOYS – Highest Placed Welsh Animal

Section A	Chetwynd Jasper The Countess of Shrewsbury received the trophy.
Section B	Cadlanvalley Sandpiper Mrs K E Scott received the trophy.
Section C	Glynwyn the Living Daylights Ms L Jackson
Section D	Ballynacoy Prince Beth Simons received the trophy.
WPBR	Archwood Romeo Gige Mrs Y Selby

Hoys Highest Placed Welsh in the following categories

M&M Lead Rein	Thistledown Van Der Vaart Mrs Wilson
M&M First Ridden	Glebedale Mumbo Jumbo Miss Z Holmes
WHP – Under 122cm Small	Forlan Honey Dancer Trophy received by Betty French
WHP – Under 133cm Medium	Glynceirch Amlyn Mrs J Haywood
WHP – Under 143 cm Large	Gwerniago Gethin Mr A B Bird
WHP – Exc 143	Dycott Welsh King Mrs A Thomas

Olympia (BSPS M&M) – Highest Placed Welsh Animal

John Kirk announced that these trophies are awarded to the highest placed Welsh at the BSPS Mountain and Moorland Championships at Olympia.

Mintfield Trophy	Chetwynd Jasper Trophy received by Countess Shrewsbury.
Section A	
Moelgarnedd Trophy	Cadlanvalley Sandpiper Mrs K Scott – trophy received by Mr Scott.
Section B	
Parc Trophy	Lynuck the Showman Trophy received by Mrs Lyn Scott
Section C	
Llanarth Braint	Ballynacoy Prince Beth Simons
Section D	

Royal Welsh Spoons

Kindly presented by Mr & Mrs Ifor Lloyd, Derwen Stud, in memory of the late Mr Tom Roberts, to the breeder of the highest place gelding under saddle at the Royal Welsh Show. The President said he had to admit that it was his fault that they were not available to present. He said he'd locked them away in a room in the venue, as the spoons are silver, and forgot to retrieve them. They would be presented to award winners after the AGM.

Section A	S Franklin – Sarum Charlie
Section B	Sandy Anderson – Thistledown Sea Anchor
Section C	Miss Heppenstall – Glynwyn the Living Daylights
Section D	Eric W Jones – Llanidan Linesman

National High Point Junior Gelding Awards

John Kirk announced that these are awarded to the owners of those geldings receiving the highest points in each section.

The Section A awards are kindly sponsored by the Sarum Stud and presented by John Kirk.

Section A – 1st	Lacy Mac – Miss M Gardiner To receive a rosette, plaque and £50 prize money.
Section A – 2nd	Flydon Perue – J Abrahall and L Stephens To receive a rosette and £30 prize money
Section A – 3rd	Marsh Casius – Mrs D Groom To receive a rosette and £20 prize money, received by Dex Davies.

The Section B awards are kindly sponsored by the Cadlanvalley Stud and presented by John Kirk.

Section B – 1st	Goldenwood Giorgio Armani – Mrs C Drewery To receive a rosette, plaque and £50 prize money.
Section B – 2nd	Silmarillion Court Jester – Mrs D Shaw To receive a rosette and £30 prize money.
Section B – 3rd	Heugh Lancelot – Miss D Bain To receive a rosette and £20 prize money

The Section C awards are kindly sponsored by the Dorneyrow Stud and presented by Dex Davies.

Section C – 1st	Mossgate In The Mix – Miss C Crouchman To receive a rosette, plaque and £50 prize money.
Section C – 2nd	Swansmoor Ap Harry – D Adams To receive a rosette and £30 prize money.

The Section D awards are kindly sponsored by the Pennal Stud, presented by John Kirk on behalf of Dai Harris.

Section D – 1st	Alverley Royal Warrior – Ms C Kessler To receive a rosette, plaque and £50 prize money.
-----------------------------------	--

Supreme Champion – National High-Point Junior Gelding Awards

The Clarwood Trophy, Rosette and Sash, kindly donated by Helen & Guy Clardy of the Clarwood Stud, USA and presented on their behalf by John Kirk. The 2017 Supreme Champion was Alverley Royal Warrior – Ms C Kessler.

