

Winter Newsletter

Ramblings from the Editor

You will see from the enclosed schedules that we have made significant changes to the Youngstock Show. We hope that these will result in more entries and a smoother running event. However, because we will now have four rings running at the same time, we do need more stewards! Lunch and other refreshments will be provided and it is a great opportunity for someone you know, who will not be needed to help with the preparations of your equines, to participate. No experience or even knowledge of ponies etc. is required and any volunteers would be well briefed on their duties. Could I also ask that you park sensibly as there will obviously be more vehicles around early in the day.

I know there is a report concerning our re-instated All Ridden Show inside, but we will need your support if it is to become a regular feature of our showing calendar. We did try a similar event a couple of years ago but made the mistake of not including WHP qualifiers. With Kathryn's considerable input, this has now been rectified. This show will also include all the P(UK) qualifiers we usually run at our Foal & Youngstock Show. The schedule has not been finalised as yet, so there is ample time for you to have some say in what classes etc. you would like to see on the day. The inclusion of NPS & P(UK) winter championship qualifiers are already planned, including WHP classes. We feel this show should run for at least two seasons before we make a decision on its future. Obviously it is our aim that none of our events run at a loss, but it does take time for new shows to feature on everyone's list.

As you will see from the AGM report, we have taken the decision to give the Bronze Medal currently awarded to our Foal & Youngstock Show, to our Summer event. We sincerely hope that this does not result in diminished entries for this show but on the plus side, there will not be any ridden classes and it therefore gives us the opportunity to add some more in hand. Your suggestions will be very welcome.

Conversation around the room after the AGM inevitably turned to the atrocious weather we have experienced since it seems, forever. Kevin Stewart suggested I may need waders if I wanted to visit his ponies, as Wellington boots would most certainly not suffice!! As I woke up to yet more snow showers this morning, I do wonder just when all this will end. With only a month before our first show, I cannot see any evidence of sleek summer coats on any of my lot, even those who have been rugged and stabled all winter. Because I look after my two young grandchildren four days a week, it is left to my OH to feed and muck out my three stabled ponies on those days. Not easy for someone who hit 70 last year and is not as fit as he once was! So I have made the decision not to stable anything next winter, to lighten the physical load on us both. The rest of my small herd all live out quite happily 24/7 but obviously are not in any condition to be brought out for the youngstock shows at the beginning of the season. We will be bringing the mares in to foal in March anyway, and I feel that is quite soon enough at our time of life, as lack of fitness is a definite issue, and it ain't going to get any better any time soon, so we need to conserve what we have! I will therefore be available for stewarding duties next year, at least until May, which is a task I thoroughly enjoy.

I was encouraged by the successes enjoyed by two of our young members. Christopher Stansfield and Eden Anthony Marshall seem on course for an outstanding 'career' running their ponies in hand. We are used to the younger members riding their equines, but it isn't often that we see teenage boys so enthusiastic and focused on the in hand discipline. What started out for both of them in the Young Handler classes has quickly turned into competition with the grownups in the championship rings around the country. As an association, we actively encourage all our younger members and are open to any suggestions where we can improve things for them. It is especially gratifying to see these two young men succeeding at a high level and we wish them, and indeed all our young people, great success in the coming season.

LOCAL SHOWS AROUND THE AREA

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

Sunday 18th April and Sunday 13th June - Both at Wetherby Racecourse

NCPA - Brenda Gray - 01325 315277

Bank Holiday Monday 5th April - Stainsby Grange

Saturday 10 July - Streatlam Park, Barnard Castle

Foal/Youngstock/Ridden - Saturday 20th October - Stainsby Grange

Scottish & Northern - Mrs J Redpath - Raisenside Farm, Dipton, Stanley, Co. Durham DH9 9AR, 01207 570793

Spring Medal Show - Bank Holiday Sunday 11th April - Richmond Equestrian Centre

Foal/Youngstock Show - Sunday 7th November - Swarland Equestrian Centre

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

Saturday 24th April - Richmond Equestrian Centre

Bank Holiday Monday 30st August - Yorkshire Show Ground, Harrogate

Grass Sickness Show - Mandy Mitchell 01740 655607 or 07745242227

Table Top Sale - 24th March at British Legion, Ferryhill Station

Sunday 23rd May Hetton Le Hole (This event does not clash with Hambleton this year as that will be held on the 30th May)

Lanchester County Show - Sunday July 4th Under new management!

