



Cofnodion Cyfarfod Cyffredinol Cymdeithas y Merlod a'r Cobiau Cymreig 2023.

The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Welsh Pony and Cob Society 2023

**held at the Pavilion Mid Wales, in Llandrindod Wells,
Powys at 1.00pm on Saturday the 8th April 2023.**

Meirion Davies, Company Secretary – Croeso. Welcome ladies and gentlemen. If we could have a little bit of order, please. Okay. Sorry, we're just sorting out the proxy votes before we get going. Can I ask Ann Bigley, can you put your hand up, Ann, you're carrying proxy votes. Dai Harris, Pennal, Dai is there in the middle. Richard Brown, Richard where are you sat? Richard is there. Roy Jones, Roy is there, second row. Thank you. I'd like to invite Dennis Price, our president to address you.

Dennis Price, President – Well, it's going to be short. Hello, good afternoon fellow members. Thanks very much for attending the 2023 AGM meeting today. Later on, I'll say a few words when my year ends, so without no further ado, I'll introduce Daniel.

Daniel Morgan, Chair of Council – Thank you, Dennis. Croeso for being here. Fire escapes to start with. You've got the ones right in front of you there and on the left-hand side. The meeting is being taped; does anyone have any objections? If anyone present is intending on taping the meeting, please could you disclose it now.

[No Members declare they are taping the meeting].

Please turn off mobile phones or place on silent. Remember to sign the attendance books if not already done so. Members receiving awards are requested to stay behind at the close of the meeting for photographs. There are roving microphones on poles in the meeting. Please raise your hand and then the chair will come to you in turn. Everybody who wishes to speak will be heard, we request that members wait till the microphone has reached them before speaking and introducing themselves. Before speaking, in order that their comments can be attributed to them correctly in the minutes. Some non-members can be present representing proxy voters or in the association with awards. Are there any objections? I can now introduce Callum Ryan and Charles Goss from Azets.

1.To Receive apologies.

Anybody from the floor?

Angela Kember - Can I give the apologies form Caroline Nelson please.

Tracy Hook - Could I give the apologies from Betty French please.

Daniel Morgan - And I have Gillian Sells and Stevie Patch are taken as read. Obituaries, regrettably a number of members have passed away this year. The Society extends its sympathy to families and friends for the departed members. As a mark of respect can the members please be silent for a minute. Diolch thank you.

Agenda item number 2 confirmation of the AGM minutes of 21ST May 2022

Verbatim minutes have already been processed seconded and approved. We will now go through the minutes page by page for matters arising. So, if everyone has their minutes in front of them, I'll go through them. I'll start on page 1.

[Pages 1 to 25 are passed with no matters arising]

I'll ask Dennis then to sign the minutes.

3.To receive correspondence.

The office has not received any correspondence.

4.To receive a report of the automatic election of Four members standing for five vacancies to serve on Council for the period 2023-2026 as per Article 25 V (a) of the Articles of Association of the Society.

I invite Mr Callum Ryan from Azets to present to the scrutineers' report for the election for 4 members to serve on council for the period 2023 to 2026.

CR Azets- Apologies everyone, so just to confirm the 4 following members were re-elected first is Mr DS Davies, Mr MJ Davies, Mrs A Kember and Mrs JV Parry.

Daniel Morgan - Thank you Callum and congratulations to all the new trustees. We'll go on to agenda number 5 to receive nominations from the floor to appoint a fifth candidate to fill the remaining vacancy to serve on council for the period of 2023 to 26 as per article number 25 of our articles of association of the Society. Nominations will be proposed and seconded from the floor and a vote will be taken by members present including proxy votes. The successful candidate in the ballot shall be the person who obtained the greatest number of votes cast. The candidate proposed and seconded will be invited to address the meeting briefly in alphabetical order later in the meeting under agenda item 10. The ballot will then be carried out so I now invite nominations from the floor.

Merion Davies Company Secretary and Daniel Morgan Chairman- Can you wait until you get your time for the microphone, please?

David Harris- Thank you to be on the runaway train but I propose Mr Edwin Prosser.

Non Morgan- I'd like to second that thank you.

DM-Sorry can I have your name please?

Non Morgan replies giving her name

DH - And my name is Dai Harris. DM Anybody else? TH, I'd like to propose Sue James.MD, Sorry before we start can we have confirmation from Edwin Prosser that he is happy to DM sorry that Edwin is prepared to stand.

EP - Yes, I'm prepared to stand.

DM-Thank you.

TH - My name is Tracey Hook and I propose Sue James.

LH - Hi I'm Lesley Hillard and I'd like to second Sue James

DM - Sue are you prepared to stand? Yes

MD - Have it for the tape.

SJ - Yes, I confirm I'm prepared to stand.

DM - Anyone else? No? So, we have two candidates from the floor. So, you will have your chance now on agenda number 10 to say some words.

6. To receive the Audited Balance Sheets and Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2022.

DM - I invite the Chair of Finance Wyn Jones to submit the financial report to the members.

WJ - Thank you Daniel Can you all hear me? I've been told I've got to shout because you won't be able to hear. Mr President and fellow members on behalf of council I present to you the auditors account for the year ending 31st December 2022 which includes the balance sheets and profit and loss accounts. Following 2 years of uncertainty due to the covid pandemic and all its restrictions 2022 was also beset with its own problems stemming from Mr Putin's military exercise in the Ukraine which is still ongoing and its effect on the world's economy with rising inflation etc.

I did warn members at the last AGM that we would be facing difficult times in 2022. We ended the year with an operating deficit of £77,973 compared to a surplus of £21,706 in 2021. Having looked back over the previous 7 years we have only made a small surplus during the 2 covid years apart from then, 2016 made a deficit of £26,903, 2017 £31,344, 2018 £38,298. In 2019, if we take away the effect of the Thelma Carter legacy there was a deficit of £81,410.

Following all these results, the council have decided that a thorough review of the Society's office, activities and practices and all income and expenditure streams will be looked at as soon as possible. This was the first full year of activities for the Society following 2 years of only doing the basic memberships, registrations and transfers. This meant that we had a lot of catching up to do to bring us back up to date. We held a memorial service at the Royal Welsh Showground in Builth Wells to give members the opportunity to mourn and celebrate the lives of those members who had passed away during the pandemic. An awards night and President's dinner was held at the Vale Hotel so as to secure the deposit paid in 2019 when the AGM was cancelled. The Company Secretary had negotiated with the hotel management that if we held another event there, they would honour the deposit moving forward.

The AGM was held at Llandrindod Wells. Some dangerous trees were removed from Bronaeron due to health and safety concerns. 7 very large Poplar trees which had grown to about 80 feet over the years on the roadside were felled and removed and the old wooden shed close by was also demolished for the same reason and removed. The large leylandii trees on the boundary line were removed by our neighbour at no cost to the Society.

With the resumption of shows it meant our affiliations and medals sales increased from previous years. We then ordered gold medals in bulk to last a number of years thus benefiting from bulk discounts. Two more Stud Books were produced in 2022 to bring us up to volumes 101 and 102 and with volumes 103 and 104 being printed in 2023 it will bring us

right up to date with our core activities as a breed Society to produce a stud book. This had previously been allowed to fall many years behind in production. We are still selling these stud books at a loss although we are raising their prices in a managed way to eventually be selling them at cost or profit in the future.

We attended a number of shows in the UK in some capacity or other as a Society to promote the Society and the breed. Two trustees attended the International Show in Germany. A judging seminar and three assessment days took place in late summer, early autumn.

Our income decreased slightly from the previous year finishing at £630,783 compared to £640,673 in 2022 a reduction of £9890. Noticeable areas where there was movement in our income was a reduction in donations and sponsorship of £9,393 mostly caused by the previous year including small overpayments from XIS to Sage.

Membership subscriptions although slightly up in numbers was down by monetary value by £2,481 due to the increase in junior and life memberships coming in and the life membership income being allocated over subsequent years.

Registrations and passports were also down £22,060 on the previous year which is still a very worrying trend and something that council is always very aware of. The transfers were also down by £12,667 on 2021. We are going to be more proactive online in future to try and remind owners of equines that it is a legal requirement to transfer all new animals into their names within 30 days of purchase or face a fine of £5000.

Our grant income came down from £15,721 to £2000 due to the Covid grant funding coming to an end. Increases in income were the Pavilion donations went up by £5842 because of the attendances of the Royal Welsh Showground.

The Journal again was a very successful publication and showed an increased advertising income of £8695 from £16,563 in 2021 to £25,258 in 2022. Stud books, Indexes and service certificates showed an increase in £1685, Promotional goods income increased by £8280 and there was an increase of £3168 on the auctioneer's commission on the previous year due to the highly successful sale held by McCartneys at Builth Wells having to be extended to three days due to the increase in entries. Our sales income has increased five-fold since 2019.

Medals and rosettes showed an increase from £12,546 to go from £7249 in 2021 to £25,979 in 2022 when most of the shows were back up and running. Our expenditure increased by £88,256 on the previous year.

