



The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Welsh Pony and Cob Society 2021 held at the Pavilion Mid Wales, in Llandrindod Wells, Powys at 1.00pm on Saturday the 11th of December 2021.

Meirion Davies asks for everyone's attention and offers copies of the agenda to anyone who needs one.

MD welcomes everyone to the meeting and explains that if people wish to remove their masks once seated, they can do so.

Roger Davies, president: Meeting is declared open.

RD.: The meeting is being taped, does anyone have any objections? *There were no objections*

If anyone wishes to tape the meeting, please could they disclose this now. [pause] *No response* . Please turn off all mobile phones or place on silent. I will remind you to sign the attendance book if not already done so.

Members receiving awards are requested to stay behind at the close of the meeting for photographs; photographs will not be taken during proceedings.

There are four roving microphones on poles in the meeting, please raise your hand then the Chair will come to you in turn. Everybody who wishes to speak will be heard; we request that members wait until the microphone has reached them before speaking and introduce themselves before speaking in order that their comments can be attributed to them correctly in the minutes. Due to Covid-19, it is not possible for you to hold the microphone.

Some non-members may be present representing proxy votes or associated with awards.

Are there any objections?

[pause] *There were no objections*

Introduce Bethan Walsh from Geldards LLP and Claire Thompson from Azets.

1. To receive apologies.

RD: Apologies, taken as read

Regrettably, a number of members have passed away this year, the Society extends its sympathies to families and friends of all departed members. I'm not going to name

anyone as everyone's equal. As a mark of respect, members please be silent for a minute.

Minutes silence please

[pause] Members stood in silent tribute for a minute

RD: Thank you

I apologise on my own behalf; due to infirmity I am not able to stand.

2. To receive the Minutes of the 2020 Annual General Meeting held on Saturday the 27th of March 2021 and to consider matters arising

RD: The verbatim minutes have already been proposed, seconded and approved.

Is everybody happy with that? *There were no objections*

3. To receive correspondence

RD: Correspondence was received before the 1st of December from Mrs Willis-Burton, which will be discussed under any other business.

4. To receive the Audited Balance Sheets and Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2020 and a report from the Chair of Finance and HR

RD: I will invite the Chair of finance, Mr Wyn Jones to submit the report to members.

Wyn Jones: Mr President and fellow members, on behalf of your Council I present to you the audited accounts for the year ending 31st December 2020. As we all know, the last two years have been far from normal years, and I believe that we as a Society have been very fortunate to be able to continue to fulfil our core services. Many companies have fallen by the wayside during the pandemic, but due to the nature of our business, we have been able to continue to trade. Most of this is down to our staff, who worked tirelessly during very difficult circumstances, to be able to provide members with a service.

Our targets and timescales have been mostly met and regular dialogue with the Welsh Government has managed to keep up our PIO status throughout this period.

During 2020 we had some members of staff furloughed, others worked from home and remained and worked in the office, at socially distanced workstations so that the production of passports could continue. I would personally like to record my thanks to all the members of staff; Meirion, Gemma, Jack, Chris, Mary-Ann, Miriam, Elise, Helen, Timothy, Carol, and Jess until the time she left us, for their support to the Society throughout these trying times.

Due to the huge uncertainty during the year, your council and staff have been very aware of the dangers of entering into any large expenditure and due to the lack of activity, much of the planned promotions have had to be held back. A very good journal was produced, along with Stud Book Number 98.

At the moment, the heating in Bronaeron is still an ongoing problem and money will be budgeted for further improvement.

During the year, an operating surplus of £81,106 was made which, when added to the gains on investments; £29,461, giving the Society an overall sum of £110,567. It is pleasing to see our investments were showing a level of growth during the pandemic, but as always, we are very conscious of the fact that they could go down at any time, and although they are seen as a long-term investment, we still monitor them on a regular basis. The market value of our investments as of the 31st of December 2020, stood at £1,861,093 compared to £1,377,700 the previous year, which shows a raise of £483,393. The overall performance of the investments shows an annual growth of 1.19% compared to 13.29% in 2019.

The main areas where we have seen reductions in our expenditure from the previous year are Legal and Professional fees, which were at £23,939 compared to £69,898 the previous year, a reduction of £45,959.

Our AGM expense came down to £3,996 compared to £27,149 the previous year; and of course, we had three meetings during 2019 which made the figure seem rather large. That is a difference of £23,153.

Medal and rosette costs were £2,488 compared to £34,297 the previous year, though we do tend to buy our medals and rosettes in bulk, so we bought a healthy amount in 2019. Therefore, a saving of £31,809 there.

DNA, blood-typing, and microchips also came down by about £10,555 from £45,808 in the previous year to £35,253.

Our registration income increased from £214,990 to £250,969, an increase of £35,979.

Transfers also went up from £74,066 to £80,351, a difference of £6,288.

We also applied for and received grant monies during the year, £47,414.

Unfortunately, during the same period, our membership income showed a decrease again, which is a very worrying trend. Your Council are very aware of this position and are trying to think of new ways to attract new members and retain existing members. Income received during 2020 was £134,543 compared to £150,697 in 2019, a reduction of £16,154.

The income from promotional items was also down, due mostly to the lack of events in 2020. The income received was £4,189 compared to £16,362, a decrease of £12,173.

Income generated from judging, medals and rosettes also showed a decline due to the lack of shows; it was £29,654 in 2019 and dropped to £15,523 in 2020, a difference of £14,131.

I would like to thank David Davies, Vice Chair, and fellow members of the Finance and HR committee for their support, and also my predecessor Mr Geraint Davies for

his guidance during his tenure as Chair. The Council with Chair Colin Thomas and Vice Chair Elgan Evans have also been very supportive of the Finance and HR committee, and I thank them all for their commitments to move the Society forward. Also, thanks to our Auditors Sarah Case and Claire Thompson from Azets for their continued assistance.

Finally, I would like to thank you, the members, for being so passionate and caring towards the Society, and I'm sure if we work together for the common good of the Society then we can ensure it can continue and flourish for another 120 years and beyond.

If anyone has any questions on the Audited Accounts of 2020 I will try and answer them as best I can.

No questions? *There were no questions*

I move to approve the Audited Account and Balance sheets for the year ending 31st of December 2020.

Would anybody wish to propose them, please?

Other voices: This has been done

Wyn Jones: These have been done? So I don't need to do them?

Other voices: No

Wyn Jones: Oh, fine, OK.

[Change over at the microphone]

Ifor Lloyd: Chair, could I please have an answer to the question I posed to you two weeks ago?

WJ: Thank you, Mr Lloyd. As this was not to do with the audited accounts, I'm sorry but we will have to add it on at the end. Mr Lloyd asked if I could supply you with the cost of legal fees for the last 20 years and unfortunately, if you go back through the audited accounts, legal fees are grouped with professional fees, so Chris hasn't managed to extract the legal fees for the last 20 years, it will take us a bit longer to get just the legal fees. At the moment, he has sent me the list of figures going back to 2009 when we started on the Sage system, but they are all mixed up in this.

Do you want the annual totals or the grand total?

ILI: Grand total

WJ: The grand total of Legal and Professional fees between 2002 and 2021 was £531,085. Is that sufficient, Mr Lloyd? *Mr Lloyd nods*

RD: If there are no further questions, I thank Mr Jones for his report and we will move on, to appoint Azets as the Society's Auditors. Chair of Finance...

5. To appoint Azets as the Society's Auditors

WJ: To appoint Azets as the Society's auditors, I move to confirm the appointment by Council of Azets as the Society's Auditors for 2022. We have confirmed the appointment at Council level so, do we need a proposer?

Could I have a proposer? [Emma Edwards is named]

And a seconder? [Liz Russel is named]

All those in favour. [pause]

All those against. [pause]

Any abstentions? [pause]

Ok, I think that was passed unanimously. Thank you.

6. To receive the Report of the Chair of Council

RD: I'd like to invite the Chair of Council, Mr Colin Thomas, to submit his report.

Colin Thomas: Good afternoon, everybody; Prynawn Da. Ladies and Gentlemen, I am delighted to welcome you all today. I've been Chair of Council for almost three years and during that time some members will have experienced deeply challenging circumstances throughout the ongoing period of the pandemic: it is great to see members here today in person as so much has been online during the past 18 months.

Due to the challenges of the ever-changing scenario, there has been a constant and heavy flow of work for both the board and staff. As Chair, with my fellow trustees and staff, it has always been my duty to guide and follow the Society's articles of association and charity and company law.

The number of Council committee and subsidiary meetings held has been considerable, and the board and staff have gone to great lengths to treat all members equally. I confirm to the members that the board has had regards to the guidance contained within the charities commission general guidance on public benefit, when reviewing the Society's aims and objectives. This is particularly relevant to the resolutions put forward today.

Since the last live AGM, the charity has been faced with some major challenges: Brexit; the first virtual AGM; the demise of the Animal Health Trust; the engagement of Weatherby's Scientific; and reviewing the Articles of Association resolutions, the Judging and Showing rules and disciplinary procedures; developing a closer working relationship with the Welsh Government; the staging of the Royal Welsh Autumn Equine show and the new Official Autumn sale with new Auctioneers McCartney's and the review of DNA.

Due to the cancellation of a live AGM in 2020, the past president, Mr Foster held a very successful online auction back in the summer in aid of Ty Hafan Hospice, the sum raised was considerable, so thank you Brian. Also, many thanks to Brightwell's for providing the online auction free of charge.

Our outgoing Young Ambassador, Catrin Reed has also raised a substantial sum, which has also included an equalling donation to Prostate Cymru and Ty Hafan, so well done to Catrin.

Members – the future of the Society is good; our financial position is very healthy. The Chair of Finance and committee, Company Secretary and Office Manager are always reviewing ways of seeking support. The board is very mindful of all the money that is spent, and we really do run a financially controlled organisation. No trustee is paid, and many forego expenses. This takes me to the Chair of Finance, who has been very mindful of looking after the finances of the Society. Chair of Finance is a very important position, and he has been excellent in this role, and I thank him sincerely. Thank you, Wyn.

I'd also like to thank the Vice Chair of Council for his support in this position and many other aspects within the subcommittees and roles as a trustee. Thank you, Elgan.

To the Honorary Officer for his advice on education and welfare, and to Council where needed; thank you Rowland.

The journal editor, Mr Geraint Davies, committee and staff, for their tireless work in preparing the 2022 journal for members. Thank you all.

President Roger Davies, because of the circumstances, I know your year has not been what you wished for, but you have always been a person I looked up to, and I thank you for your present role and also what you have done for the Society over a long period of time. Thank you, Roger.

Also, to wish his successor, Mr Stewart Franklin of the Sarum Stud, all the best for the coming year. Thank you, Stewart.

Our new Young Ambassador, Hannah Atkinson, I know your role has been restricted because of the pandemic, so Council has given your role an extended period and I sincerely hope that restrictions will continue to be eased to allow you to enjoy your role. Thank you, Hannah.

Volunteers are an important resource in the Society's work; I would like to thank each and every one person that has offered and assisted the society over the period whilst I have been Chair.

I'd like to thank the Company Secretary, the Office Manager and staff for the way they have considerably improved the services to the members and to the way they have been dealing with many outside organisations professionally.

It has been a pleasure and a privilege to have been involved with you all. Thank you all.

