

WPCS ONLINE AGM 27th of MARCH 2021



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

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

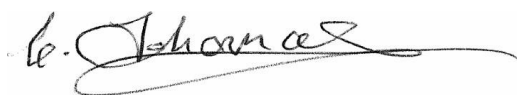
THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF MEMBERS OF THE WELSH PONY AND COB SOCIETY WILL BE HELD ONLINE AT 2.00PM on SATURDAY 27TH OF MARCH 2021.

AGENDA

1. To receive apologies.
2. President's Address (Mr Brian Foster)
3. Suspension of Standing Orders (Colin Thomas)
4. To receive the election result for the Election of Five members to serve on Council for the period 2021-2024 (Sarah Case, Azets)
5. To appoint on the recommendation of Council, Mr Roger Davies as President for 2021/2022 (Mr Brian Foster)
6. Vote of thanks to the retiring President. (Mr Colin Thomas)
7. To receive a report on the election of President-Elect for 2021-2022 (Mr Stewart Franklin)
8. The Presidents closing remarks. (Mr Roger Davies)

Dated: March 4th, 2021

By Order of Council:



Mr Colin Thomas, Chair

**For details on how to login to join the meeting check
www.wpcs.uk.com or the WPCS Facebook page.**

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President Brian Foster addressed the meeting.

“Welcome everyone to the Welsh Pony and Cob Society online Annual General Meeting. There are 237 members registered to log in and I think that there are 127 logged in at this particular moment from different parts of the World which is 6 % of the current paid up membership. This is a new experience for me as it will be for many of you. All our Trustees are present. I am Brian Foster the current President of the Welsh Pony and Cob Society.

Welcome to you all – croeso.

I will also introduce the other support that we have – Mr Colin Thomas Chairman of Council, Mr Roger Davies President –elect, Sarah Case of Azets, Company Secretary supported by his deputy; Bethan Walsh from Geldards and Stewart Franklin who will be the President-elect after this meeting.

Before we start the meeting, I would like us all to take a moment to reflect and remember those members who have passed in the last eighteen months. A moment of silence please?”

A silence was observed by all present.

“Thank you.

To move to the meeting itself I would like to note that the meeting is being recorded and will be available to view again online as a download.”

ITEM 1 APOLOGIES

“I will now turn to the Agenda and receive apologies. Apologies are taken as read.”

ITEM 2 PRESIDENT’S ADDRESS

“Item two on the Agenda is the President’s address before I share that with you as members, I would like to do some housekeeping and explain how this meeting will be run.

This is a truncated Agenda as shared in the recent spring newsletter and its main purpose being the announcement of the results of the ballot for five Trustees to serve on Council. I will also hand over the Presidency to the President-elect and we will confirm the new President -elect.

There are no resolutions to be discussed and therefore no votes to be taken.

There is also no segment for Any other business. These decisions have been taken by the Council of Trustees mindful of the fact that many of our membership cannot access the online platform.

To be wholly inclusive and enable every member to have their democratic right to be 'heard' and express their views, Council would like to invite comments, queries, and questions from the floor today via your keypads.

All submissions will be stored, collated, and presented to the new Council of Trustees, for discussion at a Council meeting looking specifically at issues raised at the AGM and they will respond accordingly.

For those not able to be present at the Online meeting the invitation is open to either email comments, queries and questions or write to the Society - or indeed if any member present today has further thoughts or contributions to make after the meeting we would invite you to do the same.

If writing a letter to the Society, please mark it 'AGM'. All such correspondence will be received until the 9th of April. This will then be collated, grouped, and shared with Council who will discuss it at a meeting and respond. The information will also be shared online via the Society's website on the Downloads page.

Responses can be either individual or public depending on the nature of the question or comment.

The email address for this is *agm@wpcs.uk.com* – I'll repeat that *agm@wpcs.uk.com*

This email address will be available on the Society's website and Facebook page after this meeting.

