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ISSUE 103 MARCH 2009

Dear Members

We will all be glad to see the back of winter, let us hope the worst of the weather is over and we can be looking forward to spring and a successful foaling season.

Last year was somewhat unsettled for the Society due to the immense changes in the office as detailed in previous newsletters but from now on we will see some really positive results. Some delays have occurred due to the immense volume of work the staff have undertaken. I do thank members for their patience and understanding during this period and am glad to say that we have had very few complaints. The SPSBS Council is united in its aim to address the problems of the past and to make sure the Society is run efficiently and fairly for **all** members. Both the Vice-President and I have been determined that during our time in office the Council would put in place a system whereby every member of staff is thoroughly familiar with all procedures involved with the running of the Society.

More Council members are now assisting our staff with the general management of the Society which is good to see. Previously we had the ridiculous situation where Council (the employer after all) never met the staff as Council meetings were at weekends, a recipe for disaster! Council meetings have become much more efficient and are now held on a Friday only when a full agenda is thoroughly dealt with.

It is perhaps worth reminding members that at present Council members do not have their expenses paid for attending meetings four times a year.

The economic downturn will no doubt give responsible breeders food for thought regarding whether to put all mares in foal again although our breed usually seems to survive recessions better than most. Each year the number of foals registered has been increasing and this enthusiasm shows good support for the breed. Unfortunately, we also have the extra burden of costs of the new microchipping legislation. Council is doing its utmost to keep costs in check and not increase fees, although there has been an increase from the Animal Health Trust for DNA testing.

Council is looking at various locations for future Breed Shows which will be based in the North, Middle and South of the country in rotation with it being offered every ten years to the Shetland Islands. This year's Breed Show will be in the Islands and details are available for those who are attending and travelling with ponies. There is a whole week of celebrations to make a visit well worthwhile. I hope many of you will be able to attend and I look forward to seeing you there at the AGM.

Plans are underway for the International Show in 2010 in England and suitable prestige venues are being sought near to easily accessible airports to encourage visitors from abroad. We shall be looking to raise as much sponsorship as possible to ensure this will be a truly memorable event.

Following a marked increase in complaints about judges, Council is currently drafting a complaints procedure for consideration.

We are currently in the process of organising a meeting for all International Stud-Books and this has been met by them with great enthusiasm as the way forward for the exchange of dialogue and ideas. Long may it continue.

Shetland Pony Trading Limited is at last trading as a separate trading company with its own board and board meetings as required by law and plans are being made to improve the marketing of merchandise

As ever I am only too happy to discuss any matters with members (best contact is during office hours on 01722 426 974 or home on 01962 771 213).

With my best wishes

Guy Hurst, President

NEWSFLASH

With effect from 1st April 2009, the same transfer rates will apply to both members and non-members.

Male foal/yearling £10.00

All other ponies £8.00

It has been agreed that the vendor (seller) now has the responsibility to hand over at the time of sale a duly signed transfer certificate and passport for the equine and the purchaser has the duty to return both the passport and transfer certificate to the SPSBS asap with the correct fee.

VAT INFORMATION

The recent decrease in VAT to 15% was discussed by Council. There has been no increase in our Society charges for a long time as Council has managed to keep these at the same level by making savings elsewhere. Inevitably though, inflation would have had to result in some increases in fees. However, as the VAT has been reduced temporarily it was decided that for the time being fees would remain the same.

MAGAZINE 2009

The new Society magazine is now for sale.

The cost of the magazine is £10 plus postage and packing: UK £12.50/Europe £4.50/Overseas £8.50

If paying by credit card please phone the office or alternatively send a cheque.

Last year's magazine will be available from the office for £5.00 plus postage & packing as above.

DNA KITS - Price increase

The Animal Health Trust has announced that due to increasing costs they can no longer hold prices for DNA testing at the 2007 level and will have to increase their charge. Therefore as from the 1st MARCH 2008 the DNA kits will cost £45.

VOLUNTARY VETTING increase in charges

Due to the increase in DNA testing from £40 to £45 the Voluntary Vetting Examination for stallions will increase from £60 to £65. This charge covers the DNA test fee, administrative fee and microchip. The charge is £15 for a colt that is already DNA tested and microchipped.

CARLISLE SALE

Unfortunately Claire was unable to attend the sale at Carlisle this spring as she had already booked a holiday.

**The next Council meeting will
be on 17th April 2009**

DECEASED PONIES

Please note that it is a legal requirement that passports of dead ponies **MUST** be returned to the issuing authority.

