



The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Welsh Pony and Cob Society 2022 held at the Pavilion Mid Wales, in Llandrindod Wells, Powys at 1.00pm on Saturday the 21st of May 2022.

The Chair of Council Mr D.Morgan asked for the attention of the room in order to commence with the meeting.

DM directs President Stewart Franklin to start the meeting.

SF welcomes those in attendance to the AGM. He wishes for an efficient meeting and hopes everyone has a good day. He hands proceedings back to Chair of Council.

DM. Thank you Stewart. Welcome everyone, Croeso. I declare the meeting open. Before we begin, I just want to point out a few things.

He outlines where the fire escapes are.

DM. The meeting is being taped, does anyone have any objections?

[No objections are heard from the Members in attendance]

DM. If anyone present is intending to tape this meeting, could you please disclose that now?

[No Members declare they are taping the meeting].

DM. For information, minutes will be taken from the recording of the meeting, this will provide a very accurate reflection and that is why it is important to wait for the microphone before speaking and then give your name. Please turn off all mobile phones or place on silent.

He reminds everyone present to sign the attendance books if they have not already done so.

A request is made that everyone who receives an award remain at the end of the meeting to allow photos to be taken.

DM explains that there are four roving microphones around the room, if anyone should wish to speak, please raise your hand. Everyone who wishes to speak will be heard, we are still aware of COVID so it is not possible for anyone to hold the microphone.

DM. Some non-members may be present representing proxy votes or in association with awards. Are there any objections?

[No objections are heard from the floor].

DM. I would also like to introduce Harriet Morgan from Geldards and Sarah Case from Azets, the Society Auditors. Now we will go onto the first agenda item to receive apologies.

1. To receive apologies.

DM. We have apologies from Mrs. Angela Kember, John Welsh, Roger Davies, Tony and Jo Lutey and Margie Edwards. Other apologies are taken as read.

DM. Obituaries. Sadly, a number of Members have passed away since the last AGM in December. The Society extends its sympathies to family and friends of all our departed members. As a mark of respect, I would like to ask if you can, that all members stand for a minute.

[A minute's silence is observed].

2. To receive the Minutes of the 2021 Annual General Meeting held on Saturday the 11th of December 2021 and to consider matters arising.

DM. The Verbatim minutes have already been proposed, seconded, and approved. We will now go through the minutes page by page for matters arising.

[Pages 1 to 39 are passed with no matters arising]

DM. Can I please ask our President to sign the minutes.

3. To receive correspondence

DM. As per the 13th of May deadline, no correspondence was received.

4. To receive the Audited Balance Sheets and Accounts for the year ended 31st of December 2021 (the Auditors were appointed for 2022 at the 2021 AGM in December)

DM. I would like to invite the Chair of Finance, Mr Wyn Jones to submit the report to members.

WJ. Thank you. Mr. President and fellow Members, on behalf of the Council I present to you the Audited Accounts and Balance Sheets for the year ended 31st December 2021.

Once again, we faced another year of uncertainty due to the COVID pandemic and the restrictions placed upon us. Our operating surplus for 2021 was down on the previous year to £21,716, but due to gains on investments of £202,070, the Society ended the year with an overall surplus of £223,786. The market value of our investments on the 31st of December 2021 stood at £2,334,387 compared to £1,861,093 the previous year, a gain of £473,294. The overall performance in the investments showed an overall growth of 13.9%, 1.9% and 11.3% over the last three years, however I must warn members that the first four months of 2022 have seen our investments take a nose-dive due to the Russian invasion of Ukraine and the share price and global inflation, therefore our year end results for 2022 could show us in a deficit position. We will obviously monitor our finances on a regular basis and continue to try and keep any expenditure to a minimum without affecting the business of the Society.

Although our income increased by £48,066 for the year, our expenditure increased to £107,456, hence the decrease in our operating surplus. The main areas where we have seen increases in our expenditure on the previous year are Legal and Professional fees to £36,653 compared to £23,939 the previous year, mainly due to us having two AGM's, a review of the Articles and a contract with our new Auctioneers for the sale.

AGM expenses went up to £10,647 compared to £3,996 due to two AGM's held during the year which has caused much of this increase.

Postage and Stationery went up to £52,161 compared to £36,010. Three mailings were sent compared to two the previous year also due to us having two AGM's.

Educational visits and events were £17,592 compared to zero in the previous year. With the relaxing of COVID restrictions, some events went ahead in the autumn, the Royal Welsh Autumn Show, the Sales, Winter Fair and other shows. Income of £16,434 was generated in relation to the above cost in 2021.

The Central Prefix Register and Stud Books increased to £14,449 compared to £5,771 because we published two Stud Books during the year compared to only one during 2020.

DNA, Blood Typing and Microchips went up to £39,943 compared to £35,253.

Registration income increased from £250,969 to £270,851 and transfers went up from £80,351 to £122,002.

Membership saw a £3,125 increase compared to a £16,154 reduction the previous year.

However, some income streams decreased during 2020, due to the lack of shows, medals and rosettes decreased from £12,523 to £7,249.

Although we applied for grant funding to support us during the COVID pandemic, this decreased from £47,414 the previous year to £15,721.

Once again, an excellent journal was produced, but the advertising revenue was down from £21,561 to £16,563 and the production cost increased to £23,853 compared to £18,321 in 2020 which put us in an overall deficit of £7,290. The Council are looking at ways to increase advertising revenues to cover the cost of publishing the journal in future years.

I would personally like to record my thanks to all the members of staff Meirion, Gemma, Jack, Chris, Miriam, Mary-Ann, Elise, Helen, Timothy, Carol, Nicola, and Ben for ensuring the smooth running of the office and ensuring we fulfil all the tasks and objectives required within the given timescales. I wish to thank David Davies, my Vice Chair, and my fellow members of the Finance and HR Committee for all their support, the Council, the Chair Daniel Morgan and Vice Chair Sharon Charlton who have also been very supportive of the Finance and HR Committee and I would like to thank them all for their continued support. Also, thanks to our Auditors Sarah Case and Claire Thompson from Azets once again for all their expert guidance throughout the year. Finally, I would like to thank you, the Members for once more supporting the Society through another difficult year. If anyone has any questions on the Audited Accounts, I will try my best to answer them for you.

Any questions?

[No questions are asked from the floor]

WJ. Thank you.

DM. Thank you very much, Wyn. Diolch yn fawr.

5. To receive the Report of the Chair of Council

DM. President, President-Elect, fellow Trustees and members. It is only some five months since we last met and this AGM has been brought forward in order to try and catch up following the pandemic. This truncated year means we can now get back to the usual rhythm with which the Society moves. When we met in December, little did we know there would be trouble on the horizon ahead of us with a war in Ukraine and the shadow that casts on all of us. We feel for the people of Ukraine: it must be terrible. The fall-out for us on a local level is far less painful and costly, but nevertheless, rising fuel and food prices could make our beloved Welsh Ponies, Cobs and Part-Breds a real luxury. It is at a time like this when we all need to pull together, and I am pleased to report that Council have worked diligently on behalf of the Society and the Members during this period.

The Society is in a good place financially and administratively as reported earlier. Our affiliated shows are having a tough time with entries down, and with all the costs, we would do well to remember that it costs as much to keep a bad one as a good one, and the challenge is there for the breeders to be selective in their breeding choices. Without the breeders, there would not be any future of the breed. Pedigrees are so important and are often undervalued today. I am sure that our forefathers would have wished us to raise the profile of pedigrees amongst those who are new to join the Society and the Breed. However, there is good news; The Royal Windsor Horse Show has affiliated to the Society for the very first time, which augers well for the future.

Winning in the showring is only one measure of success. Performance and the enjoyment a lovely animal can bring is just as valid. With the return of the shows, all is not rosy in the garden. We have currently two ongoing complaints at different stages, and I would implore all competitors and judges to remember their roles within the sport and be just that – sporting. Members should be aware of the Society Code of Conduct, Social Media Policy and the Anti-Bullying and Harassment Policy. The Society will make use of these tools if people do not comply.

