

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

**Summary Minutes of the Council meeting held at 9:00am on Monday
2nd March 2020 at Bronaeron, Felinfach, Lampeter, SA48 8AG**

Present: Colin Thomas (Chair), Wyn Jones (Vice Chair), Sharon Charlton, Liz Hampson, Brian Foster, Dilwyn Roberts, Debbie Jones, Geraint Davies, Elgan Evans, Daydre Chambers, Gwyn Jones, Barry Hall, Daniel Morgan

Apologies: John Welsh, CR Davies (President Elect), Roger Davies

In Attendance: Gemma Bassett-Burr (Office Manager) Meirion Davies (Company Secretary)

Minute Taker: Gemma Bassett-Burr (Office Manager)

Following the actions of some members on social media the Chair asked for agreement to suspend standing orders regarding the future President- elect so that the application can be voted upon and then Meirion is able to notify the membership via Social media and the society Website.

Proposed by Geraint Davies,

Seconded by Debbie Jones to suspend standing orders

All in agreement.

The nomination and seconding of the proposal by Dr Wynne Davies and Miss R.Russell-Allen that Mr Stewart Franklin of the Sarum Stud be invited to be the WPCS President – elect for 2020-2021 was voted on.

Proposed by Elgan Evans

Seconded Liz Hampson that Mr Stewart Franklin goes forward as President elect,

All in favour and approved.

Declarations and items for any other business

President apologised that he was unable to make the last two meetings. He expressed how there was a very different feel to the meeting today and that it was much more relaxed and congratulated everyone that things have been turned around. President also expressed how he was offended reading the General meeting minutes of the 31st August and how his integrity was questioned from the floor by a member. She mentioned a reporter had quoted the name of both himself and the Chair in a news article. She should have written to the Office rather than speaking at the meeting and should write in to apologise to both the President and the Chair for the comments made.

A trustee expressed that he had received some phone calls regarding applying for the judging panel. There was a misunderstanding on the website as this still stated 10 animals needed to be bred rather than the new rule of 5 animals of a particular section. It was suggested that any applications coming in today should be accepted. Company secretary confirmed that any coming in today or post marked prior to the closing date had been discussed and are being accepted. The Judge's application form is to be

checked to say only £100 if already on the panel. £200 if a new applicant

A discussion followed regarding the Judging and Showing sub- committee changing rules, but these had not been updated on the Society website and that they must correlate with the handbook. As soon as anything is changed and approved this should be uploaded straight away on the website

The J + Sh Handbook updates from WPCS solicitors. We are very close to finalising and we are just awaiting clarification on the final points. We will now move to go through the whole website and the relevant committee will sign off on their relevant section and things like this will be picked up.

The Judge's assessments cannot keep running at a loss and we need to cover this cost. We should be looking at costs to attend these events to make sure they cover the cost of holding such an event to prevent the society subsidising the costs. The catering at Hartpury to be looked at as the food was not of satisfactory standard at the last assessment. There are other equestrian colleges etc with good quality facilities. Have we looked at other options and the costs. It is believed this was considered previously but as we require 4 classrooms close by Hartpury is the only one that can accommodate this.

Company secretary spoke on a couple of statements were made at general meeting on the 31st August 2019 to say that we would do things which have not yet been done and these will be brought up at the 17th of March Council Meeting.

It was asked if everyone is happy that we are prepared for the AGM – this is to be discussed during the agenda.

Chair of Council informed the room that the pavilion report has been moved to come under item 8 Chair of the pavilion committee is to chair this section.

Minutes of Council Meeting 3rd February 2020

Corrections - None

Matters Arising

Trustee arrived late

2258 A trustee has worked to translate the passport into Welsh and has now passed this to the Company secretary. How do raise awareness among the membership of this option? We had wanted to launch on St David's day, but we need to do some more work on it and a small group of Welsh speakers to decide on an official template that will be used going forward by the society. This should be used to encourage the membership to use both languages, as a lot of the younger generations no longer use it and we are losing a vocabulary. It was asked if this would need to go to a professional translator, the feeling was that this was not the best use of income, and instead could be done inhouse with consideration given to regional words. It is anticipated that we will launch the Welsh version of the passport at the end of May/ beginning of June, maybe target a local school as part of the launch. Should be available for those people who choose to register early. A committee is to be formed made up of Welsh speakers to develop this further to come up with a final version.

It was proposed that a committee is formed under the E&W committee to develop the passport.