*The 2009 Royal Highland Show
has been awarded a HOYS Quali-
fier for the Open ridden M & M
section*

Forthcoming Society Sales 2009

York Friday 27th March
Aberdeen Saturday 2nd may
Builth Friday 25th September
York Saturday 26th September
Carlisle Saturday 3rd October
Lerwick Friday 9th October
Aberdeen Monday 12th October
Reading Wednesday 21st October
Bridgwater Thursday 29th October

CHILTERN SHETLAND PONY GROUP

We get into our stride for our tenth season with our Spring Show on 29 March at Chesfield Equestrian Centre near Stevenage (Herts). Two rings as usual with Past President and Panel Judge Anna Stevens looking after the Affiliated classes.

We'll be celebrating our Anniversary at the Summer Show on 14 June. This year we're going to Twin Trees Equestrian Centre, Northill, Beds not far from the A1. Panel Judge will be Mr Sykes Schedules available from Mrs Michelle Coates, 198, Farley Hill, Luton, Beds, LU1 5NU, phone 01582 700640.

The Central Scotland Shetland Pony Group

Young Stock show was held on 29th November we had 87 ponies entered with Mr S Pitcarin choosing the follow for his champions.

Miniature Champion was Eileen Kirkpatrick with 2 yr old filly Dryfesdale Lady Luck Black Champion was 3yr old filly for Eynhallow Stud with Eynhallow Bloom, and Coloured champion was Mawcarse Earl a 3 yr old Colt for Janet Murray

Dates for 2009

Our Junior Day is on Saturday 16th May 2009

PLEASE NOTE Ridden section has moved to Junior Day

The Group Show is Saturday 15th August 2009

The Young Stock Show Saturday 14th August 2009

If you are interested in joining the Group, please contact Janet Murray, Secretary, Lochiel Farm, Monikie, Broughty Ferry. DD5 3QH or Telephone 01382 370208 or email lochiel.farm@virgin.net

Northern Shetland Enthusiasts – February 2009

Welcome to 2009 and all that it brings – assuming that it has not given us everything we want already!!!! Well it is **subscription time again** – and as a gentle return to full costs after last year's "freebie" the subscription will be **£3 per person over 18**.

The Yorkshire Group Show (about the first of the year) will be on April 5th at York. For details contact Joy Barugh at Birchmoor

There is a great opportunity to visit the Shetland Islands for the Breed Show and to be involved in a whole range of activities for the week – Visit Shetland Festival on the Visit Shetland website. It is not a cheap package but it looks as if it will be a visit worth remembering. The event runs from the 15th to 23rd August. The Breed Show is on the Saturday 22nd.

Next year 2010 the International Show will be in Malvern although for the more adventurous there may be an opportunity to compete in Holland as well – more details later.

It is also worth keeping an eye on the SPSBS web site for news and events particularly with the changes in registration that have taken place and the new access to pony information as well as events etc. e.g. Microchipping of Foals from this year.

Good luck for the forthcoming foaling season and we look forward to meeting friends old and new at the various events as they happen.

Kind Regards

Keith Hutchings

Butterby Shetlands for Northern Shetland Enthusiasts.

Northern Shetland Enthusiasts Visit to Beamish Open Air Museum County Durham

Sunday the 8th March saw the Northern Shetland Enthusiasts brave a brisk wind and snow flurries to visit the world famous Beamish Museum.

Organised through Carol and Trevor Shaw at Stonecellars Stud some 50 people enjoyed a guided tour by two of the museum's staff who work with the horses on site. Beamish provides living examples of actual 1913 life in the county of Durham. The heavy horse section was very popular with the Gelderlanders attracting many accolades along with the Vaux Brewery Horses. Carriages and carts of all types were in abundance.

The harness room made people draw breath at the variety and grandeur of many of the exhibits; several of which are currently used for competition and ceremonies; including the Queen's procession at Ascot.

Visiting a Colliery Lamp House was the precursor to a trip down an actual mine (drift not deep) which saw the taller members of the group having to bend double to gain access – no mean feat for those with creaky joints!

For many a special highlight was the fully harnessed Shetland Pony which represented a working pit pony. Recently the museum reported the death of their original pony "Pip" who was 35 and a very popular attraction. The replacement pony was acquired two years ago from the local Butterby Stud and is a chestnut gelding with the pit name of "Flash" Visits to the sweet shop, pub, tea room, bank and newly built Masonic Hall ensured a most enjoyable day.

