



Autumn Newsletter

Editor's ramblings

At the time of writing, we are still awaiting a decision on our silver medal application but have been informed that we are only going to be allowed to offer Bronze medals at two of our shows for the 2010 season with a review every three years. Our other two events will be eligible for the new Bronze Rosette. More on this subject inside! We have certainly enjoyed our best year ever with the four shows we put on pulling in competitors from greater distances than previous seasons. I am convinced that this is due to our new website, as a large percentage of all our entries are now downloaded from the site. We are going to explore the possibility of using Show Pay, as that would make Gale's life a lot easier. Obviously we would still take manual entries for those who still wish to enter in this way. It is often said that if you want a job doing, find the busiest person to carry out the task! How our Show Secretary fits in her Association duties with her intense work schedule, to say nothing of her own family and horses, quite astounds me. In fact, Gale is the only member of the committee who doesn't show her own equines, so is always on hand for the whole day, as well as helping to set up the rings for our two Streatlam events. The two Richmond shows are obviously our easiest ones to run, as all the facilities are in place, so it is certainly possible for Gale and I to manage these between us. What isn't possible is to run round the car park calling out the classes, even though I did on a couple of occasions!!! Apparently the speaker system did not reach some competitors and one or two did not make it to the ring on time. I appreciate how upsetting this can be but cannot make the point strongly enough that it is up to every competitor to make sure they reach the collecting area in plenty of time and, once there, check to see when they should be in the ring. Every other system we put in place is not intended to take away that individual responsibility. If you have to put one equine away before bringing another one in to the ring, let the steward know. Please do not assume that every pony or cob entered in the catalogue will actually be there on the day!!!

It will be our AGM at the end of February and you will notice that I have included everything you will need for that event. As we have invited Len Bigley to join us, I do hope as many members as possible will be able to attend. We have always had a good turnout in the past and it would be great to impress our Society President that support for all Welsh equines is very much alive and well in the North East! There has been a suggestion that the children are entertained in a separate room during Len's talk, and we are looking into this.

FOAL & YOUNGSTOCK SHOW

May I start by apologising for the mix up with one of the ridden championships. I did try to sort the whole thing out before I had to leave on the day, but failed miserably! If anyone feels particularly aggrieved, please let me know and I will try and put things right.

Apart from that, I think the day went well. There was a slight issue with parking when one or two people were blocked in, but even that situation was quickly resolved. We just do not have anyone spare to carry out parking duties and have always left it up to the good sense of our competitors to park sensibly. This was the first time we have ever had a problem and it really was not a major issue. We are going to give our Cob judge more to do next year so that our Pony judge can finish earlier. That will get the ridden under way sooner too, although having a free indoor ring in which to warm up must have been a bonus! Once again our entries were amazing, and we do thank everyone for supporting the Association in this way. Unfortunately, neither the Cob or M&M foal champions stayed for the Welsh and Supreme Foal Championships, and Elvet Abigail scooped both titles to the delight of Jane and Kevin Stewart. The Hampson family certainly had a great show taking both Sec. C reserve Champion Foal and reserve Champion Sec. A Youngstock. Norma and Ian Thompson took the M&M Youngstock title with Ross De Lap in reserve. This young man has only ever competed at three events and has already made his mark. Lisa Parfitt took her latest Colandra acquisition into the ring and walked away with the RPB Championship.

Our worthy champions and reserves are as follows:

Section A Champion Foal	Mrs A Brough - Kelkardi Jak Flash
Reserve Foal	Mrs J Devenney - Julmar Pippin
Section A Y/S Champion	Mrs J Devenney - Julmar Sweet Rose
Reserve	Mrs L Hampson - Blackhill Humming Top
Section B Champion Foal	Mr & Mrs Stewart - Elvet Abigail
Reserve Foal	Mr Beaumont - Unamed
Section B Y/S Champion	Mrs M Randall - Llandar Prydwen
Reserve	Mr & Mrs Stewart - Elvet Bronwyn
Section C Champion Foal	J Fisher - Kirkhamgate Giovani
Reserve Foal	Josh Hampson - Kirkhamgate Chanel
Section C Y/S Champion	Costello Family - Blaengwen Torres
Reserve	J Fisher - Kirkhamgate Giovani
Section D Champion Foal	N Vincent - Erw-Wastad Grand Slam
Reserve Foal	Mr & Mrs Thompson - Manorian Megan
Section D Y/S Champion	C Fell - Brynseion Bendigo
Reserve	John Bennett - Gwenside Danielle
Champion Welsh Foal	Mr & Mrs Stewart - Elvet Abigail
Reserve	Mrs A Brough - Kelkardi Jak Flash
Supreme Champion Foal	Mr & Mrs Stewart - Elvet Abigail
Reserve	Mrs A Brough - Kelkardi Jak Flash
Supreme Champion Welsh Y/Stock	Mrs M Randall - Llandar Prydwen
Reserve	N Vincent - Erw-Wastad Grand Slam
RPB Champion Foal	Lisa Parfitt - Colandra Foal
Reserve	R K McKenzie - Karita Kiara
RPB Champion Y/Stock	Duke/Aldred - Greenbarrow Miss Eloquence