DNA and blood typing was up by £9166 from £31,653 to £40,819. Educational visits and events show an increased cost from £10,877 due to attending more events with the opening up of everywhere post covid. Medals and rosettes expenditure and engraving also increased from £2731 to £7257. The Judges conference cost was £5168. The Judging assessments was £5435 with all of the income having come in 2019 for the cancelled assessments.

Due to covid the Judges handbook was not printed in 2021 but the cost for 2022 was £1083. Our staff costs rose from £200,733 to £264,334 during 2022. This was the first-year post covid for us to have a full complement of staff in the office. For a number of years prior to 2022 we have been having difficulty filling vacant posts with suitable staff and have filled with agency staff or office staff doubling up. This was not a suitable position to be in. By the time agency staff were trained up to any sort of level, it was time for them to leave us. The furlough scheme also helped out the Society survive financially during the covid period but

created its own problems when the government announced that any holiday entitlement not taken during the covid years could be taken on the return to work.

Other increases in expenditure were also seen in pavilion costs now we are up at BuiltH again. Energy costs increased by £8084 because of inflation and the fact that we paid for three deliveries of heating oil in 2022 compared to one in 2021. Training expenses also increased to £2570 compared with £942 and trustee delegate expenses increased from £2084 to £8818 with council meetings being held in Bronaeron on a regular basis following the relaxation of covid restrictions. The committee meetings are still being held online to save on travelling costs.

Some reductions in expenditure were measures that the office have put in place to make savings such as postage down by £9856, equipment rental and leases £2201 and the telephones down by £1472. Other reductions were microchips down to £6875 from £8290 to £1415. Depreciation was down by £3516 from £25,158 to £21,636. Bank charges were down from £24,853 to £19,315 a saving of £5538.

And finally, our legal and professional fees were down from £25,695 from £36,653 to £10,958.

Finally, unfortunately our investments took a pounding during the year and went down in value from £228,683 wiping out the gains we had in 2021 of £202,070. We did however get an investment income of £41,627 from dividends and interests on deposits. In the past few years our investments have yielded well for us. In 2017 there was growth of 9.5%, a slump of 5.1% in 2018 for the next three years we had growth of 13.9, 1.9 and 11.3. And finally, this slump of 8.4 in 2022.

For reference I will read the annual review supplied by our investment manager Jonathon Taylor from Investec. I'm pleased to provide you with our annual review with a portfolio on the ongoing investment strategy to accompany the latest quarterly report. The report will show us that at the 30th December 2022 the portfolio was valued at £2,096,625 whilst the estimated income produced amounted to £41,891.

Full details of the recent and historical performance can be found on page 6 of the report. Volatility in markets has continued to be a common theme throughout 2022. Whilst markets have stabilised somewhat investors continue to grapple with the uncertainty surrounding the geopolitical situation between Russia and the Ukraine. Alongside the challenges faced by many countries of heightened and persistent inflation that is longer in duration than anticipated. Central banks continue to face the dilemma of the best way to manage rising inflation alongside pursuing the economic growth with many having increased interest rates as a response.

However recent inflation data from the US and Europe have showed inflation cooling slightly faster than anticipated, paving the way for forthcoming interest rates rises to be either smaller or more gradual. A better-than-expected earnings season alongside this has recently boosted sentiment leading to a global rebound in markets in the latter months of 2022. Though investment markets and news may sometimes seem somewhat bleak, it is worth offering some positive perspective on the year.

The UK is predicted not to have negative economic growth this year and still remains a strong economy relative to comparable others. The UK's balance sheet is in better shape than many, including the IMF feared during the post pandemic period, and as such are likely be able to withstand any package of measures which may be announced by the U.K. Government. Turbulence within UK markets has traded with guilds and sterling recovering

following the emergency interventions of the Bank of England and the return to more stable politics.

The US corporate earnings season surprised on the upside despite some disappointing results from the larger technology names. Oil and wholesale gas prices have declined significantly since their peaks which has released some of the strain on inflation that many of us have been feeling although it may take some time for these reductions to filter through. We continue to operate a diversified portfolio which invests globally and many of the companies we invest in operated on a global scale. Whilst volatility in markets can be concerning it is important to emphasize that there will be better times ahead and we know that markets often overreact to news and events.

We remain positive however that the portfolio is designed to deal with periods of market volatility. Whilst we encounter these short-term periods of volatility our investment's philosophy is one of selecting robust investments for the longer term. Our preference will always be to invest into quality businesses which generate returns on investments above their cost in capital. I continue to believe that we are investing in companies with strong franchises, excellent management and healthy balance sheets will mean that the portfolio will be able to better withstand higher rates of inflation and take advantage of opportunities over the longer term. When considering the long-term suitability of the investment, I take into account investment timescale, attitude to risk and capacity for loss as well as the more usual financial requirements from the portfolio.

In addition to taking into account that it was a short sharp downturn in the income or capital that the charity would have a chance for its finances to recover. We have also indicated that you are happy with an investment timeframe of over 10 years. As you know this does not restrict you from accessing any money subject to market conditions. Based on my considerations of all these factors, I believe the medium risk balance portfolio remains suitable for you.

Going back to the accounts the balance on page 19 shows that the assets less liabilities stand at £2,405,626 compared with £2,712,282 in 2021. The market value in our investments has gone down from £2,334,387 to £2,096,424. Finally, I would like to thank all the staff, the trustees, David Davies, the Vice Chair and members of the finance and HR committee for all the support during the last year in what has been a very busy year as we return to some form of normality following the covid pandemic. Also, thanks to Azets the auditors for their assistance during the year.

And finally thanks you to all the membership for supporting the Society once more. Ladies and gentlemen if anyone has any questions on the auditors accounts, I shall endeavour to answer them if possible. Does anyone have any questions?

If for Lloyd - It's If for Lloyd from Derwen Stud. It's a comment more than a question. I think in these times as you have said Wyn, we have all had to tighten our belts. It seems to me that the Society doesn't know the meaning of it and unless we tighten our belts in the Society, we could go bust like Rolls Royce did. And when we consider that Roll Royce was one of the leading companies in this country, as we are at present, the leading authority in breeding terms, I think we need to cut the costs. Thank you.

WJ - Thank you Mr Lloyd for your comments. Anybody else? No?

7. To appoint Azets at the Society Auditors for 2023

WJ - I move to confirm the appointment by Council of Azets as the Society's auditors moving forward to 2023. Can I have a seconder please?

CS-No we don't need a seconder. It's been passed by Council.

8. To receive the Report of Chair of Council.

Annwyl aelodau, prynhawn da i chi gyd ac yn braf gweld cynhifer ohonwch wedi ymgasglu yn barod ar gyfer y gyfarfod yn gyffredinol. Dear members, good afternoon to you all and it's nice to see so many here today attending the Society's Annual General Meeting. 2022 saw the real year of post Covid normalisation where we saw all the shows, sales and association meetings rekindling. It was always a possibility that things would go back to normal as we embrace lifestyle changes due to Covid and being in a very harsh but real cost of living crisis. But I'm hopeful that our members will build on last year's succession going into the future.

It was especially nice to see everybody back at the hallowed turf of the Royal Welsh Show. The Welsh Breeds were well represented, and we will be celebrating the triumph of 11 Welsh Breed Champions who will be presented with an award today. The animal's photos our Section Champions, hang up for this year in the Welsh Pony and Cob Pavilion, were used in the journal, on the cover of the autumn newsletter and some will soon feature in the Stud Book of 2023.

With the good comes the bad and as in 2022 saw the passing of our long serving patron her Majesty the Queen Elizabeth II. On a personal note, I was proud to represent the Society at her state funeral in Westminster abbey. She had been a lifelong enthusiast for the breed and her involvement in the Welsh ponies and cobs started at a very young age.

As we all know the future of our breed is in the hands of our young people. Last August I went to the Welsh National Young Judges Show in Malvern. It was a personal highlight of mine to see such an interest in the breed amongst the young people. As I was stewarding, I had the opportunity to listen to many of the 34 young judges discussing their views and it was heart-warming to see so much enthusiasm. The standard was high, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank everybody who takes an interest in helping our future generation and ensuring that the best possible knowledge is passed on to them. It is also great to see that the number of junior members has gone up from 55 to 98.

During the past few years there has been much discussion about the Welsh Pony and Cob Sales, and I'm delighted to announce that with the growing interest that last year's sale went from 2 to 3 days. This is testament to the hard work of McCartney's and you as breeders that you present Welsh ponies and cobs of quality to the sales. In just over a month's time and I'm sure that many of us will be heading over to Brecon Livestock market for the first new spring official sales and I'm hoping that it will be well supported.

Our President's choice of charity this year was Wales Air Ambulance a service close to many of our hearts here today. Their saying is very true that we never know when we'll need them. It's fantastic that we raised £7750 to donate. On a personal level I was very proud to donate one of Parc Lady's shoes which was sold for £820.

It was great to hear that the work on the latest stud book is well under way. Volume 103 will be published in July with 104 at the Autumn sale. As an enthusiast and a deep interest in bloodlines to move the breed forward, seeing the stud book is always an exciting day as history is printed in this book.

