



The Shetland Pony Stud-Book Society

ISSUE 111

MARCH 2011

Shetland Pony Stud-Book Society

Dear Members,

Firstly can I thank all of the many Members who contacted me directly to offer their continued support for the SPSBS and for the encouragement and best wishes to me personally.

Council met on February 11th and the smaller Council produced a very constructive meeting. The meeting closed after all the items on the agenda had been discussed and all council members had debated and put forward their views. Council appreciates that members have been concerned about price increases which are never welcome and come at a time when everything else is going up especially our hay and feed costs, but hope that members have understood why these increases were unavoidable and necessary for the running of the Society. In order that members may have a greater insight into the financial management of the Society, Council felt it appropriate that the Society Auditor Mr John Gellatly should address you directly in this newsletter.

It concerns me that there are a few Members who are struggling to understand the audited accounts which are circulated to each of you annually and presented at the AGM for members to debate if they so wish. As a result of this a few individuals appear to be circulating INCORRECT financial information. This may be simply an inability to understand audited accounts (hopefully it is not something more divisive) but I have heard that figures of a £90,000 loss over the last 5 years have been bandied about, which is INCORRECT and misleading, the correct figure for that period after you have taken off depreciation which is not a cash loss is a deficit of £22,351.

The support for our endearing Shetland pony continues with an increase in membership numbers last year. Registrations also increased and while these may well decrease for a while due to market forces the popularity of our charismatic little pony will never fade. Last year nearly 4000 foals were registered and it may well be more than the market can sustain at this level, therefore a decrease can only be of benefit to the breed. I hope that breeders will think carefully about putting mares in foal automatically every year, we do not want to be creating a welfare problem for our breed.

On a very positive note Council elected Countess De La Warr as the next Vice President, term of office to commence January 2012. I was delighted when she agreed to consider the position and feel that our next President Mrs Joan Lambert will have a very able and articulate Vice President. As many of you will know Countess De La Warr has a family history of Shetlands through the famous Fairy Ponies bred at South Park from the stud started by the Ladies Estella and Dorothea Hope in the eighteen seventies and the bloodlines in her ponies trace back to the first stud-book, something no other stud existing today can claim. Lady Estella was President in 1902. I extend my sincere congratulations to Countess De La Warr on her election as the next Vice President.

Sue Bowling
President SPSBS.

In order that ALL members are given a correct update regarding the financial position of the Society Council has asked the Society Auditor John S Gellatly LLB CA ATII to address you all with the correct information in this newsletter.

I attended the meeting of Council on 11 February as there were a number of matters that were to be discussed and it was felt I might be able to add to the discussions to help the Society to move forward. The topics on the agenda were price rises, attitude of OSCR (Office of the Scottish Charities Regulator), the constitution and staffing. My observations on these seemed to help the debate and Council asked me to write briefly for the newsletter so that the wider membership would be party, indirectly, to the relevant factors taken into account in arriving at decisions.

For the last few years, quarterly management accounts have been prepared by my firm and these are sent directly to Council members. These have shown a trend of losses confirmed by the annual report and accounts which all members get and the minutes of council meetings for the last 3-4 years show that when I have presented the audited accounts to Council I have advised that losses can only be sustained for a limited time before action has to be taken to stem these. This means either reducing expenditure or increasing income and the expenditure side has been scrutinised closely on a regular basis and there is little else to cut. The only feasible way of reversing the trend, therefore, was to look at the pricing policy for all the services provided to members and this was started in 2009 to apply for 2010 and then continued at the end of 2010 to apply for 2011. I was asked to calculate the likely effect of the rises assuming a similar number of transactions and this showed that the income would rise by around £50,000 which would eliminate the losses again suffered in 2010 and return the Society to surplus to start to replenish the cash reserves - having said that, this figure is probably greater than can be achieved as any price rise by any business inevitably leads to some reduction in activity and the realistic target is to aim for 80% of the maximum. I believe that this was the correct action, particularly as prices had not been altered since 2004. There are a number of other matters taken into account by Council that require to be borne in mind to remove any doubt about the position. Firstly, over the last five years (and I take that period to cover from 1 January 2005 to 31 December 2009, that being the end date of the last published accounts), the audited accounts of the Society show a surplus of £16851 in 2005, with deficits for the following 4 years of £(534), £(24724), £(12994), and £(22428), which cumulatively total £(43829), with further losses likely again in 2010, and that identifies the position to be dealt with by Council. Secondly, the quarterly accounts being produced allowed spending to be managed and that is certainly the case. There are two items in the accounts, however, that are not so easily controlled and these are depreciation and legal fees. Depreciation is not a cash expense but a measure of the use of fixed assets over an accounting period to reflect the contribution made by these assets to the running of the Society and the total appropriation over the period was £21478 which represents the major part of the overall deficit. Legal fees cannot be budgeted for annually as these are only incurred when Council has to seek advice from the Society solicitors and this happens only when a matter arises. Over the period there have been a number of occasions when this has been necessary on employment and redundancy matters, dealings with EU disputes and the like and it is disingenuous to say that Council should not have incurred that expenditure as it was clearly in the interests of the society to do so. For your information, further legal fees were incurred in 2010 to deal with amending the constitution after indications from OSCR that the existing one was not acceptable. The dilemma faced by Council is explained in the next paragraph.

