

EXMOOR PONY SOCIETY

'Virtual' Committee Meeting, Tuesday 14 November 2023

Nigel Hill (NH)
Geoff Bryant (GB)
Sue Burger (SBU)
Mark Drummond (MD)
Sheralee Matravers (SM)
Margaret Partridge Keane (MPK)
Stephanie Poulter (SP)
Rob Taylor (RT)
Vivien Taylor (VT)

Also:

Dr. Sue Baker (SBA, Scientific Advisory Panel Chairperson)
Jay Gee (Secretary)

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence had been received from:

Dr. Michael Dewhurst (President)
Portly French (PF)
David Wallace (DW)

Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 12 September 2023

It was proposed by SM, seconded by GB and unanimously agreed that, with the exception of the amendment to the amount of profit from the Exmoor Pony Festival as set out in the Reports circulated ahead of the meeting, the minutes of Tuesday 12 September 2023 were a true record of the meeting and would be duly signed by the Chairman as and when possible.

Member Phone Calls

GB, SBU, MD, SM, MPK, SP, RT and VT volunteered to make phone calls to those members who have not paid their membership renewals at the end of January.

Yearbook

The secretary suggested that all supplementary information that went out with the 2023 Yearbook should be included within the 2024 Yearbook instead (or, where more suitable, a URL included which links to the relevant information or document) – namely a call for photographs for the Friends of Exmoor Ponies calendar, a show calendar, an update from the SAP on the Gene Bank Campaign and a 200 Club renewal reminder. Given the administrative time this would save in preparing packs for mailing, it was agreed that the discussed changes should be actioned.

It was proposed by GB, seconded by VT and unanimously agreed that the Exmoor Pony Star information and vote should be moved online.

In previous years, voting had closed on 30th April. GB said this ought to be moved earlier if it meant it was easier to 'count' votes in the leadup to the AGM and ensure awards could be presented at the AGM.

All stallion owners (including non-members) would be invited to have their details published in the Yearbook and on the website. This was the easiest way of ensuring the information was up-to-date, as many owners did not inform the Society of changes such as transfers and castrations.

Registration and Membership Administrator's Report

SBU suggested we purchase membership cards to send out, only when a member specifically requests one (such as for use in the show ring), as opposed to sending them to all members or to everybody who asks for their membership number. The EPS would be able to purchase cards for a very low price and therefore this would not be necessary. GB agreed, as he did not foresee more than a handful of members proactively requesting a card. He clarified that they should be business cards (not plastic cards) which are all printed in one batch, with space to write on the membership number, year and either Susannah Muir's signature or Society stamp. SBU volunteered to look into the feasibility and costing of purchasing membership cards and report back at the next meeting.

It was proposed by SBU, seconded by SP and unanimously agreed that EPS Breed Show entries should retain the current membership requirements for entry, and EPS Spring and Autumn Show entries should remain open to both members and non-members.

Insurance

The secretary explained that there had been a request from an EPS show secretary to put their show's risk assessment on the website. GB agreed that this was not appropriate. Instead, it was the event organiser's responsibility to communicate any relevant risks to attendees as needed. MD was happy to assist event organisers with amending risk assessment documents as needed.

Show Affiliation Secretary's Report and Judge Training

It was felt that there was no reason that a change to POY qualification cards from rosettes should not be attempted for a year. If the change was not well-received, it could be reviewed for the following year.

SBU proposed, SM seconded and it was unanimously agreed that POY rosettes should be replaced with qualification cards for 2024 shows and this should be reviewed at the end of the year if needed.

SBU stated that the committee had previously agreed to reduce Pony of the Year qualifiers to just EPS Area Shows and Area Nominated shows. It was now slightly broader than this, but still fairly limited, and SBU thought it should remain as such. There were no alternative opinions expressed.

Scale of Charges

It was proposed by MD, seconded by RT and unanimously agreed that the changes to the Scale of Charges and accompanying text, as detailed in the reports circulated ahead of the meeting, should be implemented as of 1st January 2024.

Conflicts of Interest Policy

It was proposed by GB, seconded by VT and unanimously agreed that, with the amendment of the sentence "This policy will be reviewed by the Trustees annually and updated as required" to instead read "at least annually", the Conflicts of Interest policy circulated ahead of the meeting should be published on the website and implemented immediately.

Stud Books

Friends of Exmoor Ponies were taking ten books into their stock, so future orders could be handled by them. If there was unexpected further demand, the EPS could consider re-printing.

EPS and Area Shows

Once confirmed, SM to send explanation of new use of the Tawbitts Shield to Millie Richards for incorporation into the Breed Show schedule.