Proposed and Seconded

All in favour

Thanks, were given for the 6 helpers who were not trustees for helping with the journal. A gift should be given to them for their help as a small gesture. A pen and a thank you card to be issued.

A member has received his journal and his grandchildren are devastated as their photos are not included. The Journal Committee had approved them to be included but they were not. The young people's section was smaller than last year and lots of images were chosen. Royal Welsh Young handlers' photo was also not included, and they have stated on Facebook that they sent them in. Office manager to make a small pack for the children 6, 9 and 14yrs and a letter to go apologising. To be checked with a member of staff if we received anything regarding young handler. This occurred last year as well information and photos and were not included. Those photos have not been handed back. If lost in the office the cost to replace these need to be reimbursed.

The member was not credited for the AGM photos in the journal. She is invoicing the society for the cost of the photos.

It was discussed that the spreadsheet that the Company secretary prepared be used as a record of what has been received by the Office for next years journal. Everything must be logged in and out.

The organiser of the Performance Awards does a fantastic piece of work and a thank you card should be issued for all her hard work. President noted it to be the highlight of his term of office. Moving forward we can help more within the office to build a better and closer relationship with the organiser of the Awards scheme.

Could we invite the organiser in again and this would be beneficial if we understand how it works as this would help us to promote this.

Proposed and Seconded

All in favour.

2272-Tiered registration prices.

There have been a lot of comments on Facebook especially from the hill pony breeders. The understanding is the price was risen to £30 but a discount is offered if they get them in sooner. When this was approved Chair of Council did raise this and hill ponies were considered for dispensation, but this was not approved. It may result in the Hill breeders having to o guess work may when filling registration forms as hill ponies are not required to be micro chipped if remaining on the hill. There are approx. 25 societies for hill ponies and around 60 foals are registered each year. Should we still offer them the £22.50 price until the end of October if they are registered hill breeders. Chair of Council declared an interest. Would this then cause issues with other members as they are not receiving the reduced rate. This is the first time the office has asked people to register earlier, this has raised the awareness amongst members about the practicalities for the Office and the Breeders when registering. There is a high intensity of work during the end of the year with other tasks taking place so it is hoped that this will alleviate some of the pressure with registrations as well.

Chair of Council gave an example of the issues hill pony breeders are faced with, to get the last of his ponies in required 5 quadbikes to get the ponies off the hill and they were unable to fully clear the hill until December due to the terrain and changing weather patterns.

It was asked if we could we look into the dates the hill ponies were registered this year

to get an idea. Could we consider offering a discount if a claim was placed by a hill breeder due to hardship to reduce the fee, this is something to be considered in the future.

The Company secretary's monthly bulletins on Facebook and the Society website to be shared during 2020 noting how many registrations received and how many are incorrect/incomplete to share the wider picture and the fluctuations in applications from the membership.

The feeling of Council was that no change be implemented at present with the registration rates for hill ponies and to await to see if anything is brought up in the October meeting with them.

2274 To speak with a specific member to see if any family still alive to collect the Brodrick Award at the AGM

Proposed and Seconded that the minutes be accepted as a true record of the meeting.

All in favour

Confidential Minute

Chair/Vice Chair of council update

Chair of Council thanked the trustees and volunteers who helped with packing of the spring mailing as this allowed office staff to continue with vital admin work.

Overtime was granted to office staff to allow them to clear the backlog of passports as we were in a situation where people were reporting us to the Welsh Government. Chair thanked the staff for their positive response to his concerns raised over the passports and apologised for the loss of heating and unsuitable temperatures they were working within.

Office manager and Company secretary were asked to leave the room.

Confidential Minute

E-mail read out to the room from a member offering his congratulations on the journal.

Company secretary confirmed he had spoken to the Society solicitor regarding the voting form and they had advised him to speak with the scrutineers to see if any implications and possibly to clarify the number via website and social media pending speaking with scrutineers.

Minutes of Council Meeting 10th February 2020

Corrections – none

Matters arising

Confidential minute.

A sum has been agreed for the design and layout of a 'printready' copy of the for 4 stud books to be designed in the old format. If the Society solicitors advise for GDPR reasons not to put members list will there be a saving. It was confirmed there should be in both layout and printing costs. It was discussed if the GDPR statement in the journal would also be sufficient to enable the inclusion of the members list in the stud books.

