



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 rep)

MINUTES OF 826 EQUINE STUDBOOKS ASSOCIATION MEETING NO 10

2.00 pm to 5.00 pm. Monday 7 November 2022, via Zoom

Present

Committee: C Clarke (Chair WBSUK), N Meredith (AHS), S McGeever (Treasurer), S Cooper (Weatherbys), C Burdock (SHB(GB)), S Lawrence (BSPA), S Shaw (NPS), J Murray (Minutes Secretary)

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

Defra: H Johnston, I Hector, F Adeke, D Bailey, G Barr, C Liddell, A Greenham

Speakers: V South MRCVS (Liphook Equine Hospital), B Brown

Invited Observer: E Henson (Grassroots), A Davis (HPA)

Studbooks: S Matravers (Exmoor), S Gillingham (Connemara), K Holder-Vale (BHHS), K Eaton (BHHS), A Hughes (Dales), K Wilkinson (Fell), B Smathers (Caspian), R Staines (Caspian), C Herrick (AQHA UK), C Hamilton (CHAPS), M McBryde (BAPSH), J Harris (Eriskay), T Connolly (Morgan), K Swanson (AHS), P Moon (Donkey BS), R Clarke (Donkey BS), A Whiteway (Shire), S Attew (Trakehner), L Sheldrake (SPSS), P Cole (SPSS), A Betteridge (TGCA), J Baker

(AMHCGB), T Brown (Dartmoor), M Davies (WPCS), N Grubb (IDHS), A Thorne (AHPUK), K Sands (APHUK), P Adorian (IMHPS), R Palmer (USAUK)

Apologies for absence

E Brimble, F Glansdorp (Icelandic), E Hore (CHAPS), H Chaplin (IDHS), J Gee (Exmoor), S Cookson-King (BHS), J Mullan (Palomino), H McClusker (NIHB)

The Chair welcomed the Morgan Horse Society to the meeting as a new member.

The Minutes of the previous meeting were accepted on the proposal of C Burdock, with N Meredith second, with no votes against.

There were no matters arising from the Minutes for the last meeting not covered by agenda items

Treasurer's Report

The Balance Sheet and Membership Payments Report had been circulated prior to the meeting. The Treasurer gave an update on the latest membership payments and gave a reminder that membership renewals will go out in January.

Brexit-related update – Helen Johnston, Defra Equine ID

Equines had been due to be routed through the new Stubbington BCP but in May 2022 the government had imposed a hold while further requirements were evaluated. E-certification was in development but is not yet ready for equines.

Zootech Items – Amelia Greenham, Defra Zootech

- **Zangersheide.** This studbook has registered up to 300 UK-born 2022 foals in contravention of Brexit rules. Zootech has written to the Belgium competent authority. Zangersheide has applied to extend its breeding programme to the UK, but it was noted that there are other UK studbooks who cover the same breeding programme. The application is unlikely to be approved but no final decision has been taken yet. It is unclear what will happen to these passports that have already been issued – they may have to be overstamped. E-M Broomer suggested asking for the list from Zangersheide.
- **Third Country Listing.** Zootech has applied to the EU Commission for a further round of third country listings, but there are only a couple of equine breeds to be added.
- **Extension of breeding programmes to UK.** Shire and Drum Horse Society from the Netherlands, and the Danish Knabstrupper Classical Horse have been added.

Welfare in Transport – Helen Johnston, Defra Equine ID

Everyone wants smoother processes at the borders. Regular meetings are being held with transporters, agents and OV's to troubleshoot on interpretation of the regulations, and working to resolve specific issues. E-certification will make things easier.

Update on the Consultation on Equine ID - Helen Johnston (HJ), Defra Equine ID

394 responses had been received, 52% from the equine industry and 48% representing individual views. The next steps now depend on the Minister's views.