Reserve Supreme Champion, National High-Point Junior Gelding Awards

Presented by John Kirk to Lacy Mac - Miss M Gardiner who received the Reserve Supreme Champion Rosette and Sash.

Educational Bursaries: There were no educational bursaries for 2018.

Other Presentations Awarded

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: Ashgrove Harriet – received by Gwyn Jones and re-presented to Fran Jackson-Edwards.

Brightwells Special Awards presented by Catryn Bigley and Andrew Elliott of Brightwells, awarded in recognition of contributions to the sales, as a vendor or purchaser.

Champagne Moment Trophy – Autumn Cob Sale Mr E W Jones, Llanidan Stud

Champagne Moment Trophy – Fayre Oaks Mr A J P Landon, Linksbury

The Brightwells 150th Perpetual Challenge Trophy Mrs N A Owen, Desach Stud

The Brightwells Perpetual Award for the Highest Priced Brood Mare Mr & Ms Robinson for Tothamhill Briallan (£6,000) received by Geraint Davies

The Highest Priced Foal Trophy Miss E A Evans for Llwynhywel Crackling Rose (£10,000)

Downland Perpetual Trophy presented in Memory of Mrs Kathleen Cuff for the highest Priced Section B at Fayre Oaks Mr M Johnston for Carrwood Zeus (£5,200) received by Karen Cheetham

The Kentchurch Trophy for Welfare

Presented to Ed Gummery for the excellent work he has done on behalf of horses and ponies.

Performance Show Supreme Champion

Painting by Chris Latter, presented to Nantrhos Ferren, ridden by Cethin Ravenhill.

11. Publicity Officer's Report

Owen Griffiths - Mr President, council, fellow members and friends of the society. Although this slot is allocated for the Publicity Officer's report, I acted as an Assistant Publicity Officer alongside Angela Kember and Vicky Thomas Williams and have been kindly asked by Council to provide an overview of the past year. We can divide the year into three P's: Promotion (success of the breed), Publications (that recorded in literature) and Publicity (media attention).

Promotions

The success of the breed means that it has effectively promoted itself, with 2017 a remarkable year, against all other native counterparts. At HOYS we saw Thistledown Van der Vaart crowned supreme champion pony of the year. 13 out of 22 Cuddy qualifiers were Welsh or Welsh Part-bred. Leading the pony section and reserve overall was the three year old hunter pony, Litton Salvador who gains his Welsh credentials through parentage tracing back to Chirk Caradoc and Keston Royal Occasion. At Olympia Cadlanvalley Sandpiper was crowned best of breed (for the third time), going one step further this time by taking overall supreme, ridden by Katy Marriot-Payne, who in 2016 secured the same title piloting Tonwen Hughes's section A Uphill James Fox. So now we have 8 x Bs, 1 x A, 2 x Cs and 4 Ds lifting the championship cup at Olympia. Reserve was another Welsh, the section C Lynuck The Showman owned by Lyn Scott. With 12 native breeds at Olympia, 7 out of 10 finalists were Welsh. Laithehill Pasha was crowned SSADL in-hand champion.

The Royal Welsh show attracted 3088 catalogue entries, with at least 67% of these being Welsh or of Welsh breeding, and several more entered in other sections, palominos, workers, riding pony and breeding. A large crowd turned out on 3rd December 2017 at the Jury's Inn Hotel for the 45th WPCS Annual Performance Awards. Every equestrian discipline was recognised, with larger entries in individual and team sections.