Fel y gwyddwch dwy'n Gymro balch ac yn gweld bwysigrwch yr iaith Gymraeg. Mae'n bleser gweld bod y pasbort cyntaf dwyieithog yn cael eu gyhoeddi yn y swyddfa yr wythnos yma. The preservation of the Welsh language is very important to me, and I see and appreciate its value as a spoken and official language. Therefore, it was great to hear that the first bilingual Welsh/English passport was printed in the office this week. This registration will appear in volume 105 which will feature all foals born in 2023 and will be available in 2024.

This is my final duty as chairman of the Welsh Pony and Cob Society. It has been an honour to serve you as chairman, I've been on council on and off since 2002 after my father retired as a council member. In time, I've seen many changes but there has been one common theme and that is my absolute passion and dedication into preserving and developing our fabulous breed.

My first AGM was in 1979 at the University College of Lampeter where my father Sam Morgan was President. The Chairman that day was Lord Kenyon. 44 years later, I still see some faces that were there that day. As I look back at time as a young boy, I look back and feel lucky to be part of a golden generation. It was nothing for Parc Welsh Flyer, our Welsh Cob stallion to cover over 130 mares each season and we were welcomed afterwards by my mother for a cup of tea.

I also look back and wish I'd been old enough to talk to my grandfather D.O Morgan about the history of the Society. His male and female champions at the 1953 Royal Welsh Show were Pentre Eiddwen Comet and Dewi Rosina, two cobs that have had an everlasting impact on the Welsh cob breed. The Society is very important to myself and has been to my family over the generations. My life has revolved around the Welsh ponies and cobs and has given me the opportunity to travel around the world and make lifelong friends.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my fellow trustees and members for the support over the last year. I'd also like to give a big thank you to all the staff at the Welsh Pony and Cob office. I truly believe that the office is in good hands, and it's been a great honour to serve as chairman. Our Society is the best equine society in the world and the success of our breed is dependent on working together. My advice for the future generations is that we need to work together and give an open and honest dialogue to move the Society forward.

The Society is the people's Society. Rhaid cofio mae'r Cymdeithas y bobl yw Cymdeithas y Merlod a'r Cobiau Cymreig. Hoffwn gloi'r adroddiad gyda un o englynion y diweddard Raymond Osmond Jones. The poem was read. Dymuniadau gorau at y Gymdeithas yn y dyfodol. Thank you.

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

DM - I call upon David Davies to read the report.

DD - Mr President, Mr President elect, Chairman, and members of the Society. It gives me great pleasure this afternoon to present to you on behalf of the members services committee, the annual report.

With regards to membership currently, there are 2890 annual members and a total of 1464 life members. This brings the total Welsh Pony and Cob Society membership to 4354. During the past year there has been a drive to increase the number of junior members and during this year the figure has nearly doubled, and we currently have 98 junior members. One of the main concerns of the council is the membership and our aging demographic. We have to focus on ways we can increase the membership and to encourage new members to join the Society.

Registrations-the total number of registrations in 2022 was 4642. This is slightly up compared to the previous year. The total number of transfers was 5494 and we exported 360 animals. The details of all these can be seen on the pink sheets.

The key moments during the year included our Young Ambassador. We would like to thank Hannah Atkinson who has been our ambassador for the previous two years for her commitment. And we welcome Skye Whittle, who I'm sure with the help of Lottie Stephens her mentor will plan a series of activities for our younger members. The closing date for applications to become the next Young Ambassador is Friday 25th August and we would encourage any potential applicant to apply.

Mr Dennis Price's President's dinner and annual event held at the Metropole on 11th March was a great success. In total on the night the auction raised £2080 and the raffle a further £1036 and this will go towards the total of £7750 to be presented to the Wales Air Ambulance. The venue for the next years President's dinner and awards night will be in Llandudno and the AGM for 2024 will be on Saturday April 6th at Theatre John Ambrose in Ruthin.

The Council continues to review and update its strategic objectives focusing on achievable goals within the short, medium, and long term. The aim is to focus the aim of the council and sub committees on key specifics which contribute to our long-term viability of the Society, while also ensuring that we consider the wider implications and all possibilities.

To this end the Council are actively pursuing several options which will either diversify its income potential or allow us to spread our cost. Online international meetings-the last online international meeting was held on 16th March, and this included 25 delegates from 12 counties. This yet again proved to be very successful. We look forward to the next National show which will be held in Holland in 2024.

The Judges assessment which had included those that had applied in the previous year resulted in 26 new judges being added to the panel. The development of the museum at Bronaeron continues and the aim being to catalogue all the items within the collection and digitally record all the images. The scanning and identification of all the pictures is a mammoth task and is being undertaken by the office staff. This is ongoing and could potentially take a few years to complete but once completed all the members will be able to access the images remotely from the Welsh Pony and Cob Society archive. External work is planned which will allow the museum to reopen in the summer. In addition, the Society is looking to work with partners so that we can display our artefact in other venues.

As mentioned by Daniel, Stud books number 103 which is 2021 will be available in July and volume 104, 2022, will be ready later this year. This will bring us right up to date and when you consider that in the past, we have been up to 7 years not in date, then I think that this is a remarkable achievement. There are some old Stud Books which have been written off by the auditors that the Society is happy to give away for free. Please contact the office if you are interested in any of these old editions.

The Society has also introduced new lines of merchandise this year and these have proved to be very successful and many of these lines have already sold out.

Working in conjunction with the Royal Veterinary College the Society has produced a paper on PSSM1 and PSSM 2.

The Autumn Official sales was extended to 3 days and trade was very good. This year the Spring Sale is going to be held in Brecon on May 21st and entries close next Friday 14th

April. Entries are via the online site and the office is available to help and members needing assistance. The Autumn sale this year is on 20th -22nd of October in Builtth

With regards to the shows, the Horse of the Year show had a total of 6 animals qualified for the Price in hand championship and there were many more successful animals in the ridden classes. Congratulations to all those that participated and help promote our Welsh breeds.

Last year a total of 362 Welsh Pony and Cob Society bronze medals and 138 silver medals were awarded during the year. During the year also it was a major undertaking and long overdue medal review and since the start of this year shows have already met the criteria for the awarding of a bronze medal. More shows have affiliated now than at the same time last year. In addition, new for this year, the Society is gifting to every area association a medal to be awarded at their association show. Shows and medal results are now being published on the Welsh Pony and Cob Society website. Posts on the Welsh Pony and Cob Society Facebook page attracted a total of over 52,000 regular followers. The Society is keen to be promoting shows by posting links to their webpages or to their schedules. Members are reminded that should they be successful at the show, that they could be sending in good quality, high resolution pictures to the office for consideration for the journal prize-winners section. Furthermore, I would like to remind members that the Northleach show is celebrating its 60th show this year and please support if possible.

This year's Young Judges competition will be based on the Welsh part-breds at will be held again in Malvern in August.

In conclusion, the Society over the past year had sadly lost several prominent members and of course our patron, Her Majesty, the late Queen Elizabeth. It is remarkable to think that her majesty became patron in 1944 having been given Vardre Greylight in 1940 and then was patron for our Society for a remarkable 78 years. We extend our sympathies to all their families. This concludes the annual report from the members service committee. Thank you.

10 Election of a trustee. Nominated candidates from the floor are invited to address the meeting briefly in alphabetical order. A ballot will be held from members present including proxy votes. The successful candidate from the ballot shall be the person who obtains the greatest number of votes cast.

DM - I then invite those who are nominated in item number 5 to be given to opportunity to address the meeting for no longer than 2 minutes. Can we have the first candidate Sue James.

SJ - Good afternoon, Mr Chairman, council members and fellow members. Many of you know me, I have been around a very long time. I have been involved with horses all my life. I have been a member of the Welsh Pony and Cob Society for 25 years, I think. My particular interest is in the performance, so ridden and driven animals. I have bred A's, C's D's and Part bred, sports ponies and horses which have gone on to do very well and hopefully gone on to promote the Welsh Part bred. I am currently secretary of Carmarthen Welsh Pony and Cob Association and I'm a past secretary of Welsh Wales Pony Breeders and Glamorgan Welsh Pony and Cob Association. I was also secretary of Amman Valley Pony Club for 16/17 years I think having additional responsibility there for training, safeguarding and health and safety. I organise many shows and events so am quite familiar with the complexities there and my career has principally been in education-teaching originally then in adult education, training and development, management development and consultancy all over the country. So, I've just felt that those skills, I've now retired, could be utilised to the benefit of the Welsh Pony and Cob Society and the membership and even though I'm too old to fall

off and break things, I can hopefully be of some use in the future. My particular interest then is in education and young people to ensure the future of the Society. Thank you.

DM - I invite the second candidate Edwin Prosser to speak.

EP - Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen, Mr President, Vice President, fellow trustees and members. I have been involved in horses and ponies most of my life and a member of the Society for nearly 50 years. I am familiar with the duties and roles of the trustees having previously served two terms. During that time, I was Chairman of judging and showing for 3 years, Chairman of the international committee, Chairman of the successful show held at the Royal Welsh showground in Builth Wells 2011. I also took the lead role in the refurbishment of the new Society's office in Bronaeron, bringing it in under budget. If elected I would do my utmost to serve you the members and promote this wonderful Society with honesty and integrity to the best of my ability. Thank you.

