



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 (Rare Breeds)

MINUTES OF THE 826 EQUINE STUDBOOKS ASSOCIATION MEETING NO 9 INCLUDING 2022 AGM

2.00 PM TO 4.00 PM THURSDAY 17 MARCH 2022 VIA ZOOM

Present

Committee: C Clarke (Chair, WBSUK), N Meredith (AHS), S McGeever (Treasurer, Exmoor), S Cooper (Weatherbys), C Burdock (SHB(GB)), J Murray (New Forest), S Shaw (NPS),

Observer: E-M Broomer (AES), J Shenfield, Lady Anne Vestey, J Nixon MRCVS, G Stanford (BHS), A Kirby (BHS), S Cookson (BHS)

Speaker: K Cobley (BHS)

Defra: D Bailey, A Greenham, C Liddell, O Herford

Studbooks: K Swanson (AHS), T Brown (Dartmoor), K Wilkinson (Fell), R Hathaway (Hackney), L Sheldrak (SPSS), S Attew (Trakehner), R Clarke, P Moon (both Donkey BS), B Smethers, R Staines (both Caspian), M McBryde (BAPSH), M Davies (WPCS), J Robinson (MHCGB), R Palmer (USA Saddlebred), C Jones, H Chaplin (both IDHS), K Eaton (BHHS), A Thorne (APHCUK), E Hore (CHAPS), J Harris (Eriskay)

Apologies for absence

S Lawrence (BSPA), A Betteridge (TGCA), R Davis (Defra Zootech), E Brimble, F Glansdorp (Icelandic), M Goddard (Fell), S Mansell (Exmoor), J Mullan (Palomino), H Johnston (Defra Equine ID)

The meeting began with a moment of silence for friends and colleagues no longer with us.

Statement on aid for Ukrainian equestrian world

As the association had not spent any money during the last two years it was agreed to donate £500 to the BEF/WHW British Equestrians for Ukraine fund. The BEF statement on Ukraine was endorsed. Noted that the Central Prefix Register had donated £1,000.

Minutes of the 2021 Annual General Meeting, March 2021

There were no comments and the minutes were accepted.

Minutes of the October 2021 Meeting

There were no comments and the minutes were accepted.

Chair's report

The report was circulated with the agenda and read.

Election of officers and committee members

The following three Committee Motions were approved:

- **Committee Motion 1:** There being no other nominations received, the following current officers of the 826 Equine Studbooks Association be elected unopposed: Celia Clarke (Chair), Natalie Meredith (Vice-Chair), Jane Murray (Secretary), Sue McGeever (Treasurer).
- **Committee Motion 2:** There being no other nominations received, the following current committee members of the 826 Equine Studbooks Association Executive Committee be

elected unopposed: Catherine Burdock (SHBGB), Sacha Shaw (NPS), Sandra Lawrence (BSPA), Simon Cooper (Weatherbys).

- **Committee Motion 3:** There being no other suggestions for Observer(non-voting) membership of the 826 Equine Studbooks Association, the following be re-appointed unopposed: Anne Vestey (welfare), Eva-Maria Broomer (WBFSH and WHIRDEC), Jane Nixon (Veterinary, biosecurity and social licence to operate) John Shenfield (EU regulations), Karen Swanson (passports) , Roger Truelove (NaSTA)

Treasurers report

The Balance Sheet had been circulated prior to the meeting and the Treasurer presented the accounts for 2021. Income £4,143.24, expenses £381.11, balance £3,672.13. Since circulation, an additional £780 had been received in subscriptions, and expenses incurred of £500 for Ukraine, £200 insurance and £120 for the National Equine Forum, leaving a balance of approx. £3,500. The accounts were accepted.

Insurance

The Zurich policy meets the association's needs and will be renewed.