Publications

We cannot dismiss the importance of global publications in documenting the successes of the breed and providing a source of reference for years to come. The breed has been showcased in print and pictures in Horse and Hound (H&H), Showing Journal, Native Pony and various journals and other publications globally. In August 2016 council decided not to duplicate material on the website so show reports from Lampeter (by Angela Kember), Glanusk (I sent to Canada, Denmark, Native Pony, Daily post, Holland, and Germany), Royal Welsh (I sent to the same people), Brightwells sale reports (all done by David Blair) all appear in the Journal. There is also a committed team of photographers from home and abroad who capture and share photos globally.

Horse and Hound had coverage on the Royal Welsh, the National Welsh Championship show in Malvern, Pembrokeshire County and the Winter Fair. Native Pony had show reports for Lampeter and Glanusk, an article on Pentre Eiddwen Comet, and the Brightwells Fayre Oaks and Cob sale. The NPS journal contained an article by Dr Wynne Davies on society medals.

Requests come in all the time for photos: many of Wynne's negatives are now in my possession and have been requested by several individuals globally. Nancy Leask in Canada did a very good article and, probably my highlight for the year, on 'Show Fashion, Fashion Show' where she undertook a global review of acceptable/unacceptable attire based on hearsay and showing rules, with photos over the years from Wynne's collection giving a British perspective. Another highlight was a cartoon which features in the 2018 Swedish journal. Rhydian Donati has a speech bubble saying "come on Wynne, give him back" whilst Wynne running with Ceulan Calon Lan says "OK.....but you'll have to catch me first".

The German Jarbuch had an article on Synod stud and we sorted out some new, original photos to go with that article. I went to Gelliheh, I think Cerdin had gone to bed, leaving Doreen and myself going through photos until the early hours.

Publicity

Events during the year have obviously promoted but also ticked the publicity box, including:

17 June 2017 – Merlod Myrddin open day (Glyncoch, Heniarth & Eglwysfach) to raise funds for the Royal Welsh.

Ceffylau Cymru on S4C which followed a few Welsh studs during the series. The Royal Welsh had fantastic S4C coverage and the same for the Winter Fair. No other equine breed in the world has publicity of this kind.

29 July - Gwynfaes Culhwch Celebration Day where trustee Geraint Davies and I provided the commentary.

19 October – H&H – Paddock Rio on front cover and a 4 - page feature on Sarah and Colin Tibbey.

February 2018 – the Welsh Cob Gwerniago Gethin, winner at HOYS 2016 & 2017, ranked number 1 best stallion on the show circuit with H&H.

15 February Horse & Hound – Wyken Rob Roy (C) feature in Horse & Hound, with a similar 2-page article on Cadlanvalley Sandpiper.

6 & 10 March – Coast and Country on BBC which followed Brightwells cob sales.

15 March – feature on Cadlanvalley stud in Horse & Hound.

And that is it, the WPCS's year in a nutshell.

I have not tried to publicise the breed solely on home soil, but globally. There remains work to be done; we are far from conquering the world. I was on a flight west to Canada and a lady next to me, originally from Dubai, asked me what I was reading to which I said "the Brightwells horse sale catalogue". She said she had never heard of the Brightwells sale before, but also failed to identify the horse on the cover as a Welsh Cob. She'd heard of every other breed, but sadly not the Welsh Pony and Cob. It was a 7.5 hour flight and trust me by the time we landed in Toronto she'd pass as a WPCS panel judge.

My day-to-day job and PhD is demanding more and more of my time and, as a consequence, I decided to submit my letter of intent to stand down as Assistant Publicity Officer, reaching council on 12 February. Over the past seven years or so I've derived much pleasure from working alongside Dr Wynne Davies and David Blair, helping Nancy Leask in Canada and other editors on the continent, and I'm confident these links and friends, will continue. Moving forward I believe we should not be promoting the society as the WPCS but as the International WPCS. Not because it sounds better, but because it quite simply is. Thanks

The President thanked Mr Griffiths and said the Report will be published on the website after the AGM. The President said he understood the importance of Owen's PhD studies and wished him well.

12. Vote of thanks to the Retiring President

John Kirk invited Conway Morgan to propose a vote of thanks to the retiring President, Ifor Lloyd.

