

# **The Welsh Pony and Cob Society**

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Members held at Crowne Plaza,  
Congress Road, Glasgow  
at 1.30 pm on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> March 2019**

## **Present**

The President, Mrs Elizabeth Russell, and 174 members who attended the meeting. An attendance book disappeared and therefore an accurate figure for members cannot be given.

## **In Attendance**

Claire Thompson, MHA Broomfield Alexander, Bethan Walsh, Geldards, and Rob Allen, taking the minutes.

After a delay, whilst the hall was re-set for the number of people attending and proxy votes were registered, the President welcomed everyone to her home city and declared the meeting open at 2.15pm.

The President detailed the fire evacuation procedure: that the meeting was being audio-recorded and asked if there were any objections, there were none. She asked if anyone was making their own recording and no-one responded. Members were asked to turn off mobile phones, or to put on silent, and to sign the attendance books. Members receiving awards were asked to remain at the close of the AGM for photographs. The President said there were roving microphones. Members were asked to wait to receive one before speaking and to introduce themselves so that their contribution can be attributed in the minutes. She asked if there were any objections from the membership to non-members attending, representing proxy votes or accepting awards. There were no objections.

The President introduced Claire Thompson from MHA Broomfield Alexander, Bethan Walsh from Geldards and Rob Allen taking the minutes. She advised members how to enter the Argyle Suite for the evenings Dinner Dance with a drink's reception commencing at 7pm.

## **1. Apologies**

Taken as read. Apologies were noted from one of the candidates for President-Elect, Mr CR Davies, trustee Daydre Chambers and Mrs E Mansfield Parnell.

## **Obituaries**

The President noted that regrettably members have passed away this year however these would not be named individually. The Society extended its sympathy to families and friends of all departed members and the Annual General Meeting was asked to stand as a mark of respect.

## **2. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 7 April 2018**

The President asked the floor for any corrections to the minutes.

Page 5

insert Colin Tibbey

Page 7

the name of the person presenting to be inserted

Page 10, item 14 the election results are missing

Page 10, item 15 the election results are missing

At this point it became clear there were two versions of the minutes in the hall, sent out on two occasions with one version stating the election outcomes for items 14 and 15. The ones sent out by post are the correct version whilst the ones in the hall are the incorrect version. Mrs Nia Roberts said that if the minutes are not correct, and members do not have the correct version, then they cannot be approved. President Russell said she would tend to agree that the minutes could not be approved, however it was pragmatic to rectify corrections and she promised she would not sign the minutes until they had been corrected. Mrs Roberts disagreed as there were further issues arising

Page 10, item 16 Mrs Nia Roberts stated that she had raised a question in 2018 and identified a grammatical error for correction. She stated that she had not asked who had proposed or seconded as she did not wish to be personal, but that Colin Thomas had asked her. Colin Thomas agreed that he had. Mrs Roberts also said that the response was that her question would be raised in Council. However, twelve months on she has had no correspondence. Colin Thomas said that it had been discussed in Council and she should have received correspondence and if the office administration had not done so he could only apologise. The President confirmed this will be addressed.

Page 10, Mr Owen Griffiths, said that, in the question he raised last year, the minute records November 17 when in fact he said October 17, that he had thanked John Kirk, and that the last sentence needs to be completed.

The President said that the professional scribe in 2018 had had difficulties with the recording and the accents. Mrs Nia Roberts asked why the minutes had not been checked against the recording. The President said that they were checked but there were difficulties with sound quality. She went on to say that for today's meeting the recording is being made on two different recording processes.

A contributor (off mic) asked for all members to receive a copy of the corrected minutes in the post and not just posted online. The President was unable to commit the Society to do this but said the minutes would be corrected.

Mr Euros Llyr Morgan identified two further omissions. The Young Ambassador speech was missing and the speech made by his father for the retiring President. President Russell said that her speech was missing too, that there were huge omissions and the Society had had great difficulty with the minutes.

(Name not stated) asked if the corrected 2018 AGM minutes could be sent out prior to the forthcoming EGM and approved at the EGM rather than being approved today. The President asked the membership if they would be happy to receive a corrected copy to be passed at the EGM. She requested a show of hands.

(Name not stated) objected as a date and time for the EGM had not been announced to the membership so how can members vote for minutes to be ratified at a meeting when they do yet have a date and time. Also, how do they know whether they can attend the meeting or not.

President-Elect Brian Foster said that this would be spoken on later as he is not formally the President at this stage of the AGM. He does have notes on the subject but it would not be right to speak on this now and members will have a chance later in the meeting. He noted that there are two sets of minutes, the recording was not correct and the President's speech is missing so he expressed concern whether members will ever have a correct set of minutes.

Bethan Walsh clarified that members are not going to be voting on the 2018 AGM minutes due to the omissions. She clarified that what is being discussed is that members will be able to vote on them at the next general meeting and not on when that meeting is going to be or whether they can attend that meeting or not.

Mrs Dania Leyson asked for clarification that the membership feel they cannot pass these minutes because they are incorrect. She asked President-elect Foster if he means the next AGM which he will be President of. Members have not yet received notification of a general meeting. President Russell stated the minutes would be ratified at the next general meeting, whether at an AGM or an EGM it will be a general meeting of the Society. Mrs Leyson was concerned that the 2018 minutes, if carried to 2020, would be two years on. President Russell asked that the meeting be allowed to continue so members can hear more about the plans to hold a general meeting.

Mr Sandy Anderson asked who verified the 2018 minutes as he felt it was shocking and he would have expected all Council members who are responsible for these going out to have read them. Anybody who would have read them would have seen the grammatical errors and it is not acceptable that these came out. President Russell agreed and stated that this is the reason why the minutes are not to be approved in this meeting. She did not know who had produced them or why there are two separate sets of minutes. She asked for the membership to help the Society fill in the gaps. The grammatical errors are careless, the members have raised issues, the content is important, and it is possible to produce a more complete set of minutes.

Mrs Nia Roberts questioned why the Society paid a professional minute taker from Conwy County Council to take the minutes, yet they are not accurate. The tape is not correct so there is something amiss here. Mr Dilwyn Roberts confirmed that he had passed a name of a person to the office to take the minutes, that that person was not an employee of Conwy County Council, but that person had changed their mind. The Society office found a replacement. He did not know until the end that the original person was not doing it.

Chair of Council Mr Colin Thomas addressed the meeting. He has listened to the tape, he had realised there were omissions from himself in the minutes, and he verified that the recording was such poor quality that he was unable to make head nor tail of it. Unless the recording can be enhanced the Society will not be able to progress with it. Mrs Roberts made the point that if the tape is bad quality and the short-hand minutes are inaccurate then the membership will never be able to accept the minutes no matter how many meetings. Mr Thomas said he was unable to decipher any of the recordings.

When asked by a member if members could hear the recording President Russell offered for members to do so if they can discern more from the recordings. She asked the members if the meeting could move on.

Mrs Sonia Mindt asked that if the President is agreeing the minutes are incorrect why did she not read them? The President confirmed she had read them. Mrs Mindt asked if anyone else had read them. Mr Thomas said yes, he had read them and noticed the errors, that was why he had listened to the tape. When queried on the arrangements for the recording for this AGM the President confirmed the room had been professionally sound checked and the same issues will not arise again, that the Society will not claim the recording is inaudible for this AGM and to her recollection this is the first time this has ever happened. Mr Thomas said he had read the minutes; he knew they were wrong but that it is for the membership here today to put right and this meeting to decide what to do.

The President again proposed that a printed copy is mailed to every member with the next general meeting notification, whenever this is going to be.

Mr Sandy Anderson asked is it not the Council that approves the minutes as the membership receives them 11 months after the meeting. Surely trustees are looking at these for weeks after the meeting. He felt ashamed of being a member of the Society if it cannot get simple things like this right. At least 9 people have read the minutes and it should have been 15 at the time. This is unacceptable. The President said, to her understanding, that the first-time trustees of the Council saw the draft minutes it was in September or October 2018. She stated that it is an administrative process and all in the room will be aware that the Societies administrative processes have not been clever and need to improve.

(Name not stated) asked why the Council did not see the minutes until this time and why not within weeks of the meeting when still fresh in the mind. If the recordings were poor, why not contact the members who had contributed to ask them what they had said whilst they could still remember.

At this point the President read out part of her speech which she had prepared for the end of her period as President:

Some 18 months ago, on the advice of our professional advisors, Council took some bold and difficult decisions. We all know that we must cut our cloth according to our means. This resulted in a complete re-organisation of the office, the office was more than halved. This was not easy for staff, council or for members. Despite the difficulties, misinterpretations, skill and knowledge shortages, the administration ticked on but did become completely overwhelmed around September/October with the 2018 registrations pushing turnaround to approximately 8 and a half weeks. However, by the run up to Christmas, under new administration, this was reduced to the level of 96% completion within the timelines.

Every one of the Council members and every one of the staff since then have put their shoulder to the wheel so that now the turnaround is within days. No one denies that things were in a bit of a pickle. But staff and Council have worked together to improve efficiencies and are a much stronger and cohesive group. All of this despite huge public criticism and very little thanks.

The President said she had prepared this speech as she was fully aware as to how distressing it is for members when they do not receive answers within a reasonable timeframe or when they receive information that is incorrect.

Mrs Claire Willis-Burton said she was a little bit shocked that the Council was allowing the Chair of the AGM to take the flak. She stated that the President is chairing the meeting and should not be answering questions, it is up to members of Council. This is the Presidents day.

President Russell responded that it is the members day, as it was when she was on Council, and it is a democratic organisation. It is the members' organisation, and members have the pragmatic process to deal with. The reality is that the office cannot change immediately. Change is slow and it is painful. To be fair to Council they took some seriously difficult decisions, they took decisions that many Councils prior to them knew would have to be taken but they did not as it was too awkward, they didn't like to do it or there was not enough continuity and nobody likes change. The President went on to assure members that she had had an interesting two-year period, as President-elect and as President, and the administration in the office is finally getting itself sorted out. She felt that members have a choice of continuing to punch at the core of people who are genuinely trying to do their best and in doing so they will destroy the Society. The Society is a very wonderful organisation and it has been an exceedingly important part of all our lives.

Again, the President asked the members to allow the meeting to move onto the next agenda items, on the agreement that, as far as possible, the minutes will be rectified, and will be sent to every member on the next occasion of a general meeting notice.

Mrs Tracy Hook identified a further two corrections:

Page 10 the name of the person answering Mrs Reipen to be inserted

Page 11 the name needs to be inserted

Mrs Caroline Nelson proposed the motion and the President asked for a seconder.

