

## EXMOOR PONY SOCIETY

### 'Virtual' Committee Meeting, Tuesday 12 September 2023

Nigel Hill (NH)  
Geoff Bryant (GB)  
David Wallace (DW)  
Sue Burger (SBU)  
Mark Drummond (MD)  
Sheralee Matravers (SMA)  
Margaret Partridge Keane (MPK)  
Stephanie Poulter (SP)  
Rob Taylor (RT)

Also:

Dr. Sue Baker (SBA, EPS Scientific Advisory Panel Representative)  
Jay Gee (Secretary)  
Susannah Muir (SMU)

#### **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence had been received from:  
Dr. Michael Dewhurst (President)  
Portly French  
Vivien Taylor

#### **Approval of the Minutes of the Meetings held on Sunday 7 May 2023 and Tuesday 11 July 2023**

*It was proposed by GB, seconded by SMA and unanimously agreed that, with the exception of removing Marcello Riggio and adding Margaret Partridge Keane to the attendee list, the minutes of Sunday 7 May 2023 were a true record of the meeting and would be duly signed by the Chairman as and when possible.*

*It was proposed by MD, seconded by GB and unanimously agreed that the minutes Tuesday 11 July 2023 were a true record of the meeting and would be duly signed by the Chairman as and when possible.*

#### **Secretary's Report**

GB suggested that he work with Dan Stone on setting up our direct debit facility, ready for membership subscriptions to be taken on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2024.

#### **Treasurer's Report**

With reference to setting up a dual signatory requirement on the bank account, GB suggested additional trustees ought to be authorised as signatories.

DW asked whether the EPS should be looking to invest some of the Society's £200,000. GB replied that it depended how much liquidity the EPS wanted to keep. DW asked GB to do some research and put together a proposal for approval at the November 2023 committee meeting.

For the purposes of dual authorisation, GB suggested that the role of the EPS' two banks ought to be switched, as the current account would not allow for dual signatory requirement.

*It was proposed by GB, seconded by MPK and unanimously agreed that the EPS invest in three one-year fixed-rate savings accounts or bonds of £85,000 each, with separate lenders, totalling £255,000.*

*It was proposed by GB, seconded by MD and unanimously agreed that the EPS set up dual authorisation on the EPS' Virgin Money account, with the incoming Treasurer and current Management Committee Members (Chair and Vice-Chairs) as signatories, of which any two out of the four can authorise payments from the account; Virgin Money should become the primary account for the majority of outgoings.*

*It was proposed by GB, seconded by SP and unanimously agreed that the EPS would purchase and begin using a SumUp Air card payment system at events.*

### **Show Affiliation Secretary's Report and Judge Training**

It was felt that Supporter membership was sufficient for EPS judges. Therefore, the Probationer Judges Scheme document should not be amended to specify membership type requirements.

The first two paragraphs required amendment, as below:

The aim of the Probationer Judges Scheme is to give potential judges the necessary experience to enable them to join to the Exmoor Pony Society Judges Panel. Appointment to the EPS Probationer Judges Scheme and the EPS Judges Panel is at the discretion of the Trustees.

Applicants must have been members (eligible for adult membership) of the EPS for a minimum of five years, have attained the age of twenty-three and must remain members in order to remain on the Panel. NPS judges must have been on the Mixed M&M panel for at least five years and must become members of the EPS before applying. In exceptional circumstances, the Trustees may allow applicants onto the Scheme at an earlier age.

*It was proposed by SBU, seconded by SP and unanimously agreed that, with the above two paragraph amendments, the guidance document, as presented by SBU in the reports circulated ahead of the meeting, should begin to be sent out with all Probationer Judges Scheme application forms.*

*It was proposed by SBU, seconded by SP and unanimously agreed that the two recent applicants would be invited to the next available Probationer Judges Scheme assessment.*

It was decided that there did not need to be an Advisory Board assembled for reviewing future applications, as per SBU's suggestion. However, should there come a time when there are no Senior Judges on the Committee, a Senior Judge should be asked to assist with considering applications.

### **Area Report/Representatives**

*It was proposed by PF, seconded by SMA and unanimously agreed that Rebecca Jeffries should become joint Area Representative for the Western Area alongside Sue Allen.*

It was suggested that PF should check in with all area representatives four times a year to ensure they continue to feel supported and to act as a point of contact between the area representatives and the committee.

### **EPS Storage**

The items in the EPS archive kept by SBA included the large display boards from the old trailer. SBA would photograph these before disposing of them.

RT asked whether the display boards used at Bampton Fair were kept by SBA, who replied that she would check and that they were owned by herself rather than the EPS.

It was decided that Sue Baker should be allowed access to the EPS' Zoom account for Scientific Advisory Panel meetings.

### **Yearbook and Newsletter**

GB reported that Elizabeth Etchells had agreed to take on the role of Editor for the 2024 Yearbook and had already been in contact with some contributors. She intended to include a timetable for contributions in the next newsletter. GB and DW would work on the advertising in the Yearbook, as in previous years.

GB suggested that we do not have separate Autumn and Winter newsletters this year but have a combined Autumn/Winter edition instead.

### **2024 AGM Date**

The expected date of the AGM would fall on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> May. However, MPK confirmed that this would clash with the Royal Windsor Horse Show. Therefore, it was felt that it should be postponed by one week.

*It was proposed by MPK, seconded by MD and unanimously agreed that the AGM would be held on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2024 and the EPS Spring Show & Stallion Parade would be held on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2024.*

### **Conservation Grazing**

VT had received an enquiry to find ponies for a conservation grazing project. It was felt that future requests should continue to be brought to the attention of the secretary. SP suggested that VT could also reply to the sender with a PDF of the herd map leaflet.

It was agreed that there should be an email sent by the secretary to all EPS members who had bred foals in the past three years when requests were made for ponies for conservation grazing projects. If there was no member response to this email, the enquirer then could be directed to MMT by VT.

### **EPS and Area Shows**

MD had completed the draft amended rules and was working on a summary to accompany them.

The Exford Show Committee had given the EPS a £500 contribution. Millie Richards was happy to continue as Breed Show Secretary for 2024.

NH explained how some owners loan their ponies long-term and, if they do not wish to become members of the EPS, the registered keeper would be excluded from entering the pony into the Breed Show under the current Breed Show rules.

*It was proposed by SP, seconded by SBU and unanimously agreed that, in order for a pony to be eligible for entry in the Breed Show, the owner does not have to be an EPS member, providing the registered keeper is a member.*

SBU had spoken with Charlotte Matravers and confirmed she would be happy to take over the role of Spring Show Secretary from SBU. Susannah Muir and Elizabeth Etchells would assist.

*It was proposed by SBU, seconded by SP and agreed that Charlotte Matravers would be appointed as Secretary of the Spring Show and Stallion Parade.*

*For: 7*

*Against: 0*