Conway Morgan - Mr President, Madame President-elect, fellow members and friends. For those of you who do not know me, I suppose I should start by introducing myself. Until this time last year, I was known as Conway Morgan Cwmtawe Stud, Ystradgynlais where I breed sections As and D's but during this last year I suppose I have become better known as Conway Morgan father of Euros Morgan, our Young Ambassador. I'd like to start by thanking all the members of the Society for the support you have given to Euros throughout the year, it was wonderful to be able to welcome so many members and friends to Ystradgynlais recently when Euros promoted a concert to raise funds for the Societies young people. Members travelled from all over Wales and across the border from England to share in a celebration of our young talented members. As a large society we all have one common aim, the support of our young members. Foremost in the support of our young members has been our President Mr Ifor Lloyd. Euros has been a fan of Welsh mountain ponies for some years now and I know that Ifor and Myfanwy have made a point of developing his interest in cobs as well as ponies during the last year. That's why many of you will have seen Derwen stock in the show ring again with Euros at the end of the lead rope. We're so grateful for that support and their support for all our young members. These young people are our societies future. I first visited Derwen Stud as a youngster in the sixties and seventies. My late father Johnny Morgan formed Cwmtawe stud and every year we took a few mares to Derwen. It was a family trip to look forward to and in those days Ifors parents ran the stud. Its no wonder that Ifor is the business man he is with the training he had from his father not forgetting that Ifor bought his first Jack Russell at the age of five for two shillings, later naming the dog "Two Bob". Under the guidance of his father he became a shrewd and astute businessman becoming the UK's youngest Volvo dealer and I am sure that his talent marketing cars has benefited us all as breeders. Ifor is never shy of the microphone or the television camera. He has always used, as we have seen this afternoon, his talent to promote the Welsh Breeds. Whenever Ifor has a microphone in his hand you can bet at some point that he will manage to include one of the following phrases in the interview. "the Welsh Breeds are the best ride and drive animals in the world", or "the Welsh Breeds are the animals that will serve a family from the cradle to the grave", or "there is a Welsh breed to suit every need". Those of us who know Ifor well recognise him as a colourful character who is an extremely passionate individual with very strong beliefs and our Society has benefited from these qualities. Over the years Ifor has become synonymous with quality and presentation. He is recognised as a true craftsman, whatever he turns his hand to he achieves success with style and panache. From a very young age Ifor was trained to perform and won many singing prizes and medals at eisteddfodau culminating in winning the blue ribbon for his beautiful bass voice. This is the equivalent of a Welsh Cob breeder winning the Prince of Wales Cup. At Derwen Ifor was always ahead of the game and he was setting new goals. When others were breeding for in hand purposes, Ifor was already looking ahead to the next opportunity where there would be potential in the market for further expansion and sales. Animals were bred to perform in all disciplines, dressage, jumping, driving as well as riding, and obviously the in-hand competitions. In the show ring Ifor was a fierce and very successful competitor. We both competed against each other. Ifor won the Prince of Wales Cup numerous times. In the early years of Cwmtawe stud our best result was "best of the rest". One example was coming second to Derwen Replica as a three year old colt in the Royal Welsh class in 1982. "Best of the Rest" against Ifor was no mean achievement, well, that's what I've always kept telling myself over the years. He's always a formidable opponent in the show ring but outside of the showing we have been good friends for over forty years. Behind every great man they say there is an even greater woman and it would be remiss of me to not mention the contribution Myfanwy has made. Always in the background yet always at Ifors side prompting and if needs be cajoling. Myfanwy has not only supported Ifor in his projects but has also taken control of her own initiatives. She formed the heritage centre at Derwen and she also cares for and manages the foreign students who are aspiring Welsh cob enthusiasts from all over Europe who stay and work at Derwen, learning about the breeds and the welfare of the ponies. During the last two years, as President-elect and the year of his Presidency, the two of them have travelled the UK meeting people, visiting shows, area associations, charity events etc as our representatives. Together they form a formidable team and our Society has benefited hugely from their contributions. I consider it a great honour and a privilege and I must say a pleasure to be able to propose a vote of thanks to Ifor who happens to be only the second "peoples president" in the history of our Society, voted to office by the members of our Society. We as Society members wish to thank you both not just for your contribution to our Society during your period

