



**North Eastern Counties Welsh Pony & Cob  
Association**



# Summer Newsletter

## Message from the Editor

I would very much like to declare this edition a weather free zone but it is almost inevitable that some comment will have to be made as it directly effects so many aspects of our lives. We have certainly fared better in this region than those who are likely to remain out of their own homes for some considerable time. The inconvenience of stabling ponies because of adverse field conditions is a small price to pay compared to the hardship other folks have had to endure. On the showing front, we lost Durham County Show to an increase in Police security charges and that is likely to be permanent. Cleveland County Show was also cancelled due to the weather, which is not surprising considering it is held in a public park. Carol Cliffe fought hard to resite the Lanchester Show to another venue, when the usual fields were ruled out of the question, but was also hit by the Police security charges. It was eventually held a few weeks later as a single day event in glorious sunshine with not a muddy spot in site. Other shows in the region, enjoyed by our members, were also affected, but we are fortunate that our own outdoor shows have an abundance of hard standing and the grassed areas are free draining.

Reports on the Great Yorkshire and Royal Welsh Shows are included in this edition and an update on the Young Members' Committee. Katie Nee now has her own column in the newsletter and I hope the grownups will pass it down to their offspring. I know she would appreciate feedback so please feel free to contact her. When I heard of Alan Joplin's devastating loss of three ponies to Grass Sickness, I went on line to see just what is known about this insidious disease, as I felt woefully uninformed. What I found did not make happy reading, especially the poignant accounts from owners who had lost more than one beloved equine. There was a particular poem that turned up on almost every site and I have reproduced it for all of us who have suffered the pain of losing our ponies and cobs, for whatever reason.

**NB!!!** A plea from your Show Secretary, Gale McNiff, who really does not deserve to be rung at 6.30am on the morning of the show, to be asked what time this particular competitor would be in the ring!!! A little consideration folks, please.

## GREAT YORKSHIRE SHOW

Despite rumours flying around that the show may have to be cancelled due to the inclement 'W' word, it did, in fact, go ahead without any major problems. Unless you count the army of tractors, who were kept gainfully employed towing horse boxes in and out of churned up fields all day! As part of Team Elvet, I packed waterproof and wellies and headed south on a sunny, but breezy, Wednesday afternoon. If the young person designated to show us where to park had been quicker with his instructions, Kevin would have managed to park up without the need of a tractor, but once you stopped, there you stayed! The pony was fed and watered, and we then had a quick look around the showground. All the rings looked fine, if the grass was somewhat longer than usual, so we returned to the wagon and barbecued enough food for a small army before settling down for the night. Morning brought rain, what a shock! With the pony due in the ring at 7.30am, there looked little chance of avoiding a thorough soaking. Dot Addison, the Sec. B judge, certainly didn't mess around, and soon had the yearling colts in their first lineup. To say that the Stewarts were pleased with their second place to the eventual reserve champion was an understatement. The cobs had been given the Section B's usual spot at the end of the Main ring, so had plenty of space to strut their stuff. Later on in the Cuddy qualifier, it was very pleasing to see all four welsh champions in the final six line up, together with both Hunter champions. As the senior Hunter had already won the Cuddy Championship last year, it was no surprise when she was pulled into top spot, with the Section D, run by Scott Gibbons, in reserve. Altogether. a very good result for the Welsh breeds. So we returned to the wagon to wait our turn for the tractor and, except for the two groups of 'vehicle-checking-persons' pulling in wagons at random on the road home, it was an uneventful drive back to Turdsdale.

## ROYAL WELSH SHOW - BUILTH WELLS - By Karen Hepple

The weeks of rain prior to the royal welsh left many of us wondering whether the show would go ahead at all. However the RWAS staff were determined that the show would go on regardless. After setting off on the Friday afternoon we soon realised that we would have a long journey, following a diversion through Manchester and the flooded roads in Wales. Shortly after going past Newtown the roads were closed due to fallen trees. Were we mad !!!

Saturday is always a hectic day, sorting stables, setting up gazebos and generally chilling out. I was fortunate to have a trip to south Wales and saw some lovely ponies, even if the driving was equal to Starskey & Hutch!! Sunday is usually a chilled day but I once again left the showground and ventured to the Brynithon Stud. Seeing some lovely ponies and some

personal favourites !! With a revised schedule the section B & C youngstock were held on the Monday, which I thought worked really well. Prizewinners included the Costello family's 2 year old colt, Popsters Grandera, Simon & Alison Walker's yearling colt and 3 year old filly, and Mr & Mrs Degnan's 3 year old colt.

On the Wednesday it was the turn of the Section D youngstock and Section A & C senior stock. Prizewinners included Dave Heys, with the NEC champion Trefforrest Mabon Mai. Dawn Gant took 1<sup>st</sup> prize with both her mare, Menai Lady Caryn and her colt foal, Razzamattaz. The Costello family were 2<sup>nd</sup> in the brood mare class.