Next, as just referred to above, the attention being paid by OSCR to agricultural organisations and societies were discussed, with the particular aspect of retaining the charitable status of the Society for the future. It was made clear in early 2010 that the examination of 3 different organisations carried out in 2009 resulted in their respective constitutions being challenged and each was told changes had to be made. Two did so and retained their status but one did not and lost it and this emphasises how important making the necessary changes was.

If your Society had lost its status, it would also have lost its assets as these would have been taken away and given to another charitable body and the Society would have ceased to exist. Your Council, therefore, had to act and the correct process was put in place. I am aware, too, of a very large organisation that held a Board meeting in January under the threat that if it did not vote to change on that day, it would be closed down and OSCR, thus, has significant powers.

Following on from that matter, the cost of the legal fees was aired and the way in which these escalated is set out clearly in the December 2010 newsletter. Obviously, the total of these contributed to losses made and it is to be hoped that there will be less need for the Society to take legal advice in the future as this will help to restore the finances as this is one area of expenditure that can be reduced. The draft of the new constitution was approved by OSCR prior to the AGM last October and this showed the benefit of Council identifying a problem, dealing with it and ensuring the continuation of your Society.

Finally, the level of staffing was looked at and the question was asked whether there were too many and whether a member of staff should be made redundant. Again, the December news letter points out the increased duties being undertaken by staff and this indicates that the staff are fully occupied. If a job that office staff do exists, and keeps the person doing it fully occupied, it is difficult to see how an individual may be made redundant in that it is the job and not the person doing it that has to be redundant. If a member of staff is made redundant but the duties are then spread around others in the office, that is not redundancy but unfair dismissal and would inevitably lead to a hearing at an Employment Tribunal which has the potential to be very expensive."

Society Auditor
John S Gellatly LLB CA ATII

Christmas Cards

We are sorry that these were not available until December 2010, but this was due to another business going into liquidation and beyond our control. However, as a result these cards will be available for 2011 and we look forward to increased early sales.

Change to Foal Registration Deadline

The deadline for submitting foal registration forms has changed to 31st October. As there are limited numbers born after this date, it would greatly assist the office staff and accountants with the preparation of the final year end figures. **All foal registrations received up until the deadline will go into the stud book for that year, any registrations received after the 31st October deadline will go into the following years stud book.**

Posting Passports

Passports will continue to be sent by ordinary post. If you wish your passports to be returned by recorded mail, please ensure you include the postage when sending documents in to the Office. If you are unsure of the postage rates, please contact the Society office for clarification.

Office

We are pleased to welcome Claire into the position of Office Manager, where she will assume additional secretarial duties. Claire is well known to all members and has always taken her duties responsibly and efficiently whether in the office or out amongst the membership.

Registrations

Anyone wishing to sell foals at any of the Society's autumn sales must submit their foal registrations no later than 4 weeks before the sale closing date. This will ensure that the office has enough time to process the registration, enter the details on the database (so the Auctioneers can check the entries) and for the passport to be issued to the breeder in plenty time for travelling to the sale.



The Society would appreciate it if those members paying annually could return their old plastic membership cards to the office, so that we may recycle them. Cards can be handed in to a member of staff at Society sales or posted along with any paperwork you happen to be sending in.

EXPORTS/IMPORTS

Council would like to remind any members importing ponies to be cautious. The pony's lineage must trace back to the mother stud-books. It is up to the person importing the pony to prove the pedigree. Ponies must now be micro-chipped before they leave/enter the country.

TRANSFERS

Sellers are reminded that when selling a pony, the passport and a signed transfer form **MUST** be given to the new owner. It is the new owner's responsibility to pay for the change of ownership and to send the paperwork in to record the transfer. Purchasers are also required to pay for the transfer fees of any ponies they purchase at Society sales.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS

If members have a query regarding Society Accounts for Annual General Meetings please address this to the Society accountants:- Miller McIntyre & Gellatly, Chapelshade House, 78-74 Bell Street, Dundee DD1 1RQ for the attention of Mr John S. Gellatly, **14 working days** prior to the AGM in order that they may receive an individual response.

Council Nominations

Anyone wishing to stand for Council is reminded that nomination forms **MUST** be in by 1st May each year. Forms are available from the Society office.

