

## EXMOOR PONY SOCIETY

### Trustee Notes from the 'Virtual' Committee Meeting held Tuesday 13 September 2022

Nigel Hill (Chairman) - NH  
Geoff Bryant (Vice-Chairman) - GB  
David Wallace (Vice-Chairman) – DW  
Sue Burger – SBU  
Mark Drummond - MD  
Portly French - PF  
Vicky Lamb - VL  
Sheralee Matravers – SM  
Margaret Partridge Keane - MPK  
Stephanie Poulter - SP  
Rob Taylor – RT  
Vivien Taylor – VT (Present for Items 11 through 31)

Also in attendance were Liz Barker (LB, President), Sue Baker (SBA, SAP Representative), who was present for Items 29 through 30, and Jay Gee (secretary).

The Chairman opened the meeting at 10am and welcomed all those present. A one-minute silence in memory of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II was observed.

#### **1. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence had been received:

Marcello Riggio

#### **2. Declaration of Interest/Confirmation of Confidentiality**

##### **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

##### **Confirmation of Confidentiality**

*It was proposed by MD, seconded by SP and unanimously agreed that confidentiality with respect to the discussions at the meeting would be maintained.*

#### **3. Notification of Any Other Business on the agenda (All)**

SBU introduced an item on the sales of Exmoor Gin. The secretary introduced the issues of unreconciled bank transactions and a member query regarding a report from the Inspection Discussion Days.

#### **4. Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 12 July 2022**

*It was proposed by GB, seconded by VL and unanimously agreed that the minutes were a true record of the meeting and would be duly signed by the Chairman as and when possible.*

#### **5. Notification of matters pertaining to:**

##### **Health & Safety (SECRETARY)**

The secretary advised that there was nothing to report under Health and Safety.

##### **GDPR (SECRETARY)**

The secretary advised that there had been no GDPR issues raised.

##### **Safeguarding (SM)**

SM advised that there had been no safeguarding issues reported.

### **Welfare (SECRETARY)**

The secretary advised that there had been no welfare issues brought to our attention besides those in the reports, which have now been resolved.

## **6. Responsibilities of Trustees/Management Committee and Chairman's Report (All)**

There had been no Management Committee meetings since the last trustee meeting. There was no Chairman's report.

## **7. Secretary's Report (Secretary)**

There was nothing further to add to the secretary's report.

## **8. Treasurer's Report (GB)**

GB informed the trustees that the EPS had received a £10,000 legacy donation which had not been ringfenced for a particular purpose.

GB explained that a request for volunteers to help with the preparation of the Yearbook had been included in the Summer Newsletter. The workload had been divided into three roles. He had received no response so far.

A draft financial report on the Yearbook had been circulated, which, for the first time, included fulfillment costs.

GB thanked DW who had worked hard to increase the number of advertisers in the Yearbook. GB explained that the expenditure had increased significantly on the previous year as the EPS had not previously had to pay for 'design for print'. There was a resulting deficit of approximately £2500 when fulfillment costs were included.

GB had received three quotes for the next Yearbook's production, the cheapest being £920 for 'design for print' and £2700 for printing. He expressed reasonable certainty that the majority of advertisers would continue to advertise in the Yearbook but there is far less support from members in taking out adverts than in other native breed societies. SBU suggested a special members rate or offer to encourage this.

NH and DW thanked GB for his work on the Yearbook.

DW expressed his concern about continuing to publish the Yearbook with a deficit of £2500 per annum and suggested an online version ought to be considered. NH thought it was important to continue providing hard copies, even if it had to be at a loss, as it is a service to members. GB explained that there had always been a deficit but it had not been as apparent because fulfilment costs had not been published before.

PF stated that we ought to approach potential advertisers much earlier and that we ought to consider hand delivering copies to members in the local area. SP spoke about reducing costs by sending Yearbooks out in the same mailing as AGM information packs. GB explained that this was usually the case but had not been this year due to the late printing.

GB explained that he will be unable to take on as much responsibility for the 2023 Yearbook as he did this year and that, by the end of October, we need to have a plan for going forward. SP suggested posting on Facebook to ask for volunteers.

DW asked when the latest income and expenditure report would be available and asked that these be available for every trustee meeting in the future.

#### **Item 9 – Show Affiliation Secretary's Report and Judge Training (NH)**

The secretary planned to meet with Susannah Muir in November to plan for next year's shows. DW suggested that he meet with Jay to discuss sending rosettes directly to shows after production.