The final day of in-hand ponies had even more of our members taking prizes, including Mr Hensby with his foal, and Paul Greaves who was 5<sup>th</sup> with his Danaway filly (who was in very high spirits!) Keith Robson's foal took 5<sup>th</sup> place and Julie Devenney's stallion, Powys NL Shon also finished with a 5<sup>th</sup> place. My apologies to any one I have missed, but well done to all who exhibited in extremely difficult circumstances.

(Editor's Note: A certain Section C brood mare and foal did not disgrace themselves either!)

## **SUMMER SHOW REPORT**

Only the occasional light shower marred an almost perfect day and we had our earliest finish ever! Our thanks to Carol Cliffe for her sterling stewarding duties, and Peter Nee, who takes no prisoners on the gate! Katie Nee, our new Young Members' representative, organised the raffle, which was a great success and will be repeated at all our events. So she would appreciate any prizes, no matter how small. Nikki McNiff is always a great help to Gale in assembling the catalogue and she also stepped into the breach to steward the Young Handlers. We had tried a new programme for this event with Mr Evans taking on both Welsh Ridden classes, as well as his own in-hand cobs, and also putting the Young Handlers through their paces. Mrs Oldham, our Section B judge, started her day with the ridden M & M classes, which caused a slight hiccup when the same competitors were needed in the Welsh ridden ring! We have already reviewed that situation and in future will have a short break after the ridden Cob class. Our Section A judge, Mrs Barbara Evans, also had the RPB, HPB and Welsh Part Breds to adjudicate before she went on to her Welsh classes. This then gave us three Welsh judges for the Supreme

Championships. Mr Evans cob champion, a Sec. D brood mare, Northwick Lady Lisa, owned by Lisa Breeze and Ernest Gant, took the top honours, with Mrs Ferguson's Section A colt, Mardenway 007, ably run by Suzie Bennett, in reserve. This little man had already scooped the Supreme Welsh Youngstock Championship. Andrew Dobinson ran Elaine's stallion, Brierdene Newsflash, into the overall Section A championship, which seemed only fitting. Little Rosie Pearson rode Elaine's Lippins Honeybunch to first place in the ridden Welsh A & B class, and finished with the performance medal as Welsh Ridden Champion. Not a bad days work Elaine and team! The M & M Mini ridden Championship was won by S & J Dowson with L Elliot in reserve. Amanda Wallace's stallion, Pennwood Troubadour, was Section B Champion with Jane Stewart's Elvet Arianne Youngstock Champion and overall reserve to Troubadour. With only four Section C cobs forward out of the five catalogued, Mr Evans could have almost started with the championships! That is not to take anything away from the cobs who were in the ring of course. Mrs McNally took both Youngstock and Overall Section C championship with her flashy colt, Hafodrynys Taz, with Karen Hepple's barren mare, Glynwyn Ginger Rogers in reserve. Scott Gibbons went one better than last summer when his Tymor Lammtarra took the Millcroft Gelding Championship with Brierdene Sundance in reserve. Our champion RPB pony was Ben Neagh Foxy Little Rascal with his stable mate, Ben Neagh Georgie's Surprise in reserve, both owned by Mr and Mrs Fox of course! Mrs Atkinson took top honours in the HPB championship with J Anderson's Thistledown Sea Urchin in reserve. Best WPB on the day was Rotherwood Pennin Ha'penny, owned by A Jones while Mrs J Hedley's Mystic Moonlight took reserve.

From the comments we have received, it would appear that nearly all of you who competed were quite happy with the new format. It certainly gave the youngest riders a chance to be on their way home at a reasonable hour. When we run the ridden M & M's at the end of the show, they are usually the only ones left on the show field. There was also a much livelier audience to watch the Supreme In Hand Championships. Those of you not used to following other sections into the rings, will be pleased to hear that I did listen, and will make the summer timetable easier to understand! We have also agreed to Katie's suggestion that we run Overall M&M Ridden Championships at all our shows. Next summer we are going to try something else new and offer a full programme of coloured classes, including a new class specifically for coloured WPBs. This will, we hope, bring in some much needed revenue at a time of the year when a lot of our



## **Lynne Harbottle**

Shortly after our Spring Show, Lynne Harbottle passed away. This is not the first occasion in the last few years, that I have said a final goodbye to someone considerably younger than myself, and such a loss always puts life's little problems firmly in perspective. Lynne will be missed in so many ways by those who knew her. Her indomitable spirit was very much in evidence right up to the end, and the association has lost a tireless worker, who continued her secretarial duties even after she was first diagnosed. When I took over, Lynne was very supportive but never let me get away with anything that was not up to scratch! Sadly, she lost the final battle, but with Ian and their daughter Emily to carry on the Watchbank tradition, she will certainly never be forgotten in the showing world. Julia Fox gave a moving tribute to Lynne at her funeral and the packed church was testimony to the respect and affection felt by us all for her and the family. I spent an evening with Ian and Emily, reminiscing on the early days of the family's involvement with the Welsh part bred and Section B ponies, and should not really have been surprised when they produced note books full of results and comments on every show they had ever attended! It is just the sort of thing that most of us wish we had thought of but, unlike Lynne, never put into practise. The family have bred and produced some very successful ponies over the years. I will never forget Watchbank Captain Cook, a truly stunning black colt, who was making his mark when I started out a few years ago! We look forward to seeing their ponies continue to grace the show ring and wish Ian and Emily every success in the future.