Looking forward to the rest of the year, we have the International Show in Aachen, Germany in August, as well as the return of the Young Judges Competition and the Performance Competition. We have a Judges' Assessment and Conference scheduled for the autumn which will be followed by the Society's second Official Sale with McCartneys in October. Let's hope that this event will be as successful as the first. We are aware that today clashes with the Spring Fair at Builth and the monthly sale, however in the scheduling of today's meeting we were limited in the choice of dates available. I am pleased to announce that next year will see the return of the Official Spring Sale of Welsh Ponies and Cobs and their Part-Breds, hosted by the Society's Official Auctioneers.

Finally, thank you to our President and Trustees, some of who are leaving today, and the team at Bronaeron for their hard work.

Diolch yn fawr iawn. Thank you all.

[Applause is received from the floor for the Chair after the report]

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

DM. It gives me great pleasure to invite Trustees to share the nominations from members for five individuals who have been awarded Honorary Life Membership in the gift of Council. I would like to invite our President Stewart Franklin to present the certificates.

DM. For the first award, it gives me great pleasure to present at this Annual General Meeting, the appointment of Mrs. Julie Evans, Haighmoor Stud as Honorary Life Member. Could I please ask the Vice Chair of Council, Sharon Charlton to address the meeting.

SC. Good afternoon, everyone. Julie has been a very well-known supporter of the Welsh breeds for many years having joined the Society in 1981. She is well known for supporting all of the major and local shows culminating in her lifetime ambition to win the George, Prince of Wales Cup with a homebred. This was achieved by Haighmoor Glain in 2010, who also won the Cuddy Qualifier that year. Julie has been a major supporter of the Welsh Pony and Cob Society sales, topping them on many occasions with her homebred and home-produced stock. She is always willing to help and encourage Junior Members and has coached the Severn Valley WPCA Young Judges team over the years. She has judged at the Royal Welsh, Lampeter and all over the world, and promoted the Welsh Breeds at every opportunity. Julie would you please come forward to accept this award.

[Applause from the floor]

JE. I would just like to say thank you very much, I have enjoyed all the time I have been involved with the Welsh Pony and Cob Society and I am very humbled to have had this award. Thank you.

[Applause from the floor]

DM. For the second award, it gives me great pleasure to present at this Annual General Meeting, the appointment of Mr. Emrys Hughes, Treflan Stud as Honorary Life Member. Could I please ask the Chair of Finance, Wyn Jones to address the meeting.

WJ. Emrys has bred Welsh Section B's and Part-Breds very successfully at Treflan for over half a century and has remained true to the type that has served him well over the years and is proud of the achievement of the Treflan ponies, gained in the showing at local, County, The Royal Welsh and National level. They are rarely out of the ribbons as youngstock, adult or under saddle. He has represented the Society as a judge both here and abroad on numerous occasions and there are far too many to list here. In recent years, his health has prevented him from attending many shows, but he has remained an enthusiastic ambassador for the Welsh Breeds, always willing to pass on his expertise, especially to the younger generations. He is particularly proud of how Huw, his grandson, is not only benefitting from his guidance in becoming an accomplished horseman and showman, but ensuring the Treflan Stud will continue to play a part in the Society's future hopefully for generations to come.

[WJ invites Emrys to collect the award]

[Applause from the floor]

EH. Thank you very much all of you. I have made some good friends over the years showing all over the country, perhaps not so many friends when I am judging! Thank you.

[Applause from the floor]

DM. For the third award, it gives me great pleasure to present at this Annual General Meeting, the appointment of Mr. W. C. Pounder of the Putwell Stud as Honorary Life Member. Could I please ask the Chair of Members Services, David Davies to address the meeting.

DD. Prynawn da. It is my pleasure and delight to present this citation to Mr. Bill Pounder. Bill is a life member of over fifty years, joining the Society in 1971 with his Putwell prefix. He has always been a respected devotee of the Welsh Mountain Pony with a passion and a delight in pedigrees. But as a breeder, more importantly he has a notable achievement in passing on his enthusiasm to his daughter Barbara, and his grandson, Dan. He has quietly gone about his work as a breeder, encouraging fellow enthusiasts. One of his most successful ponies was Putwell Carreg Llwyd, a big winner for the stud. We are delighted to award Bill this Honorary Life Membership of the Society.

[Bill is invited to come forward for the award]

[Applause from the floor]

DM. For the fourth award, it gives me great pleasure to present at this Annual General Meeting, the appointment of Mrs. Kathy Sheil of the Dukeshill Stud as Honorary Life Member. Can I please ask the Chair of Promotions, Liz Hampson to address the Meeting.

LH. Kathy joined the Society in 1978 with the first Dukeshill pony registered in 1979 when she lived in the Southeast of England. She has bred over two-hundred and fifty ponies with this prefix, many of whom have won throughout the UK, including Breeder's Supreme at the Royal of England, Dukeshill Whizz Kid, three times Royal Welsh Winner Dukeshill Action Man and Dukeshill Magnum, a Cuddy Qualifier who also won the Royal Welsh. She has also bred ridden ponies that have been successful at the Royal International and HOYS. She has exported Dukeshill ponies to many countries all over the world, including the first Welsh ponies to be exported to the Czech Republic which were delivered there by herself with her daughter Joanna. She is on the judges panel for sections A and B and has had the pleasure of judging all over the world. She has been an active member of the South-Eastern WPCA and the Brecon & Borders WPCA during this time. I would like to now invite Kathy to come and receive her award.

[Applause from the floor]

DM. And for the fifth and final award, it gives me great pleasure to present at this Annual General Meeting, the appointment of Mrs. Jill Williams as an Honorary Life Member. Could I please ask for the Vice Chair of Member Services, Rosie Wilson to address the meeting.

RW. Ladies and Gentlemen. Jill has been a life member of the Society since 1977 and has been breeding for over forty years under the Glebedale prefix which was used by her late father before her. She has purebred Welsh ponies of all sections and Welsh Part-Breds. Jill has been a judge of all sections and has represented the Society all over the world judging. She has helped to organise many ridden displays over the years for the Society and helped to set up the WPCS Performance Show with a small band of helpers. Jill has been a part of the Gwent Area and the Brecon & Borders WPCA. She has also been an assessor for the Welsh Pony and Cob Society Judging Panel for many years. Jill has bred ponies that have won throughout the UK including the Royal Show, Royal Welsh, Lampeter, Horse of the Year Show, including Glebedale Jubilation and Glebedale Ding Dong, and recently the Cuddy Supreme in hand. I would like to ask Jill to come forward to collect her award.

[Applause from the floor]

JW. Hello everybody. I would just like to say thank you very much for this lovely award, I am very honoured to accept it and would like to thank everyone for giving it to me. A great honour. Thank you very much.

[Applause from the floor]

7. The Miss Brodrick Memorial Trophy

[Proceedings are handed over to Chair of Judging & Showing, Mr. Steve Everitt to address the meeting]

SE. The Brodrick award is the highest honour the Society can bestow and is awarded by Council to an individual or animal alternately in recognition of distinguished service to the Society or Breed. This year it is the turn of an equine, and there were many deserving nominations but one emphatic winner of this award. Foaled in 2002, the recipient made her showring debut at the 2004 Royal Welsh Show winning the two-year old filly class. Producing her first foal as a four-year old, she continued her winning ways as a broodmare, qualifying and competing in the Brightwells National Final on three separate occasions, and taking the championship title on each occasion. In 2012 she returned to the Royal Welsh to win the senior broodmare class, Female Champion and Prince of Wales Cup for the Overall Champion Section D, and later that day win the Tom & Sprightly Overall Welsh Championship. Having reared a foal every year since her 2012 Royal Welsh appearance, she returned to Llanelwedd in 2018 at sixteen years of age to again win the senior broodmare class and Female Championship, and secure for the second time the George, Prince of Wales Cup for overall champion section D. The winner of the Brodrick Award this year, goes to my personal favourite Welsh Cob mare, Danaway Cracklin-Rose.