NH echoed Susannah Muir's concerns that several judges were doing too many shows and the opportunities were not being spread around evenly. He suggested writing to all judges.

PF enquired as to whether there was actually a formal rule around how many shows a judge can do or around judging several shows within a certain geographical area. NH explained that there was not and this is why we ought to write to all judges explaining that the recommendation of the trustees is that our judges accept no more than one area show per year and ought to spread other appointments out geographically.

#### **Item 10 – Breed Show Secretary's Report (NH)**

GB had circulated a financial report prior to the meeting.

The secretary explained that Friends of the Exmoor Ponies had explained the need for making membership sign-up leaflets available on the day of the Breed Show.

Referring to the report from NH, RT asked whether it made more sense for the secretary to have a table next to the Breed Show Secretary. NH answered that an outside table would be best as the marquees get busy and it means people don't have to go inside.

GB stated that it would be beneficial to have the secretary in an additional marquee, attached to the Friends marquee, facing the opposite way so it is accessible to people walking up from the main area.

MPK, SP and SBU stated the benefits of bringing an Exmoor pony along to the show for the public to meet.

Regarding children needing to be EPS members to participate in the breed show, DW, SBU and SP all agreed that this shouldn't be necessary and removing this rule would encourage more young people to enter.

GB suggested offering an incentive for young people to join, such as free membership until the end of the current year. It was decided that this needed further discussion at the next meeting.

An email asking about bringing back prize money for the Exford Show had been received.

SP stated that the removal of prize money was not a general committee decision. RT explained that it was an EPS Exford Show Committee decision.

SBU explained that people enjoy being given an envelope of prize money. NH said that prize money does not make a difference to the number of entries, to which SBU and SP explained that it makes a difference to goodwill.

GB explained that preparing prize money takes a lot of time.

SP suggested the creation of a form to claim prize money.

RT explained that he used to assist Sarah Taylor with organising prize money when she was Show Secretary and it was not a big job. He suggested increasing the entry fee if prize money was reinstated.

SP said this ought to be a committee vote.

*It was proposed by DW and seconded by SP that prize money will be presented at the next breed show with the caveat that the entry fees will go up by £2 per class.*

*For: 8*

*Against: 2*

*The meeting broke for lunch from 12.30-1.30pm.*

### **29. Project/SAP Report (SBA)**

NH asked SBA what we had set out to achieve when the Genome Project was launched. SBA explained that she wasn't involved but she had not seen any of the original project work on defining the goals.

NH suggested that a meeting needed to be held with the interested parties.

### **30. Gene Bank Campaign (SBA)**

SBA explained that West Kingston Stud's tender had still not been received.

*It was proposed by VT, seconded by SP and unanimously agreed that the EPS would accept Stallion AI Services' tender and undertake the pilot two or three stallions as soon as possible, acknowledging that accepting this tender will mean sending them a total of ten stallions.*

GB stated that a visit to Stallion AI Services' centre was essential.

MD asked if there was an exit course without penalty after the first two or three stallions if we have any concerns. SBA explained that to obtain the costing at a 20% discount we need to send 10 stallions, but we do want to be able to assure owners that we have taken all possible steps to get things right. SBA also gave an explanation of how owners will have to make a 60 day commitment before sending the stallion to the centre as they are required to give nutritional supplements for 60 days and have vet checks.

SBA expressed that there was no great negative in taking our time, but it should be noted that if any older stallions are added to the list of ten, time may be of the essence.

GB suggested asking to have the first two stallions at the full rate and, then, if all is well, agree to send 8 more with a retrospective discount.

### **11. Area Report (PF)**

NH explained that Evie Hickman had accepted Charlotte Matravers' help. The Christmas show will be going ahead.

PF had written a list of responsibilities for area representatives including running one show a year, collating information from their area for the Yearbook and running a Facebook group for their area.

PF said it would be useful for members to be able to enter their postcode into the website and have it return the name of the area they fall under.

NH congratulated PF on the progress she has made in her role so far.

### **12. Inspections/DNA (RT/NH)**

DW noted that, in previous years, many inspectors have been incredibly generous and not charged expenses to the EPS. However, with the increased cost of fuel, this will most likely need to change.

GB stated that inspectors should be able to claim 45p per mile or provide a fuel receipt for any amount up to that.

RT stated that only three moorland herd owners were yet to set dates for their inspections.

DW asked that the secretary invite Libby and others from Grassroots to the Anchor inspection.

