



# Spring Newsletter

## Message from the Editor

For those of us who are fortunate to be in the breeding game, I guess this is the most exciting, and fraught, time of the year! Having a camera set up in the foaling box to relay pictures back to the comfort of my bedroom telly is great, but it certainly doesn't guarantee you a good nights sleep, especially when the mares are overdue! Biba finally foaled ten days late and her daughter, Bonnie, made me wait for nearly a year before producing her first foal! They are now all in a little paddock enjoying the warm sunshine and new spring grass. The showing season is well under way and our own Youngstock Show was held in the most amazing conditions. Even Sandra had a sleeveless top on and there were a lot of little girls sporting sun tops - in early April??? Had we been a little quicker off the mark, we could have run the ridden classes outside.

It was back to the fleece tops by our Spring Show, (no surprise there!) but at least the rain held off, even if the wind was a cause for some concern. It was a contributory factor in the unfortunate incident outside the ring, when a pony threw his rider and ended up caught in the fence. Fortunately as it happened, he was traumatised enough to allow Colin and others to release his legs and, although he sustained several cuts, was able to be led back to his wagon. I believe another lady spectator was knocked to the ground at the time but refused any medical assistance. This does highlight a problem, as we do pay to have First Aid available and we must utilise this at all times, even when minor incidents occur, in order to fulfil all the requirements of our insurance. I am sure the lady concerned did not want to make a fuss, and we are all relieved that the outcome for rider, pony and spectators did not result in anything more serious. We have been fortunate that we have escaped some of the more horrendous incidents that do occur in the equine competition world but that doesn't mean we must become complacent. This was a distressing occurrence for everyone who witnessed the incident and especially for those directly involved.

## OUR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

With Carl in the chair, we held our meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> March at the Sedgefield Village Hall. I had a good response to my request for old photos of some of our members, and was quite surprised when only a few proved a challenge! Gale and Catherine could not attend but Carl reported that 2006 had been a turning point in the Association with the resignation of the last two of our long standing committee. However, both have remained as co-opted members with Sandra organising another successful Christmas Party and Karen assisting with the Affiliations and WPCS. It goes without saying that those who remain on the committee very much appreciate their continuing support. Our Youngstock show of 2006 proved to be a success with exhibitors, now that we had reverted to the original format. Our biggest event, the Spring Show, was held in cold wind and rain and other medal shows at the same time did affect some entries. Carl secured sponsorship from Oakley Mitsubishi, which looks like being a regular contribution. There was a long summer break before the Summer Show but our members did very well around other championship events at Northleach, Cheshire County and the Royal Welsh. We ran a revised schedule for the Summer Show leading to a more relaxed atmosphere and an early finish! Regretfully this is our poorest show in terms of entries as there are so many championship shows around in the month of August. Because of a lack of M&M in hand entries the committee have reluctantly decided to discontinue these at future summer shows. Karen and I went to the North Western Association Show to watch the new Inter-Association Champion of Champions. Both the eventual winner, Stephen Pygott's Pengaston Magic, and runner up, Carl's cob stallion, Brynithon Royal Knight, gained their qualification at our own events. Quite a coup for our little Association! After the Foal Show, we lost Beverley from the committee but those who remain will soldier on regardless!!

### **Outstanding Achievement Award**

The award for the 2006 season was given to Danaway Valentine. She is a cob mare who, with her young rider Emily Stead, did the double at our spring and summer shows, winning the WPCS performance medal and the NPS ridden M & M silver medal on both occasions. The partnership also had a successful summer at other events in the area, taking first places at Northern Horse, North Yorks County, Lanchester and NPS area 4. She was Champion or reserve at most of those and that was just the local scene. Valentine also qualified for the Royal International and Ferndale Premier events, won two classes at the British Show Pony Society Championships and ended up with a total of 4 WPCS performance medals. It is always satisfying to see the relationship between equine and rider prove it's worth in the show ring and I am sure Emily will continue her winning ways in the years to come.

## YOUNG ACHIEVERS' AWARDS - 2006

### UNDER 6 YRS

1<sup>ST</sup> Maizie Walton This confident young lady only started riding last year and rode in her first show in June. She rides both her little Welsh and Shetland ponies with great aplomb!

### 6 YEARS

1<sup>st</sup> Amy Scott The Scott family are also new to the showing scene and had no idea what was involved. (They do now!) Amy only acquired her first pony last spring, but went to a lot of shows and won her first trophy in July. They certainly managed to cover a lot of territory during the year.

2<sup>nd</sup> Zabrina Elliott A very versatile little rider who has had success in various equine disciplines and rides a lot of different ponies.

### 7 & UNDER 9 YEARS

1<sup>st</sup> Tom Metcalf Tom had another great year and I guess the highlight would be the PUK winter champs when he was not only a winner but competed in the evening performance.