[Applause from the floor]

SE. Owned by the Attrell Family, who cannot be here today, the award is to be collected on their behalf by Mr. Daniel Morgan of the Parc Stud.

[Applause from the floor]

8. To receive the Society's 'Members Services Committee' report

DM. I would now like to invite David Davies to present the Members Services Committee Report.

DD. Mr. President, President-Elect, Chairman and Members, it is my pleasure to present to you the Members Services Report. In terms of membership, there are currently 3,251 annual members and this figure is expected to increase during the year as people continue to join. In 2021 there were seventeen new life members taking the total number of life members to 1,652 and the total number of Society Members to 5,299. In addition, there are 56 junior members and this is an area that will be discussed later in the agenda as one of the main focuses and concerns of the current board of Trustees, is to consider new ways to encourage new membership of the Society.

With regard to registrations, the total number of registrations received during 2021 was 4,314 as recorded in Volume 103 of the Stud Book.

There were 5,739 home transfer and 335 exports.

During the period between the two AGM's, the key moments where the Young Ambassador Hannah Atkinson will continue in her role until the next AGM in 2023, she has a plan of events for this summer where it is hoped as many young people will get involved with these activities. The closing date for applications to become the next Young Ambassador is the 27th of August and we would encourage as many potential new applicants as possible to apply.

Mr. Stewart Franklin's Presidents Dinner and Awards Night was held in The Vale Resort in Cardiff on the 1st of April, and it was a great success. In total, £2,135 was raised for Cancer Research and a further £1,340 for Ty Hafan. The date for the Next Presidents Dinner and Awards Night is the 11th of March and it will be held at the Metropole, here in Llandrindod Wells, and the 2023 AGM will be held on Saturday the 8th of April here at the Pavilion.

The Council has reviewed and updated its strategic plan making it much more focused on achievable goals in the short, medium and long term. The aim of the strategic plan is to focus the attention of the Council and the sub-committees on the key specifics that contribute to the long-term viability of the Society, whilst also ensuring we consider the wider implications and possibilities. An International Online Meeting was held on the 6th of April which included 31 delegates from fourteen countries and proved to be very successful and we look forward to the International Show at Aachen in Germany in August this year.

Since the start of the new year, the museum at Bronaeron has been the focus of attention for three Council Members: Sharon Charlton; Debbie Jones; and myself. The aim has been to catalogue all of the items within the collection and digitally record all the images. The scanning and identification of the images is a mammoth task and has been undertaken by the Office staff, in particular Ben Spoor. This is an ongoing and potentially long-term project to complete as there are many thousands of images. Once scanned, members will be able to access these remotely from the WPCS Archive. The museum will re-open during the summer.

A memorial event that was held on Sunday 1st of May at the Royal Welsh Showground to remember the many members of the Society who have sadly passed away over the last two years. It was a great success.

Stud books Volume 101 and 102 will be available later this year and volumes 103 and 104 are planned for next year which will bring us right back up to date. There are some old stud books which have been written off by the Auditors and the Society is happy to give those away for free. Please contact the office if you are interested.

Laura Collett MBE, who started her competitive career on Welsh Mountain Ponies, winning at the WPCS Performance Event as a young person, has just won the Badminton three-day event, this is a huge achievement, and Ruby Thompson on Penstrumbly Calon Lan did very well in the Grassroots BE90 Competition.

As you can appreciate, there have only been two major shows since the last AGM in December. It was great to be back at Lampeter, there was a very enthusiastic crowd, and the committee is to be congratulated for hosting such a successful event given that the venue was changed at such short notice. The Lampeter Champions where: Section A Heniarth Showbiz; Section B Walseker Roca Roja; Section C Fronarth Moriarty and Supreme Show Champion; Section D Eglwysfach Royal Flyer; Mini Ridden Champion Heniarth Willy Wagtail; Junior Ridden Champion Glebedale Rock & Roll; Novice Ridden Champion Blaencila Penny; Open Ridden Champion Wyken Sweet Silhouette and the Driving Champion was Trixies Duchess.

A glorious day was had a Builth Wells for the 64th Glanusk Welsh Show and it was great to see Mrs. Pat Lewis honoured for her long service to the show and to welcome Barbara Green as the new show secretary. The Glanusk Champions where: Section A and Premium Champion Cemaes Hyderus; Section B Kallared Heartbeat; Section C Fronarth Moriarty; Section D and Supreme Champion Drogeda The Outlaw; Part-Bred Rosedale Burmese and Ridden Champion Ringside Zorba.

Since the last AGM in December, a total of 93 WPCS medals have been issued and the show and medal results are now published on the website. Posts on the Welsh Pony and Cob Society Facebook page have attracted over 52,500 regular followers, and the Society is keen to promote shows and Area Association events by posting links to their events webpages or schedules.

At the Royal Windsor Show, the Society presented a special championship rosette for the overall Welsh Breeds Champion to Springbourne Capricorn to commemorate Her Majesty the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. This is the first time the Royal Windsor Horse Show has affiliated to the Society. It is remarkable to think that Her Majesty became Patron of the Society in 1944 having been given Vardra Greylight in 1940 and has been Patron of the Society for a remarkable 78 years, for which we are most grateful for her continued support.

Thank you very much, this concludes the Members Services Report.

[Applause from the floor]

DM. Thank you David, diolch yn fawr.

9. Vote of thanks to the retiring President: Mr Stewart Franklin.

DM. We now turn to thank the retiring President Mr. Stewart Franklin for his time as President. On behalf of the Council and all Society Members and the Office Staff, I would like to propose a vote of thanks to Stewart on his presidency. It's been a term of many firsts, the first presidency of a five months term, the first to see a very successful Awards Night, sadly it has also been the first presidency to see a memorial service to remember our past members and also the first presidency to see a rider who started on Welsh ponies win Badminton. The Society is indebted to Stewart for being so willing to adapt your Presidential year and I am delighted to share that both you and our incoming President will work together for the rest of the year as a presidential duo, and we wish you both well. Thank you to Annie for your continued support and to both of you for taking over the Society Gelding sponsorship with the Sarum Investments Gelding Scheme. This is such an important part of the Society's promotion which resonates with the Society's welfare remits and carries on the great work done by the Millcroft Stud. Diolch yn fawr, Stewart.

[Applause from the floor]

SF. It seems like a long time ago since we were here, we have been through quite a lot since the last AGM, it's lovely to see so many people here today and see things getting back to normal. Can I offer my own congratulations to all of the prize-winners, many of whom I have grown up with and it is so nice to see them here. Thank you.

[Applause from the floor]

10. To appoint on the recommendation of Council, Mr Dennis Price as President for 2022/2023

[Dennis Price of the Afan Stud is welcomed as President]

[Applause from the floor]

DM. Can I now ask our President to award the Past-President with his badge.

[The transfer of the President's badge from Mr Franklin to Mr Price is heard]

[Applause from the floor]

DP. To be elected as your President is the very highest and unbelievable honour. I will try and conduct myself and be a credit to the Society... I said try! Making conversation doesn't come easy to me but what I say, I mean. My President-Elect speech back in December was a shortened history of my ponies, I have been breeding them for 65 years, so I will not repeat myself as there is a lot to be discussed today. The future of the Society is most important, especially to encourage the interest of the younger generation. In my President-Elect speech again, last December, my mention to all the outstanding Officials, the Secretary, Chairman, Council Members and Office Staff, I will mention them again because without them we would be lost. All the best for the showing season, whether you are showing in hand, the ridden classes or in the driving classes and I hope you have a successful year.

I look forward to meeting people throughout the next year from far and wide. I think I have made a lot of genuine friends. Thanks and the best of health to everyone.

[Applause from the floor]

DP. The next President's Dinner and Awards Night will be held at the Metropole, here in Llandrindod Wells on the 11th of March 2023 and the next 2023 AGM will be held on Saturday the 8th of April here at the Pavilion.

11. To receive a report on the appointment of President-Elect for 2022-2023

DP. I would like to invite Sarah Case from Azets to come forward to announce the name of the President-Elect for 2022-23.