Mrs Nia Roberts objected. How can the membership accept the minutes when they have spent the last half an hour debating, they cannot be accepted? President Russell responded to say that the Society is attempting to put forward a proper pragmatic process so it can move on. She repeated that the proposal is that the 2018 minutes will be corrected and when the next general meeting posting goes out, they will be sent to every member. Mrs Nelson confirmed she was the proposer. Seconded by Hazel Galbraith. Concern was expressed (off mic) that this proposal has already been voted upon however the President clarified that there had been other issues debated in the meantime. She asked for a show of hands. The proposal was carried with no objections.

(Name not stated) asked how would the membership know if they are correct next time? The President responded they will be corrected as much as they can be: there are people who have volunteered to listen to the tapes: there have been a lot of constructive comments; Euros Llyr Morgan and herself have some of the

omissions; and this time the spelling and the punctuation will be correct. It is time to move onto the next agenda item.

Mr Stuart Franklin interjected to ask if members were happy with this. President Russell clarified that no-one had voted against the proposal so it has to be taken as read that this will be done, and members will need to take her word that this will be done.

### **3. Correspondence**

There was no correspondence.

### **4. To receive and approve the Audited Balance Sheets and Accounts for year ended 31 December 2018**

The Chair of Finance and Human Resources, Mr Geraint Davies, presented the audited accounts for the year ending 31 December 2018, including the balance sheet and profit and loss account.

Lady President, fellow members, on behalf of Council I present to you the audited accounts for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018 which includes the balance sheet and profit and loss account. During the financial year an operating loss of £38K was made. This is in keeping with the previous 4 years where operating losses varied between £25K and £38K. However, unlike previous years, an investment loss of £81k was generated. This was a trend seen throughout the markets due to volatility with the U.S. Federal Reserve. I am pleased to report that in the first 10 weeks of 2019 we have more than made up for the losses in the last 2 months of 2018. With any investments they have to be judged over a 10-year period and during that time the growth on our investments has been 120%. (In my report last year, I did warn that our 2018 investments would not be as lucrative as in previous years). One of the main contributory factors for the operating loss were legal fees of £25K as opposed to £3,500 in the previous year. In last year's report I advised that the legal fees would be higher in 2018 as Geldards were guiding us through the General Data Protection Regulation and were drawing up a new contract for the database.

The breakdown of Geldards legal bill is as follows: -

Governance	£1154
Updating Judges Agreement	£2060
Privacy Policies	£2213
GDPR	£2350
IT Contracts	£7376
Disputes	£9987

It is worth noting that our auditors deal with several charities and we are the only charity who are involved in disputes with members. Sadly, this has been an ongoing problem with the Welsh Pony and Cob Society with previous disputes having ended in the High Court. In 2012 the legal bill for pursuing unsuccessful legal challenges against three well respected members of the Society was far higher than the bill in 2018.

Another reason for the operating loss was the need to bring in agency staff to cover for staff who were on the sick. It takes a while to bring new staff up to speed learning on the job. We lost an outstanding Company Secretary and Office Manager as a result of them being subjected to intolerable behaviour. Agency staff were also brought in to manually transfer information on to the Central Equine Database.

Other areas of spend in 2018 which will benefit the society in the long term are:

New Broadband  
New Website  
New Telephone Exchange  
New Energy Efficient Lighting System

I shall comment on the Balance Sheet on Page 14 of the accounts where assets less liabilities stand at £1,802,030 as opposed to £1,921,550 in 2017. The market value of our investments has gone up slightly to £1,290,619 (previous £1,282,913). The portfolio is based on medium risk investments and it is hoped that it will be able to subsidise our core business in 2019. The Finance and H.R. committee meets annually with the chosen investment company to review what an important element of income it is for the society. I will read out a report from the investment provider Investec.

(Reading from a letter from Investec dated 18 March 2019) A basic breakdown is as follows:

The investments are for the long term i.e. at least a three-year time horizon. Short term volatility is just a distraction and can often give misleading results. Over the last 10 years (1<sup>st</sup> January to date) I have increased the portfolio value by 119% if this is repeated over the next ten years (no guarantees of course), I will make WPCS around £1.6 million in profit.

The portfolio went down by 5.1% in 2018 but we have already made that back (plus a tiny bit more) as we are plus 5.2% so far in 2019. The performance has very little to do with Brexit. It is the US interest rates policy that is more important.

Like all breed societies the Welsh Pony and Cob Society has had to endure further financial turbulence and has seen a drop-in membership and registrations although the income in 2018 is only £160 less than the previous year. Unfortunately, the decrease in numbers of registrations is a trend that is expected to continue.

Designated funds for 2019 include:

New IT System  
Covered Area to House Exhibition Unit

An Educational Bursary of £1000 has been awarded to Huw Williams and we wish him well with his studies.

We are liaising with our auditors about increasing our income via Gift Aid so please continue to sign the Gift Aid Form.

I, on behalf of the Finance and Human Resources standing committee, would like to thank Rob, Hannah and all the staff for their hard work and dedication during the year. We will not tolerate any unacceptable behaviour towards our staff. Like many similar organisations we have found that costs continue to rise and it is vital that the Society continues to monitor its income against expenditure making savings when it can and securing best value when committing funds. The main risks the Society faces are external and beyond its control namely Brexit, US Federal Reserve and the setting up of a single PIO.

I would like to thank our Finance Officer Chris Hodgson for his sterling work, my Vice Chair Peter Morgan for his support. I will really miss you Peter and wish you all the best in your retirement from Council. Thanks also to our auditors Sarah Case and Claire Thompson from MHA Broomfield Alexander. Also, a special mention to our extremely hard-working Chair Colin Thomas and his Vice Chair Wyn Jones. On a happier note the late Miss Thelma Carter from Ludlow has left her entire estate to the Welsh Pony and Cob Society subject to final probate which will be confirmed by her solicitors. May I thank and congratulate our outgoing President Elizabeth Russell and welcome our new President Brian Foster.

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

Mrs Emma Launder referred to the decline in members and registrations but also the decline in people riding and owning horses, over a period of the last five years. Is there anything the Society can do to change this? The demographic, not represented in Council, is women over 45 who want coloured cobs and not of any other breed. Should the Society not be promoting what Welsh Cobs and Part-Breds are doing? It is not actually being represented and maybe then the Society will start getting an increase in membership again.

Mr Davies agreed with Mrs Launder. The Society has not been doing well on the promotion front, it is a target for 2019 and it hopes to improve promotions. Mrs Tracy Hook said that as a past trustee she competed for quite a few years under saddle in all disciplines with Welsh cobs, section A's as first ridden, section B's, C's and D's, and Welsh part-breds. She said that she rides a coloured now but is not going to stand and justify why she rides a coloured, but she does. During her time on Council, as far as she is concerned, the promotion of the performance animals was to the forefront and a lot of work was done about the performance area. She does think that sometimes it does not always come down to the trustees to promote the animals. The competing members as Ambassadors should do their bit as well.

Mrs Hazel Galbraith asked for clarification of how the young peoples restricted funds are spent and who makes the decisions. Mr Davies responded that the Young Ambassador has a mentor, a funding request is given to the mentor who takes it to the Finance and Human Resources (FHR) standing committee and usually the committee passes the request. Mrs Galbraith was satisfied that the young people are raising the money and then having a say in how the money is spent. She asked Council if they would be prepared to accept ideas from members as to what money could potentially be spent on for example the Young Judges Competition which she is involved in. Mr Davies thanked her for running this and suggested she write to the

Chair of FHR and it will be discussed. He said that all suggestions will be taken on board.

Mr Davies moved to propose adoption of the balance sheets and accounts: proposed by Ivor Lloyd, seconded by Emma Edwards. Carried by show of hands. No objections; no abstentions. Mr Steve Everitt asked about the proxy votes. These were announced by Claire Thompson as 179 in favour and 21 against. The motion was carried.

## **5. To appoint MHA Broomfield Alexander as the Society's Auditors**

Mr Geraint Davies moved to propose the appointment of MHA Broomfield Alexander as the Society's auditors for 2019, seconded by Mike Daley. There was a show of hands, no objections, no abstentions. Claire Thompson read out the proxy votes of 152 for and 2 against. The motion was carried.

## **6. To receive the Report of the Chair of Council**

Mr Colin Thomas, Chair of Council, read his report:

President Elizabeth Russell, trustees and honorary officers, ladies and gentlemen. I have been honoured to be elected from Vice Chair to Chair of Council for the last few weeks. I would like to thank Wyn Jones who has stepped into the Vice chairs role and has been a great support since. The feedback from the publication of the 2018 Journal has been extremely positive and I thank trustees, staff, honorary officers, contributors and volunteers for ensuring that the membership receives this very popular publication. We have completed another Stud Book, and this is with the printers.

The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) continues to cause a lot of work for staff who have to be watchful at all times. Any failures could bring substantial financial penalties and reputational harm for the Society. I have been assured by Anna Goodwin that our new website will be up and running in approximately 4 to 6 weeks' time. We have been contacted by MFG Solicitors, of Ludlow, acting for the estate of the late Miss Thelma Carter from Ludlow and they say, in brief, that the will states that the estate is to be used for horse welfare by The Welsh Pony and Cob Society and if sold would have to go to another society for that purpose. This is still in the probate stage.

Over the past few weeks and months some parts of the membership have vented their anger and concerns at the Welsh Pony and Cob Society towards the trustees and staff. I can see that members are asking to be heard and that their concerns need to be addressed. However, the Society is not prepared to accept bullying behaviour, either towards its trustees or its staff. The trustees are voted on by the membership under the Articles of Association and the staff are recruited using the Societies recruitment policies. Neither trustees nor staff deserves to be treated with disrespect in the same way I would not expect them to be disrespectful to the members. As you will be aware the Society has received a petition calling for a General Meeting. Although the petition was not a valid requisition at the time it was received the trustees of the Council decided that a General Meeting should be

called. I believe that the Society does need to consult with its members, and I would like to see more members putting themselves forward as trustees and voting for those who do. Brian Foster will be announcing details of the General Meeting being called by the Society shortly.

In the past year 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 remind members that this policy is internal to the Welsh Pony and Cob Society; it is not mandated by the Welsh Government. Since I have been Chair, I have had the staff under-take an audit into how the DNA process is carried out and to see what lessons can be learnt. To date 82 Passports have failed to meet the DNA testing of mares which is required after their first pure bred foal is eligible for registration in the stud book. I have been assured by Hannah that some of these numbers were dating back before she commenced her employment with the WPCS. I have been informed that a high percentage of the 82 anomalies have been resolved. Investigations are still ongoing and members this Council will make sure that we make every effort to rectify any mistakes. The research is taking a two-pronged approach: firstly, looking at DNA profiling by consulting with experts and secondly reviewing the business case and in particular the costs to the Society and the membership.

