



EQUINE STUDBOOKS ASSOCIATION

Representing Horse and Pony Studbooks of the UK

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

CHAIR'S REPORT November 2023

In the six months since our last meeting, the committee of the 826 Equine Studbooks Association has been quite busy, although for reasons of confidentiality, much of the work done has been 'under the radar' dealing as it did with consultations with DEFRA and other bodies. These mainly concerned conveying our needs as a specific sector of the equine industry as regards potential changes in regulations for Equine ID and Zootechnics and the timing of these.

Hopefully, the DEFRA teams attending this meeting will be able to give us a more up-to-date, formal and time-linked report on the outcome of these consultations which were in the following areas of interest:

- The changes needed in studbook procedures / studbook registration rules required by the proposed Equine ID regulations; these consultation meetings usually took the form of a Zoom liaison discussion between a number of studbook representatives on the 826 ESA committee and the relevant team from DEFRA and numbered 6 in all
- The possible amendment in studbook approval procedures to meet Third Country requirements in EU zootechnic regulations; there were 2 of these
- A British Horse Council-led series of Zoom workshops designed to enhance DEFRA's knowledge of sector needs as regards Equine ID procedure changes, 2 in all
- On your behalf, a number of committee members have also tried repeatedly to get various technical points relating to Equine IDs clarified with the Equine Register but frustratingly this has proved impossible due to date clashes, travel commitments etc. This situation should be resolved soon.

Outside these consultations and discussions, the 826 ESA was also present via Zoom at the British Horse Council meeting on 30 June, at which Romy Morrin-O'Donnell gave an excellent presentation on recent development in SNPs, which – I am sure you will be delighted to learn -- she will give again at this member's meeting.

As a formally identified collaborating organisation by the British Equestrian Federation, a number of members of the 826 ESA have also provided significant input into the new and innovative BHF project Better Beginnings 'Inception to 2 years old', which you will hear more about in Jane Nixon's presentation on the subject during the meeting.

Although apparently relatively brief, this report does cover a considerable amount of work done by your committee over the past 6 months and the context of much of this will hopefully become clearer during the meeting itself.

Celia Clarke

(Chair, 826 Equine Studbooks Association)