Reserve	Not Awarded
HPB Champion Foal	Not Awarded
Reserve	Not Awarded
HPB Champion Y/Stock	Lisa Parfitt - Colandra Shamrock
Reserve	Not Awarded
Welsh PB Champion	Duke/Aldred - Greenbarrow Miss Eloquence
Reserve	J Roxby - Roxloe Carmarthen
M & M Champion Foal	Roberts/Fairclough - Lochranza of Langley
Reserve	C A Shaw - Stonecellars Hatriona
M & M Champion Y/Stock	Mr & Mrs Thompson - Manorian Melanite
Reserve	Ross De Lap - Millie of Mowbray
Supreme Ridden Champion	P Langrick - Goosemoor Donal
Reserve	Tuer - Twyford Tailormade

FAYRE OAKES AND COB SALES REPORTS

Unfortunately I could not find anyone who had time to give me either a Fayre Oakes or Cob Sales report!!! Guess I will have to go down myself next year, unless there is a budding reporter or two out there willing to take on the task. All contributions gratefully received.

CHRISTMAS PARTY

The miserable weather did nothing to dampen the spirits of those who joined us for our Christmas Party! There was YO, HO, HO, in abundance and plenty of Christmas Cheer. The DJ was brilliant and had all the younger members on their feet and boogying down from the start. (Some of the not-so-young as well I noticed!) We even had a very accomplished young group who provided us with some great live entertainment. They are in their last year at 6th Form and gave their time totally free. Our thanks to them all and also to Kathryne & Jane for organising the party and Roland Cubello for providing the venue without charge. One young man did request more games for next year and this will certainly be addressed! Our Santa did a sterling job and certainly looked well considering his long journey at his very busiest time of year! (Hope the elves didn't take advantage of his absence.)

Committee Members & A.G.M. etc.

Due to work commitments, Andrew Scott has had to resign from the committee. Travelling to meetings was also an issue, as it is for several members. With all the modern technology now available to us, I am wondering if we could avoid the need to actually leave the comfort of our own homes to conduct Association business. Obviously, we need to all be in the same place to judge the Young Achievers, but perhaps all other business could be carried out via the computer. With Andrew's resignation, we are now below the minimum committee members required to make up a quorum and I suspect the need to travel to meetings is one of the reasons we are not inundated with nominations for new committee

members! This was one of the matters we were hoping to address at the aborted EGM, as we have been really struggling to reach the requisite number over the past year even with the few meetings we have managed to hold. With Len Bigley as our guest speaker, we do not wish to take up too much

time with our AGM business but something will have to be changed, as the Association cannot continue with certain aspects of the present constitution. Either we have at least three members to volunteer their services, or we change the constitution to fit the numbers we now have. We have always tried to alternate venues to minimise travelling but with a good internet connection it should be possible for any documentation to be scanned and distributed on-line. It may take a little more time to resolve matters, but if it eliminates the need to take up several evenings a year travelling to meetings, perhaps it is the way forward. You will note that we have included all the relevant forms etc. ready for the A.G.M. next February. It is being held at our usual venue, not the one we used last year! Will all parents please make sure their childrens' Young Achievers sheets are sent to me in plenty of time. We would like loads and loads of entries please! Although I do ask all our judges if their travelling companions would be prepared to steward for us, there is always a need for more stewards on the day. Now that Ross has been well and truly bitten by the showing bug, we will not be able to call on his services in the future, or that of his Gran, Leslie. Jane Stewart has kindly offered to go on the mike at the two Richmond shows, which frees me to carry out other tasks. We have also approached someone to set up rings for us at Streatlam for a small fee! That takes a huge worry off the committee's corporate shoulders and makes my husband very happy. Having to dash up to the show field after a hard morning showing at my local Sedgefield Show was never fun. Our A.G.M. will be held at Sedgefield Village Hall on Saturday 28th February 2009. If you wish to have specific issues discussed, please submit them in writing by the 7th February so that they can be included in the Agenda. We are planning to make the event special so please try and attend. Further details will be available on the website.

