

Winter Newsletter



Message from the Editor

I hope you will all visit our website, submit loads of photos for the gallery and give Andy, our webmaster, plenty of feedback! He has carried out the task of producing the site with enthusiasm and without any cost to the Association, for which we are very grateful. We now have a website in which we can all be justly proud. So please use it! www.necwpca.co.uk

Due to escalating costs for all our events, we have reluctantly dropped NPS Silver Medals from our Spring and Summer Shows. They represent a considerable amount that is not recouped from increased entries. The Winter Ridden Show did not prove the financial success we had hoped, and we will not be repeating it next year. A report can be found inside. Speculating to accumulate is all very well when the coffers are full to bursting but ours, sadly, are not! We do appreciate all those who did turn up, however, and it was a very enjoyable day all round. Jane Stewart was a revelation on the mike and Janine was a great steward and it is a pity they are both otherwise engaged at our 'proper' Richmond events! So is there anyone out there who would like a cosy seat with a panoramic view of the proceedings and refreshments thrown in for good measure? Please let me know 'cause the committee are really all too busy with other duties on the day to do it! We would be quite happy if two or more of you would job share.

As I am writing this, just over a week before our AGM, the early posting necessitated by having to get the Winter Ridden Show Schedule out to everyone seems to have had an adverse effect on the Young Achiever's applications. Perhaps we need to re-think the whole thing. Suggestions welcome! It was always designed to encourage all our young competitors, with emphasise on personal achievement over the season, not just the person with the most championships. Perhaps we could add an Outstanding Young Achiever's Award next year.

SHOW DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Charity Show - Mr Callender - 36 Beaumont Hill, Darlington, DL1 3|NG 01325 355653

Sunday 1st June - Unicorn Riding Centre

Northern All Welsh - Mrs S Potter - Craven Garth, Allerston, Pickering, Nth. Yorks YO18 7PG

Sunday 13th April and Sunday 8th June - Both at Wetherby Racecourse

NCPA - Mrs A Conroy - Paradise Farm, Easington Colliery, Peterlee, Co. Durham SR8 3JL 0191 5270221

Bank Holiday Monday 24th March - Stainsby Grange

Saturday 7th June - Streatlam Park, Barnard Castle

Foal/Youngstock/Ridden - Saturday 25th October - Stainsby Grange

Scottish & Northern - Mrs J Redpath - Raisenside Farm, Dipton, Stanley, Co. Durham DH9 9AR

Spring Medal Show - Saturday 17^h May - Richmond Equestrian Centre

Foal/Youngstock Show - Sunday 2ndth November - Swarland Equestrian Centre

NPS Area 4 - Mrs N Thompson - 65 Burnett Cresc. Kelloe, Co. Durham DH6 4PH

Saturday 19th April - Richmond Equestrian Centre

Bank Holiday Monday 25th August - Yorkshire Show Ground, Harrogate

Foal Show Sunday 9th November - Mill Lane Stables, Selby

Grass Sickness Show - Mandy Mitchell 01740 655607 or 07745242227

Sunday 18th May

CHRISTMAS PARTY

As you know, we did not have one last year but, thanks to Mesdames Stewart and Cubello, we are definitely having one this year at Coxhoe Labour Club! Details and booking form will appear in our autumn mailing. You will also find information on our website and I will remind you constantly throughout the year.

AREA ASSOCIATION MEETING & WP&C Society's A.G.M.

For some reason there wasn't an Area Association Meeting last year but Karen will submit a report from the Society's AGM in our next Newsletter after the Spring Show.

OUR A.G.M. - 23RD FEBRUARY AT CEDERSFIELD VILLAGE HALL, SEDGEFIELD.

Unfortunately, our usual venue in Sedgefield was undergoing refurbishment and I must say we will be very pleased to return there next year! Cedersfield Hall may be a grander building from the outside but the facilities inside left much to be desired. Don't even mention the state of the kitchen to Karen and Belle. It was a case of 'deep cleaning' before a single cup of beverage could be made. I would like to give a vote of thanks to them both for manning the teapot, except there wasn't one!!! They triumphed over adversity, however, and managed to provide those in need with something hot in which to dunk their biscuit. For those who could not join us, just a brief resume of the evening. Kathryne Cubello is our newest, and most welcome committee member. Both Jane Stewart and Kathryne have volunteered to organise our Christmas Party this year and Mr Rowland Cubello is making us a replacement Sponsor Board for our Shows. I wasn't around when it was used before, but it sounds a simple but effective way of giving everyone an opportunity to give a little, which will help the Association a great deal. Many thanks Mr C. Our very well behaved young members then came forward to receive their Young Achiever's medals as follows:

YOUNG ACHIEVERS' AWARDS - 2007

Although our entries were considerably down this year it was gratifying to see the improvement our young people had made over the past year. I only see them in action at our own events but they all compete in different disciplines at shows all over the country and are a credit to themselves, their families and to our association. Both Anna Aldred and Emily Stead rode at one of the most prestigious shows at Wembley, and both achieved good placings in very stiff competition. All our 'families' have certainly put

some miles on the clock to compete at so many shows in a season and it shows real dedication from every family member.

UNDER 9 YRS If we had had more entries it is unlikely our first prize winners would have been in the same age group as there is quite a gap between them.

Joint 1ST Maizie Walton This little girl has the most infectious smile but her mum says it is a pity she doesn't concentrate as much on her riding as she does talking.

Amy Scott After only a year on lead rein, Amy had her first outing in a First Ridden class in November and came a very creditable third.

2nd Daniel Cubello Although Daniel hasn't competed as much as his two sisters, he still enjoyed his outings in the local shows in a variety of disciplines.

9 & UNDER 11 YRS This was a very close age group

1st Abbie Walton It has been a pleasure for me to see the confidence this young lady has gained in the past year. Her riding has improved enormously and the many successes she has achieved over the past year are certainly proof of that.

2nd Chloe Cubello A very confident little rider, Chloe went to the Amateur Showing Society Summer Championships and made the final of both WHP and the Ridden Championship. Well done Chloe.

OVER 11 YRS

1st Stephanie Cubello I have watched Stephanie in the ring when I have stewarded at our own shows and am always impressed with her elegant carriage. Her confidence has obviously grown in the past year and she certainly seems to be enjoying her riding more.

2nd Rebekah L Chambers Rebekah is certainly showing a maturity beyond her 13 years, taking her Sec. D into the Res. Veteran Champion spot at Lanchester at her first attempt at in hand showing.

OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

When two of our younger members achieved qualification to Wembley, to compete against some of the top riders in the country, the committee were certainly left with a problem! Neither would have had such an opportunity without the dedication and support from their families and many hours of hard work and preparation from them all. In the end we made the decision to give this year's award to Anna Aldred.

Anna has certainly had an amazing journey in her equestrian pursuit of excellence and culminated last season with a 4th place at Wembley. An outstanding achievement by any standard.

That concluded the business part of the meeting and we finished the evening with our 'traditional' quiz.

To give the rest of us a chance of winning, we have been forced to install Kevin Stewart as Quizmaster! A task he performed with consummate professionalism.

JUST A QUICK REMINDER THAT THIS WILL BE THE LAST MAILING FOR THE 2007 MEMBERSHIP. IF YOU WANT TO CONTINUE TO RECEIVE SCHEDULES AND NEWSLETTERS BY POST, PLEASE SEND IN YOUR RENEWAL BEFORE THE END OF APRIL. MEMBERSHIP FORMS ARE INCLUDED IN ALL SCHEDULES AND EVERYTHING IS DOWNLOADABLE FROM OUR WEBSITE www.necwpca.co.uk

SPRING SILVER MEDAL SHOW

I am in the process of trying to persuade the WP&C Society to upgrade our medal to Silver for the Spring Shows. If they agree, it will make an enormous difference to our Showing Season. More work, of course, as we can expect a significant increase in our entries!!!! As part of the process, I have had to provide a breakdown of classes and entries in each of the four sections going back over the past five years. It was a very interesting exercise and threw up some even more interesting figures. Of course it will come of no surprise when I tell you that the Section A's provided us with consistently more entries than the other three and the Section C's the least.

It has always been said that our lack of substantial cob entries has been the factor that would preclude us from ever obtaining silver medal status for any of our shows. This

may still be true, but I have also been told recently that all applications are judged on their own merits. If this is the case, perhaps we do have a chance! To add a little weight to our application, we will have a petition at both Youngstock and Spring events and would hope that all those who attend will sign. It probably would not do our cause any harm if we could also submit letters in support of our application. As we will not be putting it in until the end of May, perhaps you could pen something addressed to the WP&CS, but sent directly to me, so that I can send a nice fat package! I realise that we are in a chicken and egg situation. If we were awarded the Silver Medal, we would obviously attract more entries. That may not carry any weight with the Medal Committee but your letters may have the desired effect. Only the North Western and Midland Area Associations have a Silver Medal at present. Wouldn't it be great if we could be the third?!