of office but for the efforts expended over your lifetime promoting and serving the Welsh Breeds. From the bottom of our hearts we thank you for your tremendous contribution and we wish you continued success, health and happiness in the future. Diolch yn fawr iawn.

John Kirk called upon Dilwyn Roberts to second the vote of thanks.

Dilwyn Roberts - I will be saying a few words, but they will be very few words and what do you say about somebody like Ifor. The first thing that came to my mind was his prefix, Derwen, which is the Welsh for oak and as we know the oak tree develops from small acorns. I have taken every letter as it comes, the D to begin with, the first word I have I will leave until last, but the second word that I have down here and that describes you is Dedicated, the other one is a very Decisive person, as we all know and also a very Distinguished person in many fields as we have heard from Conway. Next is E, Enthusiastic and Energetic, and those two words say a lot about a person. R for a person whose career has been Remarkable, and it is your opportunity today, as you retire Ifor, to look back over forty years, and I look at these AGM's as an annual Reunion, with ~Resolve for looking back but at the same time looking forward to what we want from the future. W, the first thing I did with the W was to turn it upside down, because I wanted an excuse to mention Myfanwy, so Myfanwy diolch yn fawr, next for W is always the Welcome you have at Derwen Stud, which has not gone unnoticed. I remember the first time I went there and in those days it was a very long way from Aberaeron in a Vauxhall Viva and I was greeted there by a full glass of water which was just what I needed after that journey. The second E in the word I put down as Entertainer, as most of you will know Ifor has been a very very valued Entertainer, within Wales and within other countries as well, we thank you for that. N, the first word that came to mind was our Native Breeds, and how Ifor has been an Ambassador for these in more or less every nation you can think of throughout the world, and it is for all of these things that you have heard mostly from Conway, those were the reasons why you were nominated to be President of the Society and coming back to the first word in the D which is Diolch, the Welsh for thank you. All the best for the future and one more Diolch yn fawr before I go, I have to say this, diolch i ti.

John Kirk asked the President if he would like to respond.

President Lloyd - Madame President, Liz we have known each other for many, many years, trustees, fellow members, thank you very much for those very kind words, thank you, there is nothing more to say.

13. Recommendation for the 2018/19 President

On behalf of the Council, John Kirk proposed the appointment of Mrs Elizabeth Russell as President for 2018/19. Seconded by Terry Court; carried by show of hand, no objections, no abstentions. The retiring President presented Mrs Russell with the Chain of Office; Mrs Russell presented Mr Ifor Lloyd with the Past president's Badge. President Elizabeth Russell took the Chair for the remainder of the meeting.

President Russell - Fellow Members and Guests

To many it still feels strange to have an AGM without Dr Wynne being present. He is a legend in his own lifetime and he sadly lost his life partner on 3rd April. There is a saying that every successful man has a good woman behind him. Ruth was such a warm person and generous hostess welcoming everyone to their home with no reference to her ailments. She complimented Wynne perfectly. Anyone who visited Ceulan would be amazed at the library: art gallery: collection of all things relating to the Welsh Breeds not to mention their desire to share and give of these treasures. Our thoughts are with Wynne, David and Jane and their grandchildren. The future will be different.

It is to the future that we must look as a Society. There have been some queries about the Young Judges competition for 2018 which is being led by the Chair of Judging and Showing and will be held at Malvern on the usual day prior to the National Welsh Show, on Saturday 4th August in a similar format to previous years. I do hope there will be plenty of support to encourage our young.