Miss C Miller, Escomb Farm, 81 Low Escomb, Bishop Auckland, Co. Durham DL14 7SW

salkeldstables@live.co.uk 07717326116

Forresters Charity Show -- Mrs Callender, 36 Beaumont Hill, Darlington, DL1 3NG

Sunday 6th June - Unicorn Centre

Sunday 31st October - Unicorn Centre - Foal Show - NEW EVENT

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - HELD AT SEDGFIELD VILLAGE HALL 27TH FEBRUARY 2010

It always seems an age from the last Foal Show of the season to our AGM and we took the decision to allocate more time for people to mingle and chat this year, so when the business of the evening had concluded, we put the kettle on and much mingling and chatting ensued. Our outstanding achiever, Alison Prior, had been brought to the meeting totally unaware that she would be receiving this award, which always makes it extra special. There were several new members out of the forty people attending, both young and somewhat older, and Carl welcomed them all. At the conclusion of the meeting, the following members were presented with their awards.

YOUNG ACHIEVERS' AWARDS

For the past few years, entries for these awards have been fewer and fewer and we have been considering some changes. We are fully committed to giving all the help and encouragement possible to our younger members and certainly do not intend for these awards to cease completely. We have also taking the decision to open the awards to include M & M ponies. For this year we decided not to place the entries but give everyone an award and, in recognition of their varied achievements, we will initiate a Roll of Honour page on our website next year, with a brief write up. We have also decided to add a Junior Outstanding Achievement Award. It is not something we will necessarily have every year, but when one of our young members achieves something quite extraordinary, we do feel that achievement should be duly noted.

We are awarding our first Junior Outstanding Achievement Award to Christopher Stansfield in recognition of his consistent success last season when he competed against us grownups on, quite literally, the same playing field. It hadn't been possible for him to travel all the way from Wakefield so he will be presented with the award at our Youngstock Show after the Supreme Championships. I am sure you are all aware of how this very unassuming young man started showing in hand just two years ago and last year he took so many gelding championships, he was the overall winner of the National High Point Junior Gelding Championship awarded by the WP&C Society. This is open to all geldings, three years old and under, but there is no restriction on the age of their handlers and most are adults. Not only did he consistently take gelding championships, but also featured in Section A championships at many shows.

Our other young achievers are as follows:

Adriana Priano - Aged 6 - Unfortunately, Adriana lost her own pony last Spring and stopped riding for a while. When she did eventually return to the riding school for more lessons, the pony she was riding one day decided to bolt back to the stables. To her credit, Adriana stayed on even in a full gallop mode, but it did knock her confidence and she took quite a while to get it back. A new riding school helped and that is when she started riding the Cubello's Section A pony, Pepper. She competed on him at several shows in the summer and, despite Pepper not being the most docile of ponies, they achieved some good placings.

Emma Milligan - Aged 6 - Emma is Pepper's second jockey and she entered her first show on him after only two weeks of riding. She also took top six placings in large classes before she broke her arm, not on Pepper it must be stressed. So riding is on hold at present until her arm completely heals and I guess when the weather improves.

Layton Bowes - Aged 6 - This young man is the proud owner of Dora The Explorer, who took the Reserve Section B Championship at our Summer event. At present he is only able to look after Dora, putting her feed and water in her stable and giving her lots of grooming, but he will shortly be competing her in the Young Handler classes.

Megan Bowes - Aged 9 - When Megan was born, her granddad bought her a pony called Ellie-May who lives out in a field. She visits as often as she can with her mum, and is very excited as her pony is going to have a foal in April.

Chloe Cubello - Aged 11 - Chloe is a versatile rider who is very competitive at a variety of disciplines ranging from dressage to show jumping and tetrathlon. This year Chloe had to face the fact that her much loved pony, Pepper, was really too small for her now and she will not be competing on him any more. Unfortunately it is the reality of life that ponies stop growing long before their riders. She now has a Section B pony but she may have to follow her elder sister into cobs in the not too distant future if she doesn't slow down on the growing front.

Eden Anthony Marshall - Aged 12 - This is another young man who is already making his mark in the showing world after just two years. He started off sharing his mother's fell pony and took second place in the young handlers' at our Spring Show. In April he was shown a photo of a Talgoed foal, Eyr Aur (Eagle) and decided he wanted him as his very own pony. Told he would have to save his pennies, as all good children should, he arranged the purchase from the breeder himself and patiently waited until the Fayre Oakes Sale when he could collect him. In the meantime, he was asked to show a friend's mare, Greenholme Vicky, while his mum showed her foal. On the first outing together, he took his first championship and made another decision and that was to purchase Vicky's foal. Once Eagle was established at home, Eden started the process of gaining the foal's trust and training him for the show ring. After a few youngstock shows, he won the M&M colt foal class at our own show and then took the M&M foal championship. Quite an impressive start to what I am sure will be a long and successful showing career.