I would plead with the members to be controlled in their remarks relating to individuals on social media where relating to the Society; I remind you of the Society's social media policy and that there is an internal and external course of action for any member that may feel aggrieved.

Finally, this will be my last report as Chair of Council, and I wish to report publicly my grateful thanks to and huge respect for Chairs of Committees, my fellow trustees, who give so selflessly of their expertise, skills and time to ensure there is proper, regular support and challenge of and to the various undertakings of the WPCS.

I wish the current trustees, future trustees and everyone connected with the Society success for the future as they continue to grow this quite remarkable breed society. Here's to the next 120 years. Diolch yn fawr; thank you.

RD: Thank you, Colin

We move on now to invite Catrin Reed to collect her past Young Ambassador Badge and to also introduce Hannah Atkinson with her sash.

[pause]

Roger Davies: Catrin Reed is unable to be here to collect her past Young Ambassador Badge, but Hannah Atkinson is here I believe, so she will come forward to collect her sash.

[applause]

Liz Hampson: It gives me great pleasure to present this sash to Hannah: Hannah and I have been friends for quite some time, and I am looking forward to being her mentor and hopefully we will get to see a lot of you in the future. Good luck, Hannah.

Hannah Atkinson : Thank you Liz, and thanks to the Welsh Pony and Cob Society for giving me this opportunity, it's been a while, but we have made it; it's quite a while since the initial start of it but I look forward to meeting lots of like-minded people and seeing what we can do for the young members of the Society, and I am very much looking forward to next year.

[applause]

RD: We move forward now to article 7 on the agenda.

- 7. To receive nominations from the floor to appoint a sixth candidate to fill the remaining vacancy to serve on Council for the period 2021-2024 as per Article 25 V (a) of the Articles of Association of the Society. Nominations will be proposed and seconded from the floor and a vote will be taken from members present including proxy votes. The successful candidate in the ballot shall be the person who attained the greatest number of votes cast. The vote will be taken later in the meeting once ballot papers have been prepared.**

RD: We will now take the nominations from the floor; each will be proposed and seconded.

Nigel Burton: To the Chairman, I would like to propose Tanya Baldwin of the Janton Stud, unfortunately Tanya tested positive for Covid two days ago, but she has given me a statement and asked me to read this out later. Thank you

Jo Sheil: I'd like to propose Lottie Stephens from the Flydon Stud, again she can't be with us today, but she has sent a statement to the office to be read out later.

RD: We will need a proposer and a seconder; we have a proposer for both.

Angela Kember: I'd like to second for Tanya Baldwin please.

RD: Can we go back to Jo Shiel please?

JSh: I was proposing Lottie.

RD: Is there a seconder?

Jo: Yes, there is.

RD: Who is the seconder, please?

[faint voices suggest name]

RD: Andrew Thomas (Caederwen)?

Andrew Thomas: I will formally second Lottie Abrahall (Stephens); Flydon Stud.

RD: We have two proposed and seconded so far, any further nominations?

Wendy Burt: I would like to propose Cemaes Evans, Cathedine Stud.

RD: Do we have a seconder?

[faint voice]

Victoria Whittle: Can I second him please, Cemaes Evans, Cathedine Stud.

RD: Anymore?

RD: As nobody is getting up, I take it that that's been dealt with. It now has to go to get the proper paperwork done and the actual ballot will be held under agenda item number 12 when the ballot papers have been prepared. Just for the record, I think most people realise that there were insufficient nominations to fill the vacancies on Council which leaves us one short. We've got 1, 2, 3 propositions and seconders, is everybody happy with that?

RD: I invite Claire Thompson to count the votes, each resolution will be voted on individually by a show of hands and a 75% majority of those present in person or by proxy will be required for each resolution. Those persons carrying proxy votes will have a card with a number on, please show this as part of your vote to be counted. We will take the votes against the amendment to the resolution first. Nobody's objecting to the method of filling the one vacancy on council. If there is now jump up and say so or forever hold your peace.

Karen Laurie-Parry: Sorry for being late. Can I ask do you not do a secret vote?

Meirion Davies: Yes, the ballot is secret we will have ballot papers, we are going to print them now and later in the meeting we will share them. But not for the resolutions no.

KLP: I mean to nominate the one person.

MD: Yes, that's a secret ballot that is, we will have papers in a minute.

KLP: Thank you.

MD: Now we just need confirmation of the people who are standing.

CT: Confirmation of those who have been nominated. So, Nigel can you confirm.

RD: Each can confirm please.

NB: I have Tanya's permission and she, in fact, emailed Meirion this week to confirm that she was standing and was prepared to stand.

MD: And I can confirm that I have, in absentia, Lottie Stephen's has emailed me and is happy to stand.

Catrin Bigley: Llanarth Stud. At this point do we not hear from them, so they don't give a statement?

MD: Yes, they give a statement later under item 12.

RD: Right can you all confirm please.

Cemaes Evans: I am happy to stand.

8. To consider sixteen special resolutions as amendments to the 2017 Articles of Association. These will be voted on individually to be adopted or not by a show of hands. Those persons carrying proxy votes will be given a card on arrival which will note the number of proxies registered. By showing the card as part of the show of hands those votes will be counted.

Bethan Walsh: Thank you very much. Good afternoon, Prynawn da, I am Bethan Walsh from Geldards (LLP). I have been asked to read out the proposed resolutions, which would amount to changes in the Articles of Association. As has been explained, the resolutions will be proposed, separate resolutions and each will require 75% or more of those members present in person or by proxy to agree before they can be passed. And Claire (Thompson) from Azets is going to count the vote.

BW: So, the first resolution, that a new article three five is added as follows: "In these articles the expression meeting includes, except where inconsistent with any legal obligation, a physical meeting, a video conference, an internet video facility or similar electronic method allowing simultaneous visual and audio participation, telephone conferencing, and/or any combination of the above. So, if you would like to vote. Please indicate by show of hands or your proxy forms. For or against? Okay, apologies. Different organisations do it differently. Those against please vote now.

Brian McDermott: Tyrcoedbach Stud. Can I ask that there might be questions on each of these articles before we vote? Yes, each one individually. Thank you.

BW: Are there any questions?

Elizabeth Russell: Gartconnel Stud. Excuse me, but are we being asked to vote on these individually? And, therefore, are we allowed to, I think as the gentleman said, are we asking questions on this specific one, or are we asking it on all of them?

BW: I think it would be easier to ask one at a time.

ER: That's lovely, thank you.

BW: So, are there any questions on this proposed amendment? So, if we can move to the vote. And those in favour please vote. Thank you.

Members voted by a show of hands. The resolution was accepted

BW: So, to the second proposed amendment. In article 3.1, that the existing definition of the United Kingdom be amended to "means Wales, England, Northern Ireland and Scotland". Any questions?

ER. I am actually asking why we are breaking up the United Kingdom. The Welsh Pony and Cob Society is not a devolved institution. It is based in Wales and is recognised as such. We may have devolved governments in various parts of the country, but we are still the United Kingdom. And I frankly think that we should consider, that as a lot of the members of the Welsh Pony and Cob Society are not necessarily in Wales that we actually continue to be inclusive and do not discriminate against other people. So please could we remain as the United Kingdom or Great Britain. Thank you.

BW: Would anybody on council like to respond to that.

LH: These resolutions are what has been brought forward by some of the membership, so this is for you to vote on. It's not for us to comment, it's your vote.

MD: Could I, just for a point of clarity, just explain here. With this one I think the wording in the original articles is England, Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland. This is just a simple re-order to position Wales as the first country. So, there is no question of breaking up the union, it's just a re-ordering of the words, to position Wales, because the Society is based in Wales and is the Welsh Pony and Cob Society.

BW: So, the definition would read, this is how it would read. "The United Kingdom means Wales, England, Northern Ireland and Scotland." As opposed to "Great Britain and Northern Ireland."

MD: That's all it is.

John Kirk: Donys Stud I'm afraid I cannot agree whatsoever, to any vote, that's taking out the word United Kingdom.

BW: It's not taking it out. The definition will be – this is what it currently is - "United Kingdom means Great Britain and Northern Ireland" we are proposing to change that to "the United Kingdom means Wales, England, Northern Ireland and Scotland."

JK: But you said there that you're taking out the word United Kingdom. You're not? Okay, thank you.

BW: Any more questions?

Tracy Hook: Kemysfawr Stud. Can I ask, is the Channel Islands not part of the United Kingdom? And the Isle of Man as well, are they not all a part of the United Kingdom?

MD: Yes, I believe the United Kingdom encompasses all of them, it just doesn't subdivide them.

TH: Thank you Meirion for confirming that they are part of the United Kingdom, but we are only including Wales, England, Northern Ireland, and Scotland, we are not including them. If they are part of the United Kingdom, and we are specifying, should they not be specified as well then?

MD: Can you answer that question?

CTh: Well, is that a request from the floor?

BW: How do you want to deal with that Colin?

CTh: Well, is that a request that the Channel Islands (be added as a vote) from the floor.

BW: Are there any further questions? [pause] Those against please vote.

Members voted by a show of hands. The resolution was not accepted

If you can keep your papers up and your hands up, please. So, that motion won't carry. So, there's not enough, there are too many against, so there is no point putting it to the 'for' (vote). I think Claire (Thompson) was able to work that out from the number of papers. It is not carried so there is no point putting it to a vote 'for' because we know it won't carry. I mean you can if you would like to, but it's a waste of time.

MD: Sorry Bethan, can I just ask because we are recording it, if you don't have a mike and we can't hear you it is not recorded. So can you please, if you want to speak, put your hand up, wait for one of the staff to come, say your name, because that is important as well for us to record. And then we will be able to hear you and Matt will be able to see because where he's sitting there, he can't see you, unless you put your hand up. Okay? Thank you.

BW: Okay, so the third resolution. That article four is amended as follows, and I will read out how it would read under the new provision. "Every member of the Society undertakes to contribute to the assets of the Society in the event of the same being wound up, while they are a member, or within one year after they have ceased to be a member, for payment of the debts and liabilities of the Society contracted before they ceased to be a member and of the costs, charges and expenses of winding up and for the adjustments of the rights of the contributories among themselves, such amount as may be required to not exceeding two pounds." And I understand that

council wished to amend this particular article in this way, simply to remove references to 'person' and to replace references with 'they' and I understand that there were some members who expressed concern at the use of the word 'person'. Any questions?

KLP: Brynmelys and Deltarow Stud. Can I ask, what are the reasons for not wanting 'person'.

BW: I'm not sure, these are my instructions, perhaps someone from Council would like to explain that?

CTh: It was a general vote taken by Council to insert those words but it's for the members here to decide today if they want it inserted or not.

Ed Gummery: Treforth Stud. In the notes issued by the solicitors two days ago, in red, the reason for this resolution was that it was to avoid gender neutrality, I can't think of anything more neutral than the word person.

BW: I received instructions from Council that this is how they wanted the article amended. And I didn't issue notes, I don't recall issuing notes, but nothing really is going to change with this particular article. Any more questions?

KLP: Sorry to be a pain. There must be a reason why they wanted 'they', I was just wondering is it because of something legal?

BW: I mean, I received instructions and I obviously have to comply with those instructions and that is why I have invited Council to comment on why they felt that this particular change is necessary. It's not for me to discuss, that's for Council to explain to you, as members.

KLP: It just makes a bit more clarity so to make our decision on voting, thank you, so I just wonder why.