Council have considered how best to achieve the inclusion of all members opinions within the constraints of an online meeting in an organised and orderly fashion.

I will move now to my **Presidential address**.

During the 2019 AGM in Glasgow when I was elected to be your President. I made reference that the past year had not been the best experience I had known.

I am very pleased to report that things did improve very much, none more so than the appointment of Meirion Davies as our Company Secretary ably supported by his deputy Gemma Bassett-Burr and her team.

The society had been running without a leader and was not meeting its objectives and goals.

I feel at this juncture, I should also bring to your attention the sterling and tireless efforts of our trustees ably led by our Chairman Mr. Colin Thomas.

Whilst on the subject of praise I must commend our Young Ambassador Miss Catrin Reid in her work to promote our society. Also, her predecessor Euros Llyr Morgan and his team of young people in their huge efforts to raise funds to create a Welsh Cob Sculpture from Horseshoes with the skills of the sculptor Mr. Robert Rattray. The eyes of this fantastic Welsh Cob Stallion created from horseshoes donated by our patron Her Majesty the Queen

HRH the Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall then unveiled this sculpture. During the 2019 RWAS and stands regally commanding the Aura of this hallowed ground.

During my year I made visits and gave talks to several associations. It is quite something for our society the work they do for our beloved Welsh breeds long may it continue.

Our young People have always been foremost in my mind they are the future of our society.

I am encouraged by their performance at the Young Judges Competition at the 'Three Counties Showground'.

This for me was then further endorsed in what I would consider the highlight of my year to witness the performance of our younger generation at the Performance Awards ceremony in Cheltenham absolutely fantastic - the icing on the cake; this really was an eye opener for me.

I must congratulate Jo Filmer and her team for all the hard work and efforts they put into this event.

I feel I must mention Performance. I had the privilege of presenting prizes at the WPCS performance show. Everyone with an interest in Welsh Ponies and Cobs should put this event in their diary, and observe our ponies and cobs performing in all disciplines.

2020 arrived and plans were already well in hand to hold our AGM in my choice of venue the Vale Resort in Pontyclun.

They had been very helpful in so much that they agreed to give the same rates for rooms and dinner that they had charged for the 2016 AGM that was held there.

We had arranged everything deposits paid rooms booked, Auction items donated to raise money for my nominated charity. Even the entertainment in the form of 'Only Men Aloud' was booked - everything waiting to go.

We had been hearing about a Covid 19 Pandemic, which was happening, far away from our shores, mainly in China. When suddenly it was not only on our doorstep but was infecting and resulting in many deaths not only in Wales and the UK but also all over the world.

Suddenly we were in Lockdown. Air travel and other travel banned, people told to stay at home, work from home. Words like furlough came to the fore, all events cancelled.

It was not only our AGM became the victim but also all major events some months away were cancelled the RWAS.

This Pandemic then changed our lives things like team meetings and zoom meetings became the order of the day.

We all thought that this could not go on, but here we are 12 months down the road, and it is still with us.

Lockdown is still in place. There have been many deaths - well over 2 million worldwide.

What has all this got to do with being President of the Welsh Pony and Cob Society?

In order to get some form of normality after the cancellation of our AGM that would have released me from my duties, we maintained some normality in our Society by looking at 2020 as a non-event year. In the continued hope a possible physical AGM would be held, even agreeing dates with the Vale resort but this was also not to be.

That when an AGM is held those successful nominations of Trustees will be known and each new Trustee and the incoming President would have a full year and full term ahead of them, and continuity in the governance of the Society, would be maintained.

The year having been dominated by Team meetings, I would not even hazard a guess, as to how many meetings there have been including the meetings of the sub committees, suffice to say that these meetings have sometimes covered the hours from 9.30am through to 6pm or later. Being hooked to a computer screen or in some cases a telephone is not a good exercise. I certainly don't find it so.

