

826 Equine Studbooks Association

Six Monthly Chair's report

26th March 2025

Since the last 826 ESA meeting the committee has been actively involved in a number of initiatives, mainly centred on consultations with Defra on various issues including Equine ID regulations, a survey into Amber status issues and discussions on zootechnical documentation for part-bred animals.

Defra will be updating the meeting on all these areas so they will be covered fully then and do not need to be included in this report.

The 826 ESA has also attended a British Horse Council meeting in December – where it delivered its first sector report for the breeding side of the industry (anyone wanting to see the Power Point presentation and text related to this just email me via celia.clarke@outlook.com and I will send it to you) and we also attended the National Equine Forum, of which it is a Friend. Members of the committee also attended the WHBFSH General Assembly on behalf of their own studbooks, thus giving us a valuable insight into that area of sport horse breeding activity. A number of members will also be attending other international meetings (including WHIRDEC and WAHO) in the next few weeks, and we will pass on reports about these as we get them. The 826 ESA also continues to work closely with the British Horse Foundation and recently attended the inaugural meeting of the British Breeding Advisory Committee, which is charged with extending the Futurity system to native and rare breeds – with particular emphasis on including breed type in its linear scoring system.

Administratively, one studbook resigned from the organisation (because it did not wish us to represent them in the negotiations with DEFRA on part-bred studbooks and registers but we did gain the Hurlingham Polo Association (which governs polo pony breeding and competitions worldwide) at almost the same time, so our numbers remain stable. Also Jane Murray stepped in to combine her already existing duties as Secretary with that of Treasurer upon the resignation of Sue McGreedy, and we are very grateful to her for doing that.

Finally, although it is gratifying on a personal level to see that no nominations have been received for the posts of Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary or Treasurer –and none for any Committee posts (so we must be doing something well) –it does create a bit of an issue regarding Succession. I myself will be nearly 80 when the next election comes around and I am not alone amongst the officers and committee members of the 826 ESA in seeing old age creeping up on us rather quickly. I do therefore ask if any of the younger members of the PIO community would like to volunteer (for the present time) as non-voting Observer members of the committee, with a view to perhaps taking more of an active role later on. Do please think about it if you think it might interest you – or any member of your breed committee or council.

Celia Clarke

19 March 2025