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Spring letter

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Message from the Editor

For the first time in several years we did not make our entry target for our Youngstock Show. Only by fifteen, but it probably reflects the considerable increase in feed and diesel costs over the past few months. We did attract some new competitors and the quality of the ponies and cobs was certainly as high as ever. We had put NPS qualifiers on for both in hand and ridden but the entries in the RPB & HPB classes were very disappointing. It wasn't just our event as the Scottish & Northern Show held the following week also had very few entries in these sections. Unfortunately this downward trend continued for the Silver Medal Show with seventeen entries fewer than last year's 302. You will see that we have elevated the forthcoming Summer Show to a full Bronze Medal status and it is being held at Richmond Equestrian Centre. The cost will be about the same but with the improved facilities, and less work for the committee in setting up rings and organising food etc., it will make for a more relaxed event – hopefully! This means that the Foal & Youngstock Show will now be a Bronze Medal Rosette event. I gather that prices were well down at the recent Cob Sales, which was no surprise as I know from talking to other members how few equines seem to be selling at all.

With the present situation in mind, I took the decision not to cover any mares this year. In fact, the two palomino fillies that arrived earlier this Spring will be the last to carry the Llandar prefix. It has been the most amazing experience, and privilege, to have been able to watch new foals arrive every year and to see them grow and move on to new families, but head has to over rule heart at some point. The intention is to only have the two foals and my yearling filly by the winter and to run these on for the next few years.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING REPORT

We had a good turnout for our AGM back in February and for the first time, certainly since I was on the committee, we actually had nominations for new committee members and an election for all the officers. With no opposition to the Secretary and Treasurer roles, a vote was taken to elect our Chairman. Carl and Gary Atkinson gave a short presentation and Gary was duly elected. Carl will remain on the committee, of course, so the cobs will still be well represented! Our new committee now comprises: Chairman – Gary Atkinson, Secretary – Margaret Randall, Treasurer – Kathryn Cubello. Ruby Williams, Alison Duval, Angela Sunter-Marshall and Norma Thompson form the rest of the committee. This means we now have sufficient numbers to sort out our constitution and have more input into the Association as a whole. Our gang of four certainly welcome them all on board and know we can look forward to a strong working relationship in the future.

With the business of the night concluded, I was completely taken by surprise when I was presented with birthday presents, cards, flowers and even a birthday cake! (Thanks Kevin!) To say I was touched and delighted doesn't come close and I will certainly treasure the memory of the evening for a long time to come. My thanks go to all who helped make the night so very special. When I first sat at the committee table back in 2004, I hardly knew anyone but I can honestly say I count you all as very dear friends and it has been a real pleasure to have been closely involved with so many wonderful people.

YOUNGSTOCK SHOW 2nd APRIL 2011

When I first arrived at the Equestrian Centre early in the morning, there wasn't a breath of wind! Surely a first at this venue. With all four rings starting on time, the programme ran smoothly and the championships were all held before lunch. One of our new competitors, Tracey Toplis, made the journey from Nottingham to take the Section A Championship with their three year old colt. Colin Tibbey took Mrs A Jones's three year old filly into Reserve spot. In the Section B ring, Craig Ellenor took Sandy Anderson's three year old colt all the way starting with the Colt Championship, Youngstock Championship, Supreme Welsh Youngstock Championship and finally the Overall Supreme Youngstock Championship. Truly a stunning pony and well deserving of his many honours. Outside in the cob ring, the Section C champion was a yearling colt, ably shown by Suzie Bennett. Liz Hampson took reserve spot with her yearling filly. It was a clean sweep in the Section D ring when Mr R G McNeal's home bred filly took the Section D Youngstock Champion with a Danaway Tango offspring, run by his son, in reserve. I know our cob classes are always a little light in entries, but we do appreciate all those who support our shows, no matter which judge we pick. Dwayne Keenleyside never makes a fuss and is deservedly picking up championships and reserves from his home bred stock. Another local breeding family, the McNeals, rarely miss one of our shows and make up many of the cob entries in both sections. Liz and Josh Hampson have taken more than a few Championships at many of our events and are also faithful supporters.