CTh: Well, the clarity is that we have inserted it as we thought it was more appropriate. If Council – if the members think that the word person remains, you know, we'll take a vote on it from the floor. And that's what we're here for today for you as members to decide, for or against these resolutions.

BW: Any more questions? [pause] Okay, so if we, firstly those against if you could please vote and keep your hands and papers up please so that Claire (Thompson) can count votes. [pause]

Members voted by a show of hands. The resolution was not accepted

So the conclusion from results is that the motion will not pass, so there is no point going to the vote a 'for' that particular resolution.

BW: Number four, that article 6.1 be amended as follows, and I'll read it out. "To promote and facilitate the acquisition and distribution of information about the Welsh breeds, in all parts of the world including by the creation of a charter or similar from time to time, defined as 'charter', positioning the Society as the mother society for all

filial Welsh Pony and Cob Societies and Associations, in all parts of the world and encourage those bodies to sign and endorse the charter.” Any questions?

EG In this resolution you have mentioned a specific document, a charter, can Council enlighten us as to exactly what that is? Is it a legal document? What is the charter about before I vote on it?

CTh: Do you want to comment on that one Meirion or do you want me to? Alright, the charter was drawn up on recommendation from the overseas societies that they felt that they wanted to be a part, they wanted to be united as a group of overseas associations and that’s why we put this in. The charter is a document attached to the articles, Meirion aren’t they.

MD: The charter actually was drawn up as a leverage tool to position the Society when we talked to government. So, it outlines and positions the Society as THE mother society, this is the original society. It’s a positioning tool, and it’s something, personally I’ve seen it within the world of children’s television, where they got all the national broadcasters, throughout the world from the small countries and the large countries to sign out a charter, explaining why children’s programming was important. And it was almost like a pledge of allegiance and so it’s, it creates a footprint when you’re trying to position yourself as the society if another society tries to make a land grab for the title of Welsh Pony and Cob Society.

CTh: Meirion I think, as well, that you could at that they’ve all signed up to it, except one, is it?

MD: Yes, all countries have signed up to it, bar one, which is Australia and I think there was just one word that they didn’t like in it, because it had echoes of pledging allegiance and they wanted to be independent. So, it was something that we did use in the Brexit negotiations with the government, and they used it when they were arguing our case to have an overseas register because we are the only society who can register animals from overseas. So, it was pivotal from that point of view.

EG: Can I ask if it is legally binding then, is there a period of time or is it legally binding and enduring, is it?

MD: It is there for perpetuity, if somebody wants to amend it at a later date, it would be something that we would take to the membership. But, you know, I think, I would put any money on it, that all of you would say “yes, yes, yes, yes, yes” to each one of them. But it’s just a lobbying tool.

CB. I’m just in agreement with Ed (Gummery) I think before we vote on something like this, shouldn’t we see the contents, before we vote on something that didn’t actually agree with.

CTh: Do you have that content Meirion on your laptop? You don’t have it on your laptop.

MD: I should say, perhaps, its purpose has been, it’s something that sits there now, we won’t need to use it again. But it is something that all the daughter societies signed up to, bar the one, so that then in any negotiations or discussion with

government or with the EU positions the Society as THE society, because it is possible for the European societies to ask for an extension to register in this country, and in fact one country has done that. One country's society a daughter society asked to be able to register Welsh Ponies and Cobs in the UK, and DEFRA and the Welsh government turned that down, because, in part, because of the positioning of this charter, which the other societies had all signed up to.

Lisa Perrott: Tygolau Stud. Can I just ask please, what has it been amended from, because there's nothing to say there, what is being amended and why it is being amended? What's the necessity for this to change, or what, in fact, is changing because having not seen this charter, is it the charter itself that's being amended or just the wording of the inclusion of the charter.

MD: It's the wording of the inclusion, To include the charter, because prior to this this charter did not exist. Now that we have a charter, which the other daughter societies have signed up to, it makes sense to bring it into the body of our articles, so it's there as a reference document, should we ever need to call on it again.

LP: And shouldn't the membership have the chance to see the wording of the charter, if we are voting on it being included and it hasn't already been included?

MD: I have this feeling, was it not included in one of the newsletters? It hasn't been included in the newsletter.

BW: Could I just jump in there, so, the Council as elected directors have power to do anything essentially, which is legal or in the interest of the Society, legal AND in interests of the Society and creating a charter was something that they felt was in the best interests of the Society because, as has been explained, it placed the Society as the, sort of, recognised registration body within Wales or for Welsh Ponies and Cobs rather. So, this is, this isn't amending the charter, that power rests with the directors, with Council, as elected by the members. This is simply recognising the existence of the charter, so this isn't amending the charter, as I said, that rests, that power rests with the elected Council members.

EG. Why are we voting on it then as a resolution if the Council can change it? Because it says in here, "similar from time to time" that indicates that it could be changed from time to time, so why are we having it as a resolution if council can do that?

BW: Because the council wanted to acknowledge its existence within the articles, just as a ...

EG: Then, therefore, wouldn't it be good to show the membership, before you ask us to vote on it.

Rosie Wilson: (Boothsdale) I would like to just jump in at this point. Both Angela Kember and myself are in the situation here that these proposals didn't actually come past us prior to them coming forward to this meeting. The reason for that being that they were agreed prior to the last AGM so they actually pre-date us. However, I am very much in the position that I see this as something that is really important because I see it as essential to position ourselves in such a way that we are the

mother society going forwards, because I do see future challenges from the European societies looking to take over following the changes in international registration and I think that could be a really negative thing for us as a society. I haven't reviewed the charter, but I am happy in the knowledge that we, as a council, have the opportunity to review it going forwards. And on that basis, I will actually be supporting this motion, albeit there are a number of others that I won't be.

ER: Excuse me, can I please confirm that opinion because actually from past years on council, it was always trying to get people in line throughout the world and the charter basically allows that to happen and it allows everything to come back into the Welsh Pony and Cob Society Studbook. So, I think it is actually, a very sensible thing to put to the membership and I also will be supporting it. Thank you.

BW: Any further questions? [pause] Okay, so if we move to the vote, those against, please vote now. [pause] And those in favour please vote.

Members voted by a show of hands. The resolution was accepted

Thank you, I can see that that has been carried.

MD: Can I just offer then; I will share the charter in the next newsletter so that everybody can see it. It was a tool that we used at a critical point in time, but I will share it widely and I think you will be pleasantly surprised when you read it.

CTh: Company Secretary, can I add, I think you should put it up on the website, as soon as possible.

BW: Thank you. So, onto the fifth resolution. In article 6.2 that the words "overseas register" be added immediately after the words international register. Any questions? [pause] Okay, is we move to the vote, those against could you please vote now. [pause] And those in favour, could you please vote now.

Members voted by a show of hands. The resolution was accepted

Thank you, I can see that that has been carried.

BW: On to the sixth resolution. That article 6.9 be amended as follows, and I'll read it out, "to undertake the promotion, management and supervision of both traditional sales and online sales of horses and ponies and to appoint official auctioneers and agents for the conduct of society sales in the United Kingdom or in any other part of the world." Any questions? [pause] No questions so if we move to the vote. Those against please could you vote now. [pause] And those for could you please vote.

Members voted by a show of hands. The resolution was accepted

Thank you, that's been carried.

BW: Resolution seven; that article 6.10 to be amended as follows; "to promote the export of the Welsh breeds to all parts of the world and in that connection to issue or withhold export certificates dealing with verification of the breeding of animals exported and to record an overseas register of Welsh breed animals and their part

bred descendants in the main body of the Welsh Studbook". Any questions please?
[pause]

Angela Kember: I don't know whether all of you have been able to see the English version that David Davies very kindly put together, but this is again another issue caused by Brexit and people not understanding. So, it's sort of something that it's all the issues caused by Brexit to us

BW: Thank you, any questions, or comments? [pause] Okay so if we move to the vote. Those against could you please vote now. [pause] And those for, could you please vote.

Members voted by a show of hands. The resolution was accepted

Thank you, I think that's been carried. Yes, that's been carried.

BW: On to number eight. That article 6.11 be amended as follows; "to supervise the importation or re-importation of animals of the Welsh breeds and to accept or reject their inclusion in the Welsh Studbook as the Council may in its entire discretion decide, provided that the verification of eligibility or exclusion shall be in accordance with the Society's breeding rules existing at that particular time". Any questions please? [pause] Okay, so if those against could please vote now. [pause] And those for, could you please vote now.

Members voted by a show of hands. The resolution was accepted

Thank you, that's been carried.

BW: On to number nine. That a new article (6.)29 be added as follows; "In promoting the Welsh breeds, the Society shall at all times aspire to have regard to the history, traditions, cultures, languages and vocabulary of Wales." And this would mean that current article 6.29 would become article 6.30. Any questions please? Thank you, can those against could you please vote now [pause] And those for please vote now.

Members voted by a show of hands. The resolution was accepted

Thank you that's been carried.

BW: Okay so on to item ten, resolution ten, so number ten. That a new article 11.7 be amended – sorry – that article 11.7 be amended as follows, "the animal membership and any other subscription fees, payable by the members, shall be such as the Council may, acting reasonably from time to time determined, for the avoidance of doubt, it shall be reasonable for the Council to increase such fees at least in accordance with the official rate of UK inflation annually." Any questions please? [pause] Thank you, so if we could, if those against could please vote. [pause] Thank you, and those for, please vote. [pause]

Members voted by a show of hands. The resolution was accepted

Thank you that's been carried.

BW: On to resolution eleven. That a new article 18.1e is included as follows; "is delivered no later than 48 hours prior to the relevant general meeting, however when

calculating this time, no account shall be taken of any part of the day that is not a working day.” And the words “and” be removed from the end of article 18.1c and be included at the end of article 18.1d. Just a grammar correction finally there. Any questions please? [pause] Okay, so if those against could please vote now. [pause] Thank you, and those for, could you please vote now.

Members voted by a show of hands. The resolution was accepted

Thank you.

BW: On to resolution twelve. That article 24.1 be amended as follows; “at each annual general meeting, there shall retire from council, any trustee who did not retire at either of the – and it should read ‘two’, there is a typo there, apologies – “either of the two annual general meetings immediately preceding the present one, or in the case of a trustee elected as a trustee under article 25.10 or article 25.14 – sorry, yes (25.)14 – or appointed as a trustee under article 25.25 in place of a trustee who has died or vacated office before the expiration of his or her term of office whose predecessor in office did not retire at either of the two annual general meetings immediately preceding the present one.” Any questions please? [pause] Thank you so those against could you please vote now [pause] Thank you and those for could you please vote now. [pause]

Members voted by a show of hands. The resolution was accepted

Thank you, that one has been carried.

BW: So on to resolution thirteen. There are two options here that the council would like to put to the members to do with increasing the number of elected council members of trustees from, currently it’s 15, to increase it to 18, but firstly they wanted to, instead of just putting 18 to the members, they wanted to see, sort of, what the preference was, so; that article 25.1 be amended as follows; so, this is option one; “up to 18 trustees shall be elected by the Society in accordance with the provisions provided for in these articles.” So, that’s an increase to 18 council members. Alternatively, option two; “up to 15 trustees shall be elected by the Society in accordance with the procedures provided for in these articles.” And that’s, that’s the current position. So just to clarify, we need to have two votes here, firstly, a vote to determine, by simple majority, which of the above two, the two options that I’ve read, would be the preferred option by the members, and then secondly, once we have clarification or clarity on the preferred option, we’ll then put that option to the members to amend by special resolution to include that in the articles. So, this one then, any questions – sorry?

