

9th September 2024 Council Meeting Summary

The chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. He and other trustees had recently attended a very successful WP&CS International Show in Holland. The international enthusiasm for Welsh ponies and cobs was heartening. It is evident that overseas members are keen for the WPCS to look at a strategy so that they can register their ponies and cobs with the UK. The CS gave an update: with legal support which we now have we are looking to enable our overseas members to register their ponies and cobs with the WPCS here in the UK. It is anticipated that a meeting with the Welsh government will take place soon.

The Animals at War Ceremony will take place on Friday 8th November in London. Mrs Jacky Kirk has kindly offered to donate our wreath as usual. This year the WP&CS has been privileged to be asked to speak at the service.

Standing Orders were stood down to enable council to discuss a number of confidential matters.

Applications for our future Young Ambassador has now closed so interviews with prospective candidates will take place shortly. Meanwhile entries for the WP&CS Official sale have also closed. The sale is scheduled to cover the three days at Built Wells.

DNA: The CS reported that the transfer to SNPs has been smooth. The main problem that has arisen has been with the parentage testing requirement for licensing stallions with SNPs whose dams have not been DNA tested or/and have died. (DNA testing has been required since 2016 for all mares when registering their first pure bred foal.) With advice, council decided to allow some leeway – any colt foal born in or AFTER 2025 would have to be parentage tested against both sire and dam (ie 2 year old colts in 2027). Any colt born BEFORE 2025 could be licensed whilst being parentage tested against sire only, should a DNA profile not be lodged for the dam.

A great deal of correspondence had been received concerning changes to showing rules, notably concerning the age of exhibitors in the ring. These decisions had been made (with advice) because of legal liability issues for the organisers of affiliated shows, exhibitors and trustees of the WPCS who could be vicariously liable. It was noted that many exhibitors are not covered by their own insurance and that organisers of shows might find that they have very limited insurance cover in certain cases. After a lot of discussion it was decided to put the matter on hold whilst more legal advice is sought from the HSE and insurers. Some correspondence had also been received from members concerning 'Producers' judging – both positive and negative. This matter had originally come to council because of complaints from members. The trustees acknowledged the difficulties in policing this so decided to remove this rule for the 2025 season whilst monitoring the situation. Two trustees voted against this resolution.

Bronze Medal Rosette shows will be available to any affiliated non medal show. It was reiterated that rosettes for these shows will be of a high quality. Furthermore, it was clarified that only WPCS panel judges can officiate at these Bronze Medal Rosette shows. Any judge will be limited to judging a section at three Medal Rosette shows (for each Judges' panel that they are on- A,B,C,D & PB.) Also, the 40 mile radius rule will still apply.

Extensive research and work had been undertaken by 2 trustees looking at suitable venues for a potential International Show in 2026 in the UK to celebrate the WP&CS 125 Year Anniversary. However, the effect of Brexit on such events was sadly very evident at this year's International show in Holland where there were no exhibitors from the UK. It was apparent to trustees discussing this with European exhibitors that the present rules covering the transportation of equines to/from Europe since Brexit would undoubtedly have an impact and that we would not get the overseas contingent to the UK. Therefore, the suggestion was to celebrate the 125 Year Anniversary of the WP&CS on other ways than a show. This motion was carried with two abstentions.

A detailed proposal concerning membership options was tabled offering lots of different levels/types of membership packages to be discussed.

Diagnostic update: the staff are halfway through developing a new website for the society. They are aware that the search function has to be effective. A members' gallery was suggested, also an AI element. They are keen for input from others and will give a demonstration at the next meeting.