



The Shetland Pony Stud-Book Society

ISSUE 99

FEBRUARY 2008

Presidents Report

Dear Members,

A very constructive Council meeting was held at Shetland House on 25 January. I am delighted to say that the meeting lasted for a single day rather than the usual three days as in the past and we were able to discuss a very full and relevant agenda. As a result of this, Council has decided that in future Council meetings will only last for one day. This means that Council members do not have to give up valuable weekend time spent with family or showing during the season and I do hope this will encourage members to stand for Council. Many people I have discussed this with in the past have indicated a willingness to be a Council member but three day meetings in Perth make it totally impractical. I do hope this means that will now see many more people standing for election.

I am also very pleased to inform you that at the meeting Council agreed to update the IT system within the office. Plans for the installation of new computers and a new software system are well advanced and it is hoped that the new system will be installed and up and running before the next Council meeting on 11 April. The new system will enable members to register their ponies themselves online, transfer ponies online etc and will produce a much more efficient and speedier service for members. Shows and sales will also have access to the records to enable catalogues to be produced without the laborious manual checking system we currently have and it will also enable us to print our own Stud-Books'. We will keep members fully updated on progress via the website and this will be a very exciting development for the Society. Rest assured however that those who do not wish to take advantage of the new system will still be able to register as they have always done and the Society will continue to be all inclusive for the benefit of its members.

The office staff are doing a fantastic job and quiet rightly deserve our full support.

I look forward to meeting members at forthcoming shows and wish everyone a successful showing and breeding season.

Guy Hurst, President SPS-BS

COUNCIL NOMINATIONS

Any Member wishing to make an application for inclusion in the Nominations for the election of Council Members 2009, should note that application forms (available from Shetland House) must correctly completed and returned to the SPSBS office by 1st May 2008. Nominations forms must be signed by an adult (at least 18 years old) proposer and seconder who have both been Members for at least the five consecutive calendar years preceding the date of the submission of the nomination form.

Nominations may only be made in respect of the area in which the proposer and seconder are entitled to vote.

Proposers and/or seconders may only nominate one candidate, who has at least five consecutive years of membership of the Society as detailed in Article 9.2.2.

JUDGES RULES

Any judge or SPSBS member requiring a copy of the current Judges rules can either download them from the SPSBS website or send a S.A.E. to the SPSBS office requesting a copy. It should be noted that any rule changes are notified in writing to fully paid up SPSBS members who are on the SPSBS Judges panel.

ROYAL HIGHLAND SHOW

The R.H.S. has introduced a Mountain & Moorland WHP section. This will be held on the Friday afternoon commencing at 4.30pm. The classes will be running to NPS rules and so the relevant class will be for ponies not exceeding 122cms.

NEWSPAPER

SOCIETY STAND AT READING SPRING SALE

As a Charity the SPSBS is keen to raise the profile of the Society and its funds.

Therefore, we are seeking volunteers to man the Society sale stand at the Reading Spring Shetland Pony Sale on Wed.12th March.

As Members are aware the Society had a new and exciting range of jackets & fleeces, along with stud-books, magazines and various other items.

The SPSBS would be very appreciative of the support of any adult member who would volunteer to help on the Society stand during the sale from 9am to 12 noon.

Please email Jane Dennis who will arrange the stand rota – jane@kerswellshetlands.co.uk

DINKY RUG COMPETITION

Frank & Carole Hodder from the Eiger Shetlands were the lucky winners of the Dinky Rug Competition. Many thanks to Dinky Rugs for donating the lovely prize.

XMAS CARDS

Although it seems a long time away, we require photos for the Society's Christmas Cards for 2008. If you have any good quality snowy/festive photos, can you please send them to Shetland House by 15th May 2008?

INTERNATIONAL SHOW

The International Shetland Pony Games will take place on 25th - 27th July in Redefin, Germany. Please see their website for more details :

www.internationalshetlandponygame2008.de

Passports which are not collected by addressee from Royal Mail and subsequently returned to the SPSBS office, will only be posted back out upon payment of the postage cost.

UNIQUE EQUINE LIFE NUMBERS

There has been a legal requirement for some years for each pony to have a unique life number and therefore as from 1st January 2008 all new foal registrations will have to have these.