Steve Everitt: Tireve Stud. I’m looking at this and I know there is great difficulty even achieving 15 members to come forward at the moment. If we have 15 members of council who are all willing to put an effort in to it, it’s quite enough. I don’t see the point in increasing that to 18 when we will have people sitting on chairs not doing work.

BW: Thank you, any further questions?

JK: For those of us in the room that have read the Pamela Woods report, and to educate the members in the room that haven't; the Pamela Woods report recommended that the Society work with less than 15 trustees. It has been voted on for 15 trustees, the Society has been successful running with less than 15 trustees. So, personally myself, I would strongly recommend it stayed with 15 trustees that work for the Society as Steve (Everitt) said, not bums on seats. Thank you.

EG. I was just wondering why we were going up in number when the recommendation from that report was to go down. And bigger organisations with ten times the amount of members have less trustees than we already have.

Liz Hampson:– serving trustee – just to clarify to some of the people that are querying this. This actually came about when we asked people to put recommendations for improvements. The majority of the people that took the time to do that actually wanted to increase. As a serving trustee there is a lot of work can be done and our general belief that the more the better the more people that are on there, but this is something that actually came from the membership that they wanted to see it increase, so, the vote is there for everybody to vote accordingly.

Ann Bigley: I read the Pamela Woods report, I'd be interested to see how many people of present members of council have actually read it all. It's quite clear that council should have been reduced, which it did, I see no point in increasing it. I have been on council; one wouldn't want to like the idea that perhaps some council carry dead weight, but there are those that work much harder than others, and I'm sorry that's passing no reference to anyone presently on council. I think that if you've got a good council that's working hard, you don't need to make it bigger. Secondly, you have enough problems, as somebody has already said, filling the vacancies you already have, and the problem with that is, if you don't fill those vacancies, we go down the road, where we've seen before, where council start to co-opt people on which are not necessarily likely to have been voted in at an AGM and I think that is a really big issue for democracy. Thank you.

JK: I too have served on council, and have witnessed, that in my honest opinion, that there is no need whatsoever, the work that is done by council, and I will pat them on the back for the sterling work that they do, but I am totally convinced that this society can run and work with 15 trustees. I'm sorry to push on this, but I will do so.

TH. Can I just say? That I would say that 15 is an odd number, so it's a lot better when you come to a vote in council. When you've got 18 that's an even number, so you could become on a deadlock.

JS: Dukeshill Stud. I've had the honour of serving on council both when we had 33 members of council and when we cut down to 15 members of council, I have also served on council the year that a number dropped out and we were down to 12 members of council, and I've got to say that's the year that we got the most done.

CTh: Can I come in as Chair of Council for this? It was something that was put forward by the membership. Trustees didn't feel the need to change. It was taken on a vote in council, that we put it to the membership, so it's up to the membership today. I don't think, I'm of the opinion that we struggled to get 15 to be honest with

you and I think that 15 should suffice. But it was put forward and we've given you the option, we've brought it to the membership today for you to discuss as Liz pointed out to you. So, it is for you to vote on it today. But personally, myself I would keep it at 15.

BMc: I understand that the lady putting these options over to us all along, we've understood that they've got to be 75% of the membership or the number of people here. But is this going to be a straight vote either for option one or option 2?

BW: So, it's the first vote is essentially to canvas opinion from the members and then if we had a majority one way or the other, there still needs to be a change to the articles then to refer to either 15 or 18 and it's that change to the articles that would still need a 75% vote.

CTh: If I can come back in again. I have read the Pamela Woods recommendations, where it was recommended to come down from 33 to 12 in that but council at the time voted to put it up to 15. So, I think 15 is a good number but it's for you to decide today.

JK: But it's already been changed to 15 the way you're wording it, you want to change it to 15, it's already been changed. You're trying to change it to 18 you mean.

CTh: No, no, I was saying what Pamela Woods recommended.

JK: Sorry Colin (Thomas), not what you're saying, what the young lady is saying.

BW: My name is Bethan, hi.

JK: I'm sorry

BW: Council just wanted to mention here what the number of trustees actually is, because you don't get to see that, it's not clear enough, it was felt that it wasn't clear enough in the articles, so...

JK: I'm ever so sorry, but we all know quite clearly in this room that this society has 15 members of council. Let's not try to confuse the issue here. We all know that the Society runs with 15 members of Council not 18. What we want to know quite clearly are we voting for 15 members of council or 18 members of council.

BW: You need to decide that by way of a vote.

JK: It's already been decided.

BW: So, shall we move to the vote then, 15 or 18? So, we can have clarification, then we can look at putting 15 or 18 in the articles.

Unnamed member: Basically, if we vote for it to be 15 members of council the articles stay the same as they are.

BW: So, are we ready to vote or are there any more questions? So, those in favour of remaining at fifteen - sorry Meirion.

MD: Sorry, so maybe I should give this some context. This was raised at the second general, no, the first general meeting in 2019 by the membership and Council were

asked to go back to look at the constitution of council if I remember correctly, yes?
So that's why it's on the table. It hasn't come from Council.

BW: Okay.

LH: So, we were asked to listen to the membership more and that's what we've done. The membership quite unanimously asked for the numbers increasing, so we've put it to the vote for yourselves. It's no difference to us whatever the number is. We will just deal with the same number as we have now if that's what you vote for.

CTh: Put it to the vote.

BW: Okay, so, first option, "up to 18 trustees elected by the Society in accordance with the procedures provided for by these articles", those against please vote. [pause] Thank you, thank you. And then "up to 15 trustees elected by the Society in accordance with the procedures provided for in these articles" those for that then the motion carries for 18.

CTh: No, 15, 15.

BW: Sorry, no, sorry, the motion fails for 18. So, if we move on to option two.; "up to 15 trustees elected by the Society in accordance with the procedures provided for in these articles." Those against? [pause] And those for? Thank you. So, it is clear that we have majority consensus that we should be remaining at 15. So now if we could please vote on the proposed change by Council to article 25.1. So, article 25.1 would read "up to 15 trustees shall be elected by the Society in accordance with the procedures provided for in these articles." Any questions on that please?

SE: If we've carried that 15 shall remain and 15 is in the article at the moment, do we need to vote to change it, because it's not changing?

BW: Yes, but this article doesn't mention 15. Currently, this particular article doesn't mention 15, which is why we want to introduce it now. So, article 25.1 currently reads; "the council shall be elected by the Society in accordance with the procedures provided for in these articles." And now that we have reached a consensus on remaining at 15, we are proposing that it would read "up to 15 trustees shall be elected by the Society in accordance with the procedures provided for in these articles". Any further questions please? [pause]

SE: Tireve Stud. The current articles require that we have two terms of three years. I thought we was on 25.1 – sorry.

BW: Any further questions please? Okay, so if I can put that to the vote then, those against...

[mumbles from the audience]

BW: I'll read it again. So, article 25.1 currently reads; "the Council shall be elected by the Society in accordance with the procedures provided for in these articles." The proposed resolution is to change that to "up to 15 trustees shall be elected by the

Society in accordance with the procedures provided for in these articles”. Those against could you please vote. [pause] Thank you, those for, could you please vote [pause]

Members voted by a show of hands. The resolution was accepted

Thank you. That's been carried.

BW: Resolution fourteen isn't going to be necessary because that was only if membership preferred increasing to 18, so we don't need that resolution, it already states a maximum of 15.

BW: So resolution fifteen, that article 25.2c and (25.2)d be amended as follows, c; “the member will not have served more than three terms as a trustee in the nine years previous to the annual general meeting at which the results of the election are to be announced” and d; “at least three years have passed since the member was last a trustee if, as at the time, the member last ceased to serve as a trustee, the member had served three terms within nine years as a trustee”. Any questions please? [pause] Any questions?

LP: Tygolau Stud. For clarity, can you confirm that it is currently two terms and six years having not been on the council and for three years before applying for re-election, and if that is the case, can you explain why you feel it needs to change from two terms and six years to three terms and nine years.

BW: I'll answer the first question. So, it's currently two terms in eight years and then as for the.... No, in the articles it's two terms in eight years. These are the ones I've printed from Companies House, amended in 2017.

SE: Tireve Stud. May I just explain that currently. I think currently that we have an article that requires, allows us to have two terms of three years within eight years. I think everybody's perfectly satisfied with that, personally, the way I see it, it's enough time for anybody to be on council continuously. We need to encourage new blood to come on to council, making it longer for each person staying there, gives that opportunity is taken away. Council is getting older and older. We need younger people to come on or this society is going to die, and I feel that six years is plenty.

BW: Would anybody from Council like to comment?

CTh: No, I think, you know, I'm in general agreement, that six years is enough, two terms and then three years if you want to re-apply, I'm in general agreement. A lot of this has come around through the general meetings, questions put forward to council. So, we've brought it back as a resolution to be passed today or voted against.

JK Could someone from Council tell us whose asking these questions because I am a little bit bemused how these questions are popping up, without any background or any, nothing on the bone for us to change. So, whose asking these questions for a nine-year term of office.

CTH: I think it was to do with the three, if option had gone for 18, I think it was tied in with that John, and I think, and I also think, that has come from the general meeting, because that's where we brought a lot of this back to you today.

JK: I think that it would be much better served with, trustees serving six years and in that six years, trying to encourage as much new people or young people if you like, to come in, in that six years. I think if the message goes out to our membership, of trustees serving nine years that is going to discourage an awful lot of people.

LH: Hi John, just to come back to you on that, again, this is something that's come from the membership. We can't disclose because of GDPR who those people that have put these forward, but the likes such as Ed, you gave us a comprehensive list, didn't you, if you remember, you put things forward, so there was a number of people who did the same as what Ed did and wrote in on what thought would be improvements. Again, you're not getting resistance from us, this is something that the membership asked us so, therefore, we are putting it out to the membership.

Sharon Charlton: This was put from the membership because they wanted continuity of service, so that things weren't changed as frequently, and they felt that the nine years term would give continuity if some of those 15 members for that nine years, they would have an insight into what was happening before so that they could give continuity to the new members of council so that they weren't coming in blind as we did, when so many members changed. Blind to what had happened previously, so this was, sort of, what the membership had put forward, at the special meeting, and this came in in writing to us, so we have put it to you to vote on it.

JK: Well, thank you for that reply, but I must come back with this, those members, if they found it that important, why don't they come to an AGM, such as today, if your serious, get yourself here, this is the members meeting, where you can have your say, so that's my honest opinion. Come here and stand up and give your name. I'm here to do so, my opinion is this. Six years is quite enough for a trustee to serve on this society and encourage other people. Those people who want to write in, so they say, best thing to do, get yourself along to an AGM, stand up and be counted.

AB: I would just like to fully concur with that. I would just like to answer the person who put this in to you, is, there is continuity that's the whole point of a third of council going off every three years, so two thirds stay on.

ER: I would like to concur with everybody who has spoken previously, that actually two terms of three years is enough and there is enough time for continuity within that six-year period. What we are really saying with this is should there be a two-year gap before anybody can stay again, in other words, the articles as they stand at the moment, which is six years within eight years. Or are we looking at six years within nine years. But frankly, I would really like to propose that we retain the wording as it currently stands. I don't know if I have a seconder for that.

