



The Shetland Pony Stud-Book Society

ISSUE 110

DECEMBER 2010

Shetland Pony Stud-Book Society

Dear Members

My apologies that this newsletter has been a bit delayed but as I write Perth is at a standstill with snow and here we have 2 ft in some places and as a result everything is centred on getting adequate feed and water to all stock. There are moments when living in a town in a nice cosy apartment with central heating and double glazing becomes strangely appealing!

During this last year the Society has seen some important events, hosting the very successful International Shetland Show in August and the adoption of the new Constitution at the AGM in October. The last time this was completely updated was 2000 and during this time all societies have seen some major changes involving new legislation at national and international levels.

The financial position of the Society has been a cause for some concern for Council. Apart from some major financial commitments that have arisen, it has become increasingly obvious that the current income is simply not meeting the normal outgoings of the Society. At the recent Council meeting this was debated at length. The Council receives three-monthly audited management accounts sent directly to individual Council members from the Society Accountant so that every member of the Council is aware of the Society's financial position. It was decided some years ago that it was a sensible policy to have an independent body regularly overseeing the Society's finances.

With great regret the Council has decided that some substantial price increases are unavoidable and because of this I feel that a detailed explanation and insight into the management of the Society is required here, hence the length of this newsletter.

As members are aware, the Society has had some major expenditure over the last few years which has resulted in much of the Society's reserves being used, for example recent legal costs for the necessary constitutional changes amounted to some £15,000. This obviously is finished with now after being accepted overwhelmingly by the membership at the recent AGM but for members who may wonder why this cost so much I should explain that the quote for the original draft put forward by the Societies lawyers was around £2500 - and I have to say on a personal note it was disappointing that Council did not accept the first draft of the constitution as this would have resulted in much less cost for the Society. As it was five drafts were prepared! I have been asked if the change was in fact necessary. I can assure you that at all times Council sought and followed the correct legal advice in relation to the correct management of the Society and to maintaining our charitable status. This has taken place over several years and involved all members of Council being fully informed and involved.

Members may very well be asking why the Society in recent times has spent a lot of money on legal advice. In my position as President, I am constantly asked quite detailed legal questions on company and charity law. I am not a lawyer and cannot as an individual answer such questions with any legal certainty. As I am sure you all appreciate we live in very litigious times and some emails and letters come into the office finished with the well known phrase "I will be seeking the advice of a solicitor". I have to make sure the Society and Council members as individuals are protected and therefore in certain circumstances have to seek the advice of the Society lawyers. For example shortly before the recent AGM questions and amendments sent to the Society prior to the meeting by two members cost the Society £1,500 in legal fees. Clearly, this is unacceptable. If every member requested such advice the Society would be quickly insolvent! As a result of this Council has decided that any questions of a legal content will not be answered until they are put before a Council meeting and debated by the Board. As a consequence, it may be three or four months

before a response to any legal queries are given to members in the future from the Society's solicitors. I have asked for this in order that a President as an individual is not responsible for dealing with legal queries and that Council takes full responsibility for how these are dealt with. I do as President have the authority of Council in the event that something requires urgent attention to seek the appropriate advice.

As the Mother Stud Book for the Shetland Breed, this too adds to our list of extra expenses that in days past would never have been necessary.

Another major expense has been the refurbishment of the offices which was urgently required, and even more so the new computer system and Grassroots data package. All essential for the long term operation and well being of the Society. The old filing system was cardboard boxes under the staff desks in the main office and the attic housed so many boxes of paper that our insurance company advised it was a fire hazard. As you will remember from previous newsletters the data held on the Society's old computers was being lost as it was entered and three months data input by the office was lost completely. We had no choice but to replace the computers and update our data software. All these things as I am sure you all appreciate cost money. Thankfully these are all one off expenses and I am sure will hold the Society in good stead for the future.

Council's main concern is that if you look at the audited accounts, which as members you receive annually, you will see the Society has made a loss for the last few years. Last year the loss was £22,428. The year before it was a loss of £12,915. Council has just received the audited nine months accounts for this year and we are showing a loss at the nine month point to 30th September 2010 of £32,625 (this includes costs of the new constitution referred to above). There will of course be income for the months October to December which is one of our busiest periods for the receipt of funds. This deficit cannot continue and requires immediate attention.

Contrary to what many members believed would happen, the Society is processing an **INCREASED** number of passports and registrations for this year, so as yet the Society **HAS NOT** experienced a decline in registrations. As a result, the workload in the office has increased. The expenditure/costs of running the Society have been well controlled and there is no room to decrease the day to day running costs of the Society. The Society currently employs three full time members of staff and two part time members of staff, (one works 16 hours a week and one works 22 hours). The level of service required by Members requires this staffing and I would again reiterate the registrations and passports have increased again this year. Answering the telephone between the hours of 11am to 3pm takes two members of staff. In reality this means that one full time member of staff does nothing but answer the phones!

