



North Eastern Counties Welsh Pony & Cob Association



Spring Newsletter

www.necwpca.co.uk

Message from the Editor

I absolutely, categorically refuse to make any comment about the weather!!! Although it does remind me to let you know the date and venue for the Christmas Party. December 13th at the Coxhoe Working Men's Club. Santa has been informed and there will be games for the children at the start of proceedings. The proposed menu sounded very appealing especially when my favourite Prawn Cocktail was mentioned! Mesdames Cubello and Stewart are organising the whole affair and we do hope you will bring all your family and friends with you and help us have a memorable evening. Tickets will be available from November and will be priced at £7 for adults and £4.50 for children 12 years and under, which will include a present from the white bearded one. (The children that is, not the adults!) There are full reports within from our Youngstock and Spring Shows but I would particularly welcome your own reports from shows around the country. Just e mail me at margaretrandall3@hotmail.com or post it if you prefer. I usually only get to hear about our members' successes well after the event and it would be good to include articles about some of the big shows a lot of us do not get the opportunity to visit. Jane Stewart is going to give me an, on the spot report from Lampeter and I hope someone else will cover the Great Yorkshire and, of course, the Royal Welsh. That event is a highlight of any welsh enthusiast's year and our roving reporter, Karen Hepple, has always done our newsletter proud with her observations in the past, but it certainly warrants more than one viewpoint. (I wrote the following paragraph in last years Spring Newsletter - so much for predictions eh!!)

"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." Ooops!

YOUNGSTOCK SHOW REPORT– 5th April 2008

What a difference the extra covered arena makes at Richmond! With the cobs safely doing their stuff in the new ring, that left the ponies with no distractions in Ring 1. We did section off part of the arena to make a collecting ring, but the side area seemed to be adequate for everyone and it was hardly used. Our section A entries were just brilliant and you all gave Mrs Jane Etheridge plenty to think about. Especially in the yearling filly class with seventeen entered and most of those forward! Elaine Ferguson repeated her success at the NCPA show the previous weekend taking the Championship with Mardenway 007. As I am always slightly (?) critical of the lack of cob entries, I will have to confess to some disappointment with the very low number of Section B ponies entered. The Stewart's and I did our best to keep the numbers up, and it was good to have Stephen Howard back in our ring. Janine Aldred brought a two year old filly that had never even travelled off the farm before and was rewarded with a red rosette. Liz Parfitt's dun colt, Colandra Shamrock, goes from strength to strength and took the reserve Section B colt championship rosette back to Middlesbrough. Top honours went to Jane's yearling filly Elvet Atlanta with her three year old sister, Elvet Arriane, in reserve. Atlanta went on to take Reserve Supreme Youngstock with Stuart McNeal's Section C filly, Brynithon Minouette our Supreme Youngstock Champion. Their own home bred Hillgarth Rosie Ribbons took the Section D medal. Liz and Josh Hampson had two Kirkhamgate colts on show and took both champion and reserve and Liz then went on to capture the Reserve Section C Youngstock Rosette. Many thanks to Erika Carter for giving her usual efficient commentary from on high. Also our thanks go to Mandy Mitchell and Mandy Dawes for stewarding the in hand classes. I had my usual enjoyable spell stewarding the ridden competitors. Our Mini Champion was Miss Blakebrough's Uppacott Chassagne with Rowen Stanier on Firsedge Loganberry in reserve. Mrs Morland had no hesitation in awarding the Supreme Ridden Championship to a stunning Connemara, Moorbank Hale Bop. He is owned by Mrs A. Redpath and was very ably ridden by Miss J. Thompson, who assured me he was as comfortable to ride as he certainly looked. Kim Money's extravagant moving Section B stallion, Milford Fair Kestrel was ridden by Carol Charlesworth into reserve spot.

Section A Female Champion	Mrs Atkinson	- Thistledown Candice
Reserve	Abbie Devenney	- Julmar Sweet Rose
Section A Male Champion	Mrs E Ferguson	- Mardenway 007
Reserve	Mrs E Ferguson	-MardenwayDiamond Geezer
Section A Overall Champion	Mrs E Ferguson	- Mardenway 007
Reserve	Abbie Devenney	- Julmar Sweet Rose
Section B Female Champion	Mr & Mrs Stewart	- Elvet Atlanta
Reserve	Mr & Mrs Stewart	- Elvet Arianne
Section B Male Champion	Mr & Mrs Stewart	- Thornberry Masterpiece
Reserve	Mrs L Parfitt	- Colandra Shamrock
Section B Overall Champion	Mr & Mrs Stewart	- Elvet Atlanta
Reserve	Mr & Mrs Stewart	- Elvet Arianne
Section C Female Champion	S W McNeal	- Brynithon Minouette
Reserve	K Greaves	- Moerwyn Mille
Section C Male Champion	Liz Hampson	- Kirkhamgate Game On