Confidential minute

President discussed the letter received from the Royal Welsh Livestock Committee. He confirmed the letter that arrived with the society did not reflect the meeting he was present in at the RWAS. Medals were not being refused they were deferred. They were awaiting notification of the older gelding from the society. It was confirmed the e-mail that was sent the morning of the meeting by the Company secretary, was not brought to the livestock meeting. The Young handler should have come across as, are we sure we wanted to go ahead, as a Gold medal is normally awarded to the animal not a person? President suggested that the board let raise these issues again in the April RWAS Livestock meeting to see what can be done. The CS confirmed that Royal Welsh have signed the affiliation forms for the first time this year. With councils blessing President would be happy to speak on it at the next livestock meeting to see if any of the proposals can be passed.

Council offered their full support to the President.

Proposed and Seconded All in Favour

The council confirmed they were happy for the Medals to be listed in the catalogue only this year so that it can be implemented in 2020 rather than have to wait until 2021. A letter on behalf of the Council to be given to President to support him during the meeting outlining why we want the medals awarded and the letter to be clear that if the offer is not taken up we will offer them at our AGM.

The RWAS had agreed in principal to look at a joint press release regarding Vaccinations for Equine flu but they went ahead without us and we were contacted by BBC to give a statement. Company secretary contacted the RWAS to confirm the statement we had shared in hopes that they agree joint ones are the way forward.

Proposed and Seconded that the minutes be accepted as a true record of the meeting.

All in favour

Confidential Minute

Company Secretary/ Office Managers report

Without the help of trustees and volunteers we would not have been able to get the packages out for the mailing, as this allowed the staff to carry on so we would like to say thank you.

Chair of Council was thanked for always responding and being on top of things and helping with work required.

Company secretary confirmed how quarterly meetings had been set up with the Welsh Government where we will be asking them to help us as well as reporting on our progress. The 1st meeting is scheduled for the 11th March 2020.

The Facebook page and WPCS website have been busy attracting a lot of traffic. The post about the Young member in Ireland winning the competition for receiving her Journal first was very well received.

Company secretary shared the responses to his call for volunteers to form a Press gang spoken about in committees. The retired Publicity Officer has been fantastic for so many years, but we have relied too heavily on him and need to encourage others to share the workload. Following the call there has been a good response. 19 people have applied, by sharing the load they can offer a lot of content for the website and Facebook. The work has already started. Two people tagged the Company secretary

into the cob qualifying for Grand-prix level which allowed us to then share it and add some more details regarding the animal's pedigree. The List of those who had applied was handed out to the board. There were a few concerns over some of the names on the list raised by Council. The general feeling was that we need to be business-like and need to move on and draw a line under the last years unrest and work with as many individuals as possible to create as much content as we can and reach as many new interested people as possible.

The paperwork show to the Council should be shared with those interested and have put their names forward and reiterate that no remuneration will be available and that it is a voluntary basis and that the office has final editorial control. Company secretary and Council can edit the reports as they are submitted. This is to be actioned for a trial period of one year and to be trailed for a period of 1 year.

It was noted that Mr Cliff Phillips of the Rhulan Stud had passed away. He had been a steward in the Premium Section at Glanusk Stallion show for many years.

New Microchipping notification forms were shared by the Company secretary which have been tested and supported by a trustee. A form has been created that can be downloaded or collected from an event. To be completed by the vet and the member whose older animals are being microchipped then submitted to the office for us to scan and record and then file. This avoids the recall of many thousands of Older animals' passports for updating which would drown the office form a workload point of view.

Passports Update

The passports at the start of February has been reduced, there have been quit a hefty number with problems or are late registrations.

An outstanding passport query was discussed with the board regarding an application from 2018 at a cost of £170. The dam was sold prior to registration application and no transfers had been done, the Sire service cert accompanied the form and the required DNA profiling had been completed and submitted. The question was posed as to whether Council accepted the foal for registration as a pure-bred Section C? The decision was that it be accepted.

Proposed and Seconded All in favour.

A list of 'Dead animals and Colts which have been gelded' has been received from a member that are showing as alive on the database and as stallions and these are to be corrected. With the transfer of so much data involved in the migration and the new interest of members in the content of the database these issues will come to light,

The Bucks County spectacular show request for Silver medal status to go onto the next J&S agenda.

A member to be contacted regarding her comments on the ICT on Facebook to ascertain what her problems are regarding the Online pedigree facility.

In response to the DNA working groups request, the office has run a report on Grassroots which has identified some 6,000 older stallions (Over the age of 15) established from the system and 3,522 have a DNA profile.

Judging and Showing Committee Meeting 10th February 2020

Criteria changes are to be put into the judge's assessment at Hartpury this year.

The HOYS gold medal engraving to be kept the same and awarded the in the same

way as the RWAS Gold medals.