DM - Gemma would you hand out the ballot papers please? When you have the ballot papers would you put a cross next to the one individual that you wish to assign your vote to and if carrying proxy votes to complete the area of the form. This will be verified via the auditors. Staff members will be coming around and will collect your ballot form in the ballot boxes so please fold them and place them within the box. These then will be counted by the scrutineers in the counting room and the results later in the meeting under agenda item number 21.

CS - Can we just check please if there are any ballot papers that have not been put in the box, please? Just check. Lisa has. Ben can you go to Lisa, Lisa has some there. So there are no outstanding ballot papers that have not been given in to the two boxes? Thank you.

11 To receive recommendation from Council for the Honorary Life Vice Presidents.

Once again members have been provided with the opportunity to nominate members for honorary awards. Those receiving 75% of Council's support being presented with an award. It gives me great pleasure to recommend for the approval on the annual general meeting of the appointment of Mrs Elizabeth Mansfield Parnell of the Rotherwood stud as honorary life president. I invite Rosie Wilson to address the meeting.

RW - How do you sum up in a few words the contribution and achievements of this hugely talented and visionary breeder? She has been a great influence on the Section B and the Welsh Part bred over a 60-year period of breeding. Joining the Society in 1963, she is a much-respected judge, judging the Royal of England show in 1996 and the Royal Welsh Show in 2002 amongst many other top shows all over the world. She was the Society's president in 2007. From Rotherwood Peep Show to Rotherwood Rainmaker her ridden animals have enjoyed terrific successes in the ring and given so many children great experiences. The Welsh Part bred Rotherwood Take A Peep claiming the overall Pony Of The Year title in 2003.

In the Section B world no fewer than 6 Rotherwood ponies have won championships at the Royal Welsh Show Rotherwood Honeysuckle being one of the few to be supreme champion twice in 1970 and 1978. It is fitting that the new foal championship at the show is named in her memory. Rotherwood Lilac Time, Penny Royal, Royalist, Spycatcher, Lorikeet what a list with Rotherwood State Occasion and Rotherwood Commander having a notable influence of the Section B's as sires in the UK and lastly in Australia. Congratulations Liz and please accept this award.

EMP - Thank you it's such a great honour to have such a prestigious award and I truly am extremely grateful and happy to receive it. Thank you. I had to look up myself what year I actually became a member which was 1963 and the following years I probably visited Hay-On-Wye to buy things and you learn through your pocket, very much when you are buying at a sale which helps a lot! My first two that I actually bought to take home were 2 foals and forgive my accent but one was Llaneglwys Creamy Boy, 29 guineas and Cui Sixpence 20 guineas. Everything was guineas. And from there I had actually managed to acquire, because getting home from Hay-On-Wye and ask the transport lorries who has heard of Ashby De Le Zouch. To get two tiny ponies home was extremely difficult, as though it was absolutely out of the world! Anyway, I did get them home and then I decided to buy a little 1100cc car and a 2 wheeled trailer with only the ramp, not even a side door and only just hooked on not even with a chain between the two.

Having bought something from a farm on the way home, when I've got nothing from the sale, dear old Bill who was my mentor, we actually got up the Brecon Beacons to get home and had to unload the pony on a steep hill, and Bill would lead it up to the top, when we'd load it up again and off we would go. So, it was all real determination and then I decided that my husband at the time was a trainer and a farmer, a racehorse trainer and I begged for a stable and a paddock that could be mine to use. Yes, he said as long as you would much out! So that is what happened and off to various studs I went and eventually to Gredington and Lord Kenyon. I'd seen Milfyd being shown and admired her and of course nobody would ever sell you their very best, so it was a daughter of her, Gredington Tulip that I actually bought. She came home to start the Rotherwood dynasty. She was in foal to Criban Victor and sadly the person that I sold it to lost that foal, which was a great loss really when you think back to that breeding.

Eventually I was led by all the success and all the lovely ponies at the Downland stud to use Downland Chevalier. We used to take Tulip on the 9th day, over to Mrs Cuff in our 1100cc car and the little trailer from Ashby Leicestershire and for four years running she had a foal, covered on the 9th day, first thing in the morning on the 10th and home again -always in foal. No vets, no AI, no injections, no one looking at her inside, anything. She was the healthiest, happiest little mare that bred me many, many with no trouble at all. One of the four was Commander who went to Australia, another was Honeysuckle who is in my heart as the best pony who gave me so much pleasure. Lilac Time, you have just heard the record of that family, 2 were in Australia and Lilac Time went to the Cottrell Stud Mrs Johns-Powell but Honeysuckle continued in her winning ways. In fact, when I had Keston Royal Occasion she bred Rotherwood State Occasion and he was 4 time top of the stallion progeny list which was a tremendous accord for a young stallion to do for four years running. He was overall in the stallion ratings for four years. I do thank you for this award and from my heart I am very, very touched by it and thank you very much indeed.

DM - The second award. It gives me great pleasure to recommend for the approval at the Annual General Meeting the appointment of Mr Nelson Smith of the Trevallion stud as honorary life vice president. I invite Liz Hampson to address the meeting.

EH - Thank you Honorary Life Vice Presidency Nelson Smith. Nelson Smith is one of the best known of all the Welsh Cob breeders of the last 50 years. Firstly, joining the Society in 1966 registering under the Berkswell prefix before adopting the Trevallion prefix which is now known worldwide. Early purchases were mares by Pentre Eiddwen Comet followed by his son Tyhen Comet. Another initial purchase which was to have a great and lasting influence on the stud was Tapton Rachel for whom much of the present Trevallion stock today are descended. The Trevallion stud show success is myriad. Including being the first

exhibitor/breeder to be awarded the George Prince Of Wales Cup from outside of Wales a feat that Trevallion have repeated again since. Trevallion stock have developed into an easily recognisable Trevallion type, that fellow breeders throughout the world have been keen to obtain to influence their own breeding. Always the gentleman, Nelson has been a source of sound advice to many, a popular panel judge and a credit to the breed and the Society. It is satisfying also to see that three generations of his family are following in his footsteps and share his passion. Can I now invite Nelson Smith.

NS- I'm not good at speeches so it will be short and sweet. I'd like to thank all the members, the Chairman for all the hard work they do and all the members in the Welsh Pony and Cob Society. It's been a great experience for me, we've met people I didn't know, lovely people and enjoyed every moment of it. Been around the world judging shows where I would have never went. So, I would just like to say thank you to everybody. Thank you.

12 To receive recommendations from Council for Honorary Life Members.

DM - We now move on to the honorary life members awards. It gives me great pleasure to recommend for approval of the Annual General Meeting, the appointment of Mr Marc Aerts from the Voermanhof stud as honorary life member.

LS - Belgian breeder Marc Aerts can only be described as a committed member and international advocate of the Welsh Pony and Cob Society and its ideals. Marc joined the Society back in 1988 registering the Voermanhof prefix with the Society in 2001. He has worked passionately for the Welsh breeds out in Belgium and throughout Europe by organising shows, exhibiting mountain ponies, and spreading the gospel of the Welsh breeds. Marc judges the Section A's at the International show in Germany. Anita, Marc's wife is the secretary for Welsh Belgium, which is the Welsh Pony and Cob Society daughter Society and a very active member of the Welsh Pony and Cob Society international committee, whose guidance and awareness of the changes that Brexit would bring, was invaluable to the Society at that time. By honouring Marc's energies and passion and paying tribute to Anita's dedication, we send an important message to our members all over the world, we are one big family, who live and breathe the wonderful Welsh breeds. We are delighted to see that both Marc and Anita are here today and would like to ask Marc to accept this award, Llongyfarchiadau mawr Marc.

MA - Thank you to everyone that is involved, it is a big honour to receive this award. Thank you everyone.

The fourth award it gives me great pleasure to recommend for approval of the Annual General Meeting, the appointment of Mrs Wendy Burt of the Rotherdale stud as honorary life member. I invite Ed Gummery to address the meeting.

EG - Hello ladies and gentlemen. The honorary life membership for Mrs Wendy Burt. Wendy joined the Society in 1973 stating the very successful Rotherdale stud of Welsh Cobs. Wendy is probably as well known for her voice as she is for her cobs at the shows. In fact, Wendy is the voice on the tannoy calling us up for our classes, giving out the results and keeping the shows running smoothly. To name a few Glanusk, Brecon, Northleach and the Welsh National Championship. She has served on the Brecon and Borders Welsh Pony and Cob association committee for many years and still works hard on the Glanusk and Welsh Pony and Cob Performance show committee. As well as commentating, Wendy also works hard behind the scenes particularly at the performance event putting up rings, road signs and flagging cross county courses and is the kind of member that will turn her hand to any job that needs doing helping to organise behind the scenes at many Welsh Pony and Cob events. Her successes as a breeder and exhibitor are many most notably with Tydfil Magic

Princess and her daughter Rotherdale Magic Princess who graced the showring and gave many goosebump moments when trotting in front of the grandstand at Llanelwedd. Wendy's passion and commitment to the breed has also been inherited by her daughter Laura and granddaughter Becca so the Rotherdale brand will continue for years to come. So, I offer my congratulations to Wendy, if you would like to come and accept the award.