Section A Female Champion	Mrs Jones	- Frongoch Betsan
Reserve	Wendy Hendry	- Criccieth Madge
Section A Male Champion	Tracey Toplis	- Ravenshead Charmer
Reserve	Stephen Greenwood	- Dargale Viceroy
Section A Overall Champion	Tracey Toplis	- Ravenshead Charmer
Reserve	Mrs Jones	- Frongoch Betsan
Section B Female Champion	Neil Beaumont	- Dawthorne Delphine
Reserve	Mrs P Doughty	- Westaire Savannah

Section B Male Champion	Craig Elenor	- Thistledown Arctic Fox
Reserve	D Williams	- Moelgarnedd Stadros
Section B Overall Champion	Craig Elenor	- Thistledown Arctic Fox
Reserve	D Williams	- Moelgarnedd Stadros
Section C Female Champion	Liz Hampson	-Glynwyn Little Miss Treasure
Reserve	None forward	
Section C Male Champion	Suzie Bennett	- Pennal Sports-Man
Reserve	Alice Moore	- Popsters Classic-Rock
Section C Overall Champion	Suzie Bennett	- Pennal Sports-Man
Reserve	Liz Hampson	- Glynwyn Little Miss Treasure
Section D Female Champion	R G McNeal	- Hillgarth Scarlet Ribbons
Reserve	Dwayne Keenleyside	- Keenleyside Red Sparkle
Section D Male Champion	R G McNeal	- Abergavenny Tango
Reserve	Craig Elenor	- Kylebeck Snow Patrol
Section D Overall Champion	R G McNeal	- Hillgarth Scarlet Ribbons
Reserve	R G McNeal	- Abergavenny Tango
Supreme Gelding Champion	Janine Aldred	- Ryehall Debussy
Reserve	Christopher Stansfield	- Ashmeadow Rag-Time
Supreme Welsh Champion	Craig Elenor	- Thistledown Arctic Fox
Reserve	Tracey Toplis	- Ravenshead Charmer
Overall Supreme In Hand Championship	Craig Elenor	- Thistledown Arctic Fox
Reserve	Mrs C Duke	- Greenbarrow Prince of Thieves
Part Bred Welsh Champion	Mrs C Duke	- Greenbarrow Prince of Thieves
Reserve	Miranda Parkinson	- Wilmira Melody
M&M In hand Champion	Norma Thompson	- Manorian Montague
Reserve	Laura Gray	- Cayberry North Pacific
Coloured Champion	Carl Nee	- Nebro Pixie Lott
Reserve	Mrs G Richardson	- Hykos Apollo
RPB Champion	Mrs C Duke	- Greenbarrow Prince of Thieves
Reserve	Mrs J Bradbury	- Billy Elliott
HPB Champion	Janine Aldred	- Ryehall Debussy
Reserve	Mrs G Richardson	- Hykos Apollo
Mini Ridden Champion	Caitlin Gill	- Wrentnall Miss Sally
Reserve	Poppy Burnell	- Hollyland Quintino
Supreme Ridden Champion & NPS Silver Medal Rosette	Amanda Wallace on Wheatridge	
	Midnight	

SPRING SHOW REPORT - 2nd May 2011

It has always been the aim of the Association, when we run our events, to provide a good venue, sympathetic timetable, well run rings and a friendly atmosphere. Somewhere down the line this year's event seemed to be fraught with niggling little problems, and if I was observed to be somewhat stressed, it was probably because I was! Some problems were of my own making but others were not and just before the show commenced, we were faced with a dilemma when one of our competitors reported a van breakdown en route to the show field. As it was my understanding that the wagon in question was coming from the far reaches of Aberdeenshire, it was decided to hold the ring where they were competing until they arrived. At that time the show hadn't yet started but it did mean a delay of about an hour. As it turned out, the judging in that ring did finish shortly after the other Welsh rings, so the Championships were able to go ahead without a substantial delay. The other concern was our over enthusiastic number of ridden classes in the M&M ring! It was only after the Youngstock Show Judge had pointed out the time it would take to get through them all that we realised there could be a problem! By then, of course, the Spring Schedule had already been printed and distributed, so we had no choice but to proceed as planned.

However, our M&M judge, Mrs Cockbain, was rushed into hospital a few days before the show and we had to find an NPS adjudicator to take her place at very short notice. Thankfully, Stephen Howard stepped into the breach and Norma Thompson offered to steward for him, but it was a very, very long afternoon for them both, and their 'lunch' became more like high tea. I cannot thank him enough for his good humour throughout the day and for saving my personal bacon!

We certainly don't want to reduce the ridden classes, as without them we would struggle financially to be able to run our events. The alternative therefore is to increase them but run another ring.

Our thanks as ever go to Ruby, Ann and Ernest Barker, Chris Alliston and Gary and Jonathan Atkinson, who erected the rings, and mostly took them down I noticed! Also our stewards, Vicky, Tanya, Abbie, Norma and Ruby. Chloe Cubelloe and Ruby's granddaughter, Erin, did a sterling job as my PA's in the Secretary's tent.