Reserve	Josh Hampson	- Kirkhamgate Music Man
Section C Overall Champion	S W McNeal	- Brynithon Minouette
Reserve	Liz Hampson	- Kirkhamgate Game On
Section D Female Champion	S W McNeal	- Hillgarth Rosie Ribbons
Reserve	J Grout	- Wexland Queen Bee
Section D Male Champion	J K Robson	- Gwenside Casanova
Reserve	P Greaves	- Danaway Jack Johnson
Section D Overall Champion	S W McNeal	- Hillgarth Rosie Ribbons
Reserve	P Greaves	- Danaway Jack Johnson
Supreme Gelding Champion	Mr S Howard	- Boston Bumble Bee
Reserve	Sally Potter	- Heniarth Cockatoo
Supreme Welsh Champion	S W McNeal	- Brynithon Minouette
Reserve	Mr & Mrs Stewart	- Elvet Atlanta
Part Bred Welsh Champion	Miss A Stonehouse	- Chartersmeade Sir Digby
Reserve	Miss Hugill	- Manorview First Edition
Young Handler Champion	Miss R Rawlinson	- Clarmont Star
Reserve	Miss Abbie Walton	- Rhoson Sionc
Supreme Ridden Champion	Miss J Thompson	- Moorbank Hale Bop
Reserve	Carol Charlesworth	- Milford Fair Kestrel

SPRING SHOW REPORT

Despite meticulous planning, I don't suppose there are many shows that do not have at least one little thing not go to plan. For our Spring event, Karen had to make a quick trip to Morrisons on Sunday night to purchase victuals for the judges, as our catering lady apparently forgot the date! Then the lovely couple who have served for us at the last few outdoor show, also failed to turn up. Fortunately I had runners for both my entries so could devote my time between memberships, trophies and head preparer and bottle washer! Also all our judges were very understanding. Mr Robinson donated half his expenses to the association, for which we are very grateful, and none of the other judges charged more than the minimum allowed. For once we had an abundance of stewards, as two judges brought their own. That meant Lesley and her grandson Ross could steward for Mrs Berryman- Horne and Tom Barron. Although they were complete novices at the task, both judges soon had them running their rings like clockwork. Our special thanks must go to Tom, who stepped into the breach when we heard of the sad death of Mr Toulson. Our apologies, however, for not advising entrants personally of the change. I had thought that putting it on our new website would suffice. Because of the good cob entries (how great it is to write that!) there wasn't the usual embarrassing long wait

for the pony classes to be completed before the supreme championships. Despite all our forebodings of a potential disaster, especially after the wet day prior to the show and the lack of 'proper' catering, we had one of our best events ever. The numbers were great, the atmosphere was fantastic and I am not aware of any serious problems on the day. Thanks to you all for helping to make it such a success. I notice that Elaine Ferguson's Youngstock Champion and Reserve Sec. A Champion, *Diamond Geezer*, is up for sale. With his successes already this year I doubt he will be staying at the Mardenway stud for long. Julie Devenney took top spot with her stallion, who, I guess is going no where! Mr Beaumont's *Gunthwaite Old Gold* did the double in the Sec. B section taking both Youngstock and Overall championships back to Barnsley. The section C medal went to Mrs Heppenstall with her stallion, *Glynwyn Gideon* who also took the Welsh Stallion Championship and the overall Welsh Championship. A good day all round! Mr McNeal took Youngstock and reserve overall championships with his winning 2 year old filly, *Brynithon Minouette*. The M & M Mini Championship went to Rowan Stannier on her Section A pony and she also took the Reserve Supreme Ridden Championship. Work commitments meant I could not stay for the Supreme Ridden Championship, but I understand there was much deliberation in the ring with the sash eventually being presented to Tracy Thorpe on her Section B pony *Trefiw Troy*. However she was only reserve in the Welsh Ridden with Hannah Atkinson taking that honour with her Section C cob, *Rivervalley Lou-Lou*. Which only goes to prove that every performance in every class is important and is judged on its own merit! Or something like that.

Section A Y/Stock Champion	Mardenway <i>Diamond Geezer</i>	Mrs Ferguson
Reserve	Tyfwyl Tara	Mrs Gibbons & M Bullen
Section A Overall Champion	Powys Shon	Mrs J Devenney
Reserve	Mardenway <i>Diamond Geezer</i>	Mrs Ferguson
Section B Y/Stock Champion	<i>Gunthwaite Old Gold</i>	N Beaumont
Reserve	Llandar Prydwen	Mrs M Randall
Section B Overall Champion	<i>Gunthwaite Old Gold</i>	N Beaumont
Reserve	Pennwood Troubadour	Mrs L Wallace
Section C Y/Stock Champion	<i>Brynithon Minouette</i>	S W McNeal
Reserve	Parvadean Estelle	Alison Walker
Section C Overall Champion	<i>Glynwyn Gideon</i>	Mrs G A Heppenstall
Reserve	<i>Brynithon Minouette</i>	S W McNeal
Section D Y/Stock Champion	Danaway <i>Cynderella</i>	P Greaves
Reserve	Gwenside Casanova	J K Robson
Section D Overall Champion	Ellington Flash Jack	Mrs McNally
Reserve	Monumental Abby	L Breeze & E Gant