However, we should all be very grateful to our Trustees whose dedication and commitment, have kept the Society up to date and on the right course. Throughout this Pandemic. Which has robbed us not only of our loved ones but our way of life.

They have stuck with it; taken on board all the challenges they have been presented with. I commend all the trustees for your unflagging enthusiasm and dedication to our beloved society.

Time moves on, and I have come to the end of my Presidency after serving a much longer term than was normal. But I am extremely pleased to report that the Society is in excellent health, and in very good hands in this extremely difficult period. There is now some light at the end of the tunnel thanks to the vaccination programme being well advanced.

Amongst the challenges they have faced there has been the organizing of Online sales and even online shows and competitions. Even International meetings have been held online. Nothing has stopped the progress and continuity of our society.

Although we never got to hold an AGM dinner when we would have held an Auction of donated items to raise funds for my nominated Charity Tŷ Hafan. This event as you are all aware has been saved through the continued support of Brightwells. They are not even going to make any charges for this. I feel at this juncture that I must personally give thanks to all our donors of items. The support and efforts of Dr Glyn Jones who has rallied this support from the donors that had promised items one year ago. Also, the skills of our Secretary Mr Meirion Davies and his team and last but certainly not least Mr Richard Binnerley joint Managing Director of Brightwells for his valued and unstinting support.

I remind you that the auction finishes tomorrow from 7pm.

We have also added a 'Just giving page' for donations to support this extremely important Charity.

I thank you the members for the honour and opportunity of being your President.

Diolch yn fawr.

Thank you and I will now hand over to Colin Thomas Chair of Council to suspend standing orders under item three.”

ITEM 3 SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

COLIN THOMAS

“Good afternoon all and welcome to this unusual meeting today. I'd like to thank the President. Council have decided to suspend standing orders and only deal with the immediate business of the announcement of the election result, the handover of the Presidency and the announcement and welcoming of the President-elect.

To explain, standing orders are the items which normally appear on the Agenda such as Honorary Awards in the gift of the Society, The Broderick trophy, the welfare report and the announcement of other Society awards. These will be posted online in due course. So today we are simply dealing with matters that are required to be dealt with at an AGM under the Society's Articles of Association.

As Chair of Council, I would like to reflect on the past eighteen months and share some of the challenges the Society has faced and overcome.

- The need to install a new supported database.
- The loss of Brightwells Equine department as official Auctioneers
- The loss of Animal Health Trust as the parentage verifying and DNA collating laboratory.
- The loss of so many Society events in our annual calendar
- The loss of the ability to produce passports for our European members.

All of this and the devastating effect of the Covid 19 pandemic on our friends and families who have lost loved ones and suffered health problems in its wake and continued hardship.

In response I am proud to share that the Trustees have held regular Online Council and sub-committee meetings.

Trustees have demonstrated good governance to implement responses to each and every one of these problems whilst keeping the Charity Commission apprised of our decisions and by following the legal guidance given by our appointed advisors.

- We have a new effective database.
- We have engaged a new DNA processing laboratory who are working with us to create a definitive DNA record library at Bronaeron.
- We have appointed Official Online auctioneers to enable members to sell their stock and held five successful sales.
- We held a successful worldwide Online Show to include members from all over the globe and raise people's spirits.
- We have negotiated a solution to enable European breeders to continue to register their stock in the Welsh stud book as (OR)
- We have also published Volume 98 of the Stud book with two more in production at the moment to take us to Volume 100.
- We published the first ever book aimed at the junior members.
- We are about to post out a content filled journal to all members to celebrate 120 years of the Society.
- We are in the middle of a tender process to secure an Official Auctioneer to hold the Autumn Sales at Builth Wells
- We have also delivered an operating profit for the first time in six years and that figure being over a hundred thousand pounds.
- We have set up an active DNA working party incorporating industry experts and will report to the membership later in the summer.
- The website is also being reviewed and overhauled in the next two months.

We have kept going despite some criticism but with the understanding and support from the majority of members, and many thanks to you for that.