Section A Y/Stock Champion	Delami Dante	Mrs E Waller
Reserve	Withymood Pippa	Mrs R MacKenzie
Section A Overall Champion	Powys Sprite	Mrs J Devenney
Reserve	Delami Dante	Mrs E Waller
Section B Y/Stock Champion	Skellorn Graffiti	Eleanor Crate
Reserve	Bourneash Millefiori	J E A Hetherington
Section B Overall Champion	Westaire Chantilly Lace	Mrs L Wilson
Reserve	Skellorn Graffiti	Eleanor Crate
Section C Y/Stock Champion	Cyntaf Destiny	Alison Walker
Reserve	Ashmeadow Rag-Time	Christopher Stansfield

Section C Overall Champion	Blancila Ashley	S W McNeal
Reserve	Kirkhamgate Lady Rhiannon	Mrs D Gant
Section D Y/Stock Champion	Keenleyside Red Sparkle	D Keenleyside
Reserve	Avergavenney Tango	S W McNeal
Section D Overall Champion	Bronfoel Calon Lan	R G McNeal
Reserve	Aberlogyn April Rose	Katie Nee
Millcroft Gelding Champion	Ashmeadow Rag-Time	Christopher Stansfield
Reserve	Tymor Kauto Star	Mrs A J Garvey
Supreme Y/Stock Welsh Championship		
Champion	Skellorn Graffiti	Eleanor Crate
Reserve	Keenleyside Red Sparkle	D Keenleyside
Supreme Welsh Championship		
Champion	Powys Sprite	Mrs J Devenney
Reserve	Skellorn Graffiti	Eleanor Crate

Overall Supreme In Hand Championship - Powys Sprite - Mrs J Devenney
Reserve - Mrs G Richardson - Hykos Gaileo

RPB Champion	Moluccas Juniper Jewel	Mrs S Grimshaw
Reserve	Corkhills Sky Lark	Eleanor Crate
HPB Champion	Skellorn Graffiti	Eleanor Crate
Reserve	Heugh Poppy	Denise Bain
Part Bred Welsh Champion	Moluccas Juniper Jewel	Mrs S Grimshaw
Reserve	Nebro Rainbow Warrior	Mrs I Nee
Mountain & Moorland Champion	Penmire Dudley	Rebecca Rawlinson
Reserve	Holmhill Virginia	Gary Snaith
Coloured Champion	Hykos Gaileo	Mrs G Richardson
Reserve	Greenpastures The Gunslinger	Greenpastures Cobs
Welsh Ridden Mini Championship		
Champion	Coatville Nevada	Amy Scott
Reserve	Waitwith Tornado	Poppy Carr
Welsh Performance Medal		
Champion	Rhoson Armagnac	Jade Neal
Reserve	Glancerdin Fflach	W Murray
M&M Mini Ridden Championship		
Champion	Waitwith Tornado	Poppy Carr
Reserve	Coatville Nevada	Amy Scott
M & M Ridden Championship		
Champion	Waterside Black Prince	Jonathan Stevens
Reserve	Rekcilf Secret Diplomacy	Melanie Staley

Supreme Ridden Championship & NPS Silver Medal Rosette - Waterside Black Prince
Ridden by Jonathan Stevens

SUMMER BRONZE MEDAL SHOW - 14th August NEW VENUE FOR THIS EVENT – RICHMOND EC.

A welsh aficionado remarked to me after the last Youngstock Show that the only problem with Richmond was that we had the cobs outside and the ponies indoors, which meant you couldn't follow them all. We took that point on board and have now moved the ponies to the larger outdoor arena. All the M&M in hand, Shetlands and all Ridden classes will now take place in the indoor arena. So if the weather is inclement at least all the Welsh competitors will suffer together! We have added plaited ridden classes again, as requested, and hope they will catch on eventually.

Of course the biggest change this year is that we have allocated our second Bronze Medal to this event. Unfortunately, the Welsh National Show has now moved to our show date but we hope to still have the support of the majority of our members in the Welsh classes. It is my understanding that the whole medal situation will be up for review at the end of this year, although we haven't received any communication from the Society as yet. I will once again be pleading our case for having another Bronze Medal so that all our shows can be full Medal events. In the meantime, the Foal/Youngstock Show will now become a Bronze Medal Rosette event.

We are hoping our new Overall In Hand Supreme Championship will attract more of our champions so that it doesn't just become another sash to give to the Welsh Champion!!! Having seen one of the Floral Sashes our new rosette maker produces, we are more than happy to award one to our Overall Supreme In Hand Champion.

All our champions, Welsh, M&M, RPB, HPB, WPB, Coloured and Shetlands will be eligible to compete, so please take this opportunity to make the winner of our final Supreme Championship of the day truly representative of the very best In Hand exhibit, in the combined opinion of all our adjudicators.

Ode To The Unsung Heroes Of Our Shows - by Coffeepot

There's a part of our show preparation, that is well worth this little citation.