WB - Well thank you very much. I must say it's been quite a journey. Yes, I do quite a lot of other things apart from the show ring and I must say that the prominence of the stud as far as the show ring is concerned is largely down to Laura. Thank you.

It gives me great pleasure to recommend for approval for the Annual General Meeting, the appointment of Mrs Maureen Butterworth of the Paddock stud as honorary life member. I invite Debbie Jones to address the meeting.

DJ - Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. Honorary life membership for Maureen Butterworth. Maureen and the late Bernard Butterworth established the Paddock stud in the early 70s. Initially breeding Section C's of the calibre of Paddock Lightning and then Paddock Dawn. The latter had a huge influence on the breed with the Glynwyn ponies and their descendants, in fact last year's Royal Welsh Supreme in hand animal Glynwyn Annie Power carries four crosses of Paddock Dawn.

Many breeders would rest on their laurels having bred such lovely ponies but a change of direction and decision to concentrate on Section Bs in the mid-seventies was galvanised by the purchase of Brockwell Japonica, Weston Madeline and Downland mares Duet, Siskin and Damask. These proved to be suitable purchases, consolidated and accelerated by the addition of the great Reeves Fairy Lustre and Coed Coch sale toppers Gala and Penwyn.

With mares of the calibre often sent to leading stallion Downland Chevalier it was no wonder that Paddock soon became a leading light within the section breeding no fewer than seven Royal Welsh champions to date. Paddock Picture, Sahara, Northern Lustre, Alesha, Marquis, Myth and Camargue all stand as benchmarks to the quality of stock bred. The influence of their bloodlines is appreciated the world over. Last year's 3-year-old filly Paddock Chelsea Girl won her class at the Royal Welsh before her export to Sweden and Paddock Rio headed the national sire ratings. The Society and the breed are fortunate to have breeders of the calibre of Maureen Butterworth, quietly crafting the future with their breeding choices. We welcome Norman Fairbank who has been such a support to Maureen and Bernard over the years to accept the award on Maureen's behalf.

NF - Members, I'd just like to thank everybody on behalf of Maureen. It's just a shame that Bernard didn't last his one hundredth year just to see this out. He would have been very, very proud of Maureen to receive this. Thank you very much.

DM - The sixth award. It gives me great pleasure to recommend for approval for the Annual General Meeting, the appointment of Mrs Janet Evans of the Weston Park stud Australia for honorary life member. I address Wyn Jones to address the meeting.

WJ - Thank you chair, To contribute to the Society and the Welsh breeds success is a great achievement. to accomplish that in two different continents is to be applauded. The stock bred by Janet Evans of the Weston Park stud in Australia is admired the world over. Janet joined the Society in 1967 and came from the talented family of Jack, Dilys and Carole Evans of the Weston Stud in Llangollen. Whilst in the UK she registered ponies under the Llandyn prefix but the move to Australia with husband Dick in 1979 saw a shift to the Weston Park prefix as they settled in a new country. Janet has judged the Welsh section A's and section B's at the Royal Welsh and the Section B's at the international show in Denmark and

as well as the Horse of The Year show. She has bred countless champions in both sections A's B's and Welsh Part breeds most recently the supreme champion Welsh exhibit at this year's Australian Welsh National show with the yearling filly Weston Park Mary Anne. Many studs have founded their breeding operations on Weston Park lines. As an additional achievement she is one of only three Australian breeders who have exported home bred stock back to the UK. Weston Park Musk Rose coming back to Wales who went on to breed Royal Welsh male champion and Cuddy in hand pony of the year Moelgarnedd Stadros for the late David Williams and family. This year Janet has the great honour of being President Elect for the Welsh Pony and Cob Society of Australia. We send Janet our warmest congratulations and I ask Dewi Evans to accept this award on her behalf.

DE - I'm great friends with Janet, she is quite a character. She was thrilled and was on the phone and she was thrilled to have this honour. Thank you very much. Diolch

DM - Right the seventh award. It gives me great pleasure to recommend for approval of the Annual General Meeting, the appointment of Mr Milton Jones of the Minyffordd stud as honorary life member. I invite Dilwyn Roberts to address the meeting.

DR - Diolch yn fawr iawn Daniel. It's the fact that I have known him for many years that has made me more enthusiastic than I would be for most. Diolch yn fawr, .As most of us know Milton Jones has been a great ambassador for the Welsh ponies and cobs both in the UK and in America. Since he purchased his first mare in 1979 to start the Minyffordd stud. Since then, he has won and the Royal Welsh Show 10 times with his homebred stock plus many other second and third placed prizes. His Minyffordd prefix has appeared in the pedigrees of many top-class Welsh cobs over the past 40 years. Milton also arranged the export of 25 Welsh breed equines to the USA including many of his homebred stock, several of these exports went on to win at the USA Nationals. He has officiated as a Welsh panel judge in many shows in the UK and America on several occasions. He was honoured to be president of the Lampeter stallion show in 2017. Milton Jones has promoted the Welsh Pony and Cob Society and particularly the Welsh cobs throughout a major part of his life. Llongyfarchiadau and dymuniadau gorau i ti Milton. Congratulations Milton, please join me to receive your award. Diolch yn fawr.

MJ - I would like to thank everybody involved in giving me this great honour. I never expected this. Yes, I've been very lucky with cobs and I think that the harder you work, the luckier you get. I would like to thank everybody involved once again but most of all I'd like to thank my wife, we've been married 60 years 3 weeks ago. Stand up. Thank you all again.

DM - The eighth award. It gives me great pleasure to recommend for the approval of the Annual General Meeting, the appointment of Mr Tom Roberts of the Pistyll stud as honorary life member. I invite Rosie Wilson to address the meeting.

RW - Tom Roberts became a member under his own name TJ and Son in 1972 but prior to this was a member under his late father's name J Roberts and Son as was common practice at the time. Tom is steadfast regarding the objectives of the Welsh Pony and Cob Society and meets all aspects of the criteria set out to receive this honorary award. In 1966 he was founder member of the Blaenavon Pony Improvement Society and has remained as an official up until the present time. He was one of the founder members of their show in 1967 and has held an official position with the show up to date. In 2017 the show went on to gain and retain Welsh Pony and Cob Society silver medal status. Alongside this he has played a major role in founding and retaining the annual Blaenavon foal and youngstock show for approximately 20 years. Tom is a founder member and the first secretary of the Welsh Pony and Cob Society Gwent Association. He has also served as a trustee for the Welsh Pony

and Cob Society. Over his lifetime Tom has bred D's and A's under the prefixes of Varteg and Pistyll. The highlight he will always remember was his success he achieved with the cob colt foal Rhystyd Meredith which he and his late father purchased from the Rhystyd stud when the colt was only 6 weeks old. This foal was by Llanarth Meredith ap Braint and out of Rhystyd Bouncing Lady and he grew into something special. He won the greatest of all the Royal Welsh Stallion class. In 1977 he was youngstock champion and reserve male champion and in 1979 he returned to Builth Wells to be male champion and reserve for the Prince of Wales cup. Tom has judged at many shows home and abroad. In 2008 he had the honour and privilege of judging the Section C's and then in 2010 he judged the ridden Welsh at the Royal Welsh. A true devoted member of the Society, ladies and gentlemen Tom Roberts.

TR - Mr President, council members, ladies and gentlemen. I would just like to thank council for their very kind consideration in awarding me this prestigious award. Thank you very much, diolch yn fawr.

DM - The final award. It gives me great pleasure to recommend for the approval of the Annual General Meeting, the appointment of Mr Kevin Walker of the Brynoffa stud as honorary life member. I invite Lottie Stephens to address the meeting.

LS - Kevin Walker purchased his first Welsh mountain pony from Ffair Y Borth in 1977 and this started a passion and commitment to the Welsh breeds and to the Society. Kevin has been a member of the Society since 1977 and has served on council and served as Vice - Chairman where his background in HR brought great experience and valuable insight and he chaired working groups on personnel and disciplinary issues. Kevin has been a stalwart of his local area association Clwyd Welsh Pony and Cob Association as a member, committee member and chairman. His first term as Chair ran from 1992-1995 and then more recently, he became Chair again in 2012 before retiring from the role and committee in 2021 as the longest serving chairman that Clwyd has ever had. Kevin was key in developing an annual journal for the Society and supported the growth of the association shows and the setting up of the successful Clwyd autumn sales. During his time of the committee, he has always been supportive and encouraged new members. He was a diplomatic Chairman allowing members to share their views whilst ensuring that the committee was united and supportive. He is still a great supported of the association. A well respected judge on several panels including the Welsh A, B, ridden and Part bred and the NPS, Kevin has judged at Lampeter, Glanusk, The Royal Highland, Royal Cheshire, the ridden at the royal Welsh, the M&M final at Olympia, the international Welsh show at Australia, Horse of the Year show at South Africa and also shows in the Netherlands, Belgium, Ireland and America. Kevin has also bred and shown Section A's, B's and Welsh Part breeds under his Brynoffa prefix enjoying some incredible success with his ponies which have achieved great success both in hand and under saddle. Kevin is a great ambassador for the Society and for the Welsh breeds and is incredibly well known, liked and respected by many and has shown a lifelong commitment to Welsh ponies. He is very deserving of this honour.

