

826 EQUINE STUDBOOKS ASSOCIATION AGM 23RD MARCH 2021

CHAIR'S REPORT

The time since our last meeting has – yet again – been overshadowed by the double whammy of COVID-19 and Brexit and the sad loss of a number of important figures in our industry, not least Pat Campbell our mentor and leader for many years and the Greatest Showman Robert Oliver who passed away just recently – and both of whom we have just remembered in the minute's silence.

We are now also having to deal with a further potential major threat in the EHV-1 neurological outbreak, which was centred on the FEI competitions in Spain and has thus led to a major dispersal of potentially infectious horses throughout Europe. Fortunately for us, our ever-vigilant vets and DEFRA biosecurity systems seem to be keeping under control in the UK, but in this forthcoming breeding season, strict biosecurity infections are absolutely essential and I am sure that Jane Nixon will be addressing this – and other related matters – in item 9 on the Agenda.

Since the last meeting in November, your committee has held one committee meeting (on 26 January) the main features of which were updates on Third Country listing with the EU for UK studbooks and import and export regulations post Brexit. Both these subjects will be discussed further later in the meeting and we are delighted to welcome our friends from DEFRA again to lead on this area.

At this meeting we also discussed the 826 ESA's insurance and auditing requirements and an up-to-date report will be given by the Treasurer on these under item 6 of the Agenda. We also identified the need to update the Constitution to cover the rules regarding Zoom meetings, hence the rather wordy motions put forward in item 7.

We have also forwarded any updates we have received from DEFRA, the BEF, BETA and other bodies regarding a wide variety of matters including biosecurity, travel regulations (equine and human) and also attended a number of webinar information presentations run by DEFRA on import and export regulations, raising questions on your behalf, as necessary.

On your behalf we also attended the British Horse Council meeting in December 2020 and the National Equine Forum earlier this month. We did try to get the problems with owners and ID-only PIOs recording microchip data directly onto the CED without notifying the originating studbook PIO but this application was not approved by the BHC, although we did have a special extra Zoom meeting with some of those involved which we hope did improve the situation a little.

We also attended the Just in Time and Great Weight Debate webinars run by the National Equine Forum recently and are delighted that Simon Cooper has agreed to repeat his extremely impressive presentation on in-breeding in the Thoroughbred (and perhaps this time including other breeds) for us today.

Unfortunately, the difficult situation regarding those PIOs that update passports that are not their own and then upload this information on to the CED still persists. However, we hope that -- following a Zoom meeting of studbook representatives and DEFRA last week -- some moves will be made to inform owners wanting to update passports directly with the CED or via a PIO that did not issue the original passport and who are not signatories to our protocol that the transfer of

ownership has not legally take place until recorded with the original issuing PIO. We hope that this will be via clear wording on the CED web site but we await developments on that.

With the EU Animal Health Law due to come into force in late April, we are also concerned that the information on the 'keeper' of the animal becomes a data field recorded on the CED as well as the owner as soon as possible. Ownership is no longer (and in fact never has been) an indicator of whereabouts of an equine, and the potential for equine holdings to be registered in the future, and the fact that from the start of the AHL we become 'operators' (not owners) of the animals recorded as being in our care, makes this even more urgent, so we await developments on this.

The 826 ESA will also be attending the next WHIRDEC meeting on 8 April, which will also be attended by Dr Fussl, of the EU talking on the latest developments in the AHL saga, so this is an important meeting. As all officially recognised equine studbook, national federations and equine department of ministries of agriculture are entitled to attend, if you can register to sign in to register for attendance – using the link we have already circulated to you –you will be able to receive an up to the minute report on what is happening with these regulations, which even though we have left the EU are still vital to our industry.

Finally we are about to help revivify the currently rather moribund British Young Breeders program and will be hosting a Zoom meeting to this effect on 6 April. Although direct team membership at International Young Breeders Championships is restricted to WBFSH member studbooks, young breeders (up to the age of 21) interested in breeding any breed of horse or pony will be welcome to take part in the webinars and training sessions the BYB intends to run so please tell your young breeders all about it and encourage them to get in touch with us if they want to take part. Hopefully, Eva will give us a little run down as to what is involved in Any other Business.

Now it is a fill Agenda so we had better get on with the business in hand ...