Nebo Flash Jack Memorial Stallion Championship Champion Reserve	Glynwyn Gideon Powys Shon	Mrs G A Heppenstall Mrs J Devenney
Millcroft Gelding Champion Reserve	Sarum Whirlwind Haverdale Midday Shaddow	C Stansfield Miss A Cockerton
Supreme Y/Stock Welsh Champion Reserve	Gunthwaite Old Gold Brynithon Minouette	N Beaumont S W McNeal
Supreme Welsh Champion Reserve	Glynwyn Gideon Powys Shon	Mrs G A Heppenstall Mrs J Devenney
RPB Champion Reserve	Greenbarrow Mr D'Arcy Manorview Royal Celebration	Mr & Mrs Duke Mrs Hugill
HPB Champion Reserve	Woodend Garnet Classiccolours Little Treasure	Annelise Stonehouse Mrs J Fox
Part Bred Welsh Champion Reserve	Greenbarrow Mr D'Arcy Manorview Royal Celebration	Mr & Mrs Duke Mrs Hugill
Mountain & Moorland Champion Reserve	Little Margaret Laika of Langley	Mrs L Garbutt Roberts & Fairclough
Welsh Ridden Mini Championship Champion Reserve	Bushmor Rocco Rhoson Sionic	N Stanier A Walton
Welsh Performance Medal Champion Reserve	Rivervalley Lou-Lou Trefiw Troy	H Atkinson Tracy Thorpe
Supreme Ridden Championship Champion Reserve	Trefiw Troy Bushmor Rocco	Tracy Thorpe N Stanier

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PERSEVERENCE PERSONIFIED

I heard an interesting tale the other day about a young cob mare who was positively disliked by two members of the family, but who has just taken a Bronze Medal in the expert hands of a producer – Karen won't touch it! If you read the Green Journal articles, you may remember one in last year's edition by Geoff Hepple. This was about a mare who not only rejected her new born foal but actually attacked it. The Hepple family ended up hand rearing the little colt and, it has to be said, neither Wendy or Karen were in favour of the mare being put back in foal in case the situation happened again. I won't go into detail here about the treatment the mare was given, but suffice to say she was given a second chance and this time successfully reared her foal. As Geoff says, a lot of people would have given up on this particular mare, but he firmly believed she was worth all the faith he had in her and he has been proved right. Sometimes you just have to have the courage of your convictions and never give up.

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THE EQUINE GRASS SICKNESS FUND – AVONVALLEY TIDY MEMORIAL SHOW

When Mandy Mitchell lost her beloved mare, Avonvalley Tidy, to that insidious disease, she decided to raise money for research carried out by the Equine Grass Sickness Fund. Her first thought was a car boot sale but Jane and Kevin Stewart suggested running a show and they helped enormously to get it off the ground. So the Grass Sickness Show, as it came to be known, was born and the first event took place in August 2001. Mandy was able to send £500 to the fund, after all the expenses had been paid, compared to the £1300 that will be going after Sunday's show! Barclays Bank also send £750 each year in the name of the show. In all, nearly £10000 has been donated for Grass Sickness research since those early days. For those of you who have never taken part, I have to report that it is taken seriously by all those who compete, even though there are no qualifiers or medals at stake. The Show attracts all those who follow their diverse equine pursuits at many different levels but who all have the love of their ponies and horses at heart. There are over twenty generously donated trophies on offer as well as cash prizes for the overall in hand and ridden champions and their reserves. Norma and Ian Thompson took the supreme in hand championship and Rowan Stannier the supreme ridden equivalent. Even the odd wintry shower did nothing to dampen the enthusiasm of all who took part! Mandy also runs two table top shows every year. She can be contacted on 07745242227 if you would like further information on the charity or the events she organises. I do know she could always do with helpers on the day if you have any spare time.

(Since I wrote this article, Mandy has had a letter from the Grass Sickness Fund. As I know a lot of people are interested in the research going on, I have reproduced one of the paragraphs pertaining to that particular subject.)

'The clostridial research that the EQSF has helped to fund over the past ten years with your support has led to some important findings and largely as a result of this work a vaccine is in the initial stages of being developed collaboratively with the Animal Health Trust. We will keep you informed of its progress through our newsletter.'