On conclusion of this research the findings will be fully relayed to the membership as part of a consultation. The DNA testing policy will be an agenda item at the General Meeting.

I would like to thank the chairs and trustees of each committee for their work. In particular, I would like to thank our Chair and Vice of Finance and Human Resources (Geraint and Peter) who have worked through some very difficult times. Thank you. Whether I am voted back into the Chair or not, I will work with fellow trustees to fulfil the aims of the Welsh Pony and Cob Society. I would like to thank the commitment and dedication of our Honorary Veterinary Surgeon and Welfare Officer Roland Michell; Young Judges competition organisers Michelle Spoor and Hazel Galbraith and Young Ambassador Euros Lyr Morgan and his successor Catryn Reed. I have also noticed through feedback of the excellent work that the Young People have undertaken over the year. What a wonderful sight to see the Young People's section and the Young Peoples Gallery in the 2019 Journal, we need to support them and their parents for their dedication and hard work.

Also, a vote of thanks to the Society's volunteers who have again contributed to the Society. The Area Associations for their ongoing support, the Council greatly appreciate the work that you do to promote the breed. I would also like to thank Jo Filmer and her Committee for their sterling work with the Performance awards.

Trustees, honorary officers and volunteers are a crucial part of the working of the Society, but of course, so are our staff that have faced difficult periods over the last year, thank you to each and every one of you. I would like to sincerely thank our President Elizabeth Russell for her sterling work over the past year - Brian has had a very positive input and I and the Board congratulate and offer him best wishes for the coming year. Thank you.

I would like to say a heartfelt thank you to the retiring trustee Peter Morgan who has been a very good trustee. Finally - The members have a wonderful Society, although derogatory remarks on social media about members, judges and Council,

in my view, does the name of the Society no good whatsoever. Just think how lucky we are to have the finest breed in the World.

I hope I have helped reassure you on behalf of Council that we work in the interest and impartially for the members. Our actions may not always be popular – indeed we do not seek popularity. But we take our role extremely seriously and we do our utmost to fulfil it responsibly and fairly. Diolch yn fawr. Thank you.

## **7. To receive recommendations from Council for Honorary Life Members, Honorary Vice-Presidents and Other Awards**

The Chair of Council, Colin Thomas, announced the awards and President Russell made the presentations.

Once again members had been provided with the opportunity to nominate members for honorary awards with those receiving 75% of Council's support being presented with an award. The Society had two Honorary Vice-President awards this year. The first to be recommended for the approval of the Annual General Meeting, was the appointment of Mr DR Higgins of the Tireinon Stud as an Honorary Vice President. Proposed by Ivor Lloyd, seconded by Mr Geraint Jones, no objections, no proxy votes, carried by a show of hands. Mr Higgins was invited to the stage and trustee Mr Daniel Morgan gave a brief resume.

It gives me great pleasure once again this year to introduce members of the Society who have given their all for the good of the Society and its ponies and cobs. The first person to receive the award is Mr Roy Higgins of the famous Tireinon Stud. Mr Higgins is a very well-known and respected breeder and judge of the Welsh Cobs. He has been a life member of the Society for over 60 years. Probably the most famous of Mr Higgins' Welsh cobs was the chestnut daughter of Cathedine Pride namely Tireinon Spring Song which was not only a beautiful show mare but produced an array of champions from different stallions over the years. Two famous and successful stallions stood at the Derwen Stud namely Tireinon Confidence and Tireinon Step-On. Mr Higgins has judged at all major shows including the Royal Welsh in 1984. Mr Higgins is a true gentleman of the old school of Welsh cob breeding and we feel he is more than justified for this honour of Vice President.

The second recommendation for the approval of the Annual General Meeting was the appointment of Mrs KA Jones of the Frongoch Stud as an Honorary Vice President. Proposed by Mrs Mary Jones, seconded by Mrs Tracy Hook, no objections, no proxy votes, carried by a show of hands. Mrs Jones was invited to the stage and Mr Morgan gave a brief resume.

The second recipient of this Honorary Vice President award is Mrs Ann Jones of Frongoch Stud. Ann has been a member of the Society since 1974 establishing the Frongoch Stud at that time and only producing two or three foals a year. It is incredible what she has achieved with such prolific success with Frongoch stock over the years. Quality over quantity was her motto. Without doubt the highlight of breeders is to produce a Royal Welsh champion. The dream became a reality in 2007 when the famous bay stallion Frongoch Cardi was proclaimed male champion

and the story does not end there because Cardi has produced two further Royal Welsh champions. Firstly, Afan Ragtime Girl in 2016 and Frongoch Bachgen Bach, male champion at last year's Royal Welsh Show. Ann has been an ambassador for The Welsh Pony and Cob Society over the many years and has given freely of her time to assist many new breeders with her sound advice and has helped and guided many YFC judging teams. Ann has passed her love of Welsh ponies to her daughters Emma and Karen who are both equally passionate about the Welsh breeds and she has great pleasure in knowing that her young grandson Huw Emyr will be the third generation to continue breeding Frongoch ponies.

## **8. The Miss Brodrick Memorial Trophy 2019**

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. He had great pleasure in announcing that for 2019 the award is presented to Mr PL Edwards of the Maesgwyn Stud. He invited Mrs Pat Lewis to the stage to accept the award on Mr Edwards behalf and Mr Daniel Morgan to give a brief resume.

The Broderick Award is given annually to a person or animal that we feel has given more and beyond to promote the Society and its ponies. This year the award goes to Mr Lewis Edwards of the Maesgwyn Stud. Mr Edwards is well known to us all especially breeders of Section A's and mountain ponies. Lewis is a quiet, unassuming gentleman but has a wealth of knowledge in breeding Section A that is second to none. Maesgwyn Stud has produced champions galore with many becoming household names within the section. We are talking names of the calibre of Maesgwyn Highlight and the lovely Maesgwyn Skylight, champion A of the Royal Welsh 1997. The lovely mare Maesgwyn Highball was Royal Welsh champion in 2010. Also, at the 1995 Royal Welsh Show the Maesgwyn ponies won the Progeny Trophy with Maesgwyn Highlight Maesgwyn Humbug. Mr Edwards has exported ponies all over the world and has officiated and judged at all major shows including the Royal Welsh Show in 1996. The award this year goes to a true gentleman and a great ambassador of the hill ponies of Wales, Mr Lewis Edwards.

## **9. The Lifetime Achievement Award**

The Chair of Council announced that the Lifetime Achievement Award is a new award presented by Council to recognise outstanding achievement in the world of the Welsh Pony and Cob. He had great pleasure in announcing that for 2019 this award is presented to Mr Mike Daley of the Vale Stud. Whilst Mr Daley came to the stage to accept his award Mr Daniel Morgan gave a report.

It gives me great pleasure to introduce a person who has been a successful ambassador for the Society and its ponies over the years. We felt as a board of trustees that he is more than deserving of the award for lifetime achievement within the Society. This person is Mr Mike Daley. Mike joined The Welsh Pony and Cob Society in 1967. In his 52 years Mike has given dedicated service to the Society and the Welsh breeds including eight years' service as a trustee. He is an Honorary Vice President of the Society. However, Mike's name is synonymous with Cheshire Show now the Royal Cheshire show. It all started back in the spring of 1979 Cheshire show was under-going re-structuring. Mike was exercising a pony when the then secretary Morris Hollingshead stopped his car and called to Mike: "Welshman, I have

a job for you. Come around for a cup of tea and a piece of cake as I have something to discuss.” That was the start that has seen Cheshire develop into the biggest one day show of Welsh ponies and cobs in this country. Mike has always been conscious of the need to develop the young people, accommodating them at Cheshire with young handlers’ classes. He has also been a generous supporter of young judges and performance competition where the daily winner always receives a showing stick. Mike Daley is one of the Societies real characters. He is an immaculate dresser with an attention to detail and organisation skills that no doubt stem from a successful military background and something we continually put to good use. He never fails to give his opinion which is always well researched and unbiased.

He has supported the cause of the Welsh breeds for many, many years and never for personal gain. He has recorded many of the Societies achievements through the lens of his camera which he has generously shared especially in the annual Journal. Next year will mark Mike’s 40<sup>th</sup> year of guidance at Cheshire which makes this award all the more significant. It gives me great pleasure to invite Mike Daley to receive this award.

Mr Mike Daley responded that he did not recognise the person described. He has gone from strength to strength, but it is all down to the members of the Society. He invited members to come to Royal Cheshire where they will enjoy themselves.

### **Outgoing Young Ambassador**

The Chair of Council sincerely thanked the outgoing Young Ambassador, Euros Llŷr Morgan, for the two years of outstanding and exemplary service to the young people of The Welsh Pony and Cob Society and to the Society itself. The President presented him with the Past Ambassador badge of office, kindly sponsored by the Rhosbren Stud.

A short film was played, of two years in three minutes, followed by the outgoing Young Ambassador presenting his report:

Madam President, President Elect, Council and fellow members of our society. Diolch yn fawr iawn i chi am y croeso. Thank you for the warm welcome, it is lovely to see so many of you here up in Glasgow. Where shall I start? I have had the pleasure of serving our Society as Young Ambassador of the last 2 years. The time has flown by! My aim back in 2017 during Mrs French’s AGM was to try and share my passion and enthusiasm for the Welsh breeds with young people across the UK and beyond and to try and inspire others to run with their passions. I wanted to open the youth’s horizons to how versatile our breed is and how you can use a hobby, a passion, such as keeping these Welsh horses, to open numerous other doors.

Over the course of the 2 years I have had the pleasure of traveling around the country meeting the membership right across the UK, of all ages and backgrounds, whilst doing talks and presentations. This has to be one of my main highlights meeting people who share the same passion. The highlight was of course meeting the youth! We have some fantastic young people within our equestrian community. All who are passionate, and they all have their own inspiring story in one way or another. We have all had some negativity towards the Society in one way or

another but let's not cover the young people with that negativity as well. They are the future and we definitely have a fantastic team of core youngsters. The Society is definitely safe with our youngsters. You saw in the film there, back in 2016, the number of youngsters under 18. We were at the top of the twenties but by the end of last year we were up to 69 under 18's and this does not include those of us who were performing last time so all in all we are definitely in a strong position at the moment.

As well as wanting to share my passion with others I also wanted to try and promote the Young people and our Welsh breeds on as many platforms as I could. Many of you here today have been supporting us in our numerous concerts, events and performances over the 2 years. From Ystradgynlais to last year's AGM in Llandudno where around 325 people came to share the evening with us, to the NEC Arena in Birmingham and last night here in Glasgow. All of those experiences have been fantastic, all adding to the growth of the young people of our society. One of our young people described the young people group as "a family" and I totally agree with him. We are one tight knit group of youngsters from around 8 to 26 years old all sharing one passion.