SC. Thank you. Good afternoon, everyone. It gives me great pleasure to announce that the President-Elect for 2022-2023 is Mr. Dewi Evans of the Hilin Stud.

[Applause from the floor]

DP. Thank you, Sarah. I would like to congratulate Dewi and invite him to say a few words before joining us here on the stage.

DE. Ladies and Gentlemen, Mr. President and Council Members. I'm overwhelmed with this accolade. First of all, I would like to thank you all for giving me this great honour to be President of this great Society, as a family we are thrilled. To those of you that don't know me, I have been a life member of the Society since 1968, so that makes me quite old really! The Hilin prefix was registered in 1965 when my father purchased my first section B mare, she was called Llwydiarth Colomen and was bought at the Menai Bridge sale in May. This was the start of the Hilin Stud and I have been breeding section B's for almost sixty years.

We have bred all sections, A's, B's, C's, D's and Part-Breds and have a healthy respect for them all.

I am a hill farmer on the edge of Snowdonia where we keep suckler cows and sheep, and the ponies are shared by the whole family including five grandchildren who are all out riding at a show today. They all enjoy their Welsh Ponies and have a lot of fun. I have four grown-up children, Arwyn and Elin, they show for me as my feet aren't quite as good as they used to be! Meriel who is here with me today, she takes care of sales and Social Media and tries to get me to do away with the cows and sheep; she hasn't managed yet! Mari is my eldest daughter, and she lives in Norfolk, she has started breeding and has her own Hilin branch of the stud and she will be showing tomorrow with her Hilin pony.

Being busy on the farm makes it difficult to show at times but we have had some successes including four Royal Welsh Championships, and eight sire ratings winnings, and Ridden Champion at the International Show in Holland with Mari riding.

Many of you will have seen me round the shows judging which is something I enjoy greatly. I believe strongly in fairness and the showing is often where new breeders and exhibitors are encouraged. My highlight in judging was the Royal Welsh Show in 2004. Great show.

I would like to also thank my secretary, manager... my wife, Eirian. She manages us all! She is as interested in these ponies as any of us. She couldn't be here today because she had to go down to Norfolk.

Thank you all again for the honour and I will do my best to represent the Society and its Members. Llawer o ddiolch. Many thanks.

[Applause from the floor]

12. To receive a report on the election of Five members to serve on Council for the period 2022-2025 as per Article 25 V (a) of the Articles of Association of the Society

DP. May I ask Sarah Case from Azets to present the Scrutineer's Report on the election of five members to serve on Council for the period 2022-2025.

SC. Thank you. To the Members of the Welsh Pony and Cob Society, on behalf of Azets, the duly appointed Scrutineers for the election of five council members to serve until the 2025 AGM, I can confirm that we have examined the 592 voting papers collected up to 5pm on the 13th of May 2022. Of the 592 voting papers received I can confirm that 589 were accepted meaning that 3 were rejected. I can therefore formally declare that the number of valid votes cast for each candidate in the order of total votes received where as follows.

Mr. Cemaes Evans 420 votes, ranked 1st;

Mrs Sharon J. Charlton 335 votes, ranked 2nd;

Mrs Lottie. A. Stephens 321 votes ranked 3rd;

Miss Tanya M. Baldwin 302 votes, ranked 4th;

Mrs Debbie Jones 301 votes; 5th.

Finally, Mr. Mervyn Davies, 284 votes, 6th.

To ensure the accuracy of the ballot, we have confirmed the ballot papers have all been checked, as have the total votes allocated to each individual candidate. The voting papers that were not accepted as a result of them having no declaration of identity completed on them, all other papers were regarded as complete. Thank you.

DP. Thank you, Sarah. Congratulations to those elected as Trustees. Please could I ask all newly appointed Trustees, serving Trustees and the new President-Elect to go to the Ithon Room upstairs after this meeting to collect relevant paperwork and for a briefing.

13. Junior Membership – the way forward.

DP. Can I ask Meirion [Davies] to address the meeting, please?

MD. Prynawn da, good afternoon. This agenda item has been put here because the time has come for us to really get to grips with the junior membership, we have talked a lot about it and it is now time we did something about it.

Sadly, a couple of weeks ago, I had to organise the memorial service for 73 members we lost in the past two and a half years. A very sad day, but a day which meant we could also remember the fact that they had enjoyed being members. We lose members every year, some people drift away, some lose interest and find another interest, and sadly as I mention, some pass away. We should have a drive to replace the members we lose, and we should be proactive about it. Now, I was a junior member back in the '70's, a long time ago! I don't recall getting anything from the Society at the time, but just the fact that I could be a junior member and call myself a junior member was enough for me. What Sarah would attest to, Sarah often reports to us at our meetings to review, she says that we are in a very privileged positions as a Society, as so many of our membership are retained, for many of our members it is a life-long thing, they are not necessarily a life member, but are members for their entire life, because, once we hook them, they are members, and that's not something many societies get. For example, a Golf Club may have people who would pay a subscription and be a member for a long time but once their playing days are over they drift; we don't have that, and that is a wonderful testament to the appeal of the Society.

What we have worked on as a Council and staff is introducing different themes to the junior membership. Just to add a statistic, 17% of the U.K. population are under the age of fourteen, so if you translate that statistic to our membership, we should have 850 junior members, we currently have 56. There is work to be done, and it is work that we can all do, I think. If you are a parent or a grandparent, I'd ask you to tell the office what you think they need, but also, as we gain the junior members, we need to be asking them what they want from us, as there is no point in us telling them, we need to reflect what their needs are.

We are trying our best to affiliate and align ourselves with youth movements such as The Pony Club, there is huge potential reach of new membership and interest within the Pony Club, the Young Farmer's Club [YFC], Scouts, Guides, Urdd Gobaith Cymru, they are all groups that deal with young people, so we need to try and dovetail and make them stakeholders of our wonderful Society.

A couple of things we have looked at which are proposals which we will bring back to you. We have prepared packs for the junior members that we currently have, they are not very sexy at the moment, they are pretty run-of-the-mill, but once we have a sufficient membership we will re-brand the junior membership and split it into more targeted age groups. We also have a few life members who are not yet two years old so it would be nice if we can offer on their birthday a special card from the Welsh Pony and Cob Society, but at the moment we don't have a lot of ages or dates of birth, we don't know how old many of you

are. It's something to do with Data Protection, but as a parent or guardian, you can tell us, 'they were born on such and such a date', so we can work out if they should be having a soft toy for Christmas, or something like a baseball cap instead.

At the moment, they get a pack with a rosette in which says 'Aelod Ifanc/Junior Member', they get postcards, a biro, a questionnaire and activity sheets, which goes some way, but there is so much more we can do.

The headlines for you to think about are:

- We are going to split the ages
- Re-brand
- Ensure they receive a welcome pack, birthday card and newsletters
- For older ones who can be online, we will be able to target them with the young people's groups activities.

As there is a fusion between being a junior member, a young member and a senior member, and we also aim to create a junior members area on the website.

So, at this point, rather than me talking at you, I would like to open it up to the floor to see if you have any ideas, and you can share those with us. Thank you.

[Discussion opened up to the room]

MD. We seem to have a little bit of silence here.

MD. Phillipa, did you want to speak?

[Meirion Davies instructs a microphone to be taken to Phillipa]

Phillipa Owens (Casob). For a long time I have thought that junior members and young members riding Welsh ponies have not been acknowledged because they are not part of the Society. One place that I think we could recognise the and they would feel proud about it is the Mounted Games. If we could find out the breeding of those Mounted Games ponies competing at the Royal Welsh, for those individual children to get mentioned. I know it's segregating some against another, whether they are mentioned on the day or whatever, getting the breeding and where that pony was bred, I think it would be good for the breed and promote the breeding of ponies and also it would create an interest for that child and I think once you have lit the candle it will carry on and keep burning and then other children would love to have the name of their pony given out.