Stephanie Cubello - Aged 13 - If you have been following the Cubello Family's pony exploits, you will know that Stephanie had a Section B pony on loan called Dreamy and she competed him very successfully until that growing thing we have already talked about. Deciding to by-pass the smaller cobs, she now has a brand new Section D who has only just been broken and stands at 15.2hh. Despite the obvious leap in size, Stephanie is looking forward to competing him this coming season. All three Cubello children have not had an easy time since Kathrynne was forced to take a back seat in the

care of their equines, but they didn't complain and took over all the mucking out, feeding and preparing them for the show ring.

Natalie Vincent - Aged 16 - It is always gratifying to hear of children of any age who are more than prepared to put in the considerable amount of hard work in order to compete their ponies. Natalie is another young lady who schooled her own home produced Section D, Ffoslas Welsh Express, to great success last season even taking two WPCS performance medals along the way. Like a lot of young members, she has to make do with a field to work her cobs in all weathers and she also had to complete her GCE exams at the same time. The partnership enjoyed great success winning many championships last year.

OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AWARD 2009

It never fails to amaze me how much we are all willing to change our lives and make considerable sacrifices to be able to breed, ride and show our ponies and cobs. I don't just mean in financial terms, although for some of us that does mean working long hours to earn sufficient pennies to pay for all their very expensive needs, but all the other aspects of their care. Mucking out in freezing conditions at unsociable hours and often travelling some distance if you are not fortunate enough to keep your equines on the doorstep.

None of this compares to the recipient of this year's award who has put her very health at risk to continue her pony passion. I guess when you have been involved with ponies almost all your life you will do anything to keep your dreams alive, even when your own doctors tell you to rest after you have had a particularly gruelling course of cancer treatment and you ignore their orders and run your ponies at the Great Yorkshire Show.

My own aches and pains pall into insignificance when I consider just what this lady puts herself through and although I am sure she would tell us that it is the ponies that keep her going, I am still full of admiration for her determination not to give in to this insidious disease. No doubt she would be the last person to ask for sympathy or special treatment, but it is a small thing our Association can do to recognise her bravery and commitment and give this year's Outstanding Achievement Award to Alison Prior.

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CHANGES TO OUR FOUR SHOWS

In 2008, when the committee had to chose which of our four shows should receive the two Bronze Medals that remained, after the re-allocation of all medals by the Society, it was decided that the Spring and Foal Shows should be the obvious ones to receive them. This was based on the fact that the Spring event is our biggest show, due to all the qualifiers we can offer, and the Foal show was one of the few in the area to offer a medal. It was also felt that the Summer Show could be allowed to fold as there were several other shows on at the same weekend and all the qualifying championships had closed their entries. At the time, the committee comprised of Andrew Scott, Carl, myself and Gale and she had already indicated she would be resigning as Show Secretary after the Summer show. Karen Hepple had remained as a co-opted member but had also informed us that she would not be able to continue in that capacity for much longer and when Andrew also resigned shortly after, due to work commitments, there was a considerably reduced work force. So there did seem valid reasons for

abandoning the Summer Show altogether. When we were eventually awarded the Silver Medal it was in addition to our Bronze Medals and it was obvious it should be given to the Spring Show. This of course released one of our two Bronze medals to go elsewhere and so it was decided to allocate it to the Youngstock Show. Obviously, the Summer Show is still going, as I personally felt it worth the effort, so long as I didn't have to put up the rings the day before. We paid someone to put them up in the Spring and Carl provided this service last Summer at no charge to the Association. If he is no longer in a position to do so for this year's event, we will have to revert to paying someone to carry out the task. We have been asked if we could give the Summer Show one of the Bronze Medals for a lot of valid reasons. We already have youngstock well catered for at the Youngstock Show and the only medal show at the moment, our Spring event, is quite early for stallions and brood mares, so it does make sense to transfer the Medal back to the Summer Show next year and leave the Foal Show with the Bronze Rosette Medal. After some discussion, there was a unanimous decision taken at the meeting to adopt this suggestion from next season.

YOUNGSTOCK SHOW

We have put the Cobs in one of the outside rings to start at 9am and the other outdoor ring will have the M&M in hand, followed by the ridden classes, also to commence at 9am. The two pony sections will share the main arena with the smaller arena being utilised as a collecting ring. There will be a break after the in hand M&M's to allow the lead rein and first ridden ponies to warm up, then the Cob ring should be available for the rest of the ridden classes. This ought to mean an earlier finish and with everyone starting first thing, the timing should not be an issue. Obviously we will have to have the plaited ponies going in before the Section B's, but their classes are not large and I estimate that both A & B championships will be held at about the same time. All we need is a fine day for this to work as I really do not want to have to consider Plan B!

