



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

ISSUE 100

MAY 2008

### **Presidents Report**

Dear Members,

My report in this newsletter is fairly lengthy but as there has been quite a lot happening recently I felt it was important to keep you all properly informed and updated on matters of importance regarding the management of the Society, and to keep you conversant with recent Council decisions. The success of the Society depends on the involvement of Members and I welcome open and frank discussion on current issues.

I am happy to report that major progress has been made with all the new office installations. We now have plenty of storage whereas before there was none, and this has made for a more efficient and comfortable workplace for our staff which will enable them to provide us all with a better service.

The new database system is now installed and is going to provide a huge improvement as it covers so many aspects of the requirements of our Society. The staff have undergone several days intensive training but it is a lot to comprehend all at once as it is such an all-embracing system. They will therefore have need of further training and Council has agreed a budget to cover initial costs and for ongoing training.

It is envisaged that by the end of the year all aspects of the new Grassroots system will be up and running and available for participation by Members; for example the ability to register, transfer and pay online. Within the next few months Members will receive a password and login number to enable them to access their own information and print four generation pedigrees of not only their own stock but any pony within the pedigree of their own ponies, as well as a progeny list, a stallion breeding list and individual animals' breeding statistics etc.

The new system includes a showing database, which will enable show secretaries to access and check the correctness of all show entries as well as print a schedule and show catalogue directly from the SPSBS database. This really is a superb software package. This will not affect the live SPSBS database, so do not panic; this is an information package which will be offered to any show which affiliates to the SPSBS and is very useful.

The one thing Council intends to do is to provide the staff with correct and appropriate training before proceeding to the next level of service that the Grassroots system can offer. This really will pay dividends in the future and the SPSBS will benefit greatly from this considered approach. Rest assured the SPSBS is moving forward, this is already reflected in the changes that have occurred in the SPSBS office which are visible immediately on visiting the office. Where an untidy and disorganised environment greeted you previously, a clean, ordered and pleasant office environment now awaits you.

From now on there will be regular monthly staff meetings. Our Vice-President is responsible for managing the staff and I am their next point of contact. Between us we are in daily contact with staff regarding the everyday running of the office. Council meetings will now be held on a weekday so that all Council and staff members are able to meet together. In the past Council meetings have been held at weekends with the result that our staff had little or no contact with their employers. They are keen to work as a team and all will be able to carry out the work in general which means that if for any reason a member of staff is away then the others will be in a position to fill in without disruption. However each staff member is prepared to take on specific tasks which were performed in the past by the Society secretary.

#### **New Office Procedure**

We now have clearly written office procedure manuals, which set out the daily tasks and how to perform these, along with clear instructions for banking procedures. These are so important for any office or

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workplace where clear instructions need to be followed in order to maintain a professional and fair service to **all** Members. A new procedure for dealing with documents lodged with the SPSBS which are incorrect came into force on 1 May 2008. All paperwork which arrives in the SPSBS office and is correct will be processed in date order immediately on receipt. This applies to the vast majority of Members who send the correct paperwork and correct fees.

Any paperwork which is incorrect, (for example because it is filled in incorrectly, has information missing or fees are incorrect) will be held in the office for 14 working days, during which time a letter will go to the sender explaining what is required to process the paperwork. If the correct information/fees are not sent to the office within the fourteen day period then all the paperwork and fees will be returned to the sender.

In cases where the sender cannot be identified, incorrect documents will be filed in date order with a date log book and the office will look at these when the appropriate person contacts the office to trace their documents. If the incorrect paperwork includes a passport then this will be returned to the person who has the pony in their possession as is required by law. These will be returned once only by 2<sup>nd</sup> class recorded delivery at the expense of the SPSBS. If a passport has to be returned more than once then the cost will be debited to the senders account. All monies owed to the SPSBS must be paid before any further transactions can be processed.

Passports are sent out by recorded delivery and if any are returned to the office as unaccepted then the person concerned will be required to pay for the next recorded delivery.

I hope Members understand and support the above procedure, which really is necessary. In the past Members and non-Members who consistently send in paperwork which cannot be processed have taken up a great deal of office staff time at the expense of the majority of the membership who take the care to complete paperwork correctly. This has been costly both financially and in the service we provide to our Members.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to our Vice-President Sue Bowling for the enormous effort and time that she has given to overseeing the installation of the new Grassroots system and the re-organisation of the office which has been achieved on time and under budget. It has been a major improvement which is going to benefit all Members. Council has expressed complete confidence in the new system and their appreciation for the work done by Sue for the Society.