KW - Mr President, Mr Chairman, Council members, ladies and gentlemen. I didn't realise there were so many in the room. In the presence of the previous recipients, I feel both humbled and honoured to receive this award, thank you so much for having such faith in me. Becoming a member in 1977 when I bought my first pony for my first born who is now 47 and thinks that horses are a total waste of time! It's introduced me to lots of people, places and it's been a real fun time, I have thoroughly enjoyed it. Thank you very much and I accept it with great honour. Thank you.

13 The Awarding of the Brodrick Memorial Trophy.

DM - The Miss Brodrick Memorial trophy is the highest honour that the Society can bestow and is awarded by council to an individual or animal alternatively in recognition of distinguished service to the Society. I have great pleasure, tinged with sadness in announcing that the award this year is presented to the late Mr Len Bigley.

If ever there was a name that would be regarded as synonymous with the presentation of the Brodrick Trophy, it had to be Mr Len Bigley. It's hard to believe that this quiet, modest, unassuming gentleman has never been the recipient of this prestigious Society award in the past. Perhaps now posthumously, it is even more poignant that his deeds are truly recognised. It would be fair to say that Len was Mr Showman learning his trade as a schoolboy and Trefesgob Section B stud and then perfecting his skills working for Pauline Taylor at the Llanarth Stud from 1964 onwards riding and driving the cobs but excelling in hand. He had a natural talent as a showman, producing Welsh ponies and cobs to balanced perfection and constantly winning that resulted in almost 50 qualifiers for the in-hand finals for the Horse of the Year Show a record that is unlikely to be beaten. As a producer and breeder, Len achieved success at every major championship in Great Britain including the overall championship at Hoys show in 1979 and 1980 with Llanarth Flying Comet and 1988 with Merryment Pussycat showing our Welsh breeds and helping to cement their fame and worldwide reputation that we know today. Not only has he possessed his legacy through his children who have had success in their own right, he has been a mentor and role model for so many society members and aspiring show and breeding enthusiasts. He has welded his passion for the breeding and showing but has shared his knowledge experience not only with the Welsh Pony and Cob Society where he was Council member, Chairman and President but with other organisations while in a position of influence. President of the National Pony Society, Council member of the Royal Welsh Agricultural Society where he was Chairman of the livestock committee and Chairman of the palomino Society. Independently he also served on the committee of the National Equine Forum where his collected knowledge and wisdom were greatly respected. Len was a very humble man and was not one for self-praise and yet he was probably one that was entitled to do so. He would always have the time to smile and acknowledge you quietly and would say hello and talk about you, not himself. His humility was to be truly admired. Len was a tireless ambassador for the Welsh breeds and the Welsh pony and Cob Society throughout his current illness and later up until his sad passing in December 2020. Stock by Len and Ann have been exported all over the world and continue to be successful in hand and for upcoming breeders. It is crystal clear that Len more than fulfils the criteria for the Brodrick Award across the disciplines of showing, producing and breeding and has made an outstanding lifetime contribution to the Welsh breeds and fully deserves this recognition. Ladies and gentlemen, the late Len Bigley, the Brodrick Award.

AB - Mr President, ladies and gentlemen. Thank you very much Daniel for all you have said, I really can't say more than that. But thank you from the family.

SB - He would have been deeply humbled by this award. As you know he wasn't really brought up on a farm but he made it his wish to do what he always wanted to do and that was to be around horses. And he did what he wanted to do-he was very fortunate that he was allowed to do it by mother, Catrin and the family and he thoroughly enjoyed it, even until his last days. And I know he is here now, he was a man of few words wasn't he, but he would be eternally grateful, so thank you all very, very much.

CB - Sorry I can't not say anything about dad really but only to say that he would be very proud, but he also would be very proud to see his friends like Nelson getting awards, because that's what he was like, he wanted to encourage that the Welsh Pony and Cob was

for everybody. It's just a shame that there's no kids here, that's what he would be upset about, that the kids should be here and carrying on the job. Fortunately, Simon's little ones are carrying on the job, and you need to encourage your children to do it otherwise we won't have a Society left and this award will mean nothing to them, and I think it is really important and he would think that it's very important that we encourage these kids. He was always very keen on that so thank you very much.

14 The Awarding of the Welsh Pony and Cob Breeders' Certificate to those breeders of the 11 Royal Welsh Agricultural Society Welsh Breeds Champion for 2022.

DM - The Society Council felt that being a breed champion at the Royal Welsh is one of the greatest achievements for the breeder. But historically there has only been a gold medal either in hand or performance presented to the owner of the animal, with little recognition for the breeder. Therefore, from this year the Society is delighted to present the Breeders Award given annual to the eleven breed champions in hand, under saddle and in harness from the Royal Welsh show. I'll start with the section A in hand champion that was Deweyerds Hailey. Can I please invite William Leeuwis from Holland to collect the prize.

Section B in hand champion was Kallared Heartbeat bred in Sweden by Mia Anderson. Can Owen Jones please collect the award on her behalf.

OJ - Well Mr President, chairman and fellow members, it's quite an honour to be asked by one of our faithful clients Mia Anderson from the Kallared stud in Sweden to collect on her behalf the breeders award. Mia wanted me to say how privileged she feels to receive such recognition and is very humbled to have bred in Sweden, the first Section B to take the championship. Kallared Heartbeat later went on one step further by winning the Tom and Sprightly for the supreme Welsh exhibit at the Royal Welsh. On behalf of Mia, thank you all very much.

The Section C in hand champion was Glynwyn Annie Power, Can I please invite Claire Willis Burton to collect the award on behalf of the breeder Kelly Gibbons.

The Section D in hand champion was Geler Lotti. Can I please invite breeder William Lloyd to collect the award.

Can I just say we accept this with all our heart. William unfortunately cannot be with us today, he has just recently had a hip operation. He is getting over it. (rest of speech inaudible on recording)

The Welsh Part Bred champion was Dibyn Topgun. Can I please invite the breeder Di Nicholson to collect the award.

Section A breeder's champion under saddle was Hoekhorst Example bred by Robert Hoeke from Holland. He is not here today but he's going to collect it from the international meeting at the Royal Welsh in July.

The Section B ridden champion was Clanmill Leteike Miracle. Can I please invite Clare Willis Burton to collect the award. Unfortunately, they couldn't come today as the family has been struck down with Covid, so I would like to send them our best wishes.

CWB - I would just like to say on behalf of Sarah and John for this award. Unfortunately, they couldn't come today as the family has been struck down with Covid, so I would like to send them our best wishes.

The Section C ridden champion was Hywi The Enforcer. Can I please invite breeder Roger Davies to collect the award.

RD - I'd just like that thank the President and fellow trustees for awarding this to me. The most important thing is you sell the youngsters, and you hope that they will go champion at the Royal Welsh but I must compliment the team and the owner for all the work that they have done with Hywi The Enforcer. Thank you very much.

The Section D Ridden champion was Ringside Top Dollar. Can I please invite Richard Pittman on behalf of the Williams family to collect the award.

The Welsh driven champion was Lonwind Swagger who has since been exported to the USA. Can I please invite the breeder Jordan Sainsbury to collect the award.

The Welsh Gelding breed champion was Sarum Red Robin. Can I please invite the breeder Steward Franklin to collect the award.

SF - Good afternoon, all. I feel a bit of a fraud because all I do is pay the bills! My wife runs the yard and produces the ponies, she's sat over there, next to our senior producer who has reminded me this week that he has been producing for us for 21 years, that must be a record in itself. Our other producer Sarah Russell who is not here today, who travels all around the country for us showing ponies. And finally, our ridden producer India Latter who for the last 5 years has been doing a brilliant job with our ponies.

DM - Well to breed a Royal Welsh champion is every breeder's dream. Llongyfarchiadau mawr i chi gyd

15 The Awarding of the Ruth Davies Memorial trophy to the winning Area Association Photographic competition.

DM - The Ruth Davies memorial trophy for the winning area association photographic competition. To give the result of this new competition, I would like to ask David Davies Ceulan, to address the meeting.

DD - Thank you Mr Chairman. It gives me great pleasure to present the area association photographic competition and the Ruth Davies perpetual memorial trophy. This is the first year for this competition and I was delighted that 8 area associations entered. As many of you know, my mother was the driving force behind the Ceulan stud and this little trophy although small and apparently insignificant sat beside her for many, many years. It was one of her treasured possessions. So, it is fitting that this is now presented annually. The judge for this year's competition was Mr Kevin Townsend of the Drayton stud in New Zealand and Kevin's comment was that the standard was very high, and it was very difficult for him to choose the winners. Only a few points separated the winners.