### **13. Website/Facebook (GB)**

GB asked that all trustees contribute amendments to the website as and when they come across changes that need to be made.

### **14. Exmoor Pony Festival Trust (RT/SM)**

There was nothing to add to the submitted reports.

### **15. Review of Charity Policy Documents (NH/GB)**

The document review had not been carried out.

### **16. Young Judge's Competition (SBU)**

Becky Edwards had expressed an interest in getting involved with organising the Young Judge's Competition. JG had put her in touch with Robyn Westcott.

PF suggested opening it up to all ages to generate more interest.

### **17. Breed Promotion (GB)**

GB asked all trustees to send any ideas for breed promotion to himself and SBU.

### **18. Conservation grazing (SP/RT)**

SP explained that SBA would be liaising with Alan Tibbetts to arrange recording.

### **19. Resignation and Renewal of Unpaid Memberships (NH/Secretary)**

GB suggested that Grassroots check for duplicated memberships before any other action was taken and that members who did not pay in 2020, and have not paid since, should be resigned.

*It was proposed that a letter should be sent to those whose subscription payments were due in 2021 or 2022.*

*For: 9*

*Against: 1*

Anybody who re-joins following receipt of the letter will not need to pay a rejoining fee.

**20. Microchip Administration Form (Secretary)**

VT and RT agreed that the information in the form was duplicated and therefore not necessary.

The form is therefore surplus to requirement.

**21. Drafting Guidance on the Advantages, Suitability and Use of Exmoor Ponies for Conservation, Re-wilding and Other Similar Uses (GB)**

GB suggested the formation of a subcommittee for this purpose. SBU suggested that a committee of three or four ought to be enough.

GB, SBU, SP and VT volunteered, with VT appointed as co-ordinator.

**22. Strapline**

NH explained that the need for a new strapline arose due to ours being the same as that of the Moorland Mouse Trust. NH asked all trustees to bring some ideas for the new strapline to the next meeting.

**23. Emailing All Show Schedules to Full Membership (PF)**

It was agreed that there was no downside to emailing all show schedules to the whole membership.

**24. There is So Much More to an Exmoor Leaflet & Other Leaflets (Secretary)**

PF volunteered to create new, updated version of both leaflets.

*SM left the meeting at 3pm.*

**25. Revised EPS Showing Rules (MD)**

MD explained that the purpose of the Revised EPS Showing Rules was to bring them closer to the NPS rules.

NH suggested that MD send to sub-group for feedback and this item be carried forward to the next meeting. VT had some feedback to give to MD after the meeting.

The trustees thanked MD for his efforts.

**26. Judge Appointments (NH)**

PF stated that she would not participate in any discussion of, or voting on, judging appointments as she will be competing at these shows.

PF pointed out that David Lee did not judge in 2021 as stated in the reports.

*It was proposed by MPK, seconded by VL, and decided that the following judges would be invited to judge the Breed Show 2023. PF abstained. All other votes were For.*

Ann Nicholls: In-Hand

Pam Cox: Ridden

Sandy Wooderson: Geldings and Groups

Cath Wells: Reserve

*It was proposed by MPK, seconded by VL, and decided that SBU would be invited to judge Pony of the Year 2023. PF abstained. All other votes were For.*

### **27. Breeds Meeting (NH)**

VL and MPK volunteered to represent the EPS at these meetings.

*SP left the meeting at 4.10pm.*

### **28. British Show Pony Society Heritage Championship Show (NH)**

DW asked how much traffic a stand like ours could expect to receive at this show. PF stated that she didn't think it would be worth us having a stand there. DW agreed that people are there to compete and therefore we should not take them up on their offer.

### **31. Any Other Business (All)**

The Secretary read out the information for the unreconciled bank transactions and none of the trustees were able to identify them as a transaction they had carried out.

JG spoke about a member enquiry regarding a report from the Inspection Discussion Day and how this had not yet been made available to members. GB said this should be a Management Committee item.

SBU updated trustees on the sale of Exmoor Gin. 84 bottles had been sold with £420 raised for the EPS. She suggested arranging a presentation of this donation and have a final push for sales.

RT raised the issue of spare trophies and what to do with them. SBU asked if they could be repurposed. NH suggested they could be awarded at the Spring Show. SBU volunteered to run the Spring Show again.

GB suggested writing a history of each EPS trophy and publishing it on the website. He asked that this be added to the agenda for the next committee meeting.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 4.35pm.