MD. Thank you, Phillipa. Are you psychic? The reason why, we have been targeting different bodies and people, influencers, and people who would be of benefit to make them aware of the activities of the Society by providing them with complementary journals, and the night before last, I had sent a journal to Marcus Capelle who is the Chief Executive of The Pony Club and yesterday I had an email back to say he was delighted to receive it, he looked forward to reading it and said it looked very interesting with all of the articles, he is big into mounted games and his delight is finding out how many of them [ponies] have Downland Chevalier in their pedigrees when he checks the pedigrees of these mounted games ponies. So, for me, and I was sharing this with Council yesterday, that's a massive tick and we have to follow up on this now, as he gets it, so if the Chief Executive of The Pony Club gets it, with the pedigrees, that's the in for us now. If we can work with them to see what opportunities there are because, as you say, you could be the person with the Mounted Games pony, you

know it is Welsh, you know it has a passport, but not necessarily a WPCS Passport, it might have a different passport, but maybe it will have a microchip and we can trace it. If we can bring these people into the fold, and that's where hopefully the junior membership will be something where these youngsters will want to join as a junior member. I wholeheartedly agree with you, Phillipa, there are so many other, diverse use of our animals which we don't applaud.

There's one other one we have had which I will share with you now, Jack isn't in the room now, so I cannot be one hundred per cent with this, but there is a fantastic story which I think is from Sweden, which is Welsh Ponies that are used in hospitals as therapy. So, we need to put our arms round all of those just as much as the ones we breed which win Lampeter or the Royal Welsh.

Thank you Phillipa.

MD. We can go to Justin now.

Justin Davis (Popsters). I want to talk about my son, Austin, he's 8. Recently, he received his first WPCS medal within a week of winning it, so he was very proud of that, he was so proud he took it in to school with his certificate and gave a talk on it, he was so proud to see his name on the back of the medal. I wonder, is there an avenue we can go down, his teachers came back to be to say he was so proud of it and all his friends were asking questions about it, so is there a way of getting something into schools?

JD. Going back to what you said on the therapy side of it, Heidi is actually trained in Equine Assisted Therapy, and she has done some work with Welsh Ponies so maybe that is, as you say, another avenue that can be looked into.

MD. I think these are one hundred per cent valid, if we could dovetail into the education system, that would be a wonderful way forward. Culturally, and nationally, the Society hasn't been able to shout about the Welsh pony. If I could give the iconography, if you asked the children what the iconography of Wales is they would probably come up with a rugby shirt, a daffodil and a coal mine... and a sheep! We should be aiming, in time, that they come up with a Welsh Mountain Pony or Cob as an icon and we have a job of work to do there. That is exactly the type of thing, when you mention teachers, if there are any teachers in our organisation who feel they know how to get our product and our culture and our world of Welsh Ponies, Cobs and Part-Breds into schools, we need to go to the relevant education boards, but we need to do it on a national scale and that's where it becomes difficult because they all operate independently.

To go back to Austin's story, that's the type of thing where, if you were to take a picture of him with his medal at school, and write some words for us, perhaps just fifty words, send it through, we can share it on Facebook, with your parental permission, and that can reach, we have followers of 52,000, if those 52,000 share it, that could be half a million people within one day. There is massive opportunity to push our brand here, but it is all incumbent on every one of you not thinking, 'should I do that? No perhaps not, they will think I'm pushing whatever....' And just send it to us because without it, we can't share it and we are more than happy to share these good news stories.

JD. He [Austin] was lucky enough to qualify for HOYS in the lead rein last year and he actually took two of his friends from school to support him at HOYS, and from that, they are now asking their parents if they can have a pony, and they have come to us and it has just gone on from that.

MD. And we carried a lovely photograph in the journal, and that again is a plea, it's not an exclusive place- the young people's pages in the journal, it's something that if you know of a child with a Welsh pony, and you want them featured, so long as the parents are happy, send them to us, it's an inclusive act. As I said, I was pleased as a kid just to be able to say I was a Junior member.

MD. To Ceri first.

Ceri Fell (Brynseion). It's really funny, you talked about being psychic, yesterday evening, Lloyd Macey was with us, and he, as you probably know, apart from being an X-Factor person, he is now a teacher and at the moment has got a year eight class and has been doing Welsh stuff with them, and this last week they have all been going to some coal mine; half of the children didn't even know what coal was, anyway, he was then speaking to his headmaster and he said 'wouldn't it be great if we can get them, involved in the ponies?'

CF. So, in about four weeks from now I am taking a section A, he has Euros [Morgan] with a section C, has asked for someone with a section B and a section D to go to the school playing field, with the year eight children to do this session about ponies. Lloyd has no real interest in ponies apart from the fact his partner is interested but is very keen, and I think this is brilliant. If the office could, quickly produce some things to hand out. It is a school in Cardiff.

MD. A lot of the publications that sit in the office from old, they are still valid today, they just need re-skinning to look more modern; the pictures look as though they were taken in the '70's but the words don't need changing at all. This is something we are looking at, Ceri, and we will try and facilitate somethings for you as a drop to take.

CF. If any of you would like to join us?

MD. Are they Primary School?

CF. No, year eight.

MD. I'm old, so what does that mean?

CF. Second year [high school]

MD. Once they stop talking about form six, I'm lost. We will try and tune it to the age group. Thank you, Ceri.

MD. Now to Nia.

Nia Roberts (Heolas). I am a teacher and with my children I quite regularly show them pictures and successes that my own children have, within the schools. I think with the new curriculum as it is, I think this is the ideal opportunity because with the new curriculum design, schools and the whole education system, we have more freedom to look at, and it is about the pupil's voice so it's about what our children want to learn about, so it's about that big hook, and trying to get into the schools more. I am sure there are a lot of members who are teachers and can take that into our schools and then others who have got links, it is about targeting. I think the other thing we need to consider as well is that middle age group, I know previously from when I did a bit of work with the young people, it was easy to target the younger children with activities and the likes and bring them onboard, the older ones, that was easy because they can go on their jollies but that middle age group who are neither here nor there, they are the most difficult ones to target, so it's about looking at ways to engage those young people.

MD. Thank you. We have specific things like Young judges, Young handlers, the Young People's group, and as you say, that middle age group is what all people who serve that age group find most difficult, how do you tap into them?

MD. Can I ask, do you think it would be a good idea if the Society put a call out to every person who is involved in education who felt like becoming part of a working group to work as a sounding board for the Education & Welfare Group.

NR. What about speaking to the Minister for Education?

MD. Yes, exactly. That would be the end game. For me, from my own point of view, if I want to talk to the Minister of Education, the key way of getting in would be to highlight what role the pony breeders of the time did with the animals that went down the mines, because that would tap into the industrial heritage and they would be able to justify including it on the curriculum. But we need guidance. There may be other ways. Whereas, if we go and tell them about the ponies today, it's not quite so easy to dovetail it or make it align with the curriculum, so we need the expert advice to lead us.

It may be a good idea to put a call out, and people to say, 'I'm a teacher of such & such...' or 'I teach age group...' or 'lecture at a college'.

NR. Absolutely. An example at the moment is, in my school, our upper key stage two pupils are looking at mining, so that is something I will bring in within our school.

MD. Great. Now we go to Joanna first, and then to John.

Joanna Sheil (Dukeshill). Thank you. There were two points I wanted to raise, first was carrying on with the school curriculum and this is probably a good time to look at it because of the new pathways that have been introduced to schools with more emphasis on bringing employers and outside people into schools, and also tilting it where real life can be used in education, so whether something equine can be used in science projects or careers which is a really big one to bring into schools as well, so it ties in that way. If someone talked about whatever career linked to horses on behalf of the Welsh Pony and Cob Society or the Welsh Pony and Cob Society sponsor them to be there, that would be a way into schools because teachers are always looking for somebody to come in and speak to their class.

JS. The second point I wanted to make was following on from Phillipa's point about the Mounted Games as there is already a huge untapped potential of young people into ponies, who are perhaps not aware they are riding Welsh ponies, or are riding a Welsh but it does not mean a lot to them because they are not interested in the breeding or showing, so some sort of awards or something that could be given out to under-ten shows or something like that if you are riding a Welsh pony, or maybe a free membership for a year if you're champion at an under-ten show and you are on a Welsh pony or things along those lines and I think through Pony Club is excellent and also I know some independent equine establishments have their own under-tens shows, whether there is some sort of sponsorship or something like that?