2<sup>nd</sup> Abbie Walton Another newcomer to pony ownership who is learning her craft well.

3<sup>rd</sup> Daniel Cubello Daniel has had a mixed season as the pony he had all to himself didn't work out, but he has started jumping Chloe's pony and is doing well and regaining his confidence.

### 9 YEARS

1<sup>st</sup> Anna Aldred Anna won her first sash at Durham County but has also had other considerable success at the big events. She also has long term ambitions, which I am sure she will realise as she has just the right attitude.

2<sup>nd</sup> Samantha Elliott Another rider who competes in a wide variety of equine pursuits and seems to do very well at all of them judging by the results!

3<sup>rd</sup> Chloe Cubello Chloe is a very determined rider whose mother tells me has finally signed a truce with her pony and they now have a perfect partnership.

### 11 & UNDER 14 YEARS

1<sup>st</sup> Lucinda Elliott Like her younger sister, Lucinda does just about everything and is obviously reaping the rewards of some very hard work.

2<sup>nd</sup> Stephanie Cubello I guess Stephanie has experienced more than her share of lows when the partnership between rider and pony doesn't gell. She now has her dream pony, and has already recovered all the confidence she lost.

3<sup>rd</sup> Jade Neal This was Jade's first year in first ridden classes and she is already showing winning ways.

### 14 & UNDER 16 YEARS

1<sup>st</sup> Rachel Metcalf Rachel had great success in Affiliated British Dressage competition and also excels at eventing.

2<sup>nd</sup> Rebecca Richardson This young lady is always in the first three placings and obviously enjoys her riding.

3<sup>rd</sup> Ashleigh Ball As head groom at the Elvet Stud, Ashleigh had her most successful year ever and is now looking forward to competing in the ridden competitions.

4<sup>th</sup> Nikki McNiff This young lady has moved on to various team events and rides her two ponies with great success. We miss her in our own rings but her help in compiling the catalogues is invaluable.

## YOUNGSTOCK SHOW REPORT– 7<sup>th</sup> April 2007

When Gale told us that she would not be able to run the show on the day, and Carl could only be a fleeting presence, I must admit to a slight feeling of dread! Obviously Gale had done all the preparatory work so it was just up to Erica, Catherine and myself to handle the event itself. This is by far our easiest show so I was encouraged by that thought! Fortunately Marilyn Rickard came up to steward for David Jones, and Ann Conroy had agreed to steward the cobs, so with Erica ensconced in her lofty position in the commentators box, I felt Catherine and I could manage the office! Unfortunately Catherine was called into work at the last minute, so that left me, myself and I! It is just as well you are all such great people, because the whole day just went like the proverbial clock, for which this person is extremely grateful. Belle and Katie Nee kept Erica supplied with sustenance and I just flitted about. My only slight panic was the late arrival of our riding judge, who was held up by a traffic accident on the A1! Entries for mountain ponies were excellent, but the section B ponies were down, compared to other years. As for the cobs!!! David Roberts had driven all the way up from Wales that morning and would be driving all the way back after the Supreme Championship, so it was disappointing, to say the least, that we could only offer him fifteen cobs in total. One of those who did enter will certainly not regret the effort as Dawn Gant trotted off with the Supreme Welsh Youngstock Championship with her delightful, and aptly named, Kirkhamgate Glitz & Glamour. The Section A yearling colt, Dyfed Czar, owned by Mr & Mrs Stansfield, took reserve. Our ridden classes were also somewhat thin on the ground, but we apparently clashed with other championships this particular weekend.

Section A Female Champion	Costello Family	- Penboeth Bridget
Reserve	Josh Hampson	- Llafar Malibu
Section A Male Champion	Mr & Mrs Stansfield	- Dyfed Czar
Reserve	Mrs Dobinson	-Brierdene Nebraska
Section A Overall Champion	Mr & Mrs Stansfield	-Dyfed Czar
Reserve	Mrs Dobinson	-Brierdene Nebraska
Section B Female Champion	G R Hensby	-Laithehill Polyann
Reserve	J Waterhouse	- Northlight Bellissimo
Section B Male Champion	Mrs S Sanderson	- Colandra Harlequin
Reserve	G R Hensby	- Laithehill Phantom
Section B Overall Champion	G R Hensby	-Laithehill Polyann
Reserve	Mrs S Sanderson	- Colandra Harlequin
Section C Female Champion	Mrs D Gant	- Kirkhamgate Glitz & Glamour
Reserve	Costello Family	- Bluehaven Rebekkah
Section C Male Champion	Josh Hampson	- Kirkhamgate Music Man
Reserve	(only one colt class forward)	
Section C Overall Champion	Mrs D Gant	- Kirkhamgate Glitz & Glamour
Reserve	Costello Family	- Bluehaven Rebekkah
Section D Female Champion	Miss K Hepple	-Llanidan Landgirl
Reserve	K Greaves	- Bellenr Francesca
Section D Male Champion	D Heys	-Trefforest Mabon Mai
Reserve	Debbie Hutchinson	- Llanveyhoe Henry
Section D Overall Champion	D Heys	-Trefforest Mabon Mai
Reserve	Miss K Hepple	-Llanidan Landgirl

