



## ***The Shetland Pony Stud-Book Society***

ISSUE 101

JULY 2008

### **CLOSING DATE FOR REGISTRATION OF FOALS GOING TO SOCIETY SALES IS 15TH JULY**

#### **Presidents Report**

Dear Members

I hope in future to send the newsletters out to Members as soon as possible following Council Meetings, hopefully within a week. This will be possible with a concerted team effort within the office and the new computer hardware and database.

The AGM this year will be in the North of England on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> August 2008 at Bishop Burton College, Beverly, Yorkshire. This meeting is particularly important as it includes some proposed changes to the Constitution as requested by Members at last year's AGM in Builth Wells and I would strongly urge as many of you to attend as possible. As outlined in the previous newsletter the stud-book layout and rules of entry to the stud-book will come forward again for consideration with amended percentages of 40%, 30% 20% – the percentage with the highest number of votes will be accepted if the proposal is carried. I am aware that this document appears somewhat complicated but it is of necessity written by our lawyers in correct legal terms. Council unanimously voted for the proposed changes to come forward for consideration by the Members at the AGM.

Council is asking Members to vote for the Principles and Rules of Entry into the Mother Stud-Book along with the Stud-Book Layout to be set out in the Constitution. This will ensure it remains in the same format as it has done for over 100 years, being sectioned by age and gender – a format that has served the breed so well.

Your present Council feels very strongly that any future alteration of the Rules of Entry and Stud-Book Layout should not be made by Council but should be at the will of Members. Members may not be aware that at present Council can with a simple majority vote at a Council meeting and without any consultation or notice to Members, change any or all of the rules of entry for registration and the stud-book layout for pedigree Shetland Ponies. As we all know breeding is a long term policy with much commitment and effort required. Therefore Council feels that this commitment requires stability and continuity with the fundamental rules of entry for registration and stud-book layout being constant to allow for long-term planning.

Members may cast their minds back to 2004/05 when, without any consultation or evidence brought forward to the Members for discussion rules were introduced by the Council of the day for the compulsory re-inspection of already fully licensed stallions. Many Members were so dismayed and disappointed with this ruling that they seriously considered leaving the Society and stopped breeding.

It therefore must be logical that something as important and fundamental as the Rules of Entry and Stud-Book layout must be protected and left to the majority of Members to change if ever necessary. The only way to achieve this is to protect the same rules and stud-book layout as we have now by incorporating these rules into the Constitution. This will prevent alteration by any future Council and will safeguard our ponies and our Stud-Book for future generations and Council urges you to support and vote for these changes.

As your President I would ask you all to support the inclusion of the Rules of Entry and the Stud-Book Layout within the Constitution to safeguard the future prosperity of our Pedigree Shetland Ponies and the Shetland Pony Stud-Book Society.

We are also proposing an amendment to the Constitution to allow communication to be by email with those Members who wish it. In these days of super technology and with our new office IT system it makes sense that this form of communication is taken advantage of. There will also be considerable savings achieved - for example, this newsletter could be emailed saving on postage and office staff time. Each mail out currently costs over £500. Please support this resolution.

NEWSLETTER

### **International News.**

Your Vice-President and I attended a meeting with SEERAD on the 20<sup>th</sup> May 2008 in Edinburgh where the Society's lawyers were also present. Very positive and productive discussions took place; SEERAD continues to fully support the position of the Society. A response has been received from the Netherlands which indicates that the Dutch Ministry acknowledges that there are problems with the Dutch Stud-book layout and asking for a meeting to take place with the UK ministry and the Dutch Ministry with the respective Stud-Books as well. At this time a request to take such a meeting forward has been made by SEERAD and we are trying to finalise a date for all concerned. I would like to make Members aware that over the last two years the cost of the Society's legal advice on the above matter has amounted to £6,750.00p This includes reviewing all the relevant European legislation 92/353, 92/354 and 96/78 in order that we had the correct advice on the lawful meaning of all regulations, decisions and directives, drafting of the original complaint about the Dutch Stud-Book (which, of necessity was 64 pages long) and replying to substantial queries in respect of the original complaint. The above costs also include the monthly follow up by the Society lawyers who contact SEERAD to progress the complaint. Without this concerted legal effort the Society would not be in the advanced position that we are now in.

