



EQUINE STUDBOOKS ASSOCIATION

Representing Horse and Pony Studbooks of the UK

Chair: Celia Clarke (WBSUK), Vice-Chair: Natalie Meredith (AHS), Secretary and Treasurer : Jane Murray (New Forest),

CHAIR'S REPORT November 2024

In the six months since our last meeting, the committee of the 826 Equine Studbooks Association has not been as busy as it usually is. This is because, once a General Election is called, government ministries 'go into purdah' and cannot discuss any policy issues with outside organisations. When this is followed by a change of government – as was the case this time – there is usually an even further delay during which existing policies and projects are reviewed and in some cases cancelled or halted for further investigation.

As you will have realised from the email I circulated from DEFRA a few days ago, the Equine ID project was halted following the Budget so we will get an update on this from the relevant DEFRA team at the members meeting. Hopefully this will include clarification on data uploads and the number of animals with change of ownership etc currently stuck in Amber status, as it is essential that studbook PIOs are able to rescue these and add the verified details to their data now that there is no functioning Central Equine Database. **To help with this it would be most useful if attending PIOs were to bring to the meeting details of the numbers of animals they currently have in Amber status so that we can log these during the discussions.**

Since the General Election there have, however, been significant developments in the Zootechnical area and we will hear more about these from DEFRA at the meeting as well. Hopefully we will also have some updates on the border issues – and particularly on the replacement of the border controls for equines at Stanstead Airport.

In the non-governmental section of our activities, we actively supported the second British Horse Foundation webinar ***Better Beginnings for a Better Life : The 2 to 4 Year Old Horse*** which can be found at

https://www.clipmyhorse.tv/en_GB/events/14526

and we would particularly recommend the excellent presentation by Dr Richard Newton on ***Climate Change and the Impact on Global Security*** which is a vital background element to all that we – as PIOs – have to prepare for in the future.

On a more personal note I was delighted to receive a nomination for one of the NEWC Welfare Awards, which demonstrates that the 826 ESA policy of encouraging studbooks to work together to identify and address welfare issues common to all is finding its approval with the industry specialists in this field.

Finally, we have now been appointed as the official representative of the non-Thoroughbred breeding sector by the British Horse Council and so will be giving our first industry sector update to that body in early December.

Celia Clarke

(Chair, 826 Equine Studbooks Association)

PS If you have added extra people to the usual attendance list for this meeting please be sure to forward this report to them, so that they are up to date with developments.