MD. Thanks Joanna, I think the issue is, it's such a massive job, it's not a job we will do and it will be done, it's an ongoing thing so we have to be strategic then about who we target and what steps we take and how we build on it, so it is really helpful to have these ideas for Junior members, but then it can also be extended to new members of all ages.

Thank you. Now to John.

John Kirk (Donys). I would like to ask if our junior membership is free?

MD. At the moment, our junior membership is not free, but it is something we are looking at because for the revenue, when you think of £12 times 56, for the revenue we would lose, and the access we would have, there are two schools of thought.

If you give people something for free, they don't value it, but if you make it so it is too expensive, if a parent has three or four kids, what with the cost of everything today, it can become expensive, so we have to try and pitch it somewhere, and maybe try and introduce it so that it would be free for the first year and then the second year when you join it is £5 but you get something extra for it, third year it is £10 but you get an extra, extra something. We have to think of it in ways that make it engaging and enticing to become members and once they come to something and enjoy it, they'll want to do it again.

JK. I totally understand that.

MD Do you advocate that it is free John?

JK Yes, I would, I would like to propose that the Society take this on board because the Society has investment and I think it is now time to invest in the future. The future is the young members and I think this is a Society that should be investing in that.

MD Shall we take a proposal? We've had a proposal from John Kirk that we advocate that Junior membership is free. Does anyone want to second that or talk against? I haven't got a seconder I've got 'twentyiers'. Hands up again please, I'll take the second from Gareth Evans thank you. Is everybody in favour of that? Does anybody want to make a counter proposal?

JD (Popsters) I am all for that John, 100% agree with you. The only thing I would say is at the moment going back to Austin, sorry to keep going on about it, he had to become an Adult member to breed. We put some ponies in his name so he could be the 'breede'r but he had to pay full adult membership, I don't know if there is a boundary there.

MD I think we have to look a little bit at that because I think that dovetails into any aspect of the Society's work. As in; you have to be a member for 10 years before whatever.... We have to check the validity of that and why those are in place. Because they are historical as to why they were put in place, so I think we will look at that as we review the Junior membership. Now to Tracy

Tracy Hook (Kemysfawr) If we are going to have free Junior membership, that if you've got Junior members in an area Association that they automatically get a free membership into the mother Society.

MD That again is something that we have looked at in order to try and work with the Area Associations because it's a mirrored problem for the Associations. We were talking only yesterday in Council about the Hill Ponies Improvement Societies - it's something that they have voiced - a concern they have as a group as a collective is that there are so few youngsters involved and wanting to be involved in their Societies.

JH In some associations we have family memberships, so the parents join and automatically the children are there. I'm just thinking that if the children automatically gained a junior membership from the WPCS itself then that would maybe encourage them then to go further and not just come to the Association's meetings and things, because their mother and fathers are there. Give them a forward place to go to as well.

MD Can I Suggest that we take it back to Council and look at it because I'm looking at Wyn and thinking...

Martin Waters - I'm all in favour of giving you children free membership and things like that, that's a no brainer. Even when they go and watch rugby they shouldn't be paying and that what I do believe but before we pass this you are tying up the Council up, you'll be tying the finances up and if all these people you say we can hit and they'll all of a sudden come running through the doors we are going to be in trouble. So, I think this needs to go back to Council and not take a vote here, it's got to go back to Council

MD- That's what I was going to propose, thank you Martin, that we take it back to Council. Because obviously looking at Wyn that was exactly the point I was going to say. We have to cost - what if 5000 little ones wanted to become members and we were giving them something to the of value of £32 a year, we wouldn't be able to sustain it, so we will have to make a feasibility test on all of these aspects. But the principal that you've proposed that you believe it should be free I think we should take that back to Council to discuss.

If we go to Paul first.

Paul Hampson (Trindod) Our family has three members, and we get three journals, we only need one. So, can we donate them back to the children to make it more viable?

MD On your membership form it says if you are a multi journal household and you do not wish to receive a Journal please tick this box. We haven't had any people tick the box, yet people will voice it.

PH Then maybe you can give it to the children, because it's saving a cost.

MD With the Journal; the costs of the Journal these complimentary journals for instance they are a negligible cost to us really because of the print runs that we do. We just need to make sure that we know how many we want when we order them in the first instance. But there is a tick box on your form, obviously you don't get it if you are a life member. We will have to look at that. I'm going to go to John first and then we'll come back to Kath.

John Kirk (Donys) – Thank you, totally understanding regarding the finances of the Society, 100% on board but I think most people, we have to be honest here, keep ponies on a shoe string, a lot of families they buy their children/child a pony and keep them at a livery yard or whatever the case might be, and this country is going to go through some very difficult times in the future and the membership for that child from their parents; be it through pocket money or out of their household budget maybe the first thing to go at that point when they are struggling to pay electricity, gas and everything else and food bills. So I think if the Society would give it some serious consideration for the future, I'm not being flippant or frittering the Society's funds, I don't want anyone to think that at all, but I think it's worth considering if you put a time scale on it for a period of time or a period of years as a pilot to see how it goes and moving on to the future.

MD Thank you. I think that's quite valid because you know we have to do a feasibility study on it and reviews on it as well and build those in, in case it goes out of hand but obviously at the moment we have 56 that have paid their £12 so we have to honour that and it would be something Council would look at introducing in 2023 to be fair to everybody. But it will take us that to get the information and to rebrand and things. Kath we are coming to you next and then to Richard.

Kath Davies (Pica) I would just like to point out that you've got children who are members and have been for a few years, isn't that a bit counterproductive for people who have been paying children's memberships probably who can't really afford it but because the children

need it to show they are paying it without any objection. Would it be better to reduce the cost of the membership so that everybody is paying something?

MD Well that is something we are looking at, because those children who had been members if they'd paid £12 they get either a gift at Christmas or a Journal. Now the Journal is quite a hefty price out of that £12 for the admin involved so I don't feel they've been short-changed in the past because they've had gifts as well. It is something that Council will look at. We'll go to Richard next.

Richard Pittman – Just in regard to young people I think, I don't know if Kitty is in the room or Philippa. You look at the Young farmers and they have groups every month where they have fun, WPCS member will bring a kid to a show and let them watch horses for 9 hours. I can't even stick nine hours and I'm 31, don't expect a 6-year-old kid to stand at the ring all day watching people go round. I think it needs to be more fun and the associations and areas need to get together and run some kid activities once a month just to bring everyone together. Doing fun things instead of orientating around horses and shows and stuff. But the Young Farmers do it, they don't go looking at cows every week.

MD I take your point there, because not everybody was like me like I was at 8 with my head in the Journal learning English words that I didn't know what they meant from the names of the ponies, I had two brothers that weren't interested at all. But if some of the Associations as they already do, they have something like an Easter Egg hunt for the little ones, they have different activities which are not necessarily to do with the ponies, cobs and part-bred but they are in that world, and I think that's what you are asking for there? and I think the Associations are probably the best place to serve that purpose. I think as the Society and as a breed Society we have to be a little bit purer than that in the world we are offering the youngsters, but I hear what you're saying Richard. It's not got to be all about the hard end side of it. I'll go to Lisa first and then come to you David.

Lisa Reed (Tyngwrdwn) I think the important factor to look at here really is, we've got junior members yes, but we do need to give them the option once they get to a certain age that they can go up to full member without having to go back to be a full member from that date. So that they can be a full member from when they joined as a junior member to start with because if they pay a junior membership for 10 years, they will have lost 10 years and as Justin has said they have to be a full member to be able to show. So, to be a junior member and a full member they have to pay twice which is a bit silly really, so I think there should be a bridging gap so that they can move up to a full member after a certain age.

MD That's a practical issue and I think Council should look at that as well. Thank you, I'll go to David and come back to you Philippa.