## ***SHOWS AROUND THE REGION***

Unfortunately none of the qualifiers from our Spring and Summer shows could attend the North Western Summer show for their 'Champion of Champions Championship'. Looking on their website, yet another Section A took this prestigious title but it was good to see Julie Devenney and family having success with Julmar Sweet Rose, who took the Section A Youngstock title then overall Reserve Youngstock Championship. Abbie also did well taking 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the Welsh Sec. B ridden event and Young Handlers' Reserve Championship.

Team Elvet will certainly not forget their second trip to NPS Area 4 Show at Harrogate in a hurry. Thornberry Amber repeated her success of last year as M&M Brood Mare Champion, having taken the Section B Championship as a warm up. Then her foal, Elvet Atlanta, won her class, went into the M&M foal championship and won that, then took the Supreme Foal Championship as an encore. Mr & Mrs Aldred had a great day at Lanchester, taking the Youngstock and overall Section B Championships and reserve Supreme with their barren mare, Craigbonog Haf Arian. Never was a pony patted so enthusiastically! Saw them again at Sedgefield, all plaited up with another red rosette. As my friend was heard to remark outside the ring, "That is a mare I would be proud to have on my yard!"

## **OUR FOAL & YOUNGSTOCK SHOW**

We are always looking for ways to improve our events and are confident you will all approve of the changes we have made to our last show of the year. The Young Handlers have their own qualifiers and we have added an overall ridden championship. For some reason, the HPB, RPB and M&M foal champions have never gone forward for their respective Youngstock Championships, so we have amended these sections accordingly. Welsh pony sections follow the plaited classes under the same judge. Our M & M ridden adjudicator will take the in hand classes before lunch, and we will start the ridden a little earlier, if the overall championships finish in time. We will also be able to have the Supreme Foal Championship straight after the Welsh Foal and Youngstock Championships. Less waiting around for you all. We have also saved the expenses of a judge without compromising the timetable! It really isn't possible to accurately guess the time the Sec A ponies will be in the ring. So much depends on the number of ponies forward and the speed of the judging! There are fewer classes than our other shows, of course, so I personally would make sure I was at the Equestrian Centre by 9am. This gives plenty of time to titivate the ponies and have a relaxing cup of tea and a chat. Being a Section B afficiendo, I have rarely had the luxury of being first in the ring, as we always seem to follow something, so I am used to the dilemma of not knowing just how early to arrive. For this reason, it has always been my philosophy that I would rather be waiting at the showground than risk missing my classes by leaving home later!

## FAYRE OAKES

August 23th

It has been a funny old year, what with one thing and another, but it really doesn't seem possible that Fayre Oakes is only a matter of a few weeks away. I will be travelling down in Elaine Ferguson's wagon with Elaine Nixon and her husband, and have been invited to share Mrs F's accommodation at The Stockmans, so will be right in the thick of all the après sales action! Report follows in the Autumn Newsletter, together with the Cob Sales report!

### BRAND NEW RIDDEN ONLY SHOW - 29<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2008!!!

We have booked Richmond Equestrian Centre for this new event and would encourage all you ridden members to compete. There will be the usual P(UK) Winter Qualifiers, together with some of their dressage type events. As these are open to any equine regardless of breeding etc., they will be open to all. So if you keep your ponies on a livery yard, please encourage your friends to participate. Coloured ponies will also be well catered for and there will also be non affiliated classes. Our aim is to make it an enjoyable day for everyone, with P(UK) tickets for anyone who hasn't qualified in the earlier shows. It is an ideal event to bring out your youngsters for the first time and, with the improvements the Equestrian Centre has made, it should be possible to warm up under cover! We will be compiling the catalogue in time to go out after the Foal/Youngstock Show, so if you have any ideas or suggestions, please contact Katie Nee or myself. We would encourage you all to pre-enter but will be taking entries on the day! That's a first!!!!

### FOAL SHOWS IN THE AREA

SUNDAY OCTOBER 21<sup>ST</sup> NCPA Mrs A Conroy 0191 5270221  
SUNDAY NOVEMBER 4<sup>TH</sup> SNWPCA Miss Henderson 01670788348  
(evening)

**SATURDAY NOVEMBER 10<sup>TH</sup> NECWPCA Gale McNiff 01325 262872**

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 11<sup>TH</sup> NPS Norma Thompson 0191 3778771

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 26<sup>TH</sup> Lanchester Mrs C Cliffe 0191 3734565

(This show to be confirmed)

# N.E.C.W.P.C.A

WE HAVE A LIMITED SPACE AVAILABLE TO DISPLAY YOUR STUD DETAILS ON OUR ASSOCIATION PAGE IN THE WELSH PONY & COB SOCIETY'S GREEN JOURNAL. PLEASE COMPLETE THE FORM BELOW BY 7<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2007 AND RETURN IT, TOGETHER WITH A CHEQUE FOR £10.00, TO:

MRS. M. RANDALL, AVENUE FARM, THE AVENUE,  
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