

28th October 2024 Council meeting Summary

The chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and confirmed that the society's autumn newsletter is about to be delivered to the membership. He thanked those trustees who had set up the WPCS stand and worked tirelessly at HOYS. Boxes of old journals had been distributed. There had also been many interested overseas visitors this year. The success of the Welsh at the show made a great impact and the stand was very busy. In the future it would be helpful to have an electricity supply to the stand for us to have a TV presentation running. It was also suggested that a cheaper membership for the following year might attract people to join at the show, early for the following season (as other societies were doing).

Standing Orders were suspended to enable trustees to discuss matters that have emerged after the fourteen days' notice required for agenda items.

The annual society sales had taken place which proved to have been successful. Some members were still registering stock very late when they had been entered at sales which had proved, yet again, problematic for the office. It put a lot of pressure on the office when e.g. ownership is incorrect, gelding had not been notified correctly and late registration, particularly where DNA profiling was required, applied for.

The chair reminded trustees that the annual 'Animals at War' Remembrance service is to be held in London on 8th November., and the WPCS have been asked to give a presentation 'Persecution and Conflict' this year. All are invited to attend.

The CS reported that there had been six candidates keen to be future Young Ambassadors, four had been interviewed and two excellent candidates had been appointed to run consecutively. The newsletter had been printed and distributed by the new printers. The fact that they posted it out was a great help to the office. It was confirmed that Gold Performance medals would be awarded to those successful members in the HOYS WHP, LR, FR and the Open M&M classes at HOYS, providing they were members. A tender had been issued for the provision of the 2025 Journal design.

The CS showed Council different designs/cost for the new Bronze Medal Rosette and a decision was made on purchasing them for next season. The WP&CS Awards Celebration is confirmed to be at Stoneleigh followed by a lunch in December. The office was about to start collating the marks so that letters could be circulated to the successful members. Nominations for the Young Achiever Award were received. The CS gave a short demonstration on the progress of a new website which is being developed 'in house' and suggestions were made for trialling it.

Discussion took place on the historic DNA gathering of Hill Ponies undertaken by UCW Aberystwyth and what agreement existed between the Society and the university. It was decided to approach Mr Colin Thomas for clarification.

An overview of the Official Sale was made with points raised by members which included costs, security and a very late finish. These and other issues would be addressed in a forthcoming meeting with McCartneys. The Society vet had related issues/observations from the Society's Official sale: too many individuals in the sale ring at any one time for two vendors, a gelding whose paperwork/passport was incorrect yet went through the sale ring twice and an allegation that an 'inappropriate' aid had been used in the ring. These are to be investigated by a small panel.

The monthly/annual year on year Finance Report was received which appeared more encouraging after the hard work undertaken by both the office and the Finance committee, although the fall in membership is still a continuing concern. Trustees discussed our membership strategy compared to other equine societies (who are all suffering from a fall in membership numbers). There might be potential in having different levels of membership – e.g. 'full', 'show', 'child', joint', 'family' etc. It was agreed that it is essential to attract and encourage the young to join the Society and ways of achieving this were shared.

Correspondence from a member was discussed which would be acknowledged and answered.