Supreme Gelding Champion	Mrs L Parfitt	- Colandra Secret
Reserve	Sally Hanley	- Blackhill Grant
Supreme Welsh Champion	Mrs D Gant	- Kirkhamgate Glitz & Glamour
Reserve	Mr & Mrs Stansfield	- Dyfed Czar
Part Bred Welsh Champion	Miss A Stonehouse	- Chartersmeade Oscar Nominated

## SPRING SHOW REPORT

The more observant of you who were ringside, cannot fail to have noticed how short handed we were on the day! Catherine has regretfully decided she cannot continue on the committee, with increasing work commitments, and with Gale involved with her childrens' team events elsewhere, those of us who were left had a busy day, to say the least. By far the most concerning problem was that there was no one available to provide our usual high standard of hospitality to our judges. We have therefore decided to seek the services of a young person, not necessarily from the showing fraternity, who would come mid morning and stay until all the judges have been looked after in a proper manner. If you know of anyone who would like to earn a little pocket money, please let one of us know. Which brings me to the subject of stewards. We thought we had the rings covered but unfortunately one of our volunteers had problems of their own and if it had not been for the generosity of Norma Thompson, we would have been up the proverbial creek with not a single paddle in sight! As it was, this lovely lady gave up a leisurely day watching her Dales' perform in the ring, and spent it instead stewarding for David Hinde and keeping everything in Ring 4 running to time. Our thanks also go to Margaret Wardropper, who carried on in the cob ring when Andrew Scott had to get ready for his daughter's classes, and Pamela Callender, who stepped in when I had to return to the Secretary's tent for a short while until Erica could take over. Obviously we are also grateful to Andrew for taking on his first stewarding role! In spite of everything, the show went on, but we cannot let this situation happen again. If we cannot secure enough stewards for next year's Spring event, we will be forced to take off Ring 4 altogether. This would leave us without the RPB, HPB and Part Bred classes and I know that will give those of you who travel a long way, and like to enter your Welsh ponies in these classes as well, a problem. You are also some of our most loyal supporters who have given much of your own time in the past to the Association. The frustrating thing too is that this ring is always the first to finish, so any volunteer would be eating their lunch well before midday. We can accept 16 - 18 year old youngsters, providing they wear riding headgear, so perhaps some of you have one or two of these lurking in your closet at home that would like to be involved! We provide lunch for all our stewards and by nominating a family member, or friend, you would enable us to continue the Spring Show in its present format. It gives us no pleasure to even be contemplating what you probably consider to be a drastic step,

but our dwindling committee cannot be everywhere and we are not exactly inundated with offers of help on the day, despite my regular appeals!

There were some very happy faces around after the championships had been awarded, none more than Julie Devenney, Gordon Appleby (and Karen), the McNeal family and Karen Hepple. It was most definitely a day when the four legged youngsters showed their grown ups how it should be done. Julie is always a cheerful competitor who lights up any ring with her sunny smile, and certainly earned her Sec. A championship, running one pony after the other up the long hill! Karen took her young Sec. C filly all the way taking both Supreme Welsh Youngstock and overall Supreme Welsh sashes home, together with the NPS In hand Reserve Championship. Gordon brought out a previously unshown yearling filly (not for the first time!) to take top honours in the Section B championship, and young McNeal produced J. Knowlson's Section D filly to take the medal back to the Hillgarth Stud. In the M & M sections, Miss Rawlinson swept the board taking both NPS in hand and NPS Ridden silver medals. I must commend all the competitors in Ring 3 who managed to keep their part of the show running smoothly without any help from those overworked occupants of the Secretary's tent! Young Vickie and Chris did a sterling job as joint stewards and I just hope they can be persuaded to make a return visit. Vickie has agreed to help me show my ponies this season, so I have my very own 'Ashleigh', thanks to Jane Stewart! On the ridden scene, young Miss Rawlinson took top honours in the M&M section, adding the NPS ridden silver medal to the NPS In Hand one she had taken earlier. Miss Gray took Dagwood Lilac to the top spot for the Welsh Performance medal with Katie Nee runner up. This is Katie's first season with her cob stallion and she is certainly giving the ponies a run for their money. Talking of which, Mrs Edwards had a large field for her M&M championship and she pulled Kiltinane Daisy Belle into reserve place from well down her original line up. Which just goes to show how important it is to always perform to your very best, even if you do not think you have a chance of making it to the ribbons! Mrs Edwards was very impressed with the young jockey's individual performance.