David Roberts (Tawelfan) The Society was left a substantial amount of money a few years ago and I understand that the wishes of the lady at the time was the money was put to certain aspects of the Society. Isn't this a prime time where some of that money could be used towards this.

MD Are you referring to the Thelma Carter legacy?

DR Yes

MD Thelma Carter had originally when her mother was alive, had wished that the legacy would be used for Education and Welfare but after her mother passed away our understanding via the solicitor was that she hadn't put any confines on it, she just wanted to leave it to the Society which is a very generous gift. Now that money has been invested but I

think that Council is still of the opinion that if a particular project came along, they would consider looking at releasing some of the monies. Is that correct trustees?

Trustees agreed.

MD It's just that at the moment rather than drip feed into tiny projects, and that's why they have been working on this strategy which offers short-, mid- and long-term projects where they can commit to it and then you can look at proactive use of a capital sum. So, you know if you are asking the trustees to look at Junior membership and targeting education as a project then I think they can hear your voice.

DR As you have put this forward Meirion I think this is a long-term project from what you are saying so obviously I would think this is ample opportunity to put some of that money to good use in memory of the lady that left it, if that is what everybody's view is as well. But that is my personal view.

MD I think Nia's mention a key word, "hook", once you hook into the Education system and they see you value that'll be it; - they will help and work on our behalf then because it will be a partnership. That's definitely a way forward, but Council can hear all of you.

We are going from David back to Phillipa and then to John.

Phillipa Owens (Casob) Just to go back to where we started another avenue which I've felt we should go down as a Society to benefit future membership, the breed and breeders is the Pony Club Championships, and I think this could be relatively easy. Now I've been lucky to have children go up through that and compete there and do quite well, it's everyday children on everyday ponies and a lot of those ponies are still competing under their registered names and it's quite surprising how many of the big studs you'll see that have representation at that Championship, yet they are not recognised. The children riding them really do not understand a thing about the Welsh, now if we can do articles and say put them in Native magazines and things like that I think those people would be very very proud also it highlights mothers. Now when you get into that level, the mothers would love little so and so to have their photos in a magazine etc, and they start to follow it. But also, it is the breeding of them and it goes as well down the dressage road. We see high profile ponies being imported, dressage ponies from Europe, a lot of those ponies are derived from the Section B. Now why are we not tapping into this? On the continent they record all of this and yet we have them everywhere and nobody is acknowledging them.

MD - Well I think you hit on a point there, reportage and the collation of success and sharing that with people is something that really we've been very guilty of in the past. We've lost Dr Wynne, but we always used to think that Dr Wynne will record it, Dr Wynne will have it, he'll write about it and there are a couple other people who write as well. We need more people to write, write short stories and they don't have to be very long as long as they have the name of the animal and the registration number, we can do the research. I reported on HOYS last year, I reported on everything that we did in HOYS from home. I had a HOYS catalogue then I trawled Facebook for it, I didn't go to HOYS I couldn't. I was in the office all day working but I was putting in the breeding of them and finding out a link to one of the established stallions or a mare that was top of the sale or something. It's possible for all of you to do this, do it, feed it to the office, and we will share it. The problem is we just don't have the manpower to have a team of journalists, but it is something we have to aim for. Owen Rhys Griffiths has just delivered Lampeter's report, and he is working on the Glanusk report, but normally Dr Wynne would have completed this and we don't have him anymore sadly. All of us have the capability of feeding those good stories through the Office and the Office has the capability. Yes, we have the Journal, we are looking at the newsletter but also

we've got the social media platforms to share it. The only thing stopping us shouting about these stories is somebody creating the original document. There is an open invitation for you there. But I do hear what you say with... if we were to track back the pedigree of a lot of these animals, they go back to Highmead animals or Small-Land/Downland animals or Oakley. All those top sport ponies from the continent they are from that source.

Back to John Kirk and then to Nia.

JK - I would like to second what David Roberts was saying, also our Society and part of our charitable aims is Education and Welfare. I need to know where we are going on the educational front at this point.

MD Dilwyn would you like to take that as Chair of Education and Welfare?

Dilwyn Roberts - Thank you John for your question and yes it has been on the books for two and a half years but Covid came as we were arranging dates. What we had thought of holding then is still on the books and as you know Covid kept coming back and I think we are in a position now as you all will appreciate, we can start organising things and putting specific dates on things. But also on top of that if anybody, such as yourself John have got any suggestions we are always open to them as well.

MD Next we are going to Nia

Nia Robers (Heolas) Just coming back, you mentioned Meirion about the surplus of the studbooks and I am wondering if it would be an idea for the young members to be given a studbook because that then opens the door to the breeding side of things and then that could hook them in.

MD Definitely something to look at. We've got some indexes as well which would possibly be easier for them to digest and to realise because it's a smaller book to begin with to physically hold.

NR I know it's perhaps not what children would automatically chose to pick up and read but it I think it would be a way in for them to look at the breeding, if they are particularly interested, because it's not all bout going to shows and wining rosettes and all that side. Educating them about the breed as well.

MD I think if you were a primary school, teacher a studbook for whatever breed, type or species of animal would be the door into family and tracing parents and tracing pedigree so they could be used like that. The practical issue for us is sharing them out, because that's why we've brought the association packs today, we'll have saved 27 lots of postage by bringing them today. We will bring the studbooks and a box of indexes to wherever we can or you can pick them up, but we can't afford to post them. Sadly, we've had to bin a lot of journals that were clogging up the place when an over order of journals purely because we'd intended to give them as Dilwyn said to the schools in Ceredigion because we thought we could go and drop them in Aberystwyth with the Books Council and they could be sent with the books that they send to the schools. Because of Covid we couldn't do this. If we can find a way of getting the material for zero cost that is the way forward for us. But you are right, showing somebody a Studbook and explaining what it is, and the Society is this old, and that we record everything is an interesting thing for kids.

NR I think another possibility if you had the supply maybe on the Society lorry when you go to shows and sales that they could be handed out to young members whilst they are there. Children love a freebee at the end of the day.

MD We do have that and on your way in you may have noticed the stock outside. Please take some with you. Diolch Nia. Was there anybody else who wanted to speak. Liz wanted to speak.

Liz Hampson Just going back to what Phillipa said about Pony Club. Last week I attended a show at Newark and there was a Pony Club team show jumping competition, and fortunately we were parked near the ring. Every time a pony went in that ring, they announced the name of the pony and every time I recognised a Welsh pony name or prefix that I knew I went and had a look. From the top of my head there were four Hillgarth ponies competing in one team, absolutely that opened my eyes and what a great opportunity for us to tap into something. Just coming back to the membership, I have concerns, I'm not saying that I don't think they should be done for free, but it has to be cost neutral. What we can't do is lose money, as a Society we need to stay viable so part of my role in Promotions is I've been talking to members out there and potential members and asking them why don't they join and especially the ridden brigade because it becomes quite clear that people have to join so many other societies if they want to compete in the ridden game. I think they say to us what do we get back for our money and I think that's more important and then that applies to the junior membership. What can we give the junior membership back if there is a cost to it? Like I say, it's not about making a profit, but it's got to be viable. As somebody from Promotions I've noted a few things here and I think there have been really good suggestions and things that I'll be putting on the agenda for the next meeting. Thank you for your contributions because it's been really good that you've come up with some fantastic ideas for us to think about. Thank you.

MD Thank you Liz. Thank you for your contribution on that I think it was unanimously that we were in the same position in that we feel enticing and in a nice way, capturing children for the future is the way forward for the Society because we've all come in at different ages to the fold. We'll take those suggestions back to Council and we will run them through the number crunching and if you do have any further thoughts please email or send me a messenger on the Society messenger account and we'll discuss it further. Diolch yn fawr,

14. Any other business.

DP Items for any other business were requested to be sent to the WPCS office at Bronaeron by the 13/05/22. We have not received any items for discussion in under Any Other Business. I will now ask Meirion the Company Secretary to say a few words.

MD Before we finish, just a final reminder for you of some things, important things. We've twice mentioned the next AGM and the Awards and dinner night. I will hand back to Daniel.