BW: The simpler way is just to vote against and then it does remains then. So, if we, if there are no more questions or comments, so those against changing the articles in the way discussed. [pause]

Members voted by a show of hands. The resolution was not accepted

Thank you, that article won't change, it will remain as it is.

BW: And then finally, number sixteen. That a new article 26.1g be added as follows – and this is to do with ways in which council members can be removed, so this would be a new method of removing a council member; “is removed by a resolution of the council present and voting at a meeting of the council after the meeting has considered the views of that trustee and any relevant policy in place from time to time.” Any questions please?

EG. The only thing I will say in comment to this is that this effectively enables, as there are sometimes, some vociferous Council members, having served on there previously, that don't agree with the majority. This allows a controlling faction on council to effectively vote off someone that opposes them and that would be unfair and not representative of the membership.

ER: Could I also say please that council members are voted on by the members. They are not voted on by Council. So, they should actually be removed, if necessary, by the members, and if they are not serving correctly then they will actually be able to, be no voted back on again.

JS. I just wanted to say the same as Liz actually, Council members are voted on by members, not the Council and should not be able to be removed by Council. I believe there's something in place that if a council member could no longer be a council member because they have done something illegal then that is in place. But certainly not just by the whim of Council be removed.

SE: Just to comment on this on, a similar proposal was made in the 2010 AGM in Aberystwyth, which was defeated. Again, basically I am looking at it, there has recently been a member of parliament who has been imprisoned, that person remains an MP. I think the only people who should be able to remove members from council are the members who voted them on and there is a mechanism within the Companies Act 2006 doing that.

BW: Would Council like to comment on that at all?

CTh: Well, the only thing that I can say is that we've looked at it and we have, Council have unanimously voted that it be brought to the membership because there has been problems with trustees and it had incurred costs and we thought it would be right to bring it to the membership for them to vote on. I can't discuss anything else because it is private and confidential.

TH. If there has been situations with some of the trustees that you've had to deal with over the past, then, there are, there is, and recognising, there are things in place aren't there to deal with it, as it is, without putting this in. You have got provisions there for that and I believe those provisions have been used and those that have been dealt with accordingly. So, I really re-iterate what others have said, Jo, Liz, Steve, that it can be used to get rid of people.

CTh: The article you refer to Tracy is in regard to general membership, not to trustees in particular.

TH: But as a trustee you are a member, so you are governed by those provisions and rules and regulations and can be dealt with under those rules and regulations because above all other than being a trustee you are a member.

CTh: That's fine, you are, well, everybody's entitled to their opinion today. We've brought it here, and if the membership don't want it then that's fair enough.

BW: Any further questions then please? [pause] Okay, so those against introducing this new article, please vote. [pause]

Members voted by a show of hands. The resolution was not accepted

Thank you, so that article won't be introduced. Thank you.

9. To receive recommendations from Council for Honorary Life Members, Honorary Vice-Presidents

CTh: Okay then members, if I can have your attention. To receive recommendations from council for honorary awards. We have asked individuals to do it, trustees rather to do it. Once again members have provided council with opportunities to nominate members for honorary awards, with those receiving 75% of council support being presented with an award. First award is, it gives me great pleasure to recommend for the approval of the Annual General Meeting, the appointment of Mr John Hendy of the Cledwyn Stud, as an Honorary life member. Daniel (Morgan) could you do the introduction please?

Daniel Morgan: John Hendy, honorary life member. John doesn't need much of an introduction, having bred and shown his ponies with great success at the Royal Welsh Show and many major shows. His first major winner being Coed Coch Norman was later exported to Australia. His Cledwyn Welsh Mountain Ponies had a major influence all over the world. His driving career has been equally as successful, both competing and judging and always immaculately turned out. He has been in high demand as a judge over the years, both here and abroad, representing the Society judging both Section A's and B's at the Royal Welsh Show. Now retired, we congratulate John, on this special moment and award in recognition of his services to the Society.

CTh: Could Adrian Bowen come up and receive the award please, on his behalf, on John's behalf? Right, the second award. It gives me great pleasure to recommend for the approval of the Annual General Meeting, the appointment of Mr Brian Davies of the Briolen Stud as Honorary life member, and I'm going to hand this to Liz Hampson trustee.

LH: Mr Brian Davies, honorary life member. Brian's love of horses began as a young boy growing up in the north Wales town of Blaenau Ffestiniog, where his late father, the local policeman, kept a couple of ponies. Some years later, having met and married Olwen, they, together with their two children, settled in Bangor where the Briolen Stud was established in 1974. The name Briolen was devised by combining

both of their Christian names, Brian and Olwen. The Briolen Stud was mainly founded on ponies purchased from Anglesey based Ala Stud and the Friars Stud, before moving on to incorporate ponies from another highly respected breeder Miss Alison Mountains of the Twyford Stud with some filly's from Twyford becoming valuable foundation mares for the Briolen Stud. Brian then branched out with an informal partnership with the late Richard Williams of the – and you're going to have to excuse my pronunciation, my colleagues have been trying to get me to say it right – Eugrad Stud, on Anglesey, resulting in a combined prefix of Mongarnedd. He inspired both his daughter Helen and Sian and later, granddaughter Lowri, to become members of the Welsh Pony and Cob Society, each with their own stud, Moelwyn, Mongarnedd and Eugrad.

Over the past 47 years Brian has bred many Welsh Ponies and Cobs, some of which have been exported to countries such as Spain, Sweden, France, Germany and Norway. Several have gone on to be highly successful in the show ring, in-hand, under saddle and driven. He has continuously been a loyal supporter on the local national shows and the sales and the Society making many lifelong friends over the years. The welfare of his ponies has always been his priority and he has always been a firm believer in letting his ponies live out the rest of their days comfortably, several having lived into their thirties. Brian has spent more than half of his life a stalwart advocate of the Welsh Mountain Pony, which is why he has been nominated for this prestigious award.

CTh: Mr Davies, Brian Davies, can you come forward for your award please? Right, the third award. It is with sadness that we recommend for the approval of the Annual General Meeting, the appointment of the late Mr Jeff Parry of the Talponciau Stud as an honorary life member. Mr Parry has only recently passed away but was delighted to have received notification of this recognition by award. Could I ask Mr - Daniel (Morgan) - to do the talk on it, and then we'll have the vote after.

DM: Jeff Parry, honorary life member. Jeff became a member of the Society in 1989, establishing the Talponciau Stud with his wife Janice. They also registered with the NPS and AHS. Concentrating on quality Section B's, Welsh Part Breds', Show Hunter Ponies and small hacks and Thoroughbreds, mainly for performance. Talponciau Ponies have been successful in many disciplines. Jeff supported the Welsh Pony and Cob Young Judges Competition held at the National show and the Welsh Pony and Cob Performance Awards.

Jeff was also a trustee of the Society serving on Council and was past Chair of the Education and Welfare Committee. He was also influential at the Denbigh and Flint Show, where he successfully introduced the Supreme Welsh Gelding Championship. He was also Chairman of the Part Bred Pony Association. He was always championing the efforts of the young members and will be sadly missed. It was fitting that he was made aware of this honorary award some weeks ago.

CTh: Thank you Daniel. Could Ed Gummery come forward to accept the award. Right, we'll move on next to the Miss Brodrick Memorial Trophy.

10. The Miss Brodrick Memorial Trophy

CTh: The Miss Brodrick Memorial Trophy is the highest honour the Society can bestow and is awarded by Council to an individual, or animal alternatively, in recognition of distinguished services to the Society. I have great pleasure in announcing that the 2021 award is presented to Mr Charles Arch of the Fflur Stud. I invite Dilwyn Roberts to talk.

DR: Thank you Chair. Mr Lloyd, our members, we've already heard, and we all know how special we consider Miss Brodrick Memorial Award to be, and to tell you everything about Charles Arch in a couple of minutes now, would be impossible, it would take hours, so I'll keep it very brief. He's been a member of the Welsh Pony and Cob Society since 1973, involved with ponies and cobs all his life. Owner of the Fflur Stud, breeding C's and D's with his wife Mari children Mererid and Ifer. The name Charles Arch has been very familiar to a lot of us over the years, since, for me personally, my very young years as a member of the Young Farmer's Club. When, during that time, Mr Arch, was prominent in promoting the Young Farmer's Federation throughout the country. A little bit older then, when I needed a lot of training, Mr Arch was very involved with the Agricultural Training Board, and we are certainly indebted to him in that respect.

Later on, his involvement with the National Farmers Union, and I'm saying this now, because what we learned during that time under Mr Charles Arch, has played a significant part in our life, in my life, and others, in the breeding of Welsh Ponies and Cobs. Also, we are celebrating today, probably a greater, a great contribution, in my opinion, a contribution which is very, very difficult to fully quantify. And that is the path that he's taken since 1978, he's been on the microphone, in the tower, commentating on the Welsh Pony and Cob classes, in the ring at the Royal Welsh and he's been doing that since 1978. During that time, S4C, the Welsh media station, has developed greatly, and now, showing this programme throughout the country. For me to know, a few years ago, they were covering over thirty countries worldwide. So, due to that, Mr Charles Arch's commentaries have been heard in over thirty countries throughout the world. How can we ever really appreciate, during that time, how much effect and how much benefits that have been worldwide, to build in the enthusiasts of people to be involved with our Welsh Ponies and Cobs. Mr Arch has not only commentated at the Royal Welsh, he's also been a great supporter of many, many smaller shows throughout the country. Mr Arch has also written a book, *Byw o Dan y Bwa, Life Beneath The Arch*, quite aptly. He was described at the time by another very well-known person in the Welsh media Lyn Ebenezer as a life dynamo and, I think, that describes his enthusiasm and his passion for all the work he's done, throughout his life, and for his passion for the Welsh Pony and Cob and we can never quantify the true value of his contribution in that field. So, Mr Arch, a gaf i ddiolch i chi o waelod fy nghalon ar ran pob un ohonom, can I thank you from the bottom of my heart on behalf of us all for your contribution. You have been an ambassador for the breed, but you know what, on top of that and something that will always be valuable to me, I will always consider him a gentleman. Diolch yn fawr Charles.

CTh: Mr Arch can you come forward please.

DR: I've shaken hands with him many a time, but this time we are going to have to bump each other like that.

CTh: Right, thank you for that Dilwyn. Lifetime Achievement award is next.

11. The Lifetime Achievement Award and other awards

CTh: The Lifetime Achievement award is presented by Council to recognise outstanding achievement in the world of the Welsh Pony and Cob, I have a great pleasure announcing that for the 2021, this award is presented to Mr Bobby Roberts of the Robjohn Stud. I invite Liz (Hampson) to address please.

LH: Mr Robert "Bobby" Jones, Bobby as he's affectionately known, by all within the equine world, is one of life's unsung heroes. He is always there to help, a great showman himself, he has taken top awards at many of the major shows for a wide variety of breeders, though he is mainly seen in the Section B ring. He has helped so many people in the past and he is quite an inspiration to the youngsters and a real ambassador for the breed and the Society. He is currently helping a young girl with her colt in Dolgellau. Here are two messages from breeders who are in debt to him for his support and energy over the years: "A true friend, a real character, a larger-than-life legend of the breed. Big Bobby, as he is affectionately known, has readily offered his time, help and advice to so many in the Welsh Pony and Cob community over the years. His contributions to the generations are immeasurable. There is no more deserving winner of this prestigious award." And that's from Joe Parry and all at the Eyarth Stud. "I have so many wonderful memories of Bobby being part of the family as I was growing up: including fart bombs, water balloons, being taught manners at the dinner table and Hogia'r Wyddfa blasting out full volume from the stables at 5am and many, many more hours of pony practice. Huge congratulations on winning this especial award, very well deserved." And that's from Richard (Jones) of the Moelview Stud. Thank you.