Members should be aware of and compare the above costs to the £50,000 plus that has been spent, by previous Councils, on attending International Shetland Pony Committee (ISPC) meetings throughout Europe which achieved little and completely failed to protect the breeding rights or pedigree of exported UK Shetland Ponies.

### **Legal Fees in the 2007 Accounts**

I must also draw Members attention to the substantial legal costs incurred by the Society during 2007, as shown in the enclosed accounts. The largest part of this cost was for a very unpleasant incident that took place in the Society's office and involved the abuse and intimidation of our staff. Today's employment law is a minefield and as an employer we have to observe strict codes of employment practice in order to safeguard our staff and ultimately the Society and the assets of the Society. Legal advice was taken and a full hearing conducted under the guidance of the Society's lawyer. Had Council not taken legal advice and followed it correctly the Society could have faced a discrimination claim of over £250,000 which ultimately would have put the Society as a whole and Council Members personally financially at risk. The Society's auditors have looked very carefully at all the legal costs and confirmed that they were all legitimate and totally support Council in this matter.

**If members have any particular questions or queries that they would like to ask or discuss at the AGM relating to the 2007 accounts could they please forward these in writing to the Society prior to the meeting in order that the Society Auditors can respond in writing for the AGM. To have the Auditors present at the AGM would incur a cost of £600 and neither Council nor the Auditor feel this would be an appropriate way to spend Society funds.**

I have attended several major shows this year and have been delighted to see the youngstock colt classes so well supported with much higher entries. Judging at the Bath and West show recently I was impressed to have 9 2/3 year colts in front of me. They were of a particularly high standard and talking to members after the show it was apparent that there is a new enthusiasm with breeders for retaining homebred colts. They now have confidence that the Society recognises their ability to know which of their stock is worth retaining for breeding and producing for the show ring. Views expressed were that the previous stallion assessment scheme was so subjective there was a good chance that good colts would not get through and many breeders could see no point in running them on. They have the confidence now to make a commitment to plan for the future.

### **Constitution and Governance**

I am delighted to report that at a very constructive Council Meeting on 27 June, following a presentation by constitutional lawyer and independent consultant, Pamela Woods (who has advised both the Welsh Society and the NPS on the changes which they are implementing to their own constitutions) Council unanimously agreed to set in motion steps to update the Society's constitution to bring it in line with the requirements of 21st century charity and company law. This process will produce a new constitution for approval by the membership, hopefully at the 2009 AGM. Council also agreed after in-depth and careful consideration of the advice given by Pamela Woods, our Auditors and our Solicitors to form a small working committee to oversee and be responsible for the day-to-day running of the Society. Details will be finalised at the November Council meeting and Members advised of the final arrangements then.

I would like to thank all those Members who have taken the trouble to write and phone giving their warm support to the present Council and the changes it has recently put in place. Talking to members I have the impression of renewed enthusiasm and interest in owning and breeding Shetland ponies from people who in the past have told me they have been considering actually either giving up or looking to another breed due to the lack of support they felt was provided by the Society. We have made considerable changes and I know this can be built on to provide more efficient service and assistance to Members and a great future for the Society.

As ever, I am more than happy to discuss any matters with Members (best telephone number is my office 01722 426974) and I look forward to meeting Members at the Breed Show and AGM in August.

With best wishes

*Guy Hurst, President*

Please note that with the new Grassroots system, new mares, stallions and geldings will now have only the M08/S08/G08 status codes allocated and not the extra 3 digits.

### **MICROCHIPS**

As of 1st January 2009 no passports will be issued to any pony/foal unless it has been micro-chipped. Full details will be included in the next Newsletter.