### **April Council Meeting**

Our accountant and auditor Mr John Gellatly attended our last council meeting in April. Mr Gellatly had taken time to visit the office during the change over to the Grassroots system to take a thorough in-depth look at the software package both from the daily administration side and the accounting package. He had spent time meeting with the Grassroots design and installation team (at no cost to the SPSBS) and he was seriously impressed with the speed and integrity of the new software and the new computer hardware. He was able to report to Council that he felt very confident and happy that the office would function professionally and provide a first class service to Members. The Society is being well looked after with income up and with control of salaries it should generate a surplus. His professional opinion was that we do not require a £30,000 a year secretary as with the new Grassroots system in place the current staff are quite capable of handling the amount of work generated by the Society. He did however suggest that the current structure of management would be difficult to sustain – ie up to 26 Council members meeting only every three months to make decisions, with no process to allow decision making in between Council meetings. He suggested that we should look at having a small Executive Board or Committee which meets frequently and implements the day to day running of Society business. This is the system used by other societies which he represents, which are larger and just as geographically diverse as the SPSBS. The role of the full Council should be to set the strategic policy of the Society This is particularly relevant in light of recent changes to charity law. I am aware that this has always been a sensitive issue as Members are naturally anxious that their representation remains adequate and I have therefore asked Council members to consider this and to put forward their suggestions at the next meeting in June. If you have any views please do contact either your local Council member or me direct (office number 01722 426 974). We must ensure that in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century the Society is fit for purpose and fulfils new legislation demands that were not remotely an issue in years gone by.

As Members are aware the Society is a limited company and has charitable status and as such it is the duty of Council members who are Directors of a Limited Company and Trustees of a Charity to ensure that it is run with maximum efficiency and accountability. Many other breed societies have had to tackle this problem and make changes to accommodate present day demands.

Council also had the opportunity to have the expertise of Society lawyer Brian Moore, who specialises in corporate law, charity law and constitutional law, who gave his time to visit the meeting (again without charge to the SPSBS) in order to facilitate awareness of the implications and duties of Council Members as Directors and Charity Trustees. One of the points he raised was regarding majority decisions - if a director disagrees with a majority decision he must either accept it or resign and not try to undermine the Board. He again also advised that a structure such as a small executive board would bring more effective management to the SPSBS and pointed out that the board of ICI only had nine members! The question of Directors' personal liability was raised and Brian confirmed that as Directors, Council members do ultimately have personal liability for their decisions – for example if we take legal advice and then fail to follow it!

Several questions were asked regarding the current constitution and the advice given and accepted by Council was that the constitution was not clear, lacked continuity and was badly drafted in places and really needs updating. Council agreed this was an area that needed to be looked at.

## **International Matters**

As Members are aware for many years the SPSBS has been at odds with the compulsory inspection of pedigree Shetland ponies, stallions, mares and foals by certain daughter stud-books. The SPSBS has exhausted all forms of communications with, in particular, the Netherlands over many years in order for this practice to stop. The continued selection process at best gave limited breeding rights to stallions (a maximum of 12 then 8 offspring) or at worst totally took away a recognised stallion's breeding rights and ended with hundreds of perfectly good and sometimes outstanding pedigree Shetland stallions being lost to the breed for ever.

Council voted unanimously back in 2007 that this matter was to be put into the hands of the SPSBS lawyers for their advice on the best way forward. The Society lawyers looked at the operation of the Mother Stud-Book and after careful discussion with SEERAD (and confirmed by both the EU Commission in Brussels and our own Government in Whitehall) the decision was taken with full Council agreement to use the statutory provision within the relevant legislation to make an official complaint about the Dutch stud-book. Council realised right from the outset this would be a protracted procedure but with any lengthy process, it has to start somewhere. We are now at the point where the Dutch government has at last entered into correspondence and the Dutch stud-book has suggested a meeting within the next few weeks to thrash this out. I feel that we are last on the point of getting somewhere and hope to be able to report further in the next newsletter. Without the involvement of the Society lawyer and the continued support of SEERAD we would not have made the excellent progress we have.

Society Sales went smoothly this Spring and although there were not so many ponies forward prices were generally good. I would particularly like to thank those Members who helped with checking passports at the sales, with special thanks to Maurice Arden, Shirley Nadin, Lilian Coates and Shelley Coates who manned the merchandise stand at Reading. Thanks to them we were able again to display some of the Society's new promotional clothing. This is much appreciated as without Member's involvement we cannot do this.