Today we will announce the five newly elected trustees to serve on Council. I would ask members to consider, if you feel that you have the energies and a particular skillset to offer the Society that you put your name forward for consideration this autumn for election to serve as a Trustee on Council.

This opportunity is open to all members who qualify, and with these words I will hand over to Sarah Case from Azets who used to be known as Baldwins, the Society's appointed Auditors to announce the results of the ballot.

Welcome Sarah"

ITEM 4

TO RECEIVE THE ELECTION RESULT FOR THE ELECTION OF FIVE MEMBERS TO SERVE ON COUNCIL

SARAH CASE

“Thank you, Colin, – Good afternoon to the members of the Welsh Pony and Cob Society. On behalf of Azets being the duly appointed scrutineers for the election of five Council members to serve until the 2024 AGM, I can confirm that we have examined the 355 voting papers collected on the 27th of March 2020. Of the voting papers received –sorry; 555 voting papers collected of the 507 received, 507 were accepted. I therefore formally declare that the number of valid votes cast for each candidate in the order of total votes received were as follows.

David Davies 368

Rosanna Wilson 346

Elizabeth Hampson 286

Daniel Morgan 272

Angela Kember 206

Dania Leyson 201

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

Thank you very much and I will now hand you back to the President Brian Foster.”

****NB - SEE ADDENDUM***

ITEM 5

TO APPOINT ON THE RECOMMENDATION OF COUNCIL MR ROGER DAVIES AS PRESIDENT FOR 2021/2022

BRIAN FOSTER

“Thank you very much Sarah, and moving on to Item five to appoint on the recommendation of Council Mr Roger Davies as President for 2021/2022

May I be the first to congratulate those five members who have been elected as Trustees?

It now gives me great pleasure to welcome Roger Davies, Hafdre to take office as the Society’s new President.

The Society now moves its focus from the lowlands of Abergavenny to the hills and the area of Llanwrtyd Wells in Mid Wales.

Roger is well known to the membership through his Hafdre ponies. He joined the Society in 1958 and has registered almost 1400 ponies with the Society.

A true Mountain man - he recently enjoyed the performance of a team of four Hafdre ponies driven by Gower based Rowena Moyse at the last European Driving Championships. A great achievement for a breeder.

Roger - I congratulate you warmly on this well-deserved honour and wish you well during your term.

Once government guidelines allow, we will meet and hand over the Society's badge which i am now going to remove as it doesn't belong to me anymore.

I know this feels a little odd, but can I ask you as members watching form your homes to show your appreciation in the usual fashion.

Those present clapped

Roger, would you like to respond?"

ROGER DAVIES

"Thank you, Brian, for your kind words and I would like to ask Colin Thomas to thank you formally on behalf of the Society and its members for your two-year term at the helm.

Thank you – Colin".

ITEM 6

THANKS TO THE RETIRING PRESIDENT

COLIN THOMAS

"President – Brian Foster, as a Board trustees, we have been privileged to share your friendship and your complete devotion for the Society, we acknowledge and commend you for your vision and the professional way that you have always put the Society first and foremost.

As President you haven't been afraid to voice an opinion if you felt it necessary and I know as Chair of Council that the Board has always respected your honesty and openness.

The Board and members are also aware of your passion for your chosen Charity Tŷ Hafan, which provides holistic palliative care for children with life-limited conditions throughout Wales.

I know there is only a short time left for your auction of items given by the members as a mark of their respect for you and the Tŷ Hafan Charity, and we sincerely hope this will raise a substantial amount of money for such a worthy cause.

It has been my privilege and pleasure as it has been for the Board of trustees to serve alongside you.

Our sincere thanks and gratitude President, good health and best wishes to your family and could I ask for a short clap for Brian please?"

Those present clapped.