Comments made on updating records digitally on CED and concerns about digital access:

- Connemara: many imported ponies are not registered with the British Society and there needs to be joint government and industry collaboration to work out how reach people.
- S Cooper: surprised that paper is considered safer than digital. HJ responded that there is often confusion about what 'digital' means,
- C Burdock: problems with people believing that a change of ownership notified to the Digital Stable is complete when it is not.
- N Meredith: enforcement is always promised, but nothing happens.
- E-M Broomer: it is a shame that other studbook data is not recorded on CED and ownership disputes are not a studbook matter.
- J Nixon: biosecurity lapses in imported horses are a serious matter.
- A Davis: any changes to ownership routines must not reduce compliance.
- A Vestey: issues around missing data on CED and inability to access data because of GDPR.
- J Shenfield: historic data should be available on CED.
- N Grubb: problems with differences in overseas passports that don't always comply and this has an impact on British members. E-M Broomer noted that EU and GB passports should follow the same template but some EU member states are still not compliant.

HJ noted that implementation of any new system will require legislation and work will take 8-12 months.

An Ethical Framework for Horse Sport Research - Bluebell Brown, Royal Veterinary College This presentation looked at the development of an ethical framework for decision making across equine disciplines. There are six steps in the framework process:

- What is the question and background.
- Identify sport rules or laws.
- Identify evidence
- Carry out stakeholder harm/benefit analysis – stakeholder matrix.
- Key consideration – minimise negative/maximise positive.
- Decision/loop back/review.

Testing the framework

- Round 1 – general questionnaire, statistically analysed, refined, feedback. • Round 2 – discipline-specific questionnaire
- Round 3 – critical thinking.

Project aim - enhance welfare. For Step 3 Guidelines Evidence – refine ethical framework; test applicability at grassroots level; investigate drivers, facilitators, barriers to adoption and develop methods to overcome barriers; identify research priorities targeted at improving welfare.

Presentation on Equine Anthelmintic Resistance - Victoria South MRCVS, Liphook Equine Hospital

Redworms. Pasture factors - a grazing season is no longer described as we are in a temperate climate. Overwintering on pastures is a constant source of reinfection. The traditional treatment, owing to the widespread availability of de-wormers, was routine and frequent administration to the whole population. Resistance has arisen as the same de-wormer drugs have been used for 40 years with no new products likely to be launched. Evidence that once resistance is present it is not reversible. Some studies have shown 100% resistance in Panacur/fenbendazole and in Pyrantel. Other studies have shown 23% resistance to ivermectin. These drugs are still killing the adult stages but not the larval stages. Diagnostic testing should be used before de-worming to target the few adult horses that are contaminating pastures.

Roundworms. A problem in young horses and the risk is greatest in centres where foals are commonly raised. Elimination of the eggs from the environment is almost impossible. It is the larval stages that cause disease in foals. Strong protective immunity develops after the first year of life.

Principles of control – strategic treatment; stocking density; pasture hygiene.

General goals – limit parasite infection.

Aim – is **not** to eradicate all parasites. Aim is to reduce contamination of the horse's living environment by eggs and larvae.

WBFSh reports

WBFSh General Assembly report - Katy Holder-Vale. Report circulated separately. An important presentation on 'Megatrends' (Social Licence to Operate) which covered the image horse sport societies need to be aware of and how they present themselves to the general public. A workshop on 'Well Being' looked at transmitting a positive image of sport and breeding and the importance of using a vocabulary more suited to the expectations of the world around us.

General WBFSh update - Eva-Maria Broomer. EMB commented how glad she was that Katy Holder-Vale is now a member of the Executive Committee as this give the UK a seat at the table. She also noted that FAnGR has relaunched as The UK Genetics for Livestock and Equines Committee.

EI, EHV and other biosecurity matters – Jane Nixon MRCVS

EI cases are on the rise again. Those most vulnerable are foals and youngstock, naïve populations, mixing of stock especially at sales, non-quarantined equines, lorry loads coming from Ireland, and unvaccinated stock.

Social Licence to Operate - Jane Nixon MRCVS British Horse Foundation Roundtable Workshop on Better Beginnings

The purpose of the Better Beginnings Project is to address and improve equine sustainable welfare with a new approach, by improving breeding and production practice up to the age of two. There will be a webinar in early December. Advice notes will be produced on best management for horses in the first two years of life.

Meeting closed at 5.15 pm