I hope that Members like the new size magazine which is now available from the office. The quality of the advertisements sent in was particularly good and it is a pleasure to see in print how many good studs and excellent ponies there are in the UK. I have received many compliments from Members on the new layout. It has already made a profit. We hope to be able to get the next issue out earlier in the year so that it can be distributed to the Spring sale venues. Great thanks are due to Jane Dennis, Joan Lambert and Issy Fanson for master-minding this. And thanks to Janet Murray who ably compiled the show results along with help from the office staff who combined to make this an excellent team effort.

With best wishes for an excellent summer.

*Guy Hurst*

## **RULES OF ENTRY FOR REGISTRATION**

As requested by Members at last years AGM the stud-book layout and rules of entry to the stud-book will come forward for consideration by members at this year's AGM, with amended percentages as requested, 20%, 30%,40% - the percentage with the highest number of votes will be accepted, if the proposal is carried.

## **STUD-BOOK ENTRIES - THREE GENERATIONS QUERY**

There appears to be confusion in some quarters over the eligibility criteria for a pony to be entered in the stud-book. It has been said that all that is required is that the pony in question must have three generations of registered ponies on both its sire and its dam's side stemming from a fourth generation "inspected" pony. This suggests that, for example, a pedigree registered Shetland pony could have as its great-great-grand-dam a Welsh Section A mare. This is incorrect.

**THE ONLY REQUIREMENTS FOR A PONY TO BE ENTERED IN THE STUD-BOOK ARE THAT THE PONY IN QUESTION MUST BE IDENTIFIED AS A FOAL AT FOOT AND ITS SIRE AND DAM MUST ALREADY BE ENTERED IN THE STUD-BOOK.**

It follows therefore that all ponies entered in the stud-book are there because their sire and dam are entered in the stud-book and so on and so on right back to the original stud-book.

Ours is a closed stud-book which means that we do not grade up from non-pedigree stock which if bred to pedigree stock may in successive generations eventually enter the main register. This is usually carried out in stud-books which are in danger of extinction due to lack of pedigree numbers which of course ours is not. Our stud-book was closed to inspected stock in 1973 and all ponies in our stud-book have many generations some going back to the original stud-book of 1890 and beyond.

If anyone is in any doubt about this matter please contact the office so that any concerns may be addressed. This applies to members of our daughter stud-books too of course, as we expect the same criteria to be used for all Shetland pony pedigree stud-books wherever they are domiciled.

## 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

### 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

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## GROUP NEWS

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

The Shetland and Riding Pony Club N.I. was set up in November 2007. Since then we have had many events and activities. We have just completed a scurry/cone driving series of five sessions with 10 combinations taking part. The improvement in driving skills over this period was phenomenal and many fun activities were introduced for the 20 or so children who attended. The fun and camaraderie experienced created a strong foundation on which to build our Club.

We will resume with a new driving series of events in September which will carry on throughout the winter months. We have also had information evenings where Fort Dodge brought us up to speed with their worming programme. We also had a talk from HVS Animal Health on minerals & food supplements which was very informative. We took part in a Driving Teach-In and a number of social events including an Ulster Scots night, organised by our Club.

With this hectic schedule behind us, we now look forward to a busy competitive summer with showing and riding activities. Two of our younger members will be competing in the Shetland Pony Grand National and other members participating in local and mainland shows.

## **Pony Breeders of Shetland Association**

### **Shetland Welcomes Visitors to attend the Shetland Pony Festival, 15<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> August 2009**

The Pony Breeders of Shetland Association are pleased to announce the formal launch of the "Shetland Pony Festival" which is taking place in August 2009 and invites all enthusiasts to register their interest now.

This unique festival offers the budding Shetland pony enthusiast an opportunity to visit the home of the pony and join us in a week's celebration.

Morgan Goodlad, Chair of the Shetland Pony Festival organising committee said "We aim to host a trip of a lifetime for Shetland pony breeders and enthusiasts".

We hope to offer our visitors an excellent package to take part in our festival, whilst exploring the island, and giving visitors the chance to sample the best of Shetland culture and world-renowned hospitality.

For the first time, the Shetland Pony Stud Book Society Breed Show will also be hosted in Shetland on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> August.