Section A Y/Stock Champion	Rookery Hattie	J Devenney
Reserve	Delami Diablo	Mrs Waller
Section A Overall Champion	Rookery Hattie	J Devenney
Reserve	Muscad Rhapsody	A Brough
Section B Y/Stock Champion	Wagtail Esther	Appleby & Shield
Reserve	Elvet Arianne	Mr&MrsStewart
Section B Overall Champion	Wagtail Esther	Appleby & Shield
Reserve	Elvet Arianne	Mr&MrsStewart
Section C Y/Stock Champion	Pantyfid Bright Light	K Hepple
Reserve	Coathamdene Toowoomba	D A Wilson
Section C Overall Champion	Pantyfid Bright Light	K Hepple
Reserve	D'Abernon Take That	Mr&Mrs Perrins

Section D Y/Stock Champion Reserve	Kylebeck Dancing Queen Meldan Mab-Y-Brenin	J Knowlson K Greaves
Section D Overall Champion Reserve	Kylebeck Dancing Queen Brynithon Royal Knight	J Knowlson C Nee
Millcroft Gelding Champion Reserve	Brierdene Sun Dance Wrayton Royalist	Mr&MrsDobinson A Devenney
Supreme Y/Stock Welsh Champion Reserve	Pantylfid Bright Light Rookery Hattie	K Hepple J Devenney
Supreme Welsh Champion Reserve	Pantylfid Bright Light Rookery Hattie	K Hepple J Devenney
NPS M&M In hand Silver Medal Championship Reserve	Clarmont Star Pantylfid Bright Light	Miss RJRawlinson K Hepple
RPB Champion & Silver Medal Reserve	Manorview Royal Celebration Colandra Secret	Mrs Hugill Mrs L Parfitt
HPB Champion & Silver Medal Reserve	Jonika Whistles The Wind Heugh Pendragon	E Carter D Bain
Part Bred Welsh Champion	Manorview Royal Celebration	Mrs Hugill
Mountain & Moorland Champion Reserve	Clarmont Star Manorian Mischief	Miss RJRawlinson N&I Thompson
Welsh Ridden Mini Championship Champion Reserve	Bushmor Rocco Wharley Czar	N Stanier A Walton
Performance Medal - Champion Reserve	Dagwood Lilac Ruska Mister Pearly King	B Gray K Nee
NPS M & M Ridden Silver Medal Championship Champion Reserve	Clarmont Star Kiltinane Daisy Belle	Miss RJRawlinson H Etaells

By the time our Summer show comes around, nearly all the major competitions, both local and further afield, will be over. Much discussion and heated debate will ensue over the eventual champions at the Royal Welsh, as per usual, and the new crop of foals will have been admired. Once I have put this newsletter to bed, and stuffed 150 copies, together with the Summer schedule, into their envelopes, I can relax and enjoy taking my own foals out on the circuit. Penny was away for a week and I hardly recognised her foal when they returned. How quickly they change and mature but how much enjoyment they give as they interact together.

Do you ever have a serious problem loading your ponies/cobs? One of my mares has proved particularly stubborn over the years, to the point when I decided not to even consider taking her anywhere. She would quite happily go up the ramp and be fed in the wagon at home, but I could only take her to two events last year before she flatly refused to go up at all! If you think I am exaggerating, please feel free to ask Mrs Allen (Bleachgreen) who kindly offered practical help and suggestions at the Unicorn Show, when we had exhausted every tactic in the book and Biba was still firmly planted at the foot of the ramp. A full bucket of cold water thrown over her rear did work in the end, (I think it was the shock!) but not when I tried it again on the next occasion we needed to transport her. You can also check with Kevin Stewart, who couldn't believe a Sec. B pony could resist loading with such determination! However, I now feel confident enough to announce that all that is now firmly behind us and Biba now loads freely without any stress on her, or more importantly given my age, me!!! It is not an original idea as I saw something similar on E bay, but it is so simple I cannot believe it hasn't been around for ever. The 'device' is now attached to the wagon and I would be more than happy to demonstrate it at any time. Apart from an extra pair of hands to hold her foal, Alan and I can now load her on our own and she is safely, and happily, aboard in seconds. I have to say that Biba is the only pony I have ever been involved with who has proved such a problem, but I have watched other people at shows trying to load stubborn equines and getting more and more frustrated as time passes, so I know she isn't the only one.

May I take this opportunity to wish all our members every success in whatever equine pursuit they compete in, and especially to those souls who brave the long journey to Builth Wells for the Royal Welsh Show. Forecasters are predicting another scorching summer, so we do hope everyone takes the necessary precautions to make sure all the ponies and cobs are kept as cool and refreshed as possible.

Please e mail me details of your achievements and I will include them all in my next newsletter. Mrs Atkinson has already told me about some of her family's early successes and I am sure there will be many more to record in my Summer epistle!