Unfortunately, previous Council failed to recognise the fundamental rules that should have been consistently followed in order for the Society to maintain its Mother Stud-Book status. The legal requirements are now being addressed by the current Council. One of these areas being the Unique Equine Life Number, which comprises of 15 digits, part being reference to the Shetland Pony breed, UK domicile etc. and which should have been issued with all passports. This will now form part of the new database software system and will be automatically issued to each passport and notified to NED as legally required. SEERAD has been notified of this error on the part of the Society and Council wish to assure members that this issue is now being dealt with.

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)

Secretaries - Lillian Coates (01582 833867) and Shelley Coates (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

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 - Sarah Wilson, 77 Cox Tor Road, Tavistock. PL19 9JG Tel; 01822 610236

Southern Shetland Group

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

Wessex Group (covers area 60mils radius of Royal Bath & West Showground)

Secretary - Jayne Lonsdale, Chapelfield House, Chapel Road, Pawlett, Bridgwater, Somerset TA6 4SH Tel : 01278 685489

GROUPS DIRECTORY

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

IRELAND

Northern Ireland Group

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

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

South West Shetland Pony Group

2008 is starting with our annual **Childrens Fun Day at Holmbush, Tedburn, St Mary on the 24th February starting at 10.30am**. After lunch Mrs Marion Matthews will hold a saddle fitting clinic.

The Date for the **Group Show** is the **29th June**, once again to be held at **Grange Equestrian Centre, Okehampton**.

On **November 16th** we are repeating our successful **Foal and Youngstock Show at Cholwell Equestrian Centre, Lewdown**.

For more information on the above please contact the new Secretary – Mrs S Wilson 01822 610236 before 7pm .

CENTRAL SCOTLAND SHETLAND PONY GROUP

Our **Junior Day** will be held on Saturday 24th May at Caledonian Mart, Stirling starting at 10am.

Fun Day Show is on **Saturday 16th August**.

Judges are: Blacks – Mrs J Bell. Miniature & Colours – Mr B Hunter, and Midi, Ridden and Driving will be Mrs J Barry.

Youngstock show is still to be arranged but will be sometime in November.

FOR SALE OR LEASE

Waterpitts Double Trigger AJ0224

Miniature Skewbald **Stallion** 32" 9yrs.

Lots of bone and excellent breeding lines. High percentage of coloured foals produced by him.

Good to handle and with farrier. Sadly for sale due to stud dispersal.

Tel 01295 770204

The Claylands Stud have for sale: 1 yearling filly and 1 yearling colt. Both **chestnut with flaxen mane and tail.** Both ponies were shown as foals and have great showing potential. Telephone: Maurice Arden 01538 266086 or email: gorsty@aol.com or see our website at : www.shetland-pony.com/claylands

The Dryfesdale Stud are reducing numbers and have several brood **mares, fillies,** and **geldings** for sale.

Various colours and sizes. Sensible prices as good homes more important.

Available for lease Sandfold Chester, 4 yrs old 38inch chestnut stallion, sire: Birchmoor Amadeus. Dam: Birchmoor Starlight (both red bay) very easily managed. **Telephone 01576 470257**

Email: dryfesdale@tiscali.co.uk

Wanted

Standard Palomino Shetland Mare or Gelding to drive as part of a team. Please contact Mrs A Mower Tel 078890161633

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Show Shetland Scheme

Council decided that the cards used last year for the scheme were not working and has reverted back to the original system for this year. Members can take part for a fee of £5 per pony - forms are enclosed along with this Newsletter.

PAYMENTS by DEBIT/CREDIT CARDS

We can accept payments over the phone. There is a charge of £1.50 per transaction for credit cards and 35p per debit card transaction.

SALE DATES FOR 2008

Reading Sale 12th March
Carlisle Sale 15th March
York Sale 28th March
Aberdeen Sale 3rd May
Builth Wells Sale 26th
September
York Sale 27th September
Lerwick Sale 3rd October
Aberdeen Sale 6th October
Carlisle Sale 11th October
Reading Sale 15th October

*****New Sale*****

Bridgwater, Somerset
30th October

Would all Members kindly note that on Society sale days the SPSBS will **not** be answering the office telephone due to staff attendance at the Society sales.

BREED SHOW 2008

The Breed Show will be held at Bishop Burton, near Beverly, Yorkshire, on **Sunday 10th August 2008.**

Judges: **Black** - Mrs C Collinsplatt,
Coloured - Mrs M.A.C.Ball,
Small - Mrs J Holt,
Ridden - Miss C Webb
Driving - Mr J Dobson.