CTh: Mr Roberts, yea, Mr Roberts is he here?

MD: No, unfortunately, Bobby couldn't come today, but we have plans to meet up with him in the Cross Foxes in Dolgellau. But you've all got to be sworn to secrecy now because I'm just going to invite him there to meet up to hand over this. We are going to have a gathering of a lot of the studs, very many studs who have benefitted from Bobby helping at different times, not only in the show ring. So please don't let on that we're going to do that, but we'll do a hit and get a good picture of him, because he's quite a shy person. Thank you.

CTh: Thank you Liz. We will move on to the next award, the Young Achievers Award, is to recognise the achievements of young people in the Society and is this year awarded to Sky Whittle, and I invite Daniel to do the address.

DM: Sky Whittle. Having watched Sky exhibit her family animals over the years, there has been a clear development, that she has made real progress as a show handler. Starting in young handler classes before progressing to show her family Brynithon cobs, under the watchful eye of her Mum, Vicki, and her family. She has to

be one of the most competent and exciting young handlers within the world of showing of the Welsh breed. Congratulations Sky.

CTh: Sky come forward. Right, we'll move on - Thank you Daniel – we'll move on to the WPCS Special Award. This year Council awarded the Special Award in recognition to the achievements of Mrs Karly Howard-Wilkinson, in raising a total of many, many thousands of pounds for the Cancer Research charity, by organising and staging the Bucks County Spectacular Show. I invite John Welsh to do the address.

John Welsh: So, this year, it came to Council that Karly was wanting to get her medals for the show, and she didn't have the money to pay for the medals, which I found a bit strange considering the amount of money that she had raised, but according to Karly all the money she gets for the shows she gives into the charity. So, I decided that I would pay for the medals this year to help her along and I spoke to her shortly afterwards, she's raised, I think, in excess of £25,000 in the two years that she's been doing this show, which I just found absolutely amazing. The fact that she gives every single penny over to the show – over to the *charity*, the cancer charity. I just felt she needed some kind of recognition for that because I think that it's absolutely amazing what she's done, and she wants to carry it on and, you know, I wish her all the best with it.

CTh: Is Karly here? She's not, is she? Who's, is there anybody accepting – no? Okay, thank you John. We will move on now to the Kentchurch Trophy for Welfare, it recognises achievements by individuals or organisations whom the Society feels has had a significant impact on equine's welfare. This year the award is given to Dyffryn Tywi Equine Clinic, led by Philippa Hughes and Lisa Durham and I invite Dilwyn to do the address.

DR: Thank you Chair. The Kentchurch Trophy, as you've heard, is for outstanding achievement within the field of welfare. This year's recipient is important to all, which reflects on the Societies core objectives, of course, and is presented to Philippa Hughes and Lisa Durham of the Dyffryn Tywi Equine Clinic. That clinic was established in 2006 at Nantgaredig near Llandeilo in Carmarthenshire. The practice has been notable in providing excellent veterinary care to equines over a wide area of west Wales. Also, their sterling work has been brought to a wider public attention as they and their practice featured in a recent BBC Wales observational documentary series: Only Foals and Horses.

They have also supported and worked closely with the Lluest Horse and Pony Rescue Centre. This is challenging work where their efforts support the work done by volunteers for the good of equines, some of which, sadly, obviously, are Welsh Ponies. Recently, they appeared in another BBC programme, looking at the lives of urban based equines in the 'City of horses'. That was based in the Swansea area, which has a lot of history, horses have been seen in this area going back as long as anyone can remember and it is thought to date back to when the copper industry was drawing in workers from the surrounding countryside and they, in turn, were bringing their horses with them. Same goes, obviously, for hundreds of other areas throughout the whole of Britain, we know that. Unfortunately, I am told, and I think it's

still the case, is it? That neither Philippa or Lisa can be with us today. Oh, they are here? Oh, great, I've been given the wrong information that is. Well, I am very glad that you're here, because we do consider your work to be very, very important as we do the work of other veterinarians and surgeries throughout the country. Your work is exemplary, so if you could please come forward, and - to receive. Okay, well done, diolch yn fawr.

CTh: Thank you Dilwyn. At this point in the meeting now, members, I am going to hand you back to our President for the election for the sixth trustee.

12. The vote for the sixth trustee position. Each candidate will be offered the opportunity to address the meeting – (no more than two minutes), or a statement on their behalf can be read to the meeting by the Chair. Members will then be asked to fill in the ballot paper. These will be collected and counted by the Auditors

RD: We now move to the election.

NB: This is a note that Tanya (Baldwin of the Janton Stud) sent me yesterday after she went down with Covid. Unfortunately, I cannot be here today as I have tested positive for Covid. I have been a member of the Society for over thirty years breeding under the Janton prefix. The stud was started in the mid-seventies by my mother. Myself and my family moved to Wales twenty-eight years ago. I have been involved in the Society's Performance Show for over twenty years, running the show for the last fifteen. I am also a panel judge. Over the last few years, we have cut the numbers we are breeding and no longer produce for other people, and I now feel that I have the time and the experience to give something back to the Society. I would like to see more promotion of the Welsh breeds as performance animals, I feel this would secure the future of our wonderful Society and bred. If voted on I will have the best interests of the Society and the membership at heart. Thank you.

MD: So, I will represent the second candidate nominated. Unfortunately, she can't be here either today, and makes her apologies. "Lottie Stephens, Flydon Stud. Having been involved with ponies all of my life, I am a proud life member of the Welsh Pony and Cob Society, breeding ponies under the Flydon prefix. Along with my family we have bred and registered all sections over the years, but mainly Section A's. The Welsh Pony and Cob Society is, in my opinion, one of the best breed societies in the world and in order for it to keep moving forward, it needs proactive input from members and perhaps this year is my turn. I am extremely passionate about the versatility of our Welsh Ponies and Cobs and believe that they must be valued as they are and not changed to suit modern trends. I feel there is a need for education within the Society on correct conformation, which is paramount to the continued success of our ponies and cobs. In my working life I have had a varied career and have tackled everything with enthusiasm and positivity to be as successful as I could. I hope to bring my positive, can-do attitude to my role as a trustee should I be elected. I apologise for my absence at this AGM, but I had a previous engagement for this date."

MD: And then the third candidate, Mr Cemaes Evans. "Cemaes joined the WPCS in 1988, he is a panel judge of Section C, D and ridden, former Chairman of Glanusk Stallion Show, Brecon and Borders Welsh Pony and Cob Association, Llaingoch Hill Improvement Society and Brecon Grasslands Society. Currently he sits on the board of directors at the Royal Welsh Agricultural Society and is a member of the livestock committee and the Royal Welsh Winter Fair committee. He's a senior steward of the Welsh Cob Section D at the Royal Welsh Show and at the Winter Fair. Recently awarded a fellowship of the Royal Agricultural Society for services to equine and agriculture. Breeder of Sections A, C and D under the Cathedine prefix. Farrier from 1972 till 2021, specialising in making and fitting Welsh Cob shoes. The Welsh Pony and Cob Society has enabled me to make friends from all over the world and if elected, I will constantly strive to do what is best for the Society. During my time as a farrier and senior steward at the Royal Welsh Agricultural Show, I have treated every single client and exhibitor with the same amount of respect and confidentiality. I believe that every member of the Welsh Pony and Cob Society should be valued, and the Council is there to work together and meet the needs of its members. I am not beholden to anyone and will always make a decision for the wellbeing of the Society. I believe that I have a strong work ethic, I am an honest person and approachable to everyone. If elected I will do my utmost to serve you, the members." And that's Mr Cemaes Evans RSS, FRAGS. Thank you.

MD: We will hand the ballot papers out now, they've all got the names on them. You will be asked to put a cross against the one person that you wish to vote for. And if you're a proxy holder, please note the number of proxy's and put your name to the paper where it says signature so they can cross reference that. So, this is a secret ballot and Claire and Callum will go to, there's a little room up there where they will go and total up the votes, whilst we carry on with the meeting.

MD: Can I check that every member here's had a form. That nobody is without a form? Yes? Okay, we'll move through the room and collect them. Sorry, there's a question.

Glenn Harris- If we've no proxy votes, do we leave that blank?

MD: No, if you have, if you *don't* have proxy votes you just put a cross in there, you don't need to put your name, because we are not cross-referring it to anybody. We just want to check the proxy votes match. So, you just cross if you haven't got proxy votes.

The voting papers were collected

MD: Can I just check that everybody's vote has been put in the box. Okay, thank you. Claire and Callum do you want to go up to the room?

CTh: Okay we are going to carry on with the meeting while the votes are being counted, so, I will invite Liz Hampson next to do the publicity report.

13 To receive the Society's Publicity report

Liz Hampson: So, review of the year. Celebrating its 120 years the Society produced its 100th volume of the Welsh Studbook. 2021 has been another year full of

challenges with the annual calendar of events having been adversely affected by the Covid pandemic. Outgoing President Brian Foster and new ambassador Catrin Reed pulled out all the stops to raise money for their chosen charity Tŷ Hafan Children's Hospice and Prostate Cymru raising £14,271.85 for Tŷ Hafan Children's Hospice and £2462.50 for Prostate Cymru respectively. A wonderful effort and the Society thank them for their energies to help these important charities.

Whilst many shows battled on in England, there was hardly any activity in Wales and Scotland, until the Royal Welsh Agricultural Show Society staged a very successful, and welcome, autumn equine show at the showground in Builth Wells. Attracting over 900 entries in total the Welsh Pony and Cob Society President Roger Davies – Hafdre - found his Supreme Welsh exhibit in Rebecca France and Jonathan Hills Welsh Cob mare Pentrecoed May Queen, bred by Julia Evans-Davies. Other champions within the respective sections were Section A – Penuel Savannah, Section B – Hilin Cameo, Section C – Cwmhir The Bandit and Section D – Pentrecoed May Queen. The Welsh Part Bred was Penstrumbly Our Latif and the Welsh Pony and Cob Society Gelding Champion Blaidd Tynam. The Welsh Pony and Cob Society Veteran was awarded to Solloway Lowri. The Champion Ridden Welsh Hywi The Enforcer owned and ridden by Tanya Shields.

Post-Brexit the Society faced a new challenge on how to continue to register the Welsh Ponies and Cobs and Part Breds from the EU. No longer able to passport the animals, the Society found a way, with support from the Welsh Government, to create a new overseas registration certificate, which enables those owners and breeders from within the EU, to passport in - first in their country, then register within the Welsh Studbook if their animal complies with the Society breeding rules and regulations. Having staged five online sales to enable the movement of equines in 2020 the costs of exports since Brexit has affected trade to the continent, however, undeterred the Society has worked hard to create a new official sale, with the assistance and service of the Society official auctioneers McCartney's. A roaring trade helped launch this official sale of all five sections of the Welsh breed.