Judging assessors for the Autumn assessment to be chosen in April after the AGM

It was agreed that the payments for the judge's assessment for travelling expenses and fees for those providing Ponies and Cobs stay the same as last years level.

Cheshire county to be chased for an outcome to the letter sent by the Office.

Minute 2288 mentioning trustee to the proposal on the next page to be removed as this was from a previous meeting.

Members Service Committee Meeting 10th February 2020

Young Ambassadors Mentor to liaise with the young people regarding a gift for the Young Ambassador

The journal has had some positive feedback. The Chair gave his congratulations to the journal committee. The Journal Designer (Owen Hammond can we put his title in here instead of the name) has been working well with the society.

The Young Ambassador's Mentor to be chosen after the AGM from within the Council of Trustees.

Young Ambassador to work on the Open day with the office staff once she commences her term as Young Ambassador.

It was suggested by the Chair that we hold a stud book meeting, the date to be confirmed by the Company secretary. He has now met with the Designer and spoken to the member of staff regarding the extraction of data. Data from Grassroots can be pulled out but is not tidy and in layout. The Designer can start work on the studbook layout at beginning of April. It is suggested that we launch the first of the 4 books at the 75th Aberystwyth show, the next at Royal Welsh, the next at Fayre Oaks/Cob Sales the final one then ready for next year's 2021 AGM. This would bring the Society up to date.

Suggested that trustee and Company secretary put the report/ work program together and share this with the membership, on the website, to confirm the status and when the stud books will be available.

Confidential Minute

Education & Welfare Committee Meeting 10th February 2020

Add Chair of Council to the list of those present.

It was again asked if we could keep continuity on the panel after the AGM within all committees.

The DNA working group had another good meeting on the 20th February.

Chair of E & W thanked Company secretary and the staff for the work they have done in preparing for the meetings. The experts invited in were invaluable. Apologies were received from a trustee and invited member at the second meeting. The cost associated with the DNA compared to the information received was excessive. The group cannot see that AHT has ever been challenged on the price and with the approval of Council would like to go out to tender. Negotiation with AHT for a better deal has been suggested with the possibility of a 3yr deal with break clauses.

Continuing to sample from Hair was decided on rather than blood for sourcing DNA. We do share an acceptance exclusivity DNA provider so DNA can only be sourced through our provider and microchips can only be used through the society to keep all Welsh

ponies and Cobs with the same 3-digit microchip combination going forward. In discussion with AHT it was established that AHT are not donating any of the income from the society to their research arm which was the practice years ago. Standard breeds are currently getting DNA profiles for a cheaper price from another source. We do not currently have ownership of our own DNA this needs to change so that the Breeder /Owner, Society and the company storing it have a copy of the profile. We should stop using the term 'Maiden mare' and in future it is to be referred to as 'Mare DNA' going forward.

How will this be conveyed to the membership? This should be that we are accepting DNA but for a better deal for the breeders/owners. With the extra markers we can also incorporate welfare factors into the DNA.

Benefits

- Cost savings
- Ownership

A Mission statement for DNA was shared with the board –

The Welsh Pony and Cob Society views the harvesting and processing and holding of DNA from the Ponies and Cobs and their Part-breds in its Stud book as the key to the future welfare and preservation of the breed.

The Group advised that filly foals are DNA tested when microchipped going forward. The Chair voiced concerns with timing and being able to get ponies down from the hill. Would this be made compulsory or optional to members?

A report to be prepared for the AGM to share the DNA Groups thoughts and plans.

It was proposed that we move forward with this and develop the plan

Proposed and Seconded All in agreement.

Chair thanked Company secretary again for his help with the DNA working group and the trustees from the Education and welfare committee for their input. Chair of Council thanked Chair and Company secretary and expressed how it has been such a learning curve and we hope the membership will take on board the expert's advice.

Educational Seminar date has been secured as the 17th March 2020. The Producers meeting will also take place earlier in the evening.

The President shared a cautionary tale of an incident involving a Card reader at a local Golf club where two visitors picked up the card reader and credited back to their own accounts. The Office should be wary of the potential for this to happen.

Promotion Committee Meeting 10th February 2020

The Showjumping venue meeting is due to take place in the next 3 weeks. A Video quote from member has been received to produce films to promote Driving. Further details to be looked into on how we could get a high-quality video.

National Welsh would like the WPCS stand there for both days.

The Committee need to assess budgets for the Exhibition unit to see where we can afford to attend and how much can be spent.

The Royal Cheshire County show would need to be both days to capture the ridden and the part bred.

