



THE EXMOOR PONY SOCIETY

PATRON: The Baroness Mallalieu KC

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Committee Meeting held on Zoom at 10.00am on Tuesday 14th January 2025

1. Apologies for Absence (All)

Trustees present:

- Geoff Bryant (GB) - Vice Chair
- Mark Drummond (MD)
- Nigel Hill (NH) - Chair
- Sheralee Matravers (SM)
- Stephanie Poulter (SP)
- Rob Taylor (RTA)
- David Wallace (DW) - Vice Chair

Others present:

- Dr Sue Baker (SB) - Gene Bank Project Lead - Item 26 only
- Jay Gee (JG) - Secretary
- Ruth Thomas MRCVS (RTH) - President

Apologies had been received from Rachael Davis.

Declaration of Interest/Confirmation of Confidentiality

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

Approval of the Minutes of the Meetings held on Tuesday 12 November 2024

It was proposed by GB, seconded by SM and unanimously agreed that the minutes of Tuesday 12 November 2024 were a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Responsibilities of Trustees/Management Committee and Chair's Report

It was proposed by RD, seconded by SP and unanimously agreed that, subject to the receipt of the requisite documentation, Christian Scharch would be co-opted as a trustee of the EPS with immediate effect.

Registration and Membership Administrator's Report

It was proposed by MD, seconded by SP and unanimously agreed that, providing Tippbarlake David passed both the vet and Society stallion inspections, he could be provided with an EPS Stallion Licence.

Inspection Discussion Day

Inspection discussions would be hosted on Zoom on Sunday 9th March at 10am and Wednesday 19th March at 7pm. Inspectors would be asked to attend at least one of these.

PR

Steve Lodge should be asked to report on the number of hours used and left when generating the EPS' monthly invoice.

Autumn Show

The trustees agreed that Karen Ricketts would continue as Autumn Show Secretary, without the need for further annual approval.

AGM

AGM speakers, who DW would contact, would be provided with a free lunch.

Advertising

It was proposed by DW, seconded by RTA and agreed that Alan and Stephanie Poulter would be the 2024 winners of the Helen Dashwood Rose Bowl (to be awarded at the 2025 AGM).

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstentions: 1 (SP)

Trustee Recruitment

Trustees would utilise the Reach Volunteering platform's free service to recruit individuals with specific skills and experience, focusing on areas where the current board has less collective expertise.

It was recommended that priority be given to finding a trustee with professional fundraising and/or grant application experience. The initial approach would involve directly contacting suitable candidates. If this did not yield results, the role itself would be advertised on the platform.

GB, MD, NH, and DW would implement this process.

Inspections

The amendments to the Colt Inspection Guidelines for Owners were agreed. This document would be sent out alongside the Colt/Stallion Inspection Request Form in the future.

Daughter Societies, Breeding Programme and Filial Studbook(s)

Susannah Muir had recently contacted DEFRA regarding filial studbooks. DEFRA had expressed their willingness to provide further guidance as needed. The trustees suggested that Susannah continue to take the lead on this matter and begin by organising an online meeting with her contact at DEFRA, which NH, GB and MD would also attend. This meeting would provide trustees with a clearer understanding of the legal requirements and other considerations related to filial studbooks, breeding programme documents, and daughter societies.

Following this, a separate discussion should be scheduled with Grassroots to see how they could assist.

Once insights from both DEFRA and Grassroots had been gathered, a meeting with representatives from each of the EPS' daughter societies could be arranged.

Scale of Charges/Membership Fee Review (Chair/MD/GB)

Scale of Charges effective from 1st January 2026

Service	Cost for Non-Members	Cost for Members
Transfer of Ownership	£40	£20
Prefix Registration	£50	£50
Foal Registration Fee (In Season i.e. September-November)	£30	£15
Late Foal Notification Fee	£40	£40
Upgrade Passport	£40	£40
Duplicate Passport (Lost)	£60	£60
Duplicate Passport (First Passport for Older Pony)	£60	£60
Overstamp for Non-EPS Passport	£20	£20
Pedigree Certificate for Non-EPS Passport	£50	£25
First Cross/Part Bred/Exmoor Type Passport	£50	£50
Re-Inspection Fee	£30	£15
Stallion Inspection at Inspection Centre/Stallion Parade/Area Show	£60	£60
Stallion Inspection at Home	£120	£120
Access to Online Stud Book	£10	Free of Charge

Proposed membership fees effective from 1st January 2026

Membership Type	One-Off Joining/Re-Joining Fee	Annual Subscription
Life Membership	£1000	N/A
Full Membership	£5*	£40
Family Membership 1 Vote ¹	£5*	£60
Family Membership 2 Votes ²	£5*	£80
Supporter Membership ³	£5*	£30
Student Membership ⁴	N/A	£20
Junior Membership ⁵	N/A	£20 for first Junior Member with additional siblings at £10 each

*This fee is waived for members who sign up to direct debit when joining/re-joining

1: Family Membership 1 Vote covers one or two adults and any number of children up to the age of 18 **living in the same household**. One adult vote allowed per family.

2: Family Membership 2 Votes covers two adults and any number of children up to the age of 18 **living in the same household**. Two adult votes allowed per family.

3: Supporter Membership is meant for people not actively breeding or showing Exmoor ponies but who