SPRING SHOW - No changes

SUMMER SHOW

For this year there will be the new Bronze Medal Rosettes offered to all Section Champions and these will be given out on the day, provided the recipients produce their WPCS membership card! Because The Northern Horse Show has now folded, we have been asked if we could run Cherif Championship qualifiers for Anglo and Part Bred Arabs. Obviously there could be several Welsh Part Bred equines who would qualify for this championship, so we felt it would be worth trying. There are only two classes, so they will take place after 1.30 when all the other ridden classes should have been completed and I have managed to obtain a local adjudicator, so expense should not be an issue. These do differ from our own classes in that the judge actually rides the over 148cms equines.

RIDDEN SHOW – 9th OCTOBER

On reflection, it was generally felt that we had not given the ridden show we put on in 2008 a real chance and so have decided to try again but with the addition of WHP qualifiers. We will offer both NPS and P(UK) WHP winter qualifiers and also the P(UK) qualifiers we usually run at our Foal Show. We may even run a Welsh Performance Medal if someone would like to sponsor it. (£15) Kathryne is in charge of this one so if you have any thoughts or comments please let her know. There was some concern expressed in the meeting that this date may clash with the cob sales and HOYS but we do not have a lot of choice and it was felt that this particular day should not exclude too many potential competitors. We hope to have a lot of feedback before we have to compile the eventual schedule, so please contact Kathryne if you have any specific requests or suggestions. This show will only be a success if we fill a need among the ridden fraternity!

FOAL/YOUNGSTOCK SHOW

As with the Youngstock Show we are planning on running the Cob classes outdoors again so they can start at the same time as the other Sections. M & M in hand will take up the other outdoor ring together with the 3 special classes.

By taking the ridden classes out of this show, we now have time and space to include other in hand classes to be run in the M&M ring. One idea was proposed that we ran separate Shetland classes and another suggestion, put to me after the meeting by Carl, was to have some Young Judges classes. We will certainly look into this but any other suggestions will also be considered. Other shows do seem to have decent coloured entries so this is certainly another option.

STEWARDS

I always ask judges if they are able to bring someone to steward for them and usually manage to get at least one, but that still means we need personnel for the other rings. Refreshments are always provided plus either a bottle of wine or box of chocs! We will need three for our Youngstock Show as a matter of urgency.

May I personally give a huge thank you to everyone who has ever volunteered to help in whatever capacity to help with the running of our events. It is much appreciated.

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SHOW REPORTS

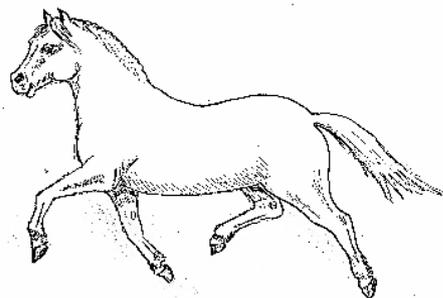
I know a lot of our members travel long distances to the big events in the showing calendar and it would be of great interest to those of us who don't to have a first hand report that I can include in our newsletters. It doesn't have to be long, but I would certainly appreciate news of who wins what with their ponies and cobs.

SPONSORSHIP

We are always grateful for any financial help we receive in this way and Gary Atkinson has again offered to sponsor the Supreme Championships at all our events, including the new Ridden Show. Unfortunately I did not know he was willing to do this before the Youngstock and Spring schedules went to print, but he will certainly be acknowledged in the respective catalogues. With the Stansfield and Degnan families already sponsoring the Silver Medals in their particular sections, it does help the bank balance considerably! I have included a sponsorship form in this newsletter to allow other members to help us in this way. All donations are obviously noted in the catalogue and also the schedules if I know in time.

NORTH EASTERN COUNTIES
WELSH PONY & COB ASSOCIATION

SPONSORSHIP FORM



Dear Exhibitor,

We are constantly looking for ways to keep the running costs of our shows to a reasonable level, in order that we can maintain the low entry fees. Your support would be very much appreciated and your name would be printed in the appropriate place in our catalogue. Would you kindly consider one of the sponsorship options listed below and include this completed form with your entry.

Class sponsorship - £3.00 Class No.....

Class sponsorship & half page advert - £10 Class No.....

Class sponsorship & full page advert - £15 Class
No.....

Welsh Bronze Medals (including full page advert if required) - £35 A
B C D

Welsh Silver Medals (including full page advert if required) - £45 A B
C D

Welsh Youngstock Championship - £5 A B C D

Welsh Championship - £5 A B C D

Supreme Welsh Youngstock Championship Sash & Res. Rosette - £25

Supreme Welsh Championship Sash & Res. Rosette- £25

(Including overprinting with your name and advert if required)

All other in hand Championships - £5 RPB HPB M&M Part bred

Ridden Classes - £3 Class No.....

Ridden Championship - £5 Mini Open

Supreme Ridden Championship Sash & Res. Rosette- £25 (Including overprinting with your name)

Welsh Performance Medal - £15

Name:.....

Address:.....

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Tel:.....e mail.....