The showground at Llanelwedd, by the kind permission of the Royal Welsh Agricultural Society was a hive of activity on both days as potential purchasers scrutinised the entry of just over 400 animals. The auctioneers worked hard on behalf of both vendors and purchasers taking bids in realistic increments which in turn instilled a confidence in the bidding audience that they would not be bumped up on a bid to a figure they would not be happy to pay. It was notable to see clear bidding, which made the competition for lots engaging viewing. Topping the sales at £15,600 was the very last lot to enter the sales ring, a six-year-old Section C Gelding Martel Jo Jo consigned by Bobby Thomas from Carmarthen. The Cascob draft of four Section D foals and five-year-old mare turned a staggering total of £25,900 averaging at £5180, proving that bloodlines and true stockmanship will always deliver and be appreciated. Topping the Section As on the first day's sale at £6300 was the five-year-old bay lead rein mare Menai Silver Tana consigned by Mr B G Walters and Son. She was closely followed by the palomino three-year-old filly Hope Queen of Hearts, consigned by Mrs Eggleton; produced by Julian and Hayley Williams, and bred by John and Linda Harries at £5,700. Topping the Section Bs on

offer was the much-admired Thistledown Sherbert Lolly. Realising £6,000 for her breeder Sandy Anderson, this seven-year-old grey mare was produced by Liesl Mead. From the Welsh Part bred section it was the second lot of the day to appear Gwenos Bailey's on Ice which sold for £3,200. This colt foal - again a palomino was offered by Mrs Phillips and found a ready market, proving that first or last in the catalogue run the bidders are happy to raise their catalogues to secure a particular animal.

The Society was also proud this summer that three equestrian Olympians, who brought home medals from Japan, Charlotte Dujardin, Laura Collett and Sophie Wells all three having ridden Welsh bred animals in their early years. Mid-summer the Society presented Dr Wynne Davies with a Lifetime Achievement award in recognition of exceptional service rendered to the Society and Welsh breeds. Presenting the award, Chair of the Welsh Pony and Cob Society Council, Colin Thomas said "Dr Wynne - it is a great honour and a pleasure to present you with this Lifetime Achievement award today. I am aware that you have had many awards in your lifetime, but this award today is a further recognition of your lifelong support, sterling work to promote the Society, here and in all parts of the world. You have shown so much dedication and professionalism throughout many decades."

Welsh Ponies and Cobs continue to excel and dominate at the Horse of the Year Show with seven registered Welsh animals forward in the Price Family In-Hand Championship. The Section As was Manorlea Maisey May who finished 8th, in the Section Bs Skellorn Bronze Soldier who finished 4th and the Section C Glanhayl Royale was 9th. In the Section Ds Llanarth Elin was 6th and the Welsh Part Bred Sanboro Sir Henry, Thistledown Harper Royale, and Blakestones Chorus Girl. All in all, over 300 animals from five sections of the Welsh breeds qualified and it was fitting that one of the highlights of the show was the success of the ridden Welsh Cob Menai Eurostar, ridden by Adam Forster and owned by Karen Johnson. He was awarded the title of overall Horse of the Year Show NPS/Baileys Mountain and Moorland Pony Champion of the Year. Following closely on the heels with the Dutch-bred Mountain Pony Stallion Hoekhorst Example ridden by Libby Grota. This was a huge achievement for the Welsh breeds in such a hotly contested section. Other winners included the Section B Clanmill Leteika Miracle, Section C Fencers Royal Addition, in the M&M first ridden and mini pony of the year Blisland Echo. In the Mountain and Moorland 133cm Working Hunter of the Year Rushfield (Oh) So Smart, which is a Section C. Champion Junior M&M Pony of the Year, Wellbank Gabriel. Lead Rein Hunter Type Pony of the Year, Priestwood Roc Star. Show Hunter Pony of the Year in the 122cm Redlays Theseus. Show Hunter Pony in the 133(cm) Thistledown Sea Mariner. And both the small and large Scurry Driver winners were both Welsh Ponies.

Later in the year, at the Royal Welsh Winter Fair, entries were strong in every section, the representative – sorry the respective Champions were in the Section As Ilar Dakota, the Section Bs Llanarth Consort, in the Section Cs Ormond Brenin Y Sêr, is that right? Yes? And in the Welsh Part Breeds Penstrumbly The Illusionist. The eventual champion of the Welsh Breeds being Llanarth Consort bred, shown and owned by the Llanarth Stud. The Supreme Horse and Pony Championship saw

tables turned and was won by Ilar Dakota a grey yearling Mountain Pony Colt bred and owned by Owen Griffiths and shown by Sam Morsley.

Let us hope that in 2022 we will see a return to the normal calendar of events as these are part of the shop window for our versatile ponies and cobs in other disciplines. Welsh Ponies, Cobs and Part Breds also came to the forefront in some of the things listed below: in the dressage Victoria Holmden riding “Olly” a Part Bred Welsh Cob won the Winter Dressage Championships. In the world of driving Sianwood Anthem, a Section B, Synod Master Ben, a Section A, and Synod Red Baron, a Section C, were all part of the British Scurry Squad for the junior FEI driving champions held in August.

This year’s young ambassador Hannah Horton – sorry, Hannah Atkinson, has been very limited in being able to undertake her role due to restrictions, so, Council and Hannah have agreed to extend her period of office for a further year. Let’s hope that she has a busy term ahead of her promoting the Society and working with the junior members. Two veteran ponies had great success this year 24-year-old Cottrell Riverdance a Section B was Supreme Champion Veteran at the VHS Show, whilst a 31-year-old Merioneth Salandy Fly, a Section C won the Senior Horse and Pony class at the Royal Windsor Show. During the year the Societies successfully produced a very well received journal and has updated its promotional branded merchandise, which has proved very popular. As we look forward to 2022, we wish everybody good health and the opportunity to enjoy our native breed. Thank you.

CTh: Right, thank you Liz for that comprehensive report.

14. Vote of thanks to the retiring President: Mr C.R Davies ‘Hafdre’.

CTh: I’m going to move now to a vote of thanks for the retiring president. Roger, as you know, hasn’t had a very good year because of his health problems. His best highlight of his term is really judging the Supreme at the Royal Welsh first Autumn show and there’s a lovely photo of him presenting that in the Newsletter. I’ve been a close friend of Roger’s for many years, and I am very sorry to see his health has deteriorated so much, but I know he’s seeing doctors to try and improve that. So, I can only say thank you very much Roger and it’s been a pleasure.

RD: I’m going to be very rude and sit down to say what I’ve got to say, because standing is worse than walking. It’s been a very difficult time for everybody. Pony breeders no worse or less than anybody else. How should I say, you get up in the morning and not sure if the regulations have altered in the night and a lot of shows have been missed, a lot of sales have been missed, but at the end of the day, we’ve survived. And I’m glad to see so many people here today, a lot of people I know, quite a few I don’t, or don’t know personally anyway. But remain faithful to the breeds. There’s a little chapel, not very far from me, there’s three words, byddwch ffyddlon, be faithful, and that would apply as much here as it would in any religious building, because there are, how should I say, people who tell us, “huff, what do you want them for, they’re rubbish” and we’ve even had within the last year a lot of ponies gone for conservation grazing and that is something I think we will probably see more of and I certainly hope we shall see more. But thank you all for inviting me

and honouring me with the presidency and I'm sorry that I haven't been able to get to lots of places where people couldn't get to meet. All I will say is have a safe journey home.

15. To appoint on the recommendation of Council, Mr Stewart Franklin as President for 2021/2022

CTh: Right, and now we are going to move on behalf of Council, I am pleased to announce the appointment of Stewart Franklin of the Sarum Stud as President for... Sorry, okay I'll go back over that then. On behalf of council, I am pleased to announce the appointment of Mr Stewart Franklin of the Sarum Stud as President for twenty-one, 2021-2022 and I invite Roger Davies the retiring President to hand the chain of office over to Mr Stewart Franklin.

RD: Thank you.

Stewart Franklin: Thank you very much Roger. It is a great honour for me to receive this. I never thought that I would get it. But it's absolutely over the top. Thank you all very much, I'll say a few more words in a minute, but first thing is we will present Roger with his past president's badge. Well done, Roger. I've been asked to say a few words about myself, most of you know me, I've been around for a long time, how do I expand, at least for, nearly 60 years now. I started life, when I was with a local riding school, and we went to a place called Shalbourne Stud, Marguerite de Beaumont's. Marguerite took us right up the hill and said, "These are Section A ponies, that one there would never be caught." It became a challenge. I had to catch this three-year-old filly, and I caught her, and Marguerite was amazed. She said, "a boy who can work with Section A ponies, do you want a job?". I was already an apprentice with the electricity board, so that put an end to that. In my spare time I went back to Shalbourne and I caught this filly, every time I went there, of course, in the end I ended up buying our first Section A mare Norwood Bilberry an FS1 mare and that got me started with the Welsh Mountain Ponies.

My first job at Shalbourne was to muck out and look after Coed Coch Glyndwr, most of you will have heard of him, but his last few years, I was involved in looking after him. Miss De Beaumont had quite a good show team of a Section B Gredington Daliad and Ready Token Jonquil and Tillypronie Cloudberry I ran around the ring so many times with them, so that was my introduction to Welsh Mountain Ponies. I then met my wife and we started in earnest with the Sarum Stud. Those who know me know that my wife does all the work behind the scenes, and I do very little. I was very successful in business and that we were able to move down to Devon, where we've been for the last fifty odd years, breeding ponies, again, with the help of a friend, my mate Doug knows about it I can't run these days. The professionals, we've won the Royal Welsh three or four times we were Supreme at the Horse of the Year Show, Supreme Ridden beating everything else hacks, and what have you. But my heart belongs to the Welsh Pony. So, thank you all for making me President, it's the highlight of my life. And I want to say next years AGM will be held at The Vale Resort in South Glamorgan, the date we cannot quite fix yet, because of the Covid situation. But thank you all today for coming today and making the effort to get back to normal and to my friends a lot of thanks, it's been a wonderful life.

CTh: Thank you. Right, I am going to move you on now, I'm going to ask Claire Thompson from Azets to announce the name of the President-Elect for 2022-2023.

16. To receive a report on the election of President-Elect for 2022-2023

Claire Thompson: Good afternoon, everybody. So nominated by Mr William Lloyd and seconded by Mr Glynn Greenow the President-Elect for 2022-2023 is Mr Dennis Price of the Afan stud

SF: Can I invite Mr Price to come and say a few words please? He's already there. Thank you very much.

Dennis Price: Hello everybody, I've never made a speech in my life, and this is not going to be easy. My nomination was the result of phone calls and continued pressure from a couple of respected members of the Society who were determined to put my name forward. This was a major shock and honour and to see the quality of stock that other members like yourselves breed and have produced for decades. I feel very humble and to a point, being a bit embarrassed. At this stage I will explain a very shortened history of the Afan ponies. My parents worked on a hill farm up in Afan, the wonderful Afan, and I was one of four very young children. In 1954 my parents rented a farm also in Afan where we used to live called Aber, I'm known as Dennis Aber around here, and we were still four very young children. My mother Gwen Price really loved ponies and she was one of the reasons I decided to let my name go through for nomination. She would be very proud. My mother was a sister to my cousin Doreen Jones of Synod's father Gwyn Price. And Gwyn when we started gave my mother a very old grey mare of Miller's Forest Lodge's breeding and she was the foundation of the Afan ponies 65 years ago. Breeding stock of all kinds has been my life, life's challenge really and enjoyment.