Without exception people said that they had thoroughly enjoyed their visit from the youngest aged six to our senior member Mrs Newall at 85. Our thanks go to John and Chris from Beamish for their patience, humour and professionalism and to anyone who is curious Beamish has to be on your list of things to do before the end of the year!



Shetland Pony Festival organisers are delighted to announce the launch of the festival package, which offers a fully comprehensive festival itinerary with return travel Provided from Aberdeen to Shetland and hotel accommodation for the duration of the festival in Lerwick.

The festival itinerary includes scheduled stud visits throughout Shetland, the opportunity to attend a Shetland Pony Seminar and much more, plus the chance to be part of the first ever Shetland Pony Stud-Book Society Breed Show and Grand National qualifying race to be held on Shetland turf.

For those who are making their own travel and accommodation arrangements, a festival pass is available for everyone who would like to take part in the itinerary whilst they are in Shetland. Full details and booking forms to download for both the package and the pass are available on www.shetlandponybreeders.com.

For those who are looking to show their ponies at the Shetland Pony Stud Book Society Breed Show, we are currently seeking sponsorship to be able to offer a separate package for Pony owners who are coming to take part in these events. Everyone who registered their interest in the festival will receive email updates on this package once this is finalised.

If you have not already registered your interest in the festival or informed us that you wish to travel with ponies to Shetland, please contact Fiona Dally on fiona.dally@shetland.org giving your name, contact details and specify how many ponies you are looking to take with you (if applicable).

The Shetland Pony Festival package and pass spaces are limited and we urge people to sign up before the end of November to avoid disappointment during our busy tourist season. Our package is an excellent deal and we look forward to welcoming many Shetland pony enthusiasts to the home of the Shetland Pony between 15th-23rd August 2009. For general information and regular festival updates, please visit www.shetlandponybreeders.com

BESWICK FIGURINES

Due to cancelled export order, I have a quantity of original **Beswick Shetland Pony models** for sale:

- H185 – Shetland mare (grey) “Hollydell Dixie”
- 1033 – Shetland woolly mare (brown)
- 1034 – Shetland foal (brown)
- 1648 – Shetland stallion (bay) “Eschonchan Ronay”

All are guaranteed in good condition. For details of price and postage (at cost) Please telephone 07802 393952 or email johnshrrtt@yahoo.co.uk

PONIES FOR SALE

DRYFESDALE STUD have show quality Standard and Miniature colts and fillies for sale. Various colours and ages. Also two 3 year old and a 2 year old chestnut gelding, would make a great driving Team. Sensible prices. Good homes only.
Phone – 01576 470257

RISING 2 YR OLD GREY FILLE. Micro chipped and both parents are DNA typed.

Sire: Celtic Robert the Bruce.

Dam: Knock Good Tidings.

£400

Rising two year old skewbald gelding.

£300 ono

Yearling dark brown colt, is micro chipped, and both parents DNA typed. Harviestoun, Wells and Marshwood bred.

Sire: Celtic Robert the Bruce.

Dam: Stepley Samara.

£200

The above three ponies are all Standard bred and of show quality, excellent to handle, foot trim and are all wormed up to date

Please phone – 01229468897 for more details. (South Cumbria)

STANDARD CHESTNUT YEARLING COLT

Claylands Stirling for sale, excellent pedigree

Sire: Abbotsbury Zak (2nd in S.P.S.B.S. 2008 Sire Ratings)

Dam: Claylands Gorsty Freya

Telephone: Maurice Arden or Shirley Nadin – 01538 266086

Email: gorsty@aol.com

BOOKS FOR SALE

41 STUD BOOKS from 65 up to Date 2008

All in excellent condition. Open to offers

Tel – 01704 824675

Shetland Pony Stud Books

Volumes 74 – 79 inclusive. Postage only required.

Tel – 01277 841818

Stud books Volumes 68, 69, 70, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76. Good Condition £10 each, plus postage.

Tel – 01264 736266 (Hants)

PONIES STANDING AT STUD

LOVEGROVE FARM SEBASTIAN

Stud Book No S07-103 – AP1972

Standing at Stud. Lovely temperament.