The individual champions are as follows-the Section A champion was Arad Betty. The Section B champion was Paddock Marquis. The Section C champion was Rhoswen Gladiator. The Section D champion was Maesyfelin Emma and the Welsh Part Bred champion was Moorhall Peter Pan.

Congratulations now go to the winning team, and I'm delighted to say that the winning association is the South Eastern Association.

AK - Thank you very much, I don't know what to say. I will put all the information back to my association because I have my supreme show tomorrow, so I have to drive home tonight to

go for a spring show tomorrow, to drive back Monday for a County Council meeting on Tuesday. Thank you very much.

16 The Awarding of other Society Awards.

DM The Society would like to take this opportunity to award the Royal Welsh awards for the 2022 Royal Welsh show. Firstly, the championship for the young handler and the trophy kindly sponsored by Janice and Brian Foster and the Welsh Pony and Cob Platinum Young handler medal is Ella Harries.

EH - Thank you very much.

DM - We move now to the Royal Welsh sire ratings. The Gwyn Price Perpetual trophy for the Section A Nantdywyll Penaig, please can Joanna Sheil come to collect the award.

JS - Just to say thank you very much. Obviously, Colin Tibbey now owns Penaig but we had him for the first 14 years of his life so thank you.

DM - Section A reserve is Springbourne Capricorn. Please can Tony Tilley come and collect the award.

TT - Mark and Liz would like to say thank you very much. Thank you.

DM - Nell Pennell perpetual trophy Section B. Joint winners were Paddock Valentino and Skellorn Bronze Soldier. Please can Norman Fairbank and Kevin Walker come and collect the award.

NF - Thank you very much again, thank you.

DM - Section B reserve Eyarth Thowra Can Gareth Roberts come and collect the award.

Synod perpetual trophy Section C Dony's Importance and reserve Dony's Llawn. Please can Jacky Kirk come and collect both awards.

JK - I just want to say thank you to all the people whose ponies that helped to win the points to win this trophy.

DM - The Yeomans Perpetual Plaque Section D Geler Sparc. Can Wendy Lloyd come to collect the award.

WL - Once again thank you very much and perhaps I've come to myself now so thank you very much for that special award earlier on. It will go back and be really appreciated. Diolch yn fawr.

DM - Section D reserve Geler Glyndwr. Please can Mr Elgan Evans come to collect the award.

EE - I'd like to say a few words. I'd like to thank the Geler family for allowing me to purchase this colt foal. He was three days old when I bought him off William and he has produced me many good stock. Thank you very much. Diolch yn fawr.

DM - We now move to the Royal Welsh dam ratings. This is the first year that these have been awarded and we would like to thank Sue and Janet Hardy for their great work in the tower during the show collating the points competition.

Section A champion Caerheulog Lady Jane. Please can Sophie Williams come to collect the award.

SW - I just want to say thanks and diolch yn fawr.

Section A reserve Thistledown Jess Ennis please can Edwin Prosser come to collect the award.

EP - Thank you on behalf of Sandy Anderson

DM - Section B champion Milltop Rosebud please can Gareth Roberts come to collect the award.

Joint Section B reserves are Rotherwood Rambling Rose, please can Gareth come to collect the award and Westaire Saffron Lace please can Liz Hampson come to collect the award on behalf of Jane and Shona Blackburn.

Section C champion Glynwyn Matilda please can Alan Pearce come to collect the award. Adrian is coming

Section C reserve is Blaencila Arabella. Please can David Oliver come to collect the award.

Section D champion is Brynithon Southern Breeze can Elgan Evans come to collect the award.

EE - I'd like to thank the Brynithon stud for breeding such a wonderful mare she has been a good mare for me and she is now 23 years old. As you know, her sister is in the Haighmoor stud and another sister is with Martin Walters down in the Solloway stud. Thank you very much, diolch yn fawr iawn i chi gyd.

DM - Section D reserve Danaway Madeline please can Angela Kember come to collect the award on behalf of the Attrell family.

17. A Vote of thanks to the retiring President: Mr Dennis Price

DM - Vote of thanks for the retiring President. I would now like to call upon Amanda Harries of the Synod and Tydi studs to propose a vote of thanks to the outgoing president Mr Dennis Price

AH - Thank you very much Mr Chair. Mr Dennis Price on behalf of the Welsh Pony and Cob Society, our members home and abroad, it is my honour to give a vote of thanks to you today. And what a joy it is to be here in Llandrindod Wells I believe it to be the site of the first ever Welsh Pony and Cob Society AGM back in 1902, 121 years ago.

Thank you, Dennis, for being our President for the past 12 months. We are sincerely grateful for all the time and commitment you have given the Society as President. Your roots run deep in the red soil of Argoed and anyone who has had the pleasure to visit you at Argoed farm and see your beautiful Afan ponies and the sheepdogs of course, will have witnessed how devoted you are to your beloved Welsh ponies and bloodlines.

You have achieved remarkable success through the years with your ponies, through the Welsh mountain pony premium awards and the show ring. To name a few Afan ponies, Afan Rock Chick winning female champion and gold medal at the Royal Welsh show and Afan Ragdoll winning supreme Welsh Champion at the Royal Welsh Winter Fair.

I know these happy memories are joined by new memories of the adventures and successes that you have had as a Welsh Pony and Cob Society President 2022-2023. I was fortunate to be with you at the Royal Welsh for the Welsh Pony and Cob overseas reception last year and I saw first-hand how much you enjoyed meeting all the breeders from abroad, that bred

Welsh mountain ponies, cobs A's B's C's and D's and how much they enjoyed your company that day. So, on that note from us all Mr President thank you for everything.

DM - I now ask Tanya Baldwin to second the vote of thanks.

TB - Good afternoon everyone. It is a great honour to give the second vote of thanks for Dennis who has been serving as our president for the past year. What a year you have had Dennis. His fundraising which he was really concerned about at the start of the year, he has done amazingly well raising a lot of funds for the Wales Air Ambulance. He donated the price for one of his foals from the October sales which did well. He talked the auctioneers at Builth market into holding a charity auction there which that alone raised £2000 and then adding to that the President's dinner with the raffle and the auction a total over well over £7000. Congratulations Dennis.

His President's dinner was a resounding success and although really nervous at the start, you really enjoyed the evening. We didn't manage to get you to have a shot, but we did try! I think the only downfall for Dennis this year is that he has had to put up with my sense of humour and my chauffeuring him to all the meetings, but you haven't got that now anymore Dennis! So once again thank you very much for your service, Dennis. Diolch.

DM - I now invite Dennis to say a few words.

DP - Hello everyone. I've already blacked my copybook this morning I was a bit late for the Air Ambulance lady for photographs, these last 3 days I don't know where my home is actually. I was in Aberaeron with Amanda on Thursday, I had a meeting on Friday, yesterday and again today. But I think a glass of wine will be alright tonight! I still think this is such a great honour, I don't think it has really registered yet. It is my greatest achievement of my stock breeding life, cattle sheep and dogs. On the other hand. I've met so many genuine people and made great friends during my year. Also, I've been very lucky, my outgoing President Mr Stewart Franklin, retiring president from when I started, has been a great support to me and become a great friend. And Dewi now coming in, we are hill farmers, and we get on great, and I've always genuinely admired both of their stock. I'm not going to say much! But personally, I really think that the Society is in a good place during my year I've met a lot of young people who are deeply interested. Also, besides the Welsh Pony and Cob Society, the YFC's, you don't realise what the young farmers clubs stock judging does for the for the young members. I judged a pre rally pony competition, I had the hardest part to do with the under 16s really., There was eleven there and 8 of them were only 11-year-old and you had to mark them-it was horrible. You give 10 points for presentation; I gave 10 points to them all for just being there! It was fantastic! Well, I must compliment all the office and council members who present ed the dinner. It was fantastic. The presentation and all the planning and seating had to be continued as the numbers went up and up. I'm not going to say much more really, I just hope I haven't let you down. There is one thing and I think I'm going to charge Merion for it! Since I've been President, my electricity bill has gone up three times. Shirts and whatever! But anyway, thank you all.

18 To appoint on the recommendation of Council Mr Dewi Evans as WPCS President for 2023/2024

DM - On behalf of council I'm pleased to announce the appointment of Mr Dewi Evans of the Hilin stud as president for the 2023-2024. I now call upon Dennis to present the chain of honour.

DE - Fellow members. This is a great honour; I can't say any more about it really. It's unbelievable really that I'm standing here. I've had ponies a long time but to stand in front of

the Welsh pony and cob members and the council and president is unbelievable and I'm really grateful. Thank you very much.

19 To thank the outgoing Welsh Pony and Cob Young Ambassador and award the Derwen harp and welcoming the Young Ambassador for 2023 -2024.

DM - I would like to thank Hannah Atkinson for the last 2 years and her council mentor Liz Hampson. Hannah would like to address the meeting.