DM The reason we set a deadline is to enable us to prepare a comprehensive response but if anybody has any questions today, we are open on any other business.

John Kirk (Donys) I would just like to congratulate Meirion on his awards dinner, I think anyone who didn't attend missed a very good evening and what I was impressed with was that it was a members evening. It wasn't a judge's convention it was a members evening for the members and Meirion is to be congratulated for it and I would also like to congratulate this Council on taking the decision to have a proper business meeting where there is no excuses given that the tables for the dinner have to be wheeled in and all that and have a separate night for a get together. I would like to congratulate Meirion and the Society on what they have done. Diolch, Thank you.

[Applause from the floor]

Yvonne Small (Pasadena) It's just about the Judges Conference actually the next one I understand is in Cheshire. I've always attended every Judges conference since I've been a judge I find it interesting, educational and social and everything, but I thought Cheshire is a long way from Devon, I'll wait for the next one. Where is the next one? I've been told it's Scotland.

MD you will notice that we came here in the Autumn for our AGM and we had the awards dinner at Cardiff because that was booked four years ago, and that was a booking for when Brian Foster was President and Stuart very kindly rather than insisting that we went to Exeter or somewhere he might have wanted us to go, took that booking in order to save the Society money. We have then used here for today for the cost, it's much cheaper than hotels to have a room for this meeting and as it happened the next meeting is for Dennis. Dennis lives in this area, so he wanted this locale. With the next Judges Conference and Judges seminar we've had them at Bulth, we've had them at Hartbury and the Judge's assessment as well so we're trying to move it around because in the same vein you say Cheshire is a long way from Devon, Devon is a long way from Cheshire. So, if we rotate, so if you look at it this year we've got this meeting here today, we've got the Judges assessment in Hartbury, Gloucestershire and we've got the Judges Conference in Cheshire, but it's just looking at the feasibility and the cost of the venue and the availability of the venues. We've been struggling with that in the short term because there is such a log jam of events that haven't been able to take place. Getting Hartbury for instance, we tried our best to get another weekend at Hartbury we just couldn't get it. But it is a case, we don't want to incur costs and make people drive a long way but trying to find central places and not stick to the same place.

YS All I'm saying is relating to there is one this year at Cheshire, where is the next one?

MD It's not been decided as of yet

YS It's not Scotland then?

MD No, I don't know where you've got Scotland from?

YS Well, I don't know, when you've got to go because you want to stay on the panel. It's not a choice thing is it.

MD That's why I would advise strongly, I'd strongly advise is that any Judge, if they can go to the conference go to the conference just in case a) the availability of the date is not suitable for you next time or b) the location is not suitable. If you can go then go, and then it gives you choices if you don't go to this one you will because of the way it's changing, have to go to the next one, and then your solely dependent on the location of where the next one is.

YS I've always done that and that's why I've gone to every one, But if the next one is not possible.

MD From the Office's point of view, pre planning and booking the venues the first question I asked Dewi when I rang him to let him know that Council had approved that it was brought to the meeting today that he'd be our President.... the first question I asked was where you would like your AGM and what would you like during that year because we will book it way in advance then I'm in a stronger negotiating point of view to get a venue way in advance, because they are happy to take your booking if you book it two or three years in advance. So we've been through a position where we couldn't do that because of the back log and we are aware and trying to make it so that it's as cost effective for people as possible but it's not in Scotland, it might be but it's not at the moment.

YS Allright thank you.

DM Claire

Claire Willis-Burton (Pentrefelin) we've bred a few ponies that have gone to the Cob Sales and Fayre Oaks and we have no idea where they have gone to. Catryn (Bigley) knows where they went to, you know where they went to obviously if they have transferred the ownership. As a breeder it's really frustrating if we want to try and find out where that pony is now, we've bred a very special pony but we've had to sell it. It would be really nice if we could have some sort of means maybe via the WPCS that they could contact the current owners to say the breeder would like to get in touch with you is it ok to pass your details on. That would be really great.

MD to answer, thank you Claire for your question, it's a really good question. We do that regularly, we get a lot of people saying, 'it was my pony when I was 12, my mum and dad had to sell him, we moved and I'm now 23 and it could still be alive is there any chance you can tell me who owns it?' GDPR rules mean we can't, but what we offer them is that they send us a letter, we'll be the intermediaries and then we will pass it on. We can't guarantee that the people live in the address where they are, because often times what happens is the pony has been sold once or twice in the meantime. It depends, with something you sold at a sale with Brightwells two years ago the chances are it might still be in the same ownership. But Brightwells fair play couldn't give you details, and neither can we, but we can pass a message on. Please give us as much detail about the animal as possible because that is something we regularly do, and one of the other most satisfying parts of working for the Society is when you get a message 'I've got this little pony it's Welsh, I was told it was Welsh it's got a Pet ID passport - can you tell me what it is?'. If it's microchipped, we type the microchip in and bingo that pony get's it's identity back and that's fantastic because all we do then is we check the markings against the markings and microchip and they can apply for a duplicate passport. If they've got the chain of ownership and or sign a statutory declaration it is possible to trace animals. It is also very disappointing if you put the microchip in and it doesn't come up.

CWB Yeah, but as a breeder I don't mind if I have to pay a fee for that, an admin fee for your time. It would just be nice to be able to do that.

MD We do it for free at the moment, because of the volume but of course if we had a 1000 people asking then we'd have to think about that. Send us an email with the details of the animal and we will pass it on and then ask, we don't ask them to come back via us we ask them to contact you directly.

I'll move on then, we spoke about that because we had no other business noted but we wanted to offer the opportunity to the floor. So just to close then I'll just give you a reminder of some things which I did this morning in the Area Association meeting. The Photographic competition for the Associations, which is for the trophy in memory of Ruth and Wynne of the Ceulan Stud, that closes on 25th of February 2023 but it's not too early to start talking to your members about it now because of the fact they can take photographs between now and then.

Young ambassador, - the applications as David mentioned earlier close on Friday the 26th of August which is also the closing date for the next Official Sale. If an animal needs to be registered it has to be in by the 1st of August. All foals, their applications will have to be in by the 1st of August in order to be eligible to go into the sale to give us time to process if there are queries or DNA queries.

We've twice mentioned the Awards night and the AGM so I won't mention them again. The other important thing is the Young Judges competition the closing date for that is the 2nd of July. And just a few other things then, for those of you who are award winners if you could just hang on at the end for photos, I'll just check with Ted who is kindly taking pictures that we've covered everybody today, but if you could just stay at the end for two minutes. If you haven't signed the attendance book, please can I ask you to do so and then all newly elected trustees and the current serving trustees, we'll meet in the Ithon room which is where the old projectionist's room is up there. If you go out through reception and turn right at the stairs we will meet there in about half an hour after the meeting closes just for briefing.

The other thing is I mentioned the Area Associations we had a good representation of Area Associations this morning, but as I've mentioned we've got these boxes full of bits and bobs which they are having as an Association kit. If there is somebody here who would be willing to take the box to the Eastern Association, North of Scotland Association, South Eastern Association, Glamorgan Association, Ynys Môn Association, Cornish Association, Southern Counties, Scottish Association, Avon and Borders Association, Midlands Association or Northern Ireland Association. If you could see the staff in reception and sign for it. that saves postage cost as they are quite heavy.

Finally, before we leave, have a cup of tea and cake that Christina and Amy have prepared, as you leave The Pavilion you will see two little blue buckets which are there to raise money for Equines and Equine owners in the Ukraine. As a Society we can't directly raise money for other charities which are not within our objectives but Dennis Price as our President has kindly asked if he can raise money for the Ukraine, so please can I ask you to give generously into those buckets. We will take the buckets to other events to raise money for the President's fund. Dennis' chosen charity is the Wales Air Ambulance, but he would like people to give to the Ukraine as well.

Diolch yn fawr and thank you to Dennis.

[Applause from the floor]

DP Thank you ladies and gentlemen for attending and your contributions to the meeting, please join us for some food up at the conservatory before your journey home. You've come a long way, thank you very much. I declare the meeting closed.

[Applause from the floor]

ENDS