ITEM 7

TO RECEIVE A REPORT ON THE ELECTION OF PRESIDENT -ELECT STEWART FRANKLIN

COLIN THOMAS

“It now gives me great pleasure to move on to Item seven on the Agenda and welcome Mr Stewart Franklin of the Sarum Stud to be the new President elect for 2021 – 2022.

Stewart first joined the Society in 1967 and spent some time working for Miss De Beaumont at the Shalbourne Stud, where he worked with the legendary Coed Coch Glyndwr.

It is no surprise therefore that he set up to breed Welsh Mountain Ponies with his wife Annie. He is a past-trustee and also held the office of Chair of Finance and HR.

Stewart – I wish you well in your year as President-elect and I hope that by the time your Presidency commences that you will be able to travel freely and enjoy meeting the members. Congratulations!

I will now hand you to Stewart please.”

STEWART FRANKLIN

“Thank you, Colin. I am delighted that the Society has bestowed such an honour on me to be your President -elect – it is something I never expected. Thank you.”

ITEM 8 THE PRESIDENT’S CLOSING REMARKS

COLIN THOMAS

“I will close the meeting now on item eight to close the meeting, I will ask our new President Mr Roger Davies to address the membership present – Roger I’ll hand over to you.”

ROGER DAVIES

“Thank you Chair. Thank you to all members present. We are living in strange and difficult times – in the Society’s one hundred and twentieth year I wonder what the founding members would think of where we have taken the breed. Can you imagine what they would think of the fact that I am webcasting to members from all over the World?”

I can also announce at the closing of this AGM that the 2021 AGM will be held on Saturday the 11th of December this year in Llandrindod Wells: Powys.

In closing the meeting can I remind you of the opportunity to send your comments and questions to Council before the 9th of April?

Can I also ask you to dig deep in your pockets and bid at the auction which ends tomorrow?

Diolch yn fawr i bawb

Thank you.

I now declare the meeting closed and hope to see many of you at the meeting at Llandrindod Wells which for those of you who are unaware of where it is- is some five or six miles from the Royal Welsh Showground it is well served by both rail and road connections and has plenty of staying accommodation and it is where the first ever Annual General meeting of the Welsh Pony and Cob Society was held .

I now declare the meeting closed. Thank you.”

The National anthem of Wales was played.

ADDENDUM ATTACHED.

ADDENDUM.

Following the meeting the Company Secretary contacted the Auditor Sarah Case at Azets to note the apparent stumbling over the number of votes received. Sarah sent an email to apologise and explain what had happened and then forwarded the Official document with the result of the vote.

This was then added at the side of the screen on the recording during the Auditors un-edited delivery of the election result, to provide clarity for those members who chose to watch the recording as catch-up. A screen grab of the votes cast was placed on the Society Facebook page and website on the evening of the AGM.

The document provided by the Scrutineer is included below on page 13 and 14.



Ty Derw
Lime Tree Court
Cardiff Gate Business Park
Cardiff
CF23 8AB

T: +44 (0) 2920 549 939
azets.co.uk

Strictly Private and Confidential
The Welsh Pony & Cob Society
Bronaeron
Felinfach
LAMPETER
Ceredigion
SA48 8AG
UK

Our ref: BRW02/8317887
27 March 2021

Dear Members

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE WELSH PONY & COB SOCIETY

On behalf of Azets, being the duly appointed scrutineers for the election of the five council members to serve until the 2024 AGM, I confirm that we have examined the 509 voting papers collected on 27th March 2020.

Of the 509 voting papers received, 507 were accepted and 2 were rejected.

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

<i>Candidate</i>	<i>No of votes</i>	<i>Ranking</i>
David Davies	368	1
Rosanna Wilson	346	2
Elizabeth Hampson	286	3
Daniel Morgan	272	4
Angela Kember	206	5
Dania Leyson	201	6

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

The voting papers that were not accepted as valid were rejected due to:

Could not find member	1
Married couple, 1 membership but both voted	1

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The Welsh Pony & Cob Society

9 February 2021

Signed

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Azets'.

Azets