Please call Ken Price – 07745 309356 or 01650 511457

GROUPS DIRECTORY

SCOTLAND

Central Scotland Group

Secretary - Miss J. Murray, Lochiel Farm, Monikie, Broughty Ferry, Dundee DD5 3QH Tel : 01382 370208

North of Scotland Group

Secretary - Mrs H. Wilson, Mingulay, Main Street, Alford, Aberdeenshire. AB33 8AD Tel: 01975 562121

Pony Breeders of Shetland (covers Shetland)

Secretary - Miss S. Flaws, 5 Dale Park, Dunrossness, Shetland Tel: 01950 461811 email: sonja.flaws@talk21.com

ENGLAND & WALES

Chiltern Group (covers Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Hertfordshire & adjacent areas)

Secretary—Mr Horace Davy, Highcroft Paddocks, Hempstead Road, Bovington, Herts HP3 0HE Tel: 01442 832653

Show Schedules—Mrs Lilian Coates Tel: 01582 833867

East Anglian Group

Secretary - Mrs D. Randell, Nixons Farm, Skeyton, Norwich, Norfolk NR10 5AP Tel : 01692 538241

GEMS (Group Established for Miniature Shetlands)

Secretary - Mrs M. Davies, Maenllwyd Cottage, Rudry, Caerphilly, Mid Glamorgan CF83 3EB Tel: 02920 865727

North West & Borders Group

Secretary - Mrs J. Lowthian, Zetland, Gamblesby, Penrith, Cumbria CA10 1JA Tel : 01768 881029
e-mail: jll.hartside@whsmithnet.co.uk

Northern Shetland Enthusiasts

K. Hutchings, High Croxdale Farm, Croxdale, Durham DH6 5JR Tel : 0191 3780062/0191 3789104

Parkland Shetland Pony Show Group

Mr I. Boyle, 1 Ashbrook Cottages, Stevenage Road, Ashbrook, Hitchin, Herts SG4 7JY Tel: 01462 454045

South East Group

Co-Ordinator - Gerry Hart, Cranford, Berwick, Polegate, E. Sussex BN26 6TF Tel : 01323 870657

Secretary - Mrs Caroline Sear, The Ridings, Ashes Lane, Hadlow, Kent TN11 0AW Tel: 01732 850010

South & West Wales Group

Secretary - Mrs S. Seward, Grogwynion, Porthyrhyd, Carmarthen SA32 8PX Tel: 01267 275485

South West Group (covers Cornwall, Devon, Somerset)

Secretary - Mrs Sue Braddon, East Coryhill Farm, Coryton, Okehampton EX20 4AA Tel: 01566783321

Southern Shetland Group

Secretary - Miss C. Webb, East End, Bristol Road, Hewish, Somerset BS24 6SF Tel : 01934 876252

GROUPS DIRECTORY

Wessex Group (covers area 60mls radius of Royal Bath & West Showground) Secretary - Jayne Lonsdale, Chapelfield House, Chapel Road, Pawlett, Bridgwater, Somerset TA6 4SH Tel : 01278 685489

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West Midlands Group (covers Cheshire, Shropshire, Staffordshire, W. Midlands, Worcestershire, Leicestershire, N. Wales)

Chairman - Mr M. Arden, Gorsty Croft Farm, Park Nook, Ipstones, Staffs ST10 2NG Tel: 01538 266086

Yorkshire Group

Secretary - Mrs J. Barugh, North Farm, North Street, Aldbrough, E. Yorks HU11 4QN Tel : 01964 527829

Welsh Borders Shetland Pony Group

Mrs J. Hutton, Westholme, Homedowns, Fiddington, Tewkesbury, Glos. GL20 7BQ Tel: 01684 295281

Mrs Charlotte Leake Tel: 01684 833354

IRELAND

Northern Ireland Group

Secretary - Mrs M. Bell, 31 Ballywillan Road, Gleno, Larne, Co Antrim, N. Ireland BT40 3LQ Tel: 028 9337 8850

Shetland & Riding Pony Club N.I.

Chairman—Mr Alan Sloane

Secretary—Mrs Ruth Wilson, 1 Park Road, Kilwaughter, Larne, Co. Antrim BT40 2PP tel: 0282827 8300 Email: club@kilshane.co.uk

PERFORMANCE

Driven Performance Awards Scheme

Mrs W. Keeley, 51 High Street, Albrighton, Wolverhampton, Staffs WV7 3JF Tel : 01902 372238

Ridden Performance Awards Scheme

Mrs S. Bearcroft, Ropers Farm, Longdon Hill, Evesham, Worcs WR11 6RP Tel : 01386 446097

Please note the closing date for the next Newsletter is Friday 10th April.

Rates are 15p per word
with a minimum charge of £2.40.
Non-members rate = 30p per word.