BRONZE & SILVER MEDALS

Apparently, our Silver Medal application was mislaid at head office, so I have despatched another copy and advised Mr Prosser that it has been sent again. However, I am not very confident that it will be well received as the Showing committee have already taken away two of our Bronze Medals. I have requested we be advised of the reasons behind their decision and have also asked for clarification on the proposed Bronze Rosettes to be offered. At this stage we do not know if we still have to use Panel Judges for example and if the actual Rosette will be something you would be proud to display! We have also asked if it would be possible to have a list of all Bronze Medal events printed somewhere. They are going to review all medal shows on a three year basis and we have to provide details of who actually turns up on the day as well as the marked catalogue we have to send at present. We have been given the choice of which two events we allocate our Bronze Medals and, after much deliberation, have decided they should go to the Spring Show in May and the Foal & Youngstock Show in November. Our Foal Show is the only one in the region to offer a medal and I think the number of entries we attract does reflect that. Probably the only show where we would not lose numbers if we only offered the new Bronze Rosette, would be the first one

of the season, our Youngstock Show. Most competitors are anxious to get their youngstock out on the circuit as early as possible, so we do not feel we would lose out if a Medal were not on offer for that particular event. We have also had to make the decision to give up the Summer Show after this year. It would no longer be a Medal event and is a lot of work for a very small number of people, who have been under considerable pressure for several years and who simply cannot continue. As you will see from the announcement below, Gale has resigned as Show Secretary, although she will still continue as a committee member.

STOP PRESS!!! STOP PRESS!!! STOP PRESS!!!

Now that Gale has resigned as Show Secretary, we need some extra help on board as a matter of extreme urgency! I am quite prepared to take entries and collate the catalogues if necessary, but

someone is needed to take over Gale's Show day duties at the very least. As I have mentioned already, the two Richmond Shows do not require a lot of help. Jane Stewart has already offered to take over the announcing and if everyone takes responsibility for getting to the rings on time, there shouldn't be a problem. It is the Spring Show where a lot of assistance will now be needed, *if it is to continue*. We have always struggled to have someone on the gate to sell admission catalogues and direct traffic. As a matter of safety, I do think this is important, especially early in the day when a lot of wagons etc. arrive together. Then there is the matter of announcing the classes. This is done from the tent, where a good view can be had of the pony and cob rings. We do supply walkie-talkies for all other rings, so that the day can be kept running smoothly. That brings me on to the question of stewards of course. I cannot guarantee the Judges will always be able to provide their own, so we will often need three. It must be stressed that you do not have to be a committee member to offer your services at our events. If you know someone who would like to spend the day in an idyllic location, perhaps you could persuade them to come and be involved. Lunch and other refreshments will always be provided of course and full training given.

So the ball is very much in your court! Without more help it will simply be impossible for us to continue to function.

Since starting this newsletter, I have had a long telephone conversation with Edwin Prosser, who has answered several queries I had regarding the new Medal set up. He has received my Silver Medal application and has promised it will be put before the committee meeting later in December. There are no guarantees on the outcome of course, but at least it is now going to be considered. He has every intention of making the new Rosette something to be proud to win but the final design has yet to be finalised. We will still have to use Panel Judges from the list published by the Society. The idea behind the shake up was to avoid too many shows offering medals when they have very few entries and to upgrade the status of the Bronze Medal generally.

When I hear any further news on the subject, I will post it on our website. All shows offering Silver and Bronze Medals will have to resubmit their application every three years.

STOP STOP PRESS!!! WE HAVE BEEN GIVEN SILVER MEDAL STATUS FOR OUR SPRING SHOWS STARTING THIS YEAR!!!! This is in addition to the two Bronze medals already awarded, so how great is that?