JUDGING & SHOWING HANDBOOK 2008

This arrived in the post the other day and is a comprehensive 'guide' for judges and competitors alike. Guidelines, Rules and Recommendations are clearly spelled out for us all and that makes life easier for show committees, as it gives us the authority to quote the book when disputes etc. arise. I am sure this will be available to members in general, or perhaps it will be posted on the Society's website. It makes informative reading for those who are comparatively new to the showing scene, as well as those of you who have been showing for decades. The list of both in hand and ridden judges is now more compact and easier to read. Much more professional than the previous duplicated lists. We now have to submit a catalogue to the Society before each show, as well as the marked one we always send in after the event. This is to prevent uncatalogued late entries being taken on the day and possibly winning the medal. Something we never do, but I guess someone must have done so sometime. We also have to pay an additional £10 per show as an affiliation fee, to offset the administrative costs. With the increase in medal costs recently, you can see why our entry fees also had to increase, and why we are trying the sponsorship board.

SPONSORSHIP

One suggestion at our AGM by Jill Farrow was that we offered our championship sponsors the opportunity to have their name printed on the tails. Something we will be more than happy to do. When we have the

new sponsorship board, it will be displayed in the secretary's tent/office at every show and you can put your name down to sponsor any class or championship for the following event. Your name will be printed under the relevant part of both the schedule and catalogue. I did notice when I was looking through the earlier catalogues that nearly all the sections were once covered by sponsorship. I know several people have helped us out in this way over the years and we are extremely grateful for your contributions. Katie Nee has offered to send sponsorship letters out to businesses local to our show venues, and I have supplied her with a template to make things easier for her.

WINTER RIDDEN SHOW

It was unfortunate that we had such horrendous weather the week prior to our show. We are a hardy bunch when it comes to running and riding in all kinds of atrocious weather, but gale force winds are positively scary in a wagon or towing a trailer. So it was quite understandable when the hoped for entries failed to materialise in sufficient numbers. Our thanks of course to those who did make the journey and the show went well in the main. Kevin Stewart stewarded our BSPS judge in the new arena and Janine Aldred and Erica took charge in the main arena. With Jane Stewart on the mike and Ashleigh 'running' for her, it couldn't have run more smoothly. Gale had the unusual job of taking entries on the day and didn't like it much! I know how she feels. With our other shows we always know how many entries have been lodged and can judge the timing of the day accordingly. If, and it is a big 'if', we ever attempt another early ridden show, I do feel it will have to include WHP, no matter what the expense. Certainly other shows seemed to attract large entries with those classes included. We had also tried coloured classes for the first time, but the entries for these were small. Perhaps it was just too early in the season. At least our summer show should suit them better and Colette Hinks has already offered to sponsor the Coloured Championship Sash.

**E.G.M. TO DISCUSS A PROPOSED REVISED
CONSTITUTION AND POSSIBLE INCREASE IN
MEMBERSHIP FEES**

When we found ourselves short of a workable number of committee members recently, we checked our present constitution and found it did not address the problem at all and was also a little light in general content. Consequently we felt it necessary to see what other associations included in their constitutions. We will call an Extraordinary General Meeting sometime in September to discuss the whole matter and will print a proposed revised constitution in a later Newsletter. It would also be an opportunity to decide on any increases in membership fees. By then, we would also, hopefully, know the Society's decision on our application for Silver Medal status for our Spring Shows.

As I still have some space, may I put out a plea for any negative feedback to be given directly to a committee member. All too often, we hear of discontented mumblings that never reach us officially and cannot therefore be dealt with in the appropriate manner. This is your Association, but unless you tell us of your concerns, we are helpless to address them. Of course it is also a good thing when someone tell us that we are getting things right! Something we do strive to do at all times, even if we don't always succeed, and I can assure you that no one is more critical of our performance than your committee!

May we take this opportunity to wish Gordon Appleby well, as he has not been enjoying the best of physical health lately. Our Section B classes would not be the same without Karen holding the ponies in the collecting area, while Gordon runs them round in the ring! We do hope you have a speedy, and successful, recovery Gordon.