The **AGM** will be held at **5.00pm on Saturday 9th August.** Followed by a get-together and buffet (ticket information on entry form).

We are all looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the show.

Any further information can be obtained from Mrs R. Gibson, telephone 01132 813612 or email Coltonfordponies@btinternet.com. The committee members are Mr D Gibson, Mrs R Gibson, Mr J McMaster, Mr K Hutchings and Mrs L Lumley.

Schedule & entry form will be included with the April Newsletter

STATEMENT FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE SHETLAND PONY STUD-BOOK SOCIETY

We have been contacted by some Swedish members who have expressed their astonishment to read on two Swedish websites reports of a speech given by Mr D. Dick at a dinner following stallion assessments in Holland in January 2008. In this report Mr Dick is described as being a representative of the Society It should be understood that Mr Dick attended this function purely in a private capacity and not as a representative of the Mother Stud-Book. He had and has no authority to speak on behalf of the Society.

As President of the Society I feel it is my duty to put the record straight on a few issues.

The current Dutch system of stallion inspection is totally illegal as it is contrary to EU legislation. Under Decision 96/78 EU it is illegal to prevent any pony whose sire and dam are already entered in the main section of a stud-book from being entered in the main section itself. As the Mother Stud-Book recognised by the EU it is up to the Society to enforce this.

Decision 96/78 EU was introduced some ten years ago and some may ask why the Society did not take steps to comply with the legislation then. Interestingly, for six of those years Mr Dick was in the position of Vice President, President and past President.

It was only due to concerns expressed by our Austrian daughter stud-book at one of the ISPC meetings that the legislation was finally debated and acted upon ten years later than it should have been. We the Mother-Stud-Book have had the clearest interpretation of this legislation from Brussels. This legislation is based on free trade and harmonisation of the stud books of all EU countries. The Shetland Pony Stud-Book Society, registered in Perth and the guardians of the Shetland pony breed for the last 117 years is the recognised Mother Stud-Book of Shetland ponies and as such has EU recognition. All Daughter Stud-Books within the EU countries are under an obligation to follow the rules set down by the Mother Stud-Book. We do not grade or select or section our stud-book. We believe that the stud-book layout in the same format as it has been from the very beginning is the best way to produce the best ponies and to protect the gene pool of the breed. We do not prevent ponies from breeding – that is against the law. This has nothing to do with trading, everything to do with preserving the breed and we consider we have the best Shetland ponies in the world.

Because Holland still continues a policy of inspection of ponies which denies some ponies their breeding rights and prevents free trade amongst EU member states, we have had no choice but to report this failure to comply with the law and this is now being handled by our respective Ministries. I am glad to report that the Swedish Ministry has now acted to implement the law and has stopped the discrimination caused by using different coloured passports.

The ISPC is very active and we the Mother Stud-Book take our responsibilities to our daughter stud-books extremely seriously. The International meeting in Perth in October was very well attended and visitors from our daughter stud-books expressed sincere gratitude for the help they had received in understanding the EU legislation and their own responsibilities to the Shetland Pony breed.

Mr Dick is also quoted as having misgivings about members recently being removed from the Society. Let me clarify this. Regretfully we have had the unpleasant task of removing four members from the Society, one due to unacceptable behaviour to our members of staff at Shetland House to whom we owe a duty of care and the other three after convictions of animal cruelty. It is abhorrent to me to suggest that anyone who has been convicted of animal cruelty resulting in the death of defenceless animals should continue as members of the Society. I trust no one thinks that this was unreasonable of Council to act in this way.

It should be noted that in recent months the English Irish Draught Society had its Daughter Stud-Book status removed for a period of six months, and last month the Fjord Horse Stud-Book Society incorporated under the Companies Acts and having its Registered Office at South Denhill, St Katherine's, Inverurie, Scotland had its Daughter Stud-Book status (granted in 1999) removed due to non compliance of the EU legislation. If recognition of a Daughter Stud-Book is removed that Stud-Book may not trade any of its member animals within the EU. This has left their members in the unenviable position of having to acquire new passports for all their stock.

Members can rest assured that the Mother Stud-Book will continue to carry out her obligations as laid down by EU law and will ensure that all daughter stud-books comply with it.

***CLOSING DATE FOR ADVERTS
FOR NEXT NEWSLETTER IS
FRIDAY 4th APRIL***

SOCIETY WEBSITE

Members are welcome to advertise their studs on the Society website and Council has decided there will be a charge of £10 for this.