My biggest project of all, and I have to say the biggest challenge, has been the horseshoe project. Starting off around a coffee table and with two horseshoes. A life size sculpture of a welsh cob totally made out of horseshoes of our welsh horses. I started off over the first couple of months with only a small bucket of shoes in the shed. I now have around 1600 shoes representing nearly every angle of our breed from each corner of the world. I have daily packages through the post containing shoes, some from as far as Australia. And I can't forget having the royal approval from our patron, her majesty the Queen, with herself sending down ten horseshoes. It didn't matter to me if the horse did not win the Royal Welsh or what it has done the fact is that each horse means something different to each person. It can be a pet or a Royal Welsh winner or from one of the biggest studs, they are all important as each other. This is what the Society is, remember this, and this sculpture really does symbolise the Society.

I am now very pleased to say that the sculpture will be placed on the Royal Welsh showground, on the bank overlooking the main ring in the heart of the Royal Welsh. And we will be unveiling the masterpiece on Monday of this year's show at 12pm and the young people will be performing with me. It would be great to see as many of you as possible around the main ring on the Monday of the show as I have a few added extras and surprises in store for the launching. We have raised £15,000 for the sculpture and all is not going into the funds of the Society.

We had a fantastic event at last year's AGM, Mr Lloyd's evening in Llandudno, and I was very fortunate that Mr Sandy Anderson from the Thistledown Stud was in the audience. He was impressed by the performers, he liked the clog dancing, and a quick chat and a few conversations over the next months progressed into the main performance at the finale of the Horse of the Year Show. We had a real celebration of the nation celebrating the traditions and talents of our youngsters amalgamating with the horses and hopefully everyone at HOYS was happy with it. Just seeing the happy faces of Noa and Jack, 10 and 11yrs old, walking out of the arena following performing and saying, "that was the best feeling ever!" really made all the hard work worth it.

I would like to finish off by thanking every one of you who has supported me over the last 2 years. I would be here all day if I was to name everyone, you all know who you are. But I have to give one very big thank you to the young people who have given all their energy to support me. We have been though quite a bit and I strongly believe that we need to treasure our youth. We have some fantastic youngsters within our Society, and I am confident to say that the future of our Welsh breeds is looking extremely prosperous. I congratulate Catrin the new Young ambassador and I am here to support you if you want. There is a message from your godparents Keith and Llinos Spencer who could not be here tonight wishing you all the best for the next year.

Diolch o galon I bawb. Looking forward to seeing the sculpture in July.

Mr Ifor Lloyd thanked the Chair of Council, Colin Thomas, for his service to the Society. He commented that the Chair travels almost daily to the office in Felinfach, at no charge, whilst his wife is unwell. A vote of thanks for both Colin Thomas and Euros Llyr Morgan resulted in a loud cheer from members.

### **Incoming Young Ambassador**

The Chair of Council invited Miss Catrin Reed to take up the office of Young Ambassador and to collect her badge and sash, sponsored by Colin Thomas of the Rhosbren Stud, and the Young Ambassador Harp kindly donated by Mr & Mrs Ifor Lloyd of the Derwen Stud. Miss Reed responded.

Madame President and fellow members, it gives me great pleasure to accept this Young Ambassador Award nine years after receiving the Young Achievers Award. I have been a member of The Welsh Pony and Cob Society for twenty-five years which shows the love and passion I have for the Welsh breeds. I was born a week after my grandfather had his Presidents dinner and AGM at Aberystwyth so technically, I can say I was there. I am the fifth generation of the Nebo and Tyngwndwn family being brought up and nurtured in this wonderful Society which has given me many opportunities and a wealth of experience: meeting fellow members and making lifelong friends; the opportunity to travel the world; and competing at county, national and international level. I have been showing since the age of four and having a little sister to compete against taught me the biggest lesson of all, it's more important to know how to lose than it is to win, although we all aim to win. Fortunately, I have been able to win locally, at the Royal Welsh, and at an international show. I have competed at the Horse of the Year Show and have had the chance to judge Welsh ponies and cobs both within the UK and abroad. Welsh pony and cob associations play a big part within the Society. I have successfully competed at the WPCS Young Judges Competition and I have been Ceredigion Association Secretary for the past five years. I have learnt a lot as a Secretary with minute taking, show organising and inviting guest speakers as well as having fun along the way with a great team of keen members. Young people are the future of this Society and my aim is to fill the room at Bronaeron with keen and enthusiastic individuals as it was many years ago when I first attended the meetings. I would also like to involve more of our younger members from abroad giving them the chance to communicate and to be more active in the Society. If social media is used in the right manner it is an effective way of communication and we as young people

are using it to its full potential using chat rooms to organise and discuss our meetings.

It has been great to work alongside Euros and past ambassadors at AGMs as well as various functions and meetings. I would like to personally thank Euros for all his hard work, it will be a difficult task to follow him. Diolch yn fawr i ti Euros. On my mothers' side of the family The Welsh Pony and Cob Society has always been their life.

When I was a child, I would rarely hear anything other than Society chat with Grandad serving on Council for various years followed by my mother who did a six-year term and I am sure it won't be long before she returns. I am extremely thankful to my grandparents, parents and Uncle Owen for all they have taught me over the years, for the experience and the knowledge I have gained. I would never have achieved this without their encouragement and support. I am really excited about this coming year and the chance to work alongside Mr Brian Foster and the current Council for the benefit of the Society and its young people. If any of you have any thoughts or ideas that we as young people can discuss and implement, please let me know. We would welcome your views and support as we look towards the future of this fantastic Society. Thank you very much for the honour bestowed upon me by The Welsh Pony and Cob Society. I will do my utmost to fulfil the role successfully. Diolch yn fawr.

### **Young Achiever's Award**

The Chair of Council introduced this award which recognises the achievements of young people in the Society. This year it was presented to Oliver White who received a certificate, badge and the Glyncoch Young Achiever's Trophy kindly sponsored by Mr & Mrs Pearce of the Glyncoch Stud.

### **Presentation of Other Awards**

#### **In-hand Sire Ratings Scheme 2018**

- Carnalw Cup A** Cwmhendy Buster 50728  
Mr G & Mrs M Parry received the trophy.
- Paddock Trophy B** Russetwood Elation 65529  
Mr & Mrs HS Davies received the trophy
- Saltmarsh Trophy C** Moorcroft the Master 71128  
Mr R Howard received the trophy.
- Hengwm Trophy D** Trevallion Hooch 45062  
Mr N Smith received the trophy.

#### **Performance Sire Ratings Scheme 2018**

- Tireve Trophy** Tynbryn Bobby Dazzler 29431  
Harness Driving JM Bennett
- Highland Cup** Ringstead Candi 43868  
Lead Rein/First Ridden Mr N Edwards & S Golding  
Trophy received by Mrs E French
- Llanarth Salver** Blanche Gwilym 52248  
Working Hunter Pony Mr SF Franklin

Sarah Russell who shows Gwilym stock received the trophy.

**Teifi Trophy** Russettwood Elation 65529  
Welsh Under Saddle Mr & Mrs HS Davies received the trophy.

### **Royal Welsh Sire Ratings**

The Chair of Council stated that the trophies remain at the Royal Welsh Agricultural Society and that winners can make an appointment to attend to have their photograph taken with the trophy.

**Gwyn Price Perpetual Trophy** Frongoch Cardi 54044  
Section A Mrs KA Jones received the trophy.  
Section A Reserve Criccieth Arwr 34659  
Miss R Wilson  
David Wilson received collected the trophy

**Nell Pennell Perpetual Trophy** Eyarth Beau Geste 50435  
Section B Waxwing Stud  
Section B Reserve – 1<sup>st</sup> Joint Moelview Masquerade 84220  
Waxwing Stud

Section B Reserve – 2<sup>nd</sup> Joint Paddock Rio 88691  
Mrs L Wilson  
Mr C Tibbey collected the trophy

**Synod Perpetual Trophy** Moorcroft The Master 71128  
Section C Mr R Howard received the trophy.  
Section C Reserve Parc Hebog 56536  
Mr WG Davies received the trophy

**Yeomans Perpetual Plaque** Danaway Tango 45657  
Section D Mr MT Attrell  
Mrs A Kember collected the trophy.  
Section D – Reserve Gwynfaes Culhwch  
The Evans Family received the trophy.

### **HOYS – Highest Placed Welsh Animal**

Section A Glebedale Mumbo Jumbo 78723  
Ms R Sharifi received the award  
Section B Carrwood Shimmering Gold 84690  
Ms L Glover received the award  
Section C Danwood Llewellyn 909997  
Mrs L Atkinson received the award  
Section D Dyffryngwy Sir Picasso 86760  
Miss EJ Boardman received the award  
Welsh Part Bred Rotherwood Rainmaker 9897  
Mr R Till received the award

### **Hoys Highest Placed Welsh in the following categories**

M&M Lead Rein	Thistledown Van-Der-Vaart 82129 Ms L Richardson Mr S Anderson collected the certificate
M&M First Ridden	Glebedale Mumbo Jumbo 87823 Ms R Sharifi received the certificate
WHP – Under 122cm Small	Blackhill Imogen 142934 Mrs LM Scott received the certificate
WHP – Under 133cm Medium	Glynceirch Amlyn 85567 Ms J Haywood Ms E Launder collected the certificate
WHP – Under 143 cm Large	Gwerniago Gethin 84851 Mr AB Bird received the certificate
WHP – Exc 143	Benuchel Bonheddiges 170376 Mrs L Roberts received the certificate

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

The Chair of Council announced that these trophies are awarded to the highest placed Welsh at the BSPS Mountain and Moorland Championships at Olympia.

<b>Mintfield Trophy</b> Section A	Thistledown San Siro Ms S Wilson received the trophy
<b>Moelgarnedd Trophy</b> Section B	Cadlanvalley Buzby Ms H Grota received the trophy
<b>Parc Trophy</b> Section C	Cargarsar Silver Phantom Ms S Dowdeswell Ms KH Payne collected the trophy
<b>Llanarth Braint</b> Section D	Dyffryngwy Sir Picasso Ms E Boardman received the trophy

### **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 2018.

<b>Section A</b>	Moelwyn Mojo 78382 Mrs HW Davies Mr T Florence collected the award
<b>Section B</b>	Haygate Prince John 93850 Mrs T Neal received the award
<b>Section C</b>	Synod Alfie Boe 94942 Mr & Mrs C Jones Mr D Morgan collected the award
<b>Section D</b>	Llwyngell Dewi Lloyd 81757 Mrs EW Edwards Mr D Roberts collected the award

## **National High Point Junior Gelding Awards**

These are awarded to the owners of those geldings receiving the highest points in each section.

The Section A award was kindly sponsored by the Sarum Stud.

**Section A – 1<sup>st</sup>** Lanesweet Sugar Smart 102384  
Mrs HM Lane received the rosette, plaque and £50 prize money.

The Section B awards are also kindly sponsored by the Sarum Stud

**Section B – 1<sup>st</sup>** Antsar Purple Reigh 102043  
Mrs HW Cornes & Mr PJ Cornes received the rosette, sash and £50 prize money.

**Section B – 2<sup>nd</sup>** Heugh Lancelot 102236  
Miss D Bain received the rosette, sash and £30 prize money

The Section C award is kindly sponsored by the Tremymor Stud and was presented by Mr G Jones

**Section C – 1<sup>st</sup>** Sangrug Stuart Little 100795  
Ms N Adams received the rosette, plaque and £50 prize money.

The Section D award is kindly sponsored by Mr Gwyn Jones of the Frongoch Stud

**Section D – 1<sup>st</sup>** Maesmynach Masterpiece 101511  
Mr ETE Davies  
Mrs N James, leasee, collected the 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 President Russell. The 2018 Supreme Champion was Maesmynach Masterpiece owned by Mr ETE Davies, the trophy collected by leasee Mrs N James.

## **Reserve Supreme Champion, National High-Point Junior Gelding Awards**

The rosette and sash was awarded to Mrs HW Cornes and Mr PJ Cornes for Antsar Purple Reign 102043.

## **Minmon Veteran Scheme 2018**

The rosette and sash for the 2018 Champion was awarded to Ffynnonbach Rose Marie and Miss Z Fell.

The rosette and sash for the 2018 Reserve Champion was received by Ms L Holland for Laithill Orsino and collected by Ms N McNeal.

## **Educational Bursaries**

For 2018 there was one educational bursary awarded to Mr Huw Williams for the purchase of books and journals. Mr Williams will be attending the Bioveterinary Science course at the University of Liverpool. During 2018 there were no awards made in the Young Peoples Group Scholarship Award.

### **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. For 2018 this was presented to the Section D Danaway Cracklin-Rose, Mr MT Attrell and collected by Mrs A Kember.

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

**Champagne Moment Trophy – Autumn Cob Sale** Mr JK Walters, Tyrllawn Stud, for the £45000 record breaking sale of Tyrllawn Rolls-Royce

**Champagne Moment Trophy – Fayre Oaks** Mr WB Davies, Talgoed Stud, for selling the last consignment with us after 40 years of supporting the Society Sales.

**The Brightwells 150<sup>th</sup> Perpetual Challenge Trophy** Miss H Bennett & Mr J David, Popsters Stud, for producing some of the top lots at our Autumn Sales

- Sarum Charlie £7000
- Thistledown Spring Melody £4500 at Fayre Oaks
- Popsters Storytime £4100 top price Section C foal at the Cob Sales

**The Brightwells Perpetual Award for the Highest Priced Brood Mare** Mr & Mrs O & RJ Bentley, Nantwood Stud, for Nantwood Georgia £4500

**The Highest Priced Foal Trophy** Messrs N & Smith, Trevallion Stud, for Trevallion Angelina £6000

**Downland Perpetual Trophy presented** Mr S Anderson, Thistledown Stud, for Bannut Precious

**In Memory of Mrs Kathleen Cuff for the highest Priced Section B at Fayre Oaks** Charm £2800

### **The Kentchurch Trophy for Welfare**

The Chair of Council announced that the Kentchurch Trophy goes to Mr Gareth Silcox who rescued horses during a severe flood and saved their lives. Mr Silcox was unable to attend and so the trophy was awarded earlier in the year.

### **Performance Show Supreme Champion**

It was announced that the Supreme Champion is awarded to the Section B Nantrhos Ferren, owned by Cethin Ravenhill. A picture of Nantrhos Ferren will be presented later in the Spring.

## **10. To receive the Report of the Society's Publicity Officer.**

The Chair of Council invited Mr Euros Llyr Morgan to make the publicity report on behalf of the Society.

2018 has been yet again another great year for the breed. The Royal Welsh show once again was a great success with a majority of the equine entries from our Welsh stud book. There was fantastic S4C live coverage from the Main Ring of the Welsh in-hand, ridden and driving classes broadcast across the UK on TV and for the world on the internet and social media. No other breed gets this amount of publicity within such a short period.

It has been very lucky for the breed for Welsh and regional TV with continuous repeats of Ceffylau Cymru where the Derwen Stud, Menai Ponies and Cobs, Ormond and Eyarth ponies success' have been broadcast only to name a few, not forgetting appearances throughout the year on the Welsh magazine programme 'Heno' and countryside series, 'Ffermio'.

At HOYS last year, Welsh ponies dominated the mini classes, 15 contesting the first ridden and 13 the lead rein classes. Thistledown Stud gained the stud of the year title, which is awarded to the stud gaining most points across the qualifying shows.

Last year's Show Pony Supreme was Thistledown Van-Der-Vart and he won the Mountain & Moorland Mini Pony of the Year this year as well with the Reserve Champion going to Thistledown Velvet Touch. Both the Champion and Reserve Champion of the Open Mountain & Moorland Ridden class were won by Welsh breeds. The Welsh breeds flag was flown once again at Olympia this year with the section B Cadlanvalley Buzby reserve in the mountain and moorland on the Sunday followed by the Welsh Cob Dyffryngwy Sir Picasso.

The breed hit the headlines across the UK on Welsh television, online and radio following the record breaking Brightwells autumn cob sales with the Welsh Pony of cob type, section C stallion Tyrlawn Rolls Royce owned by Justin Walters, breaking the overall record price of £22,000 and going for £45,000 bought by Bill Groom for his wife Dawn of the Dorneyrow Stud. Another successful sale at the Brightwells Fayre Oaks sale. A total of 416 animals were put forward gaining a 65% clearance and producing an overall average of £492. The Saturday evening High-Flyer section of the sale had its best average since 2011 reaching £3,545. Sixty-two animals topped the four-figure mark with the top 11 being section A. Overseas interest was again present with a total of 62 going for export; Holland 42, France 8, Sweden 5, Spain 3, Japan 2 and Ireland 2.

I personally had a fantastic experience on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of December at the Jury's Inn Hotel for the 46<sup>th</sup> WPCS Annual Performance Awards. A fantastic number of people turned out to celebrate the performance of their Welsh ponies and cobs. The room was full of fantastic youngsters as well as the more mature of our Society. Every equestrian discipline was recognised during the awards with a strong presence from right across the UK. I made the award to the individual showing the most versatility and commitment to the breed and that went to Jessica Talbort.

Looking ahead this year and the International show is out in Australia, November 2019 with great publicity for the breed with the majority of judges traveling out from our Society to judge. I would like to finish by thanking the individuals who have given their own time freely to publicise the Welsh breed, the social media and the great posts, all that go to show how great our breed is. Thank you very much.  
Diolch.

### **11. Vote of thanks to the Retiring President Mrs Elizabeth Russell**

The Chair of Council, Colin Thomas, invited Mrs Sally Athey to propose a vote of thanks to the retiring President, Mrs Elizabeth Russell.

Ladies and gentlemen, it gives me great pleasure on this occasion to thank our retiring President Liz Russell for her hard work and commitment to the Society. She has travelled the length and breadth of the country during her time in office visiting many associations and members throughout the year along with a trip to South Africa and Namibia to visit their welsh cob societies and to judge at their gold medal show. I am sure you will all join me in thanking Mrs Elizabeth Russell.

Colin Thomas called upon Mr Stuart Franklin to second the vote of thanks.

I second the vote of thanks. Liz Russell has done a wonderful job for us despite one or two hardships and struggling points. She has been an excellent President throughout the year.

President Russell responded to the vote of thanks.

A big thank you to all of you the members for having given me the opportunity to serve as President, there has been a true welcome on the hillside. The warmth and generosity of you all has made it a truly memorable year. Despite the rumours that all is woe with the Society, my travels of the last two years have confirmed that you the members with your enthusiasm, energy and passion are ensuring the Society is in good heart.

We have a great deal to be proud of. The young peoples' event of last night was exemplary. I would also like to publicly congratulate a young Scottish member who was not only overall winner of the WPCS Young Judges competition but was also awarded the National Pony Society President's Award for his contribution to shows and stewarding, Gregor MacMillan.

Some members have written into Council with constructive suggestions relating particularly to judging and showing. Therefore, for your information the Council is going to take these proposals to the Judges Conference in September for judges and members alike to explore. Thank you all again.

### **12 To appoint on the Recommendation of Council, Mr Brian Foster as President for 2019/20**

President Russell stated that this item of the agenda will not be put to the floor by Council on the basis that, under Article 42, the current President-Elect automatically rolls forward to become President for the following year. Therefore, Mr Brian Foster, elected as President-Elect at last year's AGM, automatically became President for 2019/20. It gave President Russell great pleasure to pass her chain of office to President Brian Foster who took the Chair for the remainder of the meeting and responded.

Madam Past President, Chair of Council, Trustees and fellow members. I am extremely humbled to become your President, which was beyond my expectations. I often recall my late elder sister used to remark that everything comes to those that wait. In this case it appears to have happened. I have asked myself several times how I have arrived at this honour.

When I have looked back at the words spoken by past President Elects in this position, there are often the well- deserved comments or reference about Dr Wynne, even in his absence. Therefore, I cannot omit reference from myself to speak of this doyen of our Society and where our Society would have been without his dedication and intellect for most of his life. In or around July 2017 I had not had the pleasure of seeing him at Lampeter or the RWAS that season, so I dropped him a line by e mail enquiring about why this was the case.

The reply came back that he was not very good health wise and was waiting an operation to remove some of his bowel. He also added that if he was still around in September that year could he propose me for President- Elect. How could I refuse such a request, for me it was a huge Honour in itself, coming from someone who had more or less given his life and that of his wife Ruth, there is always a good woman behind a good man, to promote our Society to say that I was worthy of such an Honour. The rest as they say is history and the honour being bestowed by you, my fellow members, makes me feel, as I said earlier, very humbled. In a recent message from America it was even suggested we should have a statue of Dr Wynne outside our offices.

That's the kind of esteem and goodwill he has created worldwide over the years that we must maintain at all costs. My main duty I understand is to promote our Society and our wonderful ponies and cobs and to nurture and encourage our younger generation to pick up the gauntlet of our Society's heritage. This I will do to the best of my best ability. I look forward to working with Catrin Reed, I am really pleased that Catrin has come on as Young Ambassador during my term.

The past 12 months for various reasons have not proven to have been the best experience that I have known, and I hope and trust this situation will improve during my Presidential year. You own this society the members. We are all the members. We have all been entrusted to run this Society in the best interests of our members and our Welsh Ponies and Cobs. But there must be more communication in the coming months.

The Society has been around for more years than anyone else in this room and it will probably be around for a lot more years than the attendance today. But with young people like Euros and Catrin, we have seen in Euros's presentation today the future is in safe hands. Euros was in tears today, well done.

I have several announcements to make. Firstly, the AGM 2020 will be at the Vale resort Pontyclun, just off the M4, And I would look forward to seeing as many of you

there as possible. My Charity for the year is to raise funds for Ty Hafan. the Welsh Children's Hospice. I have a lot of time for young people and for young people with limited life. You did get in your journal pack the DVD that I funded for Dr Wynne Davies autobiography "From The Horse's Mouth", the proceeds from the sale of the DVD will be donated to Ty Hafan which is the chosen Charity of myself and Dr Wynne. Two members came to speak to me and straight away bought copies. I am sure it is going to be a historic item. At the princely price of £15 it is not too expensive. Lastly, and this is a point a lady made earlier, we will be holding a General Meeting, which has already been referred in the Chair's report. We have time to think about this and it is time we made an announcement about it.

What Council has decided is that they want to hear the suggestions of the members for what should be included on a General Meeting agenda. You have already heard from Colin Thomas that DNA Testing will be on the agenda however what are the other topics you want. An e-mail address will be posted so that you can post all your suggestions and we can gather them together. As far as dates are concerned what we would like is to give a period of time for suggestions to come forward and what I suggest is that we will have it for the 26<sup>th</sup> of April so we'll give all the members to the 26<sup>th</sup> of April to come up with items they want discussed at that General Meeting and then we can go on and decide where the venue is going to be. We have to consider the expense, but we could do it at Cardiff or Builth Wells. I am sure it will be good. I will be chairing the meeting and I will announce the location as under Article 14 (iv). The trustees discussed the General Meeting at yesterday's Council meeting and there is a clear commitment to tackle the issues that we have heard and a lot of these came up in the Area Associations meeting this morning. As well as DNA testing trustees are considering should the number of trustees be increased from 15 to, say, 21. There were too many trustees at 33 when I was on Council, it took all day to approve the minutes, however there are now too few trustees as they have to double up on standing committees. Also, more skills can be brought in. I will do what I can but I can only talk, I cannot propose or vote, if members can take on board any suggestions and get them to the e-mail address by the 26<sup>th</sup> of April, the Society will endeavour to move forward. Thank you very much.

### **13 To receive a Report on the Election of President Elect for 2019/2020**

President Foster invited Claire Thompson from MHA Broomfield Alexander to announce the President-Elect for 2019/20.

**Claire Thompson:** For President-Elect for 2019/20. Mr CR Davies 247 votes and Mrs C Fell 203 votes.

### **14 To receive a Report on the automatic election of five members standing for five vacancies to serve on the Council for three years 2019-2022 as per Article 25 V (a) of the Articles of Association.**

Mrs Dania Leyson interrupted the proceedings to speak on her concerns about agenda items 14 and 15. She is concerned, as are many of the members, that in the past few months the Council had to take on a tenth trustee to make the Society legal. She made it very clear that this is nothing personal against the person who became the tenth trustee as she has known him for a long time. The decision needs to be looked at because the Society has a problem. There is a problem with a person

stepping into the breach as under the rules, and she has been to a top litigation solicitor to have it confirmed, the procedure should have been that any person who stood as a trustee in 2018, but was not taken on, should have been the one co-opted to be the tenth trustee. There were two unelected people in 2018, one was Mr Williams and the other was Ed Gummery, the last Welfare Officer. Mrs Leyson said that the only one eligible would have been Ed Gummery. She offered to read out the legal advice she has taken.

Ms Bethan Walsh asked for clarification of Mrs Leyson's question. Mrs Leyson confirmed that her question is in relation to rule 28 (ix) of the Articles of Association. *If the number of trustees is less than the number fixed at the quorum the continuing trustees, or trustee, may act only for the purpose of filling vacancies or calling a General Meeting.* Mrs Leyson went on to say that the quorum required is six but that is different to the minimum number set out for trustees. The Council has never gone below the number of six for the second part of this clause to be engaged.

She read out the words of her legal advice. *"If it had been engaged the Council could only appoint additional trustees in accordance with rules ie from previous lists of people that stood for election but did not get onto Council in accordance with rule 25 (xv). If the previous lists had been exhausted, then the default position is for the Council to call a General Meeting."* *Even by careful reading of 25 (xv) it does not allow for someone to be co-opted in preference to someone who stood for election and I cannot see that the rules allows for a trustee to be co-opted at all, the default position is for a General Meeting when you have run out of prospective trustees from the voting lists.* Mrs Leyson reasoned that the Society still does not have ten trustees.

Bethan Walsh said she would read the rules but was not prepared to give knee jerk advice today without understanding the situation. This is the first time she has heard of this and will need to review the minutes of meetings.

Mrs Leyson responded that the Society has less than ten trustees here today and therefore it is not valid to carry on. She asked for the rules to be applied as written, that is all members want, and there is a mistake that needs looking at. It can be rectified today and the trustee who should have been co-opted is Ed Gummery. He would go back on Council to replace the resigning Jeff Parry.

The Chair of Council, Colin Thomas, said that John Kirk was the Chair of Council at the time and the Society took legal advice that an individual could be nominated as the tenth trustee so that the Council can become functionable. This took place at Builth Wells in February and the nominated person was Mr Dilwyn Roberts. Mrs Leyson responded to say she appreciated Mr Roberts for stepping in but she has legal advice and wants to stop the situation getting worse. Colin Thomas questioned why Mrs Leyson's legal advice could not have been sent in before this meeting given the time elapsing between February and the 30<sup>th</sup> of March. Mrs Leyson said she had wanted to check her opinion by a senior litigation solicitor and the verification had been received on the Friday afternoon. She felt that the mistake needs to be recognised and rectified to move on. Mr Thomas responded that he thought the Article sub clause that had been read out had been deleted when the

Articles had been updated. Mrs Leyson said that the sub-clause had been referred to on the Friday afternoon.

Mr Steve Everitt commented that the procedure for accepting Mr Roberts was correct as per the Articles on the website and that the Articles have twice been updated since the sub clause that Mrs Leyson was quoting from. Mrs Leyson said that she was referring to Articles from the website. Bethan Walsh confirmed that the last special resolution was at the 2017 AGM in Swindon where amendments were duly passed and subsequently filed with companies House. She clarified that if the Society website is displaying previous Articles, it does not affect the validity of the Articles. Mrs Leyson said that in 2019, last Friday, it was the out of date Articles that were displayed, and members have to take the rules as shown. Bethan Walsh said this should be corrected by the Society.

Mr Mike Daley interjected to ask that that the two conflicting views are taken behind the speaker's chair and that the meeting should continue. Mrs Lisa Reed, using a smart phone, confirmed that the 2017 adopted Articles are the version on the website and have been for how ever so long. President Foster ruled that the meeting should progress.

Ms Claire Thompson reported that there is an automatic election of five candidates standing for five vacancies to serve on Council for the period 2019-2022 as per Article 25 V (a) of the Articles of Association of the Society. The five members, in no particular order, are Mr Roger John Davies, Mr Barry Hall, Mrs Deborah Jones, Mrs Sharon Charlton and Mr John William Stephen Welsh.

### **15 To appoint one member to fill the remaining vacancy and to serve on Council for the period 2019 -2020.**

President Foster invited members present to nominate, propose and second members who have been members for at least seven years and who confirm their willingness to act as a trustee. Whilst nomination papers were given out there was a 15-minute break.

The President announced that nominations had been received for Mrs Elizabeth Hampson, Mrs Dania Leyson, Mrs Sonia Mindt, Mrs Lisa Perrott and David Martin Walters.

The President read out the proposers and seconders and invited each candidate to give a two-minute presentation.

Mrs Elizabeth Hampson proposed by Sally Longford, seconded by Sharon Fisher. Also received two further nomination papers proposed by Margaret Smith, seconded by Amanda Higgins and proposed by Sharon Fisher and seconded by Sally Longford.

Mrs Elizabeth Hampson spoke on her nomination. This has been dropped on me a bit as I did not come here today to put myself forward. Obviously over the last twelve months I have had grave concerns regarding what's going on with The Welsh Pony and Cob Society.

For myself I am putting herself forward to address the balance. A couple of things for myself. I am female, the Society could do with some more females on there, but I also live outside of Wales and I think this is quite important. I think what I can bring to the Society is that in my professional life I deal with policies and procedures for a living and this is something I am able to do with transparency, to take the politics out of there and we need to have some clear policies and procedures that are easy to understand and bring us into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. This is quite important for me and is something that I can bring. Something about myself, I breed Section C's and A's so there are two sections that I am passionate about. I also have a son who has just developed into showing full time professionally. I think I have a lot to offer. I am fairly new, only been a member for twelve years so I am quite fresh but hope to take the politics out of it, bring something new and add the value to it. Thank you.

Mrs Sonia Mindt, proposed by Sonia Smith and seconded by Dean Smith

Mrs Sonia Mint spoke on her nomination. I was born in the Gower, I was brought up with ponies, my uncle is a judge, my grandmother bred ponies, and I passionately believe that the breed type needs to be protected because Welsh ponies should be able to travel down Welsh hills. I feel that the Society does not promote the Breed enough and I have worked in marketing and advertising, it is a charity and a business. The charity can get funding and the business can apply to make money in different ways which we do not appear to be doing. Now the charity side of it should be utilising your bus and your transport to go around the country not Wales and just local but needs to be Ireland, Scotland, I live in Caithness, does anyone know how long it took me to drive down? Eight hours. For me it is difficult to go to meetings in Wales but I would do it, I would travel that distance because I believe we need people out there who will promote the Breed and work within Council to help raise funds so it can be done effectively. I used to ride and compete a lot, the performance horse is one of my main aims, I would like to see the performance horse promoted in the Welsh breed as that is what brings attention to our Breed. The dressage horses, the show jumpers, outside of the box, the A's, B's, C's and D's out there doing a job and it's up to the Committee to promote the Breed, not the members. We should be promoting the Breed for you so that your ponies get the maximum value for what they are.

Mrs Dania Leyson proposed by Sandy Anderson, seconded by Mervyn Davies.

Mrs Dania Leyson spoke on her nomination. Hi everyone, as I took up your time a few minutes ago I am going to take up less time now. I am very impressed by the two ladies who proceeded me, I think they have a lot to offer the Society. I believe that we ought to apply the rules as they are written, no matter where they come from, no matter how old they are, whether they got fifty horses or two, but I believe in honest mistakes and I will be voting for these ladies as I think they are really good. I came here because I was physically sick when people were ringing me and telling me how saddened they were by current events. I tried today to say we can make mistakes, we all make mistakes, but it's how we deal with making those mistakes and putting them right. The amount of support of people that came onto me just now is very heart warming and I ask you all just to think of one thing and that is the Society and the Society is all of you and all of those people who are not here. I travelled ten hours to get here but I can tell you it is like an hour and a half as I had the best people that you can have with me. I'm from Carmarthen Association and

guess what, I'm proud of it as I still have fun there so thank you all for listening but vote for who you think will do the best for you and the Society. It is so important.

Mrs Lisa Perrott proposed by Elizabeth French, seconded by Tracy Hook.

Mrs Lisa Perrott spoke on her nomination. Ladies and gentlemen, I consider it a great honour to be even proposed to be a trustee of this great Society of ours. I have had a lifelong involvement with ponies and cobs, that over fifty years for those of you who do not know me, through first of all my cousin Stuart George Proctor of the Foxwood Stud and latterly from 2001 as a member in my own right I have kept all sections of the studbook, A's, B's, C's and D's and bred sections A, B and C. In my former life I've participated not just in hand showing but also ridden showing with part-breds Welsh ponies. I have a strong background in education therefore for me the most important thing is that the voice of our young people is heard. You all know that we have a wonderful young people's association here now ably led by Catrin and previously by Euros and I think really if we are to go forward as a Society we need to make sure that we listen to the views, to the needs, to the wants of our young people. Guide them, encourage them, not put forward a Society they don't want to be a part of.

I feel that I can bring to the Society not only my strong education background, but I have run two successful businesses whilst teaching. One is a DIY livery yard and the other is a farm shop. I am well aware of the importance therefore of accurate and engaging advertisement. I have nothing to gain from being a trustee, but I feel I have a lot to give. I feel that I could add both integrity, honesty, transparency, an ability to take a considered view not a knee jerk reaction and, most importantly, the ability to listen to the views of members. Thank you for your time.

Mr David Martin Waters proposed by Antony Steven Everitt, seconded by Nia Roberts. Mr David Waters was not in attendance.

The President commented on the good selection of candidates and was encouraged that people are putting themselves forward as trustees. He announced that voting would take place in the form of a ballot as per the Articles and that it would take time to put the candidates' names onto the ballot papers. He ruled that this procedure could not be over-ruled from the floor as the Articles are there to protect the Society and the members. AGM business would continue whilst voting took place.

## **16 Any Other Business**

President Foster invited questions for any other business and advised members that trustees would respond at a later date if necessary.

**(a) Q: Owen Griffiths (OG)** Last year we saw the Miss Broderick Award going to Mathrafalthe Welsh Cob Stallion, I do not deny this whatsoever, however since last year I have noticed that the daughter of Meyrik Jones is still alive, her name is Aileen Rymer, she is 92 years old and I feel personally that we should acknowledge her existence and possibly send a framed photograph of the Miss Broderick to Aileen.

**A:** President Foster noted that everyone was in favour of this.

**(b) Q: OG** My second question is as a follow on from last year, regarding the Council choosing judges for the Royal Welsh. It highly concerned me that there was a clear conflict of interest, in the minutes there seems to be an answer, however I cannot make any sense of it. I can repeat the question if you wish, it is quite long winded. So basically, have there been any developments from Council on selecting Royal Welsh Show judges i.e. any updates or further correspondence with the Royal Welsh?

**A: President Foster (PF)** I can speak for myself. The Welsh Pony and Cob Society does not nominate judges for the Royal Welsh Show, it's within the Royal Welsh Society Livestock Committee.

**OG:** I totally agree with that however if you were to look back at June 2018, correspondence came to the hand of the Welsh Pony and Cob, Royal Welsh Judges Selection correspondence, can anyone shed any light on that?

**A: Colin Thomas (CT):** I can assure you that we are not putting any names forward judging the Royal Welsh.

**OG:** Not at the moment?

**CT:** Not for the foreseeable future as far as I am concerned. I do not think it is good for us to put judges forward. If I am over-ruled, I am over-ruled by Council. I would not support it.

**OG:** I totally disagree with it personally and what bugs me the most is it started in October 2017, the minutes said the selection of in hand judges, it was only the in hand judges at the Royal Welsh, that highly concerned me and this correspondence has continued through the minutes until quite recently. So, it concerns me that Council still tries to be part of this selection process to my knowledge.

**CT:** No

**PF:** Something that came up at livestock at the Royal Welsh this year was where there was a strong proposal for appointing judges for two years in advance. A lot of the smaller breed societies, particularly in sheep and goats and do not have many people on their panels were all in favour of it but I think that would be a disaster. You can imagine if people knew in two years' time who were judging you could make a plan, so they have no input.

**OG:** That's great, thank you for your candour in the matter.

**(c) Q: Matthew Howells (MH):** I would like to bring up the EGM (Extra-ordinary General Meeting) and the petition. You say today that Council is aware of unrest amongst the membership and that you are looking to call an EGM. Despite the petition you could have called an EGM anyway and you have had plenty of time to call after this morning. A lot of the issues you want us to bring for the 26<sup>th</sup> of April could already have been on the table and a lot of other business could have been discussed this morning. For me it is a pure fob off, you are just trying to keep us quiet for another month and once those ideas are in you take another

couple of months to decide what you want to put on the agenda. In the meantime, if another petition comes forward an EGM might be called a lot sooner than you are planning.

**A: PF** First of all it is not an EGM, it's a General Meeting. We are conscious that we need to communicate with members. If you think the 26<sup>th</sup> of April is too far away, we can shorten that date.

**MH:** It is not a General Meeting it is actually an EGM; they are all General Meetings, AGM and EGM.

**PF:** We have to go through the legal process which runs over a number of days, I am unable to quote off the top of my head what those are. Perhaps the Chair of Council can shed some light?

**MH:** You can give 14 clear days' notice with regards to when a verified petition is served. We still do not have the answers as to why the petition was not verified. Everyone is telling me they were paid up members at the time, so when a petition is served you have 21 days to give a date for an EGM with 28 days from the date of that petition. You have three weeks to give us a date and that date has to be four weeks from the petition being served. So, you could have called an EGM for this morning quite easily. A lot of the issues that people are not happy about could have been discussed today.

**CT:** With all due respect the petition came in, it was scrutinised by the staff alongside the database, they could only identify 138 signatures. It went down to our scrutineers and it went down to our solicitors. For your information, the wording, you could not remove a board of trustees, it was illegal. The petition had no validity at all. That was what our lawyers came back with.

**MH:** That's fine. The 138 signatures you say could only be verified, there was only one name on that piece of paper that could not be understood. A signature does not have to be understood, signatures will change. There were 358 names on that petition of which 357 were legible.

**CT:** Well our members of staff went through it. I did not touch it to be honest with you. They went through every single one.

**MH:** This brings the doubt into it. The issue is the integrity of this Council. You have no integrity.

**CT:** I am sorry, the integrity is for us to do it correctly. It is not for us to present a petition correctly, it is for you

**CT:** (answering an off mic query if members of staff verified the petition) Yes. They are the only ones with the database. I do not have the database.

**Mrs Sonia Mindt (SM):** Is it legal for them to be verifying those signatures?

**CT:** it went down to our scrutineers after....

**SM:** Not after, was it legal for the staff to verify those signatures? Should it have been the scrutineers first, I think?

**CT:** It may have been it should have gone onto the scrutineers then and not handed in at the office, but the Articles say it's got to be handed in. (in answer to a question off mic) How are our scrutineers going to define who is a member and who is not?

**SM:** I am afraid that is your problem, there should be a membership that they can look at, a list of members

**CT:** (in answer to a question off mic) There was no address on the petition

**Mr Gareth Jones (GJ):** Mr Howells, are you accusing staff of lying because you are saying the 350 or whatever were right, and the staff are saying they were not right?

**MH:** What I am saying is that out of those names that are on the list just about everyone has contacted me to say they were fully paid up members at the time of the petition being submitted. The Articles only ask for a signature. You do not have to provide membership details. The names were there clearly.

**GJ:** So, any Tom, Dick or Harry could sign the piece of paper then?

**MH:** We have not had an answer back as to why those names were not accepted.

**CT:** I think you have

**MH:** No, you have just said they were not verified.

**CT:** There were only 138 verified.

**MH:** Which ones have not been verified?

**CT:** Only the staff will know

**MH:** Who is in charge of the staff? The Council.

**Ms Bethan Walsh (BW)** interjected to say that there are two issues. The first issue is whether 5% of the membership actually did requisition a meeting. The staff counted the number of signatures and compared against the register of members and they found that the petition had not reached the 5% requisite majority. However, the second issue is even if the petition had reached the 5% requisite majority the Council still would not have had to call a General Meeting in response to that petition because the petition was proposing a resolution which had no legal basis. A vote of no confidence has no legal basis so even if a vote of no confidence is passed its ineffective.

**MH:** We accept that but at the end of the day if sufficient numbers had been verified then we could still have called an EGM of the membership.

**BW:** No, because the resolution you were proposing to put before that General Meeting was for a vote of no confidence which would have been ineffective.

**MH:** I understand that it has no legal basis, but we could have still called that EGM.

**BW:** No, because you are required to state in your notice what the business of the meeting will be and the business of the meeting was for something that has no legal basis so on that basis, under the Companies Act, the trustees are not required to call the General Meeting.

**MH:** Fine, okay. But Steve Everitt still has not had back a list of those who were not verified.

**BW:** I think to answer that question I know that the trustees have taken legal advice on that and the response is going to be coming and its certainly coming within the five working days.

**MH:** To see the list. I think Mr Everitt has actually had the list delivered yesterday. But that's the list of membership. We still don't know which names were not verified.

**BW:** I can't answer that question.

**MH:** I thought it went to solicitors and the scrutineers. You must know the people who were not verified.

**BW:** No, no, because we were not instructed to scrutinise it, that is not something we would do. There is no requirement for us to be instructed.

**MH:** Did the scrutineers do the verification?

**BW:** The scrutineers are only scrutineers in respect of voting at meetings. They don't scrutinise petitions.

**MH:** Was the list of 358 names and the list of members leave the office and go to an independent person to be verified?

**BW:** I don't know that.

**MH:** Can anyone answer that question?

**BW:** To conclude, one point to make is that there would have been no legal requirement to send that petition and the Register of Members to an independent person.

**MH:** Nor a legal requirement to put names and postcodes, stud names and membership numbers on the petition in the first place. Thank you that's it. We're not going to get the answers. So, let's move on.

**Mrs Dania Leyson:** Did you say to the young lady there that it was under the Company Act, I think you did. You may have made a mistake there because under the 2006 Company Act it is slightly different because what they say there is that if they call a vote of no confidence, (in answer to off mic comments) and by the way I did not sign it, I have nothing to gain by saying this. The 2006 Company Act states categorically that all this lot can do it, they do not take the whole board out, they give singular names and that complies with Company Law.

Ms Bethan Walsh responded that under the Companies Act there is a procedure to remove individual directors, but this needs to follow proper procedure and doing it by way of a vote of no confidence is not the correct procedure.

President Foster remarked that there needs to be more communication and more discussion. He reminded members that the Society is trying to follow the rules by holding a General Meeting with suggestions to be made by the 26<sup>th</sup> of April. He asked if this was unreasonable or not so that the meeting could move on. He asked for a show of hands on this.

**Mr Steve Everitt (SE)** The 26<sup>th</sup> of April is 26 days from today, if we want to put resolutions to a general meeting this requires 28 days' notice and in that respect the lady (from Geldards) says we need to put more accurate resolutions but morally if we got 358 people calling for a vote of no confidence then it was worth while calling an EGM. You have called an EGM but if we do want to put resolutions it does require 28 days' notice so they would be ruled out if we go for the 26<sup>th</sup> of April.

**CT:** The legal advice the office has had is that May 19<sup>th</sup> is the soonest we can have it from today. To go through the proper procedures and comply.

Bethan Walsh confirmed this is fine.

The President confirmed that 26<sup>th</sup> of April was the cut-off date for agenda suggestions. In response to an off-mic query he confirmed it was open and members could put forward what they wished.

**Elizabeth Hampson (EH):** The right word is propositions, it's not resolutions its propositions.

**PF:** We need to consider if we need to increase the number of Council members as well, is the number too low. (In response to an off-mic query) It will come up in that meeting, let's not labour this, everyone has had a long day now. Is there any other business?

**Mr Mike Johnston:** To get you through this I suggest you fix the date for the reception of the comments from the members and you fix the date for the EGM, fix it now so people know what the date is, you can fix the venue later, if you fix the date everyone will go away from here satisfied. They have a date by which they have to make comments, they will have a date on which they will be able to consider them and fix a date that gives sufficient time for it they want to make propositions that take 28 days to do it and then hopefully everyone will be satisfied.

**PF:** The only problem with that is you are running into the show season. Do you want it on a weekday, or do you want it to be a Saturday? An easy access venue and cost is going to come into this.

(d) **Q: Mrs Sarah Hayman (SH):** Now that Doctor Wynne has retired as Publicity Officer and Owen Griffiths has stepped down how is the Society planning to strategically promote the breed including attending shows, writing reports, communicating with various associations both in the UK and abroad? Mrs Hayman repeated her question.

**A: CT:** We have set this high in the agenda for the first meeting of the new Council and also I have spoken to a young man who has been highly recommended here today and I think he's going to help out with the publicity. So, it is high on the agenda.

**SH:** You are a business, it should be there already, it should not be high on the agenda, it should be there already.

**CT:** I know but since Doctor Wynne has gone, we have found difficulty in having people to do the publicity.

**SH:** You have had twelve months right, I have been contacted for publicity photos and everything, there is a handful of you, and not once has the Chair of Publicity spoken to me and I can guarantee you that quite a few people in this room will know my name. I have another question as well if you want.

(e) **Q SH:** Can you please clarify that in the trustee's report on Companies House the objectives for the 2018 targets have been met in the 2018 year? Ms Hayman repeated her question.

**A: CT** Yes, I would think so

**SH:** One of the ones you claim is the welfare video for 2018. That welfare video was issued in 2017 and claimed the year before.

**CT:** We have done welfare and are doing welfare; our Honorary Vet can support us on this.

**SH:** The statement you have made says you made a welfare video in 2018, you haven't made a welfare video in 2018.

**CT:** No, we have had the resignation of our Welfare Officer. We are now going to look at it and we will be doing colleges and universities under the welfare...

**SH:** Objective evidence is needed to show your members, addressing the requirements of your targets and objectives to push the breed forward. There is no objective evidence given to us as members.

**CT:** I have put a document in place if I am in the Chair after today, I have put a full document and Rob Allen can confirm this, on our objectives and purposes to take forward.

**SH:** I look forward to seeing it.

President Foster announced that the voting papers were ready, and voting could commence. Proxy votes could be picked up from Claire Thompson in reception. The ballot boxes were in the reception area.

**There was a short break for voting to take place.**

President Foster asked for members who had placed their votes to return to the meeting. He stated that time was being taken by the scrutineers in the proxy voting, he was conscious of the evening's dinner dance, and it was all taking too long. In response to an off mic comment he clarified that the proxy voting was taking a lot of time and it is something that cannot be avoided as it needs to be done correctly. Members were able to continue voting but the Society needed to vacate the room for the dinner dance. He suggested that all members continue to cast their votes and proxy votes but the announcement of the successful candidate take place later. The members applauded this suggestion. President Foster assured the members that the Society will hold a general meeting as soon as practical after the date of the 26<sup>th</sup> of April. He asked the members to confirm if there was other business.

- (f) **Q: Elizabeth Hampson:** (partially off mic) ....the foal had been brought in, it was not one I had bred, so I received the letter saying I would have to send the passport. Please can I have clarity on why that had happened? I had received a passport and apparently you had not had the DNA back for the mare.

**A: CT:** The DNA company are taking up to six weeks after the passport was received. There have been some mistakes made in the office, I am not going to lie to you, I have ordered an audit right back to 2016 and we have found 83, some a long time before Hannah Wilson was involved with this. I understand the Chair told her to send these passports out which were lying on the shelves, but I can assure you that the audit is ongoing, and DNA is not being looked at in any way to get rid of. We are going to try and review it and hopefully make it an improved system and we are working with our vet, Roland Michell, who is advising us as well and that's all I can tell you up to now.

President Foster attempted to close the meeting. Tracy Hook objected that it was unjust to continue with the meeting, and to close it, whilst members were casting their votes and proxy votes. President Foster accepted her question as the final question under Any Other Business.

- (g) **Q: Tracy Hook (TH):** My question is regarding the award of gold medals from the Royal Welsh. The 2019 rule is *Gold 6.25 The Society in-hand gold medal is awarded only at the Royal Welsh Agricultural Societies annual show. The gold medal must only be awarded to the Champion. If an animal wins the young stock and overall championship only one medal will be awarded.* Can I ask Council

why we have awarded gold medals to the Reserve Champion animals from the Royal Welsh last year?

**A: Elgan Evans (EE):** You are quite right Tracy, that is what is in there, but it happened back in 2006 when Council had done a decision then that they can award if you have a young stock having a medal and that young stock goes on and wins the female champion and goes on and wins further on. It has been passed in 2006 that the reserve is eligible for the gold medal there.

**TH:** That is 2006. Are we not referring to 2018 rules and 2019 because...?

**EE:** I agreed with it, you know how you and me have worked together on these medals

**TH:** You know how meticulous I am on it...in the 2018 rulebook its exactly the same as the 2019 so regardless of what went on in 2006 because the show was in 2018 we should be adhering with the rules of the 2018 rulebook and we haven't. We've awarded medals to reserve champions and we have gone against our own rule stating that it wasn't to be awarded to a reserve.

**EE:** That's the trouble see if there is not continuity. In 2006 there were other people on Council and they had passed that rule.

**TH:** But hold on, the rule last year was the same as in this years and the gold medal has been awarded now....

**EE:** How did they award that now?

**TH:** I am asking Council how animals from last years Royal Welsh show have received gold medals when they were reserve champions when our rule states that it can only go to the champion even if young stock goes to overall. We've awarded medals that shouldn't have been awarded.

**EE:** Yes, I agree with you. But that's how it was. I have talked to Geraint (Davies) about it and....

**TH:** But you are going on about 2006 and I am on about 2018. I am not being derogatory about the people who have been given those medals but the rule in the book is, and it was in 2018 as well, what I just read out, it must only go to the champion and this year we have gone all over social media reserve champions have received gold medals. How derogatory is that to the person who won the gold medal for champion?

**EE:** I agree. But they were given out. I think they should not have been given myself.

**TH:** Why weren't the rules adhered to?

**EE:** Jess (Wood) said that this came up on the computer

**TH:** Regardless what was on the computer, you know, and I know the rules are what we go by. When I was on Council we have had letters come in and we've had to say there is nothing we can do because there's not a rule to cover it and we have had to strictly adhere to the rules on certain things. I was very perplexed to see all over social media, and been informed otherwise, that reserve champions had received gold medals when our rules clearly state that they can't. So, what are we going to do about it?

**EE:** I wanted to call them back Tracy, you know how you and me been dealing with it but I talked to the other trustees and they....

**TH:** What other trustees told you not to call them back? If they weren't supposed to have them surely, they should be recalled?

**EE:** I think you are right. They should be recalled. That's what I did say.

**TH:** Yes.

**EE:** There's two gold medals given out under section B and section C. I think they should be recalled.

**TH:** I would like to propose now through the meeting those two medals are recalled. Can I have a seconder? (In response to a query off mic) It's not against the people who have received them.

**Mrs Elizabeth Russell (ER):** As a member I would like to propose that they are not recalled as it is the height of discourtesy, as it was our error, to bring it back from the people who have won it. Could I ask why you did not raise this at Council as you have only just recently left? I would like to say to all the membership if we do not leave this room soon.... a lot of these issues can be written into the office and they will be raised at your EGM. You probably aren't staying for the dinner, but a lot of people are and you are actually upsetting a lot of people. Please can we just conclude this?

**TH:** Please can I just say that yes, I resigned from Council, but this was not discussed when I was on Council.

**ER:** But you could have raised it?

**TH:** I did not know about it. They weren't issued when I was on Council. Before you make a statement regarding my integrity as a trustee, and my decisions, I suggest you get your facts right.

**ER:** I would suggest it will be the height of bad manners to withdraw the medals.

**Mrs Heidi Bennett:** In my experience you can revoke something as you revoked something from myself even though I had given evidence to support my backing, you were quite happy to revoke that....

President Foster said that he was not accepting more questions for Any Other Business. He thanked everyone for coming and closed the meeting at 6.30pm.