Highlights during the week include:

- A welcoming reception
- Stallion evaluation day
- Stud visits throughout Shetland
- Shetland Pony Seminar, "Past, Present and Future"
- The Shetland Pony Stud Book Society AGM
- The Shetland Pony Stud Book Society Breed Show
- Evening reception and dance with Traditional Shetland music
- Closing lunch and reception and Shetland Pony Grand National
- Optional weekend in Unst, Britain's most northerly island

If you are interested in attending this event, travel and accommodation packages will be available. Importantly we are keen to establish interest levels now, as Shetland is a very popular summer tourist destination.

To register your interest in this event, please visit [www.shetlandponybreeders.com](http://www.shetlandponybreeders.com) and complete our online survey and sign up for our e-news service. Otherwise, call Fiona Dally on 01595 744964 to register your interest and to let us know if you are interested in travelling with ponies to attend the Breed Show.

Further package details will be available once initial interest levels have been established, so don't delay in getting back to us as soon as possible.

To find out more about Shetland, please visit [www.visitshetland.com](http://www.visitshetland.com).

### **Northern Shetland Enthusiasts**

Starting with good news, there will be no subscriptions for 2008. Anyone who had paid, we will carry the payment forward for 2009. This gesture reflects the supports we have had over the last few years, which has put a healthy balance in the bank.

Keep an eye on the Newsletter in the future as John Campbell nears the end of his epic video, which is a commentary on the last few years of the Group. Good luck to those people who are going to Germany for the International Show in July.

Foals have started to arrive and generally everyone is gearing up for another season. Well done to Di & Wilf at the Parlington Stud, Gary Snaith and Sara White who all did well at the Yorkshire Group Show on 13th April. Lauren Bell won the young handler class.

Access to the Northern Shetland Enthusiasts' page can be gained by visiting [www.butterbyshetlands.co.uk](http://www.butterbyshetlands.co.uk) and then clicking on the link.

### **Chiltern Shetland Pony Group**

We have rearranged some of the duties within the Group - the intention being to free-up some members whose duties have made it difficult for them to get into the ring with children and grandchildren.

Janet Good (01480 215435) continues as Chair and Show Organiser. Lilian and Shelly Coates have handed over the job of Group Secretary to Horace Davy (01442 832653 - [h.davy@btinternet.com](mailto:h.davy@btinternet.com)) but enquiries for Schedules should still go to Lilian (01582 833867)

Our next Show is on Sunday 22 June at Great Westwood Equestrian Centre which is near Kings Langley in Hertfordshire. Panel Judge, Mrs Jill Stevenson.

## Royal Highland Show

The Society Unit will be out at the Royal Highland Show again this year. We will **not** be in the usual spot in the Equestrian Village, but instead we'll be on the Green, next to the Clydesdale Horse Society. Please do come along and say hello if you are there.

## BREED SHOW 2008

Please find enclosed with this newsletter the schedule for the Breed Show which will take place on Sunday 10th August at Bishop Burton, Beverly, Yorkshire.

The A.G.M. will be held at 5pm on Saturday 9th August.

## 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.**

## FOR SALE

**Claredale Sam** 3yr old black Standard **gelding**. Dam—Blazefield Floss, Sire—Wilshaw Randolph Sam had done well in the showring from a foal. Would make an **ideal ride or drive pony**.  
Tel: 01325 730044 mobile: 0794 6610970

**Wells Stud Reduction** - A large number of top quality Standard black ponies for sale. **Stallions, mare, fillies and colts** available. Strong boned, 38" - 42", **show quality**. A unique opportunity. Harry, Ann & Susan Sleight, St John's Wells, Fyvie, Turriff. Tel: 01651 891219 mobile: 0771 5173493  
Email: grantjw1@aol.com

## WANTED

**Centenary Plate** wanted, painted by **Juliet Jeffery**.

Mrs Sandra Lancaster, 14 Fosbrook Drive, Longeaton, Notts NG10 1HJ Tel: 0115 8499542

## LIVERY

**Internal Block of 14 Shetland Pony Stables**

Kitchen/Feed/Tack Room

Grooming area

Storage for feed & Hay

On site Haylage and shavings available

Separate turnout paddocks

Available Now – Stoke On Trent

Call Sarah 07977 436839

*Please note the closing date for the next Newsletter is Friday 20th June.*

*Rates are 15p per word with a minimum charge of £2.40.*

*Non-members rate = 30p per word.*