Through the years on the farm ponies were my fourth string. First of all, we established the first herd of pure Charolais cattle in Breconshire selling 100 breeding bulls. Secondly, I breed a flock of Beulah Speckled Sheep and sell the ewes as three-year-olds for crossing with mules and also sell some rams. Thirdly, I have bred my own line of working Collies all my life and have sold, well, over 200 pups and breeding dogs, trained dogs for farmers and shepherds trialling, one little bitch won Crufts. A few years ago, I was lucky and sold 20 ponies to one country for breeding ridden and driving all in one year. Twenty-six years ago, I had the honour and large responsibility of being accepted as a panel judge, which I cannot say I enjoy but I do what I think. I am interested in all Sections A, B C, D and Part Breds, they are all the most versatile equines around the world, and we should be very, very proud. And finally, as members, we should all appreciate the dedication of all the officials, Secretary, Chairman, Council members, trustees and office staff doing all the work behind the scenes, thank you.

SF: Dennis, can we ask you to join us on the top table please?

CTh: Okay, I am now going to move on to the report on the election of five members to serve on council for the three years: 2021-24 plus the result of the ballot. I invite Claire Thompson from Azets to present the scrutineers report to the election of the five members to serve on council.

17. To receive a report on the automatic election of Five members standing for six vacancies to serve on Council for the period 2021-2024 as per Article 25 V (a) of the Articles of Association of the Society. The result of the ballot will be announced to elect the sixth Trustee to Council

CITh: So, as per article 25 of the Articles of Association, for this election there were five candidates for six vacancies and therefore all five candidates, in alphabetical order: Mr Steve Everitt, Mr Ed Gummery, Mr Wyn Jones, Mr Dilwyn Roberts, Mr Martin Walters are declared duly elected.

CTh: Thank you Claire. To appoint one member to fill the remaining vacancy and to serve on council for the period 2021-24. I invite Claire to present the scrutineers report on the election of the remaining trustee vacancy for 2021-24.

CITh: I declare that the votes for the nominees are as follows in alphabetical order: Tanya Baldwin – 57, Cemaes Evans – 115, Lottie Stephens – 20. Therefore, the successful candidate Cemaes Evans is duly elected.

CTh: Right, we've got any other business sent in by Claire Willis-Burton, Daniel can you respond to this please as Chair of Judging and Showing?

18. Any other business.

DM: Well, thank you very much Claire for your questions. The whisker trimming rule, which comes into force in January the 1st 2022 was adopted by the Society on welfare grounds following the FEI ruling based on advice by leading vets. It also brings the Society in line with other native breeds. In regard to trimming of whiskers and the showing, the guidance given to judges is to offer the exhibitor either to stand at the bottom of the line or withdraw and leave the ring. Tails must not be banged is already in existence, a Society rule, which has been in place for many years. The Society was becoming increasingly aware that many exhibitors, producers and judges were ignoring the rules or unaware of its existence. Again, it brings the Welsh breeds in line with other native (breeds) except the Connemara, which allows this. The guidance for judges is to offer the exhibitor the option to stand at the bottom of the line or withdraw and leave and leave ring. I hope that that gives judges, exhibitors and producers clear guidance. Diolch yn fawr.

CTh: Right, moving on. I would like to remind members present that the out-going president's fundraising charity is Wales Air Ambulance. In the next few days there will be an online auction and a Just Giving page will be set up. Please support this worthy cause, which can benefit every person in or visiting Wales. I will now ask Meirion, the Company Secretary, to say a few words.

MD Thank you Chair. At the 2019 general meeting, it was raised that the DNA issue was something that the membership were concerned about and they asked, they requested that Council look into it and possibly set up a working group. So, I have a brief address to you on the DNA working group: "The Societies education and welfare committee set up a working group to review and consider the best way forward for the Society and its DNA policy. Following research and the inclusion of leading experts from other areas of the equine industry, the working group facilitated

a report to form the basis of a revised policy. Sadly, following the demise of the Animal Health Trust, who had been the chosen laboratory to provide profiles for many years. The Society was faced with a challenge of finding a new supplier for this service and moving all the retained samples to another laboratory in Ireland.

We have now obtained, for the first time the comprehensive library of DNA profiles and parentage results from both the old and the new supplier which is held at the office in Bronaeron on the Society's server." Prior to that we had to go to the third party for every query and we were at their mercy and their timeline as to how soon they'd respond. Now if I get a query from Holland for a parentage test for, or a stallion licence to DNA I can literally just go to the spreadsheet and they get the answer within half an hour if they're lucky, it'll be longer most times! "Once completed the report and its recommendation was endorsed by the expert advisors and approved by Council. Council will, early in the year, be able to share the new policy with members. A competitive tender process will be announced to offer a long-term contract to a supplier to provide the DNA profiling and the parentage verification service. The intention being to drive down the price of the service offering savings, which can be passed on to the membership." So, that's just an update for you on what was raised at the 2019 meeting. Shall I carry on?

CTh: Yes, please.

MD: Right, well, a little bit of housekeeping now and a few things I'd like to say. Firstly, I would just like to thank you all for coming, and for a much warmer meeting in mood than the last one I attended in 2019, I think that's a good sign. I would also just like to draw attention to the fact that we have two trustees missing today Roger Davies who is unwell and David Sorton Davies, who of course has just had a recent bereavement.

First of all I need to check some housekeeping anybody who hasn't signed the signing in book, because I think one or two of you slipped the net, I know you've been logged in, but please sign the green book before you leave, because that proves that you've been here for track and trace as well. Colin mentioned the auction, on the left here you will see there are three paintings by Maureen Prottey Tiffwyl: Melodi, Gredington Simwnt and remind me who the third one is Colin.

CTh: Lyn Cwmcoed.

MD: Lyn Cwmcoed, yes, and those three have kindly been donated by Colin and by Maureen, partly. Those are three of the auction items that we will have. So, when that auction goes online, there will be a Just Giving page as well to try and raise money for the Air Ambulance. We've already raised £600 we sold the plastic, well, they say it's glass Gemma, don't they? But I think it's plastic, bauble at the sale for £400.00, which was a fantastic start. So, we've raised £600.00 already, but this auction will go online now, fairly soon.

Those of you who have won awards, please stay behind afterwards - we'll move this lectern and we'll have some nice photographs with our out-going president.

CTh: Meirion, before you close on the online auction, I think it would be kind of you to say that Stewart has donated a service to (Heniarth) Quinnell.

MD: Yes, okay, yes and our incoming president has donated a service, a free service, no – not a free service! no, sorry, that was wishful thinking. Donated a service to a stallion that won the Brodrick Award a few years ago, Heniarth Quinnell, so that's something that might interest people as well. Thank you, Stewart. and Annie, thank you Annie.

Yes, so, please remain behind to have photographs taken with our out-going president. And then would all trustees and the newly elected trustee, would you meet in the Ithon Room, which is basically where the projectionist would have been, so you go out through reception and up the stairs and if we meet there after the photographs have been taken because I need you to sign quite a lot of paperwork, to catch that moment. And then also I'd like to take this opportunity to say thank you to the team at the office we've had a busy time of it of late, we've had the Winter Fair we've had the derogation of the Hill Pony foals and yearlings, we've also had the AGM to prepare for and we've had the registration window closing, and there's some good news for you in that we are currently, where's Miriam here? Miriam am I correct that we are currently registering those applications that came in on the 30th of November? So, 30th of November, which is the last date, and we are registering them, if they are all in order.

Now, when I started at the Society in 2019, in March of 2020 we still had 1500 to do, so that's a big step forward and that's thanks to the members filling in their forms correctly and that's thanks to Gemma and the team and the office, the way the office works. So, that's good news moving forward because we had a meeting earlier in the week with the Welsh Government and I think we had, what little kids have, they get a gold star, so that's good news. And finally, I would just like to thank Colin and Elgan as two out-going trustees who retire today, on behalf of the office, you've been fantastic, thank you, diolch yn fawr.

MD: And then, the good news, we can now have tea and a sandwich, I haven't seen exactly what's there, but we found it difficult to cater for this tea, so, we put a number on it, we asked each other, "How many do you think? How many do you think?" Given that it's Covid, given that the time of year and things change and we estimated 150 and I think there's about 80 or 90 of you so there's lots of food to eat, which is good news, so I think that's it, but remember, when you go out, when you're moving around, put your masks on, until you're sat down again.

Elizabeth Russell: I was wondering, if I could ask Council, particularly as we've been through a fairly difficult couple of years, if they would consider being more proactive with the Area Associations because, you know, we for example, have had virtually no Welsh classes at all and I'm sure we are not the only people who have suffered from that point of view. But there's been virtually no communication from, if you like, the head office, and you know, our grand source is our members on the ground in the Area Associations, and I think the Area Associations in many parts of the country could do with a helping hand. So, could you please consider that in the future. Thank you.

MD: Do you want me to respond Colin?

CTh: Well, yes, we've had a pre-online association meeting a couple of weeks ago and I think we've had a very, very, I think, good meeting this morning with the associations present and I think you'll find Liz that we are going to encompass the associations a lot more.

MD: Yes, you know, following on from that it's plainly obvious that Covid and the hiatus of activity, you know, people have been just standing, not having events, not being able to socialise and meet and that kind of drains on the momentum of associations, but it's plainly obvious that, both the Society and the associations should have a symbiotic relationship, they should be holding hands, they should be independent, but they should be holding hands and helping each other because we've got common goals and I think, reiterating what Colin said earlier, we did have a good meeting this morning, we will meet twice a year, one of those meetings will be online in the evening to make it easier for people who work and to avoid long distance travel for just one meeting. And then have the physical meeting at the AGM.

Looking forward to the future, you know, you'll notice today that we've only had a few awards today, because the intention is now to split the business meeting, which is today's AGM and have an awards meeting, awards night, which is a social gathering because you don't know it, but I know, guessing how long the AGM will go on for, you know, we could run a good book on it couldn't we? Well, what usually happens is there's a head of services at the hotel in the back going "come on, get them out, get them out so we can set the room for the dinner". We are not under that pressure; we can be here till 2 o'clock in the morning and we can also open the bar later if we want. But, you know, separating the business meeting and then having the knees up and the enjoyment and having it without any pressure where we can give the awards and we can entertain, hopefully sponsors that we engender in the next two years and, you know, make that a celebration in early spring, so splitting them is the way forward really.

So, the other thing then, just finishing from our part, it's the first time that Gemma and I have done an AGM and we'd really appreciate feedback from you, we asked for feedback on the Official Sale, we had a *huge* amount, some of which was impossible to do, but there were themes that came through and we shared it with the auctioneers and there will be changes and some things we can't do, but we've listened to every member and their opinions have been tabled. So, please, give us some feedback on this, just email, if you can email before the end of the year that would be helpful. So, from that point of view, I think I'll hand back to you Stewart and Colin.

SF: Thank you. May I formally draw this meeting to an end, and thank you all, once again, for coming, I know it's not been easy. It can't get any worse. Let's look forward to a great new year. Thank you.

MD: Can I just, before you leave as well, if those of you are leaving, can I remind you that the shop is here, selling those infamous baubles and a whole new range of ties.

ENDS