It relates to the setting of the rings, and the dozens of other small things, that are done by our willing assistants, despite all their other commitments. Don't forget, not a cent leaves our banks; and they do it with so little thanks. So please when you kick up a fuss, or you whine and you moan and discuss, when parking is just way too tight, or your entries are not listed quite right. That it's all with the best of intentions, and the good bits nobody mentions. You'll all be back home in your beds, your ponies tucked up in their sheds. They'll be at that abandoned arena, working hard as caretaker and cleaner, tidying up and emptying those bins, making good and dismantling the rings. They're tireless and never complain, in the wind and the snow and the rain, for the sake of continued existence, there's no show without their assistance! Please join my heartfelt appreciation, excusing my poor rhyming narration. To our helpers and to our committee, my thanks through this pitiful ditty.

(Editors Note: Fortunately there are many of you out there who do show your appreciation and express your thanks, which does compensate for all of the above!)

GORDON APPLEBY & KAREN SHIELD

It is some time since the Wagtail ponies graced our show rings and that is due to a severe back problem Gordon has suffered for a considerable period of time. He is now going into hospital to have the condition sorted out and we all wish him well and a speedy return to the show rings. In the meantime, Jennifer Cowan has qualified two of their Wagtail ponies for the RIS. Their stallion Robert, and one of their mares, Princess, will be competing in the Working Hunter Championships and our good wishes go with them. Gordon and Karen have been staunch supporters of our Association for many years, and have never failed to turn up at all our shows, albeit lately in a spectator role.

Llandar Prydwen & Thornberry Masterpiece

As you must be aware by now, my home bred five year old mare is now on the ridden circuit. She made a fantastic start with Emma Littlefair on board, and has already taken a Welsh Performance Medal and Reserve Ridden Championship. Emma now has her jumping and to round off one of the local shows we attended recently, she was taken into the Young Handler ring by a nine year old young lady called Abbi. It was with some trepidation I watched from the ringside, as Pryd is not known for her standing still abilities! She is also very forward going, even at walk, but she adjusted her pace to suit the young legs beside her and generally did as she was told. Just a little fidgety but Abbi coped admirably and was rewarded with a second place rosette from a large class.

It never fails to amaze me how ponies respond to whoever handles them, but I would never have recommended Pryd as a Young Handler prospect! It is a pity she is just too big for Abbi to take into First Ridden classes, but I still have hopes that another young person will come along who can enjoy riding her and will love her as much as we do. However, Mac just makes the right height and could make his appearance in the Lead Rein classes soon. I have offered to be the Leader so will have to find the right gear! In the meantime we intend to take advantage of any WHP classes that come our way and Abbi can take Pryd in the Junior Ridden Classes.

Equifest is our destination this summer, and we are busy acquiring qualification cards for them both in as many qualifiers as we can find. It will be our first time at this Championship and we are all very excited, as I understand it is a great experience. The sewing machine will also be coming out as we quite fancy participating in some Concurs D'elegance classes!!! In for a penny etc. etc.

Good luck to all our members who will be making the long trip down south for the various Championships this summer. If you are going to Equifest, do let me know and we will all get together some time down there!

Both Pryd and Mac are on the market of course and pics etc. are on our Facebook sites. Margaret Randall, Alison Duval and Emma Littlefair. Just message us if you are interested in purchasing one of our two very talented Section B ponies.

Karnarth stud reduction

This is an opportunity to acquire quality stock from this well established stud who have bred and produced top flight welsh cobs with multi wp&c society medals, championships and supreme championships for many years

Karnarth Eluned – 4 year old Section D Bay Mare. She was lightly shown as a yearling and 2 year old with considerable success. Sire: Llanarth Justice Dam: Graigfor Elen by Trevallion Comet. Would make a great brood mare or could even be broken to come out under saddle as she is very striking.

Karnarth Rooster Cogburn – 2 year old Section C Chestnut Colt who was Supreme Champion as a foal and Bronze Medal Rosette winner as a yearling. Currently residing in Wales but would make an outstanding ridden prospect in the right hands. Sire: Karnarth Daniel Dam: Rhyd Ddu Ria

Karnarth Bessie Blackett – 3 year old Section C Bay Filly. Bessie has never been shown but is ready to break

Karnarth Elvis Costello – Section C Chestnut Colt Foal Yet another quality colt who would be worth keeping until he could be brought out under saddle. Certainly of show quality and should make his mark in youngstock classes.

Lismar Atlanta's Last Boy – Yearling Bay Colt who was lightly shown as a foal with some success
Sire: Duntarvie Farmers Boy Dam: Lismar Atlanta

Further details, together with photos, from Geoff Hepple 0787 1520591 or e mail karnarth@hotmail.co.uk Some pictures are on our website

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Geoff also has a Tannoy System for hire. Contact him for further details.

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