Discussions regarding increasing registration fees on a regular basis have been tempered by welfare concerns - for example a colt foal not making the cost of it's registration at a sale. Welfare is a huge issue but offering a cheap registration fee is not the answer. Council has been well intentioned in trying to resist fee increases but this cannot continue. None of us likes having to pay more but in reality these days prices for everything increase year on year and Society running expenses have risen substantially.

There was discussion regarding whether owning the Society property is cost effective compared to a rental property in the same area. However, it was felt that with the current state of the property market it would not be easy to sell the property let alone get any real value for it. The freehold will be a considerable asset when the general financial situation improves. On the downside it is an old building which requires regular maintenance. Again, sub-letting part of the property to generate further income may not prove easy as there are modern more appealing rentals available in the immediate area which are unoccupied. However we shall try to do our best in this direction.

Welfare is a very important part of the Society. As breeders we must take responsibility for the stock we breed. Just to breed for the sake of breeding does tremendous damage to any breed or species. The fact is, at present there are too many Shetlands being bred with, in some extreme cases, little or no regard for the ponies' future or well being. As with all breed societies we must strive for quality not quantity. We are a pure breed and it is our duty as breeders to safeguard and maintain our pony's future. This is not about being elitist as I have had said to me, it is about the Breed Society's duty to maintain and improve the breed standard. It has appalled me as a breeder to see colt foals dumped at auctions by their breeders with little or no concern for their future, with bids as low as £10 or £20. What happens to these poor ponies?

Very possibly there will be a downturn in registrations from 2012 as we all feel the burden of price increases, not least the price this year of hay due to the weather and feed forever going up and up. Council has an overriding legal obligation to maintain the financial stability of the Society and as such I have to regretfully inform members that Council has no option other than to substantially increase the charges the Society makes for its services. I can

assure members that these increases were debated at length by the entire Council and were accepted.

From January 1st 2011 the following charges will apply:

(Please note VAT goes up 2.5% to 20% from January 4th 2011 and this increase is included in the new pricing structure. The government gets that, not the Society!)

The costs for filly and colt foals will be inclusive of a passport from January 1st 2011.

Registration and passport for a filly foal: £40 (includes VAT of £6.67).

This is an increase to the breeder of £15 a foal, but to put into perspective a 1/3 of a round bale of hay or 4 pints of beer or a visit to the cinema! This is a registration to last for the filly's life, maybe 30 years.

Registration and passport for a colt foal: £25. (Includes VAT of £4.17).

Transfer of ownership will increase from £12 to £20. (Includes VAT of £3.34).

Microchips will increase to £10. (Includes VAT of £1.67).

DNA kit, (which the Society has made a loss on for some considerable time) increases to £60. (Includes VAT of £10.00).

In order to encourage breeders only to put their best colts forward for Stallions and to encourage the use only of stallions that have passed the Society's Voluntary Veterinary Examination the following price increase will apply from January 1st 2011.

Double fees for the registration of any progeny sired by colts that have not undertaken and passed the SPSBS Voluntary Veterinary Examination.

An increase in the Voluntary Veterinary Examination for colts from £60 to £100 (includes VAT of £16.67).

All annual Subscriptions will all rise by £5. (New standing order forms are included for those of you who wish to continue paying by standing order)

These are the main increases. Included with this newsletter is a price list effective from 1st January 2011.

On a personal note I am disappointed that rumour has circulated regarding the fee increases before adequate explanation could be put to the membership. It was agreed in Council that a full and detailed explanation of where the Society stands should be given to the membership for their understanding in this newsletter. Unfortunately bad news travels fast but I hope that I have been able to give members an insight into why Council has had to take these unpopular but necessary decisions.

With very best wishes for a snow free Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Sue Bowling, President

Correction to International Show Report

In the August newsletter the breeder of the senior standard coloured stallion, Brinleyview Camanchee should have read Mrs P. Pearce.

Breed Show 2011

Next year's Breed Show will be held at Kingsbarn Equestrian Centre, Falkirk on Sunday 24th July.

2011 Magazine

Space is still available for those wishing to advertise in next year's magazine. A full page costs £125 and a $\frac{1}{2}$ page is £80. Adverts must reach the office by 31st December.

Christmas Cards

Society Christmas cards are now available from the office. Packs of 10 (2 designs) £6.50 incl. P & P.

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.

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

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

GROUP NEWS

CENTRAL SCOTLAND SHETLAND PONY GROUP

The Group held their Youngstock show at Wester Deanhead Equestrian Centre on 20th November. Judge for the day was Mr P. Dawson. Results are as follows:-

Miniatures: Champion - Romany Soloman, a 3yr colt from Ken & Anne Scott; Reserve - Dryfesdale Amore, a yearling filly from E. Carlyle; Best foal - Casanova of Brygarth, a colt from J. & J. Farrell.

Blacks: Champion - Charlotte of Transy, a 3yr filly from Transy Stud; Reserve - Kerryston Ernest, a 3yr colt from K. & A. Scott; Best foal - Kerryston Nanette, a filly from K. & A. Scott.