Shetland Pony Breed Show 2011

Kingsbarn Equestrian Centre, Falkirk
24th July 2011

Judges:

Black Ring - Mr R. Griffiths
Miniature Ring - Mrs J. Lambert
Coloured Ring - Miss S. Flaws
Ridden - Mrs D. Wright
Driven - Mrs J. McInnes

Electronic Newsletters

Those wishing to receive newsletters electronically, should contact the office via the email - enquiries@spsbs.co.uk - stating clearly the email address they wish to have it sent to.

Online Stinting certificates are now available. See website for details.

Society Sales

It has been brought to Council's attention that some vendors are entering ponies into Society sales, but selling the animals before the sale takes place. This practice is unacceptable and unfair to potential buyers who, in some instances, travel long distances to bid for ponies only to get to the sale to find out they are not forward. We would ask that vendors please refrain from this practice.

2011 Council Meeting Dates

Friday 8th April
Friday 1st July
Friday 4th November

Please be reminded if you are sending any correspondence in for the attention of Council, this **must** be received at least **2 weeks prior to the meeting.**

PONIES FOR SALE

Stallion, Fairytail Peanuts 28" piebald, sire Romany Paco, piebald 31", dam Hermits Lady Louise piebald 29" Tel: 01776 704053

Linacre Stud dispersal sale, due to family commitments, grey yearling filly, 3yr old filly black with 4 white legs. Also 2 grey broodmares to lease for breeding. All **standard** ponies. Tel: Judith Holt 01664 565520 mobile: 07831 380691

Hazel Hall Miniature Shetland Reduction sale. Due to loss of grazing we have various Shetlands for sale:- 6 yr old chestnut mare, who has been running with skewbald stallion. 9yr old piebald mare who has been running with skewbald stallion, 2yr old chestnut colt, yearling skewbald colt and many more. For more details Tel: 01706 822226 or mobile: 0797 1496287

**Closing date for adverts for
the next newsletter is
Friday 1st April 2011.**

Haybrake Halters

Miniature foal halters made to fit the
smallest head
2 sizes available
New born to 6 months
Contact: Ann 01651 821116

GROUP NEWS

Chiltern Shetland Pony Group

Our first show of the season takes place on **Sunday 27th March** at the **Bury Farm Equestrian Centre**, Slapton, Beds under panel **judge Mrs Sue Pye**. This will be our second show at Bury Farm with its impressive facilities including on site cafe and tack shop. The centre is situated to the south of Leighton buzzard and to the west of Dunstable (M1).

Our **Summer Show** will be on Sunday 12 June at Twin Trees Equestrian Centre, Northall, Beds. The venue is just off the A1 south of Sandy. We look forward to welcoming **Mr John Harrison** from Morecambe as our Panel Judge. **Schedule and other details** available from Shelly Coates on 01582 700640 or pat.coates@ntlworld.com

The Downs Shetland Pony Group

The Downs Shetland Pony Group was founded on Sunday 6th February 2011 at South Godstone. This will take the place of The South East Group that was founded by Gerry Hart.

Group administrator: Mrs J.E. Jones, Broadlands Farm, Hankham Street, Hankham, East Sussex BN24 5BH
tel: 01323 763405

Membership fees and show entries to: Mrs Janice Dunkley, c/o as above.

Central Scotland Shetland Pony Group

Dates for your Diary:-

Junior Day
Saturday 29th May

Youngstock Show
Saturday 19th November

Venues for both have still to be confirmed

The Group will not be running their main show this year as we are hosting the Society Breed Show.

If you are interested in joining the Group, please contact Janet Murray, Secretary, Lochiel Farm, Monikie, Broughty Ferry DD5 3QH
Tel: 01382 370208

Email: lochiel.farm@virgin.net

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)

Show Schedules—Mrs Lilian Coates Tel: 01582 833867
Chair - Mrs S. Coates Tel: 01582 700640

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

Four Counties Shetland Pony Group

(covers Worcestershire, Hereford, Shropshire and Gloucestershire)
Mrs Dee Millichap tel: 01584 881117 or
Mrs Mary Davenport tel: 01885 490677

Yorkshire Group

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

GROUPS DIRECTORY

Southern Shetland Group

Secretary - Donna Brealey, 11 Valley Close, Colden Common, Winchester, Hants SO21 1UN Tel : 01962 713991

South West Group (covers Cornwall, Devon, Somerset)

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

South & West Wales Group

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

Wessex Group (covers area 60mils radius of Royal Bath & West Showground) Secretary - Carol Hodder, Eiger House, Primrose Lane, Yeovil, Somerset
Tel: 01935 412888

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

Downs Shetland Pony Group

Administrator - Mrs J.E. Jones, Broadlands Farm, Hankham Street, Hankham, East Sussex BN24 5BH
Tel: 01323 763405

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