During the Society's 117 years three Scots – all ladies – have had the huge honour and privilege to be standing in the role of President. Teresa Smalley in 1986, Gladys Dale in 1991 who took her AGM to Edinburgh, and myself. So, a date for your diary is Saturday 30th March 2019 at the Crowne Plaza on Clydeside in Glasgow. It is adjacent to many sites – the SSE Hydro for a raving Concert – the Scottish Exhibition Centre and excellent art

galleries and museums and oh did I forget to mention good shopping! There is a good selection of hotels close by to accommodate all budgets. Information will be available.

Not only do we have a toe tapping band but also much humour and laughter in store. Glasgow is the home of dry humour washed down with whiskey and the venue is close to the new Clydeside Distillery.

Saturday 30th March 2019 is Brexit weekend. As we leave the EU, we go out to embrace the world – this has to be the course for the Society as well and one for which we are well placed with 80% of our members outside of Wales. I have every confidence that this we shall achieve this with our enthusiastic and talented young - so ably displayed at last night's concert – together with our passion for our wonderfully versatile ponies and cobs, it will see us through. So, thank you all, I look forward to my year.

14. Appointment of President Elect for 2018/2019

President Russell invited Sarah Case from MHA Broomfield Alexander to announce the President-Elect for 2018/19.

Ms Sarah Case – On behalf of MHA Broomfield Alexander Ltd being the appointed scrutineers of the election of President-Elect for 2018/19 I can confirm that we have examined the 459 voting papers as returned to us as of 31st March 2018. Of the 459 voting papers 455 were accepted and 5 were rejected. I therefore declare that the valid votes cast for each candidate was as follows

Mr B Foster 244

Mr GJ Berry 210

President Russell invited President-Elect Foster to say a few words and was informed that he was happy to accept the nomination but had sent his apologies.

15. Report on the election of five members to serve on the Council for three years 2018-2021

The President asked that, before the Scrutineers' report on the elections, all successful Trustees and current Trustees go to The Conwy Room after the AGM to collect relevant paperwork and for a very short Council meeting to appoint the Chair and Vice Chair of Council and the Chair of Finance. She invited Sarah Case of MHA Broomfield Alexander to present the Scrutineers' Report and announce the five successful candidates for the three year term and the one for the two year term.

Ms Sarah Case – Once again on behalf of MHA Broomfield Alexander, being the duly appointed scrutineers for the election of the five plus one council members for the period 2018-2021, I confirm that we have examined the 551 voting papers returned to us as at the 23 March 2018. Of the 551 voting papers received, 543 were accepted and 8 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:

The first five for the three-year term are:

Mr JE Evans 335

Mr GW Jones 331

Mr JP Parry 308

Mr C Thomas 301

Miss D Chamber 259

The votes for the one two year term:

Mr AJG Williams 249

To ensure the accuracy of the ballot, we confirm that the valid voting papers have been checked, as have the total votes allocated to each individual candidate.

16. Any Other Business

President Russell invited questions for any other business and that trustees could respond at a later date if necessary.

- (a) **Q: Nia Roberts (NR)** Heolas Stud. In light of Council being pro-active regarding openness and transparency, I would like to know their views and that of the members from the floor with regards to current serving Council Members either proposing or seconding candidates to serve as Trustees on Council or for Honorary positions.

A: Colin Thomas (CT) We have looked at the Articles and through previous minutes and there is nothing there to say the Council can't do this. I can't find anything in the minute's book although I have not been right the way back. There is nothing in the articles to say we can't propose or second candidates.

NR I do think it is morally wrong in many respects because as membership things changed a few years ago where the membership were given the rights to nominate, and different things, and to vote and I think some of these rights have been taken away and people who are in the position of trustees now, I just think there is a conflict of interest personally.

CT Can you just detail anybody who has proposed or seconded this year?

NR responded that it is not fair to ask her to put herself in the position of naming somebody

CT I do not know of anyone who has proposed and was just asking the question

NR there is a Council member this year who has proposed or seconded, I cannot remember which it is

CT I certainly haven't, is there any Council member who would like to respond?