Defra Updates

- **Zootech (Amelia Greenham)** – a brief report on extensions of breeding programmes and the listing of UK studbooks with the EU Commission.
- **Brexit-related items (Olivia Herford)** – new Export Health Certificates; Stubbington in Kent will be the first BCP that is operational for other species; an aim to define no-risk equines based on the High Health concept; looking at further alignment with the Animal Health Law.
- **Equine ID Consultation** – to be published at end-March with a 12-week consultation period, followed by a 12-week period of analysis and evaluation. Items being looked at: accuracy and quality of data; increased digitisation; expanding ease of access to records; habitual location for traceability. N Meredith implored all Studbooks to participate.

Discussion on Above Items

- S Cooper: paper passports may continue to be needed for movement to EU, but otherwise digital records could be used for those not travelling.
- E-M Broomer: some information held in the passport never changes, eg pedigree, but other items change frequently eg vaccination records and ownership, so how do we link digital items with physical non-changing information.
- A Vestey: on traceability, it would be unfortunate for the 'happy hacker' to be fined simply because they do not understand the legislation, when it is the dealers who should be pursued.
- There were examples of loaners not being able to access the Digital Stable and an emphasis on the Operator would solve this.
- M Davies: have asked the Welsh Government for a DVLA approach to transfers with an onus on the seller. Olivia Herford responded that this will be included in the Consultation.
- A number of other examples of problems with transfers were given.
- E Hore: many owners lack knowledge and there is a need for improved communications on requirements.

Discussion on Brexit-related issues with Horse Sport Ireland

- D Bailey: it is quite a complex matter but Equine ID will be meeting with various colleagues to explore the issues.
- C Burdock: passports are being impounded and getting stuck in Ireland and this is causing a major problem.
- H Chaplin: The Irish Draught Horse Society is a daughter of HSI for ID but not for the Irish Sport Horse, so this is creating an 'interesting' situation. They are trying to establish protocols but currently transfers, duplicates and upgrades are all proving challenging.

Discussion on extension of breeding programmes

- R Staines: Caspian has always registered in EU and has one filial society in Sweden. Numbers may be small but being able to register in the EU is important for genetic diversity. Their feeling is that if Article 35 had been adopted they could have set up a specific agreement with each country.
- E-M Broomer: At Whirdec, Dr Fussel had made the point that there is no sense in adopting Article 35 unless it is better than Article 34 – and it is not. AES Netherlands has extended its programme across other EU countries. It is better to extend from a filial society to another EU country.
- If the UK was to adopt Article 35, then we would not be able to block extensions into the UK, so for example, WKPN would be able to come back.

Presentation by Kate Cobley of the BHS on the BHS programme for environmental sustainability

Through its mission and value statements, the BHS has developed a vision for its environmental sustainability, with ambitious targets based around the UN's five pillars. Their first project is based around BHS headquarters' internal processes and resources. The process is Benchmark, Target, Action Plan, Repeat. They are focussing on recycling, reducing consumption, alternative energy, a biodiversity plan, transport to work, electric charging points and energy use. The second project has an external focus and involves engaging with external stakeholders and partners, such as Approved Centres, volunteers, coaches and members. They are advocating for change and sharing knowledge and have set up a Green Scheme for their Approved Centres.

Presentation by Jane Nixon

- **Biosecurity** – Equine Infectious Disease Surveillance (EIDS) update. Encouraged signing-up to Tell-Tail. There is a role for social media in circulating information.
- **BEF vaccination standards.**
- **Equine Flu and herpes** – not serious in UK at present.
- **Social Licence to Operate** – The Showing Council winter webinar series included a presentation by Jane Nixon on 'Will we be riding in 20 years' time?'

British Horse Council summer meeting

All the presentations are available on the BHC website.

Report by the Chair on the 2022 National Equine Forum

- The Minister had highlighted the forthcoming Equine ID consultation noting that there were concerns about the mismatch between the location of the owner and of the horse. It would make more sense to use Operator, as this would give location, and it is where the horse is located that is important for welfare.
- There had been an excellent presentation on the increasing resistance to anthelmintics.

The next meeting will take place after WBFSh/Whirdec

The meeting closed at 4.10 pm