Editor's Note:

We do welcome feedback from our members and were asked recently if it would be possible to change ridden mounts on the day, if one had already been entered. Unfortunately, with the limited amount of committee members able to spend the entire show day in the tent, it would put an intolerable strain on those who can! However we have now added a Novice Lead rein and Novice First Ridden to the Spring Schedule. I don't know how they were left off in the first place, but they will now be included from next year. We are often asked about putting on Working Hunter classes, but these do cost a great deal to put on if you want qualifiers, as we would have to appoint a 'proper' course builder and hire the jumps etc.

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COLOURED CLASSES – SUMMER MEDAL SHOW

As you will see from the schedule, we have included a wide range of classes for both native and non-native coloured horses and ponies. We have concentrated on the CHAPS Championship Qualifiers but have also included extra non-qualifying classes. If you follow the CHAPS Championship, you will know that they do not have any foal classes, so they have been catered for in these. First and second prizewinners from both qualifying and non-qualifying classes will be eligible for their respective Championships on offer on the day. Collette Hincks has very kindly offered to sponsor a Sash for the Coloured In-Hand Champion.

Both Coloured ridden champion and reserve will be eligible for the Supreme Ridden Championship. If anyone would care to sponsor the sash for that, we would be very grateful and would include your name in the catalogue. We have also added a Part Bred Welsh Coloured class in that particular section.

This is very much an experiment but one we hope will prove successful and attract a large number of entries from the coloured equine fraternity!

If you would like to steward the Coloured Ring in particular, please let me know as soon as possible. Lesley and Ross have agreed to steward again but we will have four rings running so any volunteers would be very welcome. Lunch and other refreshments are provided of course, together with our grateful thanks!

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LAMPETER SHOW REPORT

When Kevin was given the opportunity of travelling to Cardiff for a conference, he wasn't keen to say the least. That was until we discovered it coincided with the great Lampeter Stallion Show. So off on an all expenses weekend we went and even managed a couple of stud visits to boot! Our first stop was to our friends from the Jula Stud. We brought two of their mares back to Tursdale last year. They took us to the Rosedale Stud who were only too pleased to show us around, even though Les Partridge was on crutches. It

gave us an opportunity to see two of the Section B legendary stallions, Sianwood Goldrush and Rosedale Oberon. Then it was show day. Lampeter Show is certainly held in a beautiful setting but the weather gods did not smile on the proceedings, although they did manage to give us just about every combination of rain, sunshine, wind and even some snow flurries. We were met at the gate by Mr 'Nebo' himself, who welcomed us warmly, and then we proceeded ringside. The one thing that struck us about the Section B ponies on show, was that very few were up to height and most still had more than a vestige of their winter coats. Although the eventual champion, Heniarth Wood-Wind, was certainly a beautiful pony, he failed to give a proper show and was not on his best behaviour. There was also no sign of overweight ponies being put down the line! We hear so much about this subject that it is disappointing it isn't being addressed in the ring, where it would have the most impact. Because of the situation of the Section A ring, it wasn't possible to cover it but we did get to see both cob sections in action. It was very much a case of 'small is beautiful' with the bigger cobs at the end of the line ups. I don't want to boast, but Kevin and I did manage to pick the first three places in all the classes we watched! Mrs Fitzgerald's Elvet Checkmate, is on loan to the Jula stud and being produced under saddle with June's daughter, Laura, on board. She took him to third place and it was a real pleasure to see one of our homebred ponies doing so well in the ridden ring. Reporter: Jane Stewart

Glanusk & Spring Sale Reports (Very rushed!)

Two consecutive weekends spent in Wales, with such changeable weather !!! It is many years since I last attended Glanusk. Twenty four years ago Len Bigley showed Bobby for us as a three year old, as the stallion had broken Dad's toe, leaving him somewhat incapacitated. (I must have been a babe in arms!!!) I took a keen interest in the C's however on the whole I was disappointed, believing the judge would prefer cob type C's, it transpired that he had a very mixed bag of 1st prizewinners for the championship, finally giving it to Moorcroft The Master. The D's appeared to be a much better selection of animals and the eventual champion was Trevallion Stepping Jack. Probably the most exciting event was a bust up following the senior stallion class, when one of the stallions got loose and jumped in and out of the ring better than Milton and another stallion handler and their owner came to blows !!! As my Gran used to say 'Drinks in - wits out'

This is the first time I had attended the Spring Sale . Katie & I set off at 3am and had a good journey down. I missed most of the ridden on the morning but managed to watch most of the Welsh C & D's. A couple of note were in the Thorneyside consignment and a very nice three year old dun colt who will make a fabulous ridden animal. It was a very hot day especially for the Criccieth dispersal ponies, who I am sure were not used to being in such confined surroundings. As Katie keeps reminding me it is only 5 weeks to the

Royal Welsh so no doubt Margaret will be hassling me for a cob report after that.

Reporter – Karen Hepple

(Editor: Too right I will!!!)