John Kirk (JK) Are you saying you are not happy with the current format, that trustees can put people forward, to second someone?

NR I do feel there is conflict of interest when you are in that position as a trustee I think it should be left to the membership to propose and second for these positions

CT I'll tell you what we'll do, at the first Council meeting we will address that and we will come back with a decision, we'll respond directly to you

- (b) **Q: Owen Griffiths (OG)** Keeping up with the theme of conflict of interest, regarding a point raised in the October 2017 Council meeting, "Council to have a role in the selection of Royal Welsh Show judges". It would be the view of many that such an involvement has potential for a clear conflict of interest, between those judges proposed and the members of Council making the proposal. My question is two fold: whether this proposal was successful or not is immaterial but where does the Council's role in the selection of judges fit within the Society's aims and objectives? Secondly, to maintain the integrity of the Society, what mechanisms did Council have in place when making such a proposal to avoid conflict of interest and to prevent proposals being constructed for personal gain?

A: JK What was taken to the Royal Welsh, it was voted against by the Royal Welsh, that the Society has no input into the selection of judges for the Royal Welsh Show but in its place we had that a Council member cannot be put forward to judge at the Royal Welsh Show.

OG Ok, thanks for your response, but to take this further, the outcome is immaterial really, it is the principle I am questioning: putting such a proposal to the Royal Welsh to me implies there is a certain ulterior motive here for personal gain. Council are writing the rules, they are regulating the rules, then

they can select the judges and they can be competing, there is no break in this cycle, there is no independence at all, it is for your gain really.

JK It is not going forward so that is the end of it.

OG I am still questioning the principle, the reason behind it

CT When we set that out in Council it was proposed and seconded that no Council member judges at the Royal Welsh Show and with the selection process at the Royal Welsh they probably would not be able to judge for two years afterward.

OG What prevents Council selecting a best friend outside of Council from judging?

JK We will take it to our next meeting, there is nothing really to discuss here.

- (c) **Q:** Mrs Reipen (MR) We have heard several times that the Welsh Pony and Cob should go more international but I'm originally German and I have lived in Wales for fifteen years but every time I go to Holland or Belgium the support of the Society for foreign members is really bad. Its regarding registrations, the other side of it is the payment of the membership, if from their side they do not make the effort to pay they lose the membership and I think the Society loses a lot of money this way. Can we get a Euro account in one of these countries so people can pay or make it easier? There should be one person on Council only in charge of international members because when we say how many registrations they do, how many stallion licenses, it would be minimum double if we can make it easier. Every year there are a lot of German breeders who would like to register with the Society, beside that we have the Brexit, it is so difficult if they get a letter in English, all not so familiar with the language. I think it should be easier for international customers because we are all selling abroad. We should treat the international breeders and customers much better.

A: **JK** thanked MR for making the point. He said it is a valid point and will be taken notice of and Council will do its best to make it as simple as possible to encourage the overseas.

MR The international person needs to look after them as at the moment we have got Council members, in charge of the international societies, but no-one is really in charge of looking after the breeders, that means at first in Europe.

David Roberts (DR) For the past twelve months I have been Chair of the International Committee, travelling abroad three or four or five times, attended the international show and I am doing as much as I can for the international breeders, our members, members the same as we are, and we are trying to embrace them as much as possible. I would like to announce that the International Show in 2021 has been awarded to Germany. I will try my best if I am selected as Chair and will do as much as possible for you.

17. Annual Collection

The President announced that this year's collection at the close of the meeting would be for the Air Ambulance Service and to please be generous.

Close of AGM

A final reminder that those wishing to have photographs taken to remain behind after the meeting, the attendance book to be signed, newly elected trustees to attend the short Council meeting and the dinner has been brought forward to 6.30 for 7.00pm.

The President thanked everyone for attending the AGM and, there being no further business, closed the meeting at 3.15 pm.