HA - Good afternoon, everyone I'd like to start by thanking the Welsh Pony and Cob Society for allowing me to take this role on. It's has been a honour that I have thoroughly enjoyed -I have enjoyed every second. It did get off to a slightly slow start thanks to a certain global pandemic and I did worry that the longer that covid rumbled on the less the term young ambassador, was becoming less and less relevant to me. But I think I've just about managed to hold on to that! Having said that I'm really grateful to the Welsh Pony and Cob Society for allowing me to stay on a little bit longer so that I could fully embrace the role once the world started to return back to normal.

This role has enabled me to cross paths with some members who I may not have otherwise have not crossed paths with being right up in north Yorkshire and I am grateful for all the opportunities that this role has given me.

There have been a lot of good moments, and one standout was being invited over to the first ever WPCV Winter Fair in Holland last November. It's been said many times by people before me that it amazes me that you can travel to a totally different country and meet people that you would never normally meet and from through having a shared passion of our ponies and cobs, we get to meet. What was really great to see in Holland, was that they have a really strong group of keen enthusiastic young members, many of whom were actually on the show committee and helped run the event on the day. This was their first time running a big winter show there, so I'm looking forward to seeing how this show grows in the years to come.

What stepping into this role has highlighted to me is that is that just how important the young members are to the Society. Young members are the future of the Society, so it is so important to keep finding ways to flourish and develop our youngest members passions and interests.

Yesterday back home in Yorkshire, I held a young handler clinic for young members at Craig Eleanor's yard. Craig very kindly taught those forward how to get the best out of their ponies and also offered advice on ponies' turnout and presentation. One of those members forward was a 13-year-old girl from Italy who doesn't have her own pony but comes over to England every school holiday and goes to shows with her English cousin and her Welsh ponies. Yesterday she told me that her ambition was to show her cousin's pony in the Young Handler's class at the Royal Welsh show and hopefully after learning lots from Craig, she now has the confidence to go and do it. That was exactly why I wanted to hold the clinic. It was too open the door for kids like her who maybe don't have access their own pony or have the confidence to go straight to a show.

I have one last thing to do on Tuesday, I will be taking on the Yorkshire three Peaks challenge and any funds raised will be split between the young people's fund and my chosen charity the My Name's Doddy Charity Foundation which aims to tackle Motor Neuron disease in aid of the late Doddy Weir. I would like to thank by thanking Liz Hampson, Meirion and all at the Welsh Pony and Cob Society for the support. My family who are always

supportive with me and my mad ideas and I would like to wish Skye all the best in her year, and I hope you enjoy it as much as I have.

DM - Thank you very much. I now have great pleasure in inviting Skye Whittle to take up the office of young ambassador and collect her badge and the young ambassador's harp which is kindly donated by Mr and Mrs Ifor Lloyd of the Derwen Stud. Accompanying Skye is her council mentor Lottie Stephens.

SW - Hi, I would like start by introducing myself and telling you a little bit about me. My name is Skye Whittle and I'm 18 years old from Kirrem stud where I breed and show horses alongside my mam Vicky. I am currently in my second year of college where I study Sport, Business and criminology and alongside studying my hobbies included showing and riding the horses and playing netball. I have been involved with the Welsh cobs all my life and have always enjoyed helping out with my grandfather's Welsh cobs at Brynithon Stud. From halter breaking through to the showing of all ages and everything that comes in between. I am very passionate about the Welsh breeds from the mountain ponies through to the cobs and love to get involved in any way possible. I myself have shown in local shows for as long as I can remember, competing in young handler classes since a young age. I was Gwent area young handler champion for 3 years also winning the Gwent area Young Achievers award and was fortunate enough to receive the Welsh Pony and Cob Society Young Achievers award recently. I have also shown my own bred stock at Lampeter, Glanusk and the Royal Welsh and have recently broken my young mare in for riding. I would like to thank you all for the opportunity I have been presented with to be the Young Ambassador for the Welsh Pony and Cob Society for the year ahead and I am really looking forward to encouraging and engaging with the young people throughout the year. I plan to attend as many shows as possible, be actively involved with young handler classes, Young Judges events and in any other ways in which I can get involved. I look forward to working with my mentor Lottie alongside the support of Cemaes, Meirion and I'm sure we will be discussing many ways to grow membership and promote the young people of the Society, as of course the young people are the future of the Society. Finally, if anyone has any ideas or would like to get in contact with me, my contact details will be available through the Society. Thank you again for this opportunity.

20. To Receive a report on the appointment of President-Elect for 2023-2024

DM - I would like to invite Callum Ryan from Azets to announce the successful candidate's name for the role of President Elect for 2023/2024.

CR - The successful candidate for President Elect is Mrs Jocelyn Price.

DM - I would like to invite President Elect Mrs Jocelyn Price to say a few words and join us on the stage.

JP - Mr President, members of Council, ladies, and gentlemen. It is such an honour to be elected as president for 2023 to 2024. A sincere thank you to all that voted for me. I shall endeavour to carry out my duties to the best of my ability and to be there to help our President Mr Evans if needed. Wishing you all the very best of luck and enjoy the coming season. Thank you.

21. To announce the result of the election from the floor of a fifth candidate to serve as a trustee for the period 2023-2026.

DM - I invite Callum Ryan from Azets to present the scrutineers report for election of a fifth member to serve on Council for a period of 2023-2026.

CR - The successful candidate for the election of the fifth member to the board is Mr Edwin Prosser.

DM - Thank you Callum. Please may I ask all newly appointed trustees, serving trustees and the new president elect to go to the Eithon room upstairs after the meeting to collect the relevant paperwork and a brief meeting.

22 Any other business.

DM - In the spring newsletter sent out to all members, items for any other business were requested to be sent to the office at Bronaeron by 31st March. No items were received but discussion under any other business.

We will take questions, comments but Council will respond today and do so if we can and if appreciated the answer will be placed online and in the autumn newsletter. Are there any items that you would like to raise.

NR - Nia Roberts Heolas stud Could I just ask please that the Council consider, I know we are in a day where we are trying to save paper and all kinds of things but we have this lovely coloured newsletter that comes to us and all the forms that we were previously having, we are now having to cut out of those newsletters to be able to take the forms out to send them back in. I think to be honest we would be better off by saving paper by having a smaller magazine but having the forms that people don't have to cut them up to send them back in individually.

DM - Thank you Nia, the point will be taken. Diolch yn fawr. Anybody else? Right I'll call upon Meirion to say a few words.

CS - Diolch Daniel This is just a little final reminder before we close the meeting, so as Daniel noted we have got Ruth here who did such a great job of the photography on the awards night. We haven't taken time during the meeting to take photographs, but we really would like to have pictures of everybody who has won an award. So, if everybody can hang around here afterwards, then Ruth will take a tidy photograph of you with Dennis or Daniel or with your family -we are here and we have that facility afterwards.

We are going to take a picture of Council first of all because I desperately need that for the stud book and trying to get them all in the same place with their ears forward is difficult.

Can I also check that you have signed the attendance books, they were on reception, but we really need to know who was here. I just wanted to say a thank you really to the staff and also to retiring trustees Rosie and Liz for your humour as well, because both of them have to travel quite a long way to come to Bronaeron.

Also, to Daniel as Chair, I think today, Daniel doesn't know that I'm going to tell him this but Daniel has done something which I think is lovely for the future Chairperson. He's commissioned a little Chair's badge which is enamelled and has got a picture of Parc Lady on it. Gemma has secretly been working to get his, none of the trustees know, so in future every Chairperson of this Society will also have a badge to wear during their term of office and I think that is a lovely thing to have done.

Diolch i ti hefyd Daniel ar lefel bersonnol am dy cefnogaeth trwy'r flwyddyn.

And then finally with Dennis, we just want to say thank you, the girls are laughing here. Dennis has been a great President; we've enjoyed having you as President. He's left 3 umbrellas in different places but the best thing about Dennis is that I said to Dennis 'What do you want this year now, what is it that you want because it is your Presidential year'. "Oh, I

don't know, I'm not sure" And to be honest even until Monday, Dennis still wasn't sure about some things!

He wasn't sure if we were going to have a tea afterwards or not until Monday. So, we have spent time with Dennis and really enjoyed his company. He did an incredible amount of work to raise £7750, such a lot of hard work. To begin with he said to me 'do you think we will raise much?' I was thinking maybe three or four thousand, but it is a huge total for one person to raise, which is fantastic. But the other thing is and this is how I want to end, is that Dennis said to me when he started 'I don't know about being President.' So, I said, 'how many do you think will come to the AGM because for catering, we do need to know,' He said 'do you think they will come?' And I said 'yes, they will come, and you are here,' and on that note, Dennis kindly has tea and cakes for everybody afterwards, so please hang around. For those of you that have photographs, you will have to queue a little bit but please hang around. And the rest of you then Dennis would like to invite you to tea so diolch yn fawr Dennis.

DM - Well diolch yn fawr Meirion. On behalf of our new President, President-Elect and Council thank you ladies and gentlemen for attending and for your contributions to the meeting. Dennis would like you for some tea at the conservatory before you depart on your journey home. I now declare this meeting closed at 3.30pm. Diolch yn fawr