## **GROUP NEWS**

### **Shetland & Riding Pony Club N.I.**

The Shetland and Riding Pony Club NI members, although busy in the Show rings at present are well under way with organising their Autumn schedule.

Training has been ongoing with registered First Aid and Child Protection Personnel appointed and our Child Protection Policy in place.

September will kick off with a Cone Driving display for the Ulster Rare Breeds Society at their Annual Event. This will be followed up by a series of social evenings based on the Ulster/Scots connection which will involve all members and friends of the Club.

There are also a number of other events in the pipeline, details of all these activities can be obtained via the Secretary, Mrs Ruth Wilson at 07855 674768 or e-mail: club@kilshane.co.uk

The conclusion of the Summer showing season will be celebrated by an action packed weekend Summer Camp where a host of pony related activities will be intermingled with challenging sports and social pursuits which will cater for all age groups from the youngest child to the OAP. This event will be hosted and organised by our Liaison Officer Mrs Margaret Mulligan and we thank her and all our highly motivated team for their hard work and constructive enterprise through the year.

### **Parklands Shetland Pony Group Show**

The Parklands S.P.S.G. started the 2008 season enjoying tremendous support with 93 entries forward in the affiliated ring at their show in April. Judge for the day was Mr Tony Bell. Mrs S. Pennington's Tussilago Little Molly was youngstock champion. Supreme champion was Ann Page's Dewland Silver Star. Abbotsbury Saffron, shown by Mr R. Cook took the Standard Youngstock Championship and finished reserve Standard Show Champion later in the day. Miniature Youngstock champion went to the Cross family's Somahouse Pip Squeek.

## **PONIES FOR SALE**

Owing to move - Melland Diamond Dancer, 4yrs old standard gelding. Excellent lead rein, good mover. Broken to drive by Cilla Beck.  
Margot Thompson Tel: 01530 273061 (near M42)

**Blazefield Stud** will have foals for sale, including piebald fillies and colts.  
Tel: 01765 620669

**Jackmoor Stud** - 2 well matched palomino yearling colts, to make approx 40". Also miniature chestnut yearling colt, sire Halstock Highland Mist. Palominos would make an ideal driving pair—nice strong ponies. Also new seasons coloured & palomino colts & fillies. All stabled at night in winter plus small feed/hay. Enquiries please telephone 01392 851740 (Exeter)

## **HARNESS**

Bennington Show Vehicle (not exercise) £850.  
Tedman Shetland Pair Harness—special reins £450, as good as new.  
Margot Thompson Tel: 01530 273061 (near M42)

## **WANTED**

1985 Society Magazine to complete a collection.  
Dr C. Wiesenhutter, Tannenweg 9, 07607  
Eisenberg/Thuringen, GERMANY  
Www.ponygestuet-tanneck.de

## **STOLEN**

Miniature Shetland filly foal stolen, bay in colour. This was stolen, from its field on the night of the 25th/morning of the 26th of June  
If there is any information on sightings, contact Stockton Police. (Ref no. R123860)

*Please note the closing date for the next Newsletter is Friday 24th October.  
Rates are 15p per word with a minimum charge of £2.40.  
Non-members rate = 30p per word.*

## 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, Bovingdon, 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 - 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

#### **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

\*\*\*\*\*

### SALE DATES FOR 2008

**Builth Wells Sale 26th September**

**York Sale 27th September**

**Lerwick Sale 3rd October**  
**(show 2nd October 5pm)**

**Aberdeen Sale 6th October**  
**(show 5th October 6.30pm)**

**Carlisle Sale 11th October**

**Reading Sale 15th October**  
**(show 14th October 5pm)**

**\*\*\*New Sale\*\*\***

**Bridgwater, Somerset**  
**30th October**

**Members please note that on Society sale days the SPSBS will not be answering the office telephones due to staff attendance at the Society sales.**