The Ridden world is an untapped area we need to focus on as they are often not members.

Pavilion Committee

The Pavilion committee has been nominated.

Storm damage from the weather has been investigated by a trustee. A flap in the South side door has caused some tiles to fall from the ceiling but there is no water damage. The lease ends in 2021 and a meeting is planned with the RWAS this year to commence discussions. Some other breed societies are not paying the 20% of takings concession which the RWAS have demanded on top of the lease. Some research with one of the larger caterers needs to be done who will give us some further information. Meeting to be arranged to challenge the 20% concession.

Grassroots IT System

The main difficulty members are finding with Grassroots is that they are unable to find 'dead' listed ponies. The 'dead' box is not being ticked when searching on the online pedigree which is why they are not being located.

We are awaiting Boyns to fully transfer us onto the new server. This has not happened at present, as Brightwell's are currently attached to the system on the old server. The contract with them needs to be investigated and the minutes where it was proposed they only had access for a few weeks prior to the sales rather than year-round access.

Confidential Minute

GM Minutes 31st August 2019

Approved by Council and the signed statement has been added to the minutes. As a council we must stand as one and accept a decision on a majority basis.

There is some talk amongst members that the Society's Social Media Policy is not legally binding. At the time of its adoption a trustee put it forward based on another policy document and it was proposed and seconded and accepted by Council. It was felt that the positive things on social media are now counteracting the negative postings about the society. The social media policy has been sent to the Society solicitors there is no need for it to be reviewed

A trustee requested a copy of the report from the investigation where he was the subject of a complaint. This is available to read in the CS office and must be witnessed

GM Minutes 18th September 2019

Approved by Council and signed

Confidential Minute

Council Summary Minutes

Summary minutes have been updated to December 2019. January and Feb 2020 to be done and uploaded.

It was decided by the board that a council meeting is to be held on Tuesday 17th March 2020.

Further Review of Disciplinary Procedure by the Societies solicitors

A response is expected tomorrow from the solicitors which the Company secretary will

share with the board this week.

Partially upheld cases and if any fee is returned is in the gift of Council. If it is decided that partially upheld cases are refunded some of the monies what are the practicalities with how much is returned? Council made a decision not to return any fee if partially upheld only if fully upheld. This was due to the high costs of each individual investigation.

The WPCS Website

A meeting is to be held to highlight any issues with the site. Each section is to be reviewed and overhauled completely. The Journal committee to meet and look at the website. What do you want it to do? and what do you want it to say? E.g. member section what do we want this to include? The ease of use is a key point. A trustee suggested a Stallions at stud page be included.

Risk Assessment Pavilion Royal Welsh

A trustee is looking into this but is mainly done by the caterers.

Passports

New Transfer leaflets to be placed in the plastic sleeve at the back of the passport was approved for use.

2020 AGM Progress Report

Carried forwards to 17th March 2020. Could we please promote Only Men Aloud again performing at the AGM dinner?

Gold Medal Royal Welsh

Carried forwards to 17th March 2020 meeting.

Confidential Minute

Correspondence –British Palomino Society

The British Palomino Society asked if they could have a stand at Fayre Oaks. This is not WPCS this should be referred to Brightwell's.

Enrolment of new/ renewals of Memberships

It was proposed that the list be accepted.

Proposed and Seconded All in favour

The board asked if they could also please have an update on the number of junior members each month.

AOB

A staff member – has been approached by Ceredigion WPCA to be their show secretary and wanted to make council aware to ensure there was no conflict of interest. Council are happy that she undertakes this voluntary position

Thelma Carter Plaque, an example of the type plaque which could be purchased was presented for Council's consideration. Council were in favour and a quote for two plaques to be obtained for the 17th March 2020 meeting.

Lease fee – one of the main problems with registration is people within the same family using each other's animals without leasing the animal to each other. We don't currently

charge for this, should we be charging £5 per lease? Show leases must be lodged at the office prior to showing season. Suggested that a £10 fee is added for recording a lease with the society

Proposed and Seconded by All in favour.

A request from the Committee of Lampeter Welsh breeds Stallion Show requesting that the office check the stallions entered for Lampeter stallion show are entered in the correct regional class. Council agreed to the request

Proposed and Seconded All in favour.

A Spanish owner and breeder have requested that he would like to make an application to be a panel judge, but he doesn't meet the current criteria. He requests special dispensation as there are no Spanish based WPCS panel judges. This request to be considered by the Judging and showing committee at their next meeting.

With no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 4:44pm.

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

NOTES