Coloureds: Champion - Mawcarse Elisha, a 3yr filly from Janet Murray; Reserve & Best foal - Myreton Georgie, a filly from J. & G. Wilson.

Breed Show 2011 - there are a few classes remaining if you wish to sponsor a class. Thank you to all who have already sponsored classes.

If you are interested in joining the Group or wish to sponsor a class at the 2011 Breed show, please contact **Janet Murray, Secretary, Lochiel Farm, Monikie, Broughty Ferry, Dundee DD5 3QH. Tel: (01382) 370208 or email: lochiel.farm@virgin.net**

The Four Counties Shetland Group (Gloucestershire, Herefordshire, Shropshire and Worcestershire) was formed at a well attended meeting held on 25th November. The aim of the group is to hold social and educational events to anyone who is interested in Shetlands. The next meeting will be held at the Hundred House Hotel, Great Witley, Worcs. On Thursday 27th January at 7pm. Further information from contact Mrs D Millichap Tel: 01584 881117 or Mrs M Davenport Tel: 01885 490677

CHILTERN SHETLAND PONY GROUP

We wound up our showing season at the beginning of October with a most enjoyable day at our new venue - the Bury Farm Equestrian Centre at Slapton, Beds. The facilities were 1st class and the ponies looked great.

In the affiliated ring Brenda Twining took the honours with her popular miniature stallion Pinglewood Puzzle. Top standard and reserve overall was Shelcroft Isabelle.

We'll be back at Bury Farm on 27th March under panel judge Mrs Sue Pye. On 12th June we have our summer show under Mr John Harrison at Twin Trees off the A1, returning to Bury Farm on 2nd October when Mrs Sabin will be our panel judge.

At our annual meeting on 22nd October we said thank you to Janet Good who retired after 10 years in the chair. The Group had in fact developed out of informal gatherings Janet used to arrange at her farm.

Shelly Coates (Helawi) has been elected our new Chair and Show Secretary. Details of our activities and show schedules are available from Shelly on 01582 700640.

PARKLANDS S.P.S.G.

The Parklands S.P.S.G. autumn show 12th September coincided with another event taking place within the East Anglian region, ie. Highlands & Islands breed show at Trent Park, Ipswich. However with the weather giving sunshine all the way our only concern proved to be trying to park the sheer volume of vehicles that suddenly appeared over the horizon. A total of 99 competitors actually came forward by the end of the day albeit only 16 of these in ring two, junior handler/rider.

Colin Robbins was our judge in ring 2. The busiest pony in the show was probably **Helawi Little Dancer**. At 16 months he was in the ring performing for the Thomas family escorting Sarah, Peter, Oliver and Charlotte in every class they could 'fit him in' so to speak.

In ring 1, pony of the day had to be Ann Page's **Buxted Exotic** (Blue roan filly) for having taken the Miniature 2/3 yrs and Society miniature Youngstock Championship going on to become SPSBS Miniature show champion, SPSBS Best Miniature and SPSBS Best Shetland in show. Our Judge **Mrs. Margaret Ball** from Surrey felt quite justified in completing the pony's day by awarding the **The Kestral Caravans Supreme Championship** trophy to Ann Page, her owner. Another **Buxted** pony took the Reserve miniature Championship this time **Eliza** shown by Dawn Bryce.

The standard Society Champion was Roger Cook's **Mill of Towie Glen**, a skewbald stallion having taken the Stallion class enroute. The Reserve champion was another Roger Cook pony, his chestnut mare **Abbotsbury Easter Sundae**. Reserve miniature champion in the Youngstock went to Sue Wren with her pony **Buxted Elise**. In the Youngstock standard Championship Ann Page again reigned supreme with **Wells Bydand** beating Denise Barrett's **Tosca Elise**. **Tosca Elise** actually won both junior and senior coloured classes putting **Welstar Rainbows End** the latest addition to Denise's pony stud into second place in the latter of these two classes.

Out of the twelve new faces to the show, six managed top three placings. It can only be good for the breed and the future health of showing that these ponies are being brought along and with new enthusiastic owners holding their own or better in today's uncertain times.

PONIES FOR SALE

Ulverscroft Select, grey gelding, ridden, **W.H.P.**, Shetland Pony Grand National. **Tel: 07855 674768**

Chanonry Unity Usquebaugh, black filly born 28/05/96; **Stranduff Joy**, blue & white mare born 04/05/97; **Padanaram Flicka**, black filly born 13/06/98; **Padanaram Jonty**, blue & white colt born 15/06/08. Good homes required. **Tel: 01307 462427**

BOOKS FOR SALE

Society magazines 1974 to 1988 inclusive and 1991 to 1996 inclusive - open to offers.

Tel: 01886 880791

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

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

Four Counties Shetland Pony Group

(covers Worcestershire, Hereford, Shropshire and Gloucestershire)

Mrs Dee Millichap tel: 01584 881117 or
Mrs Mary Davenport tel: 01885 490677

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

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

**Closing date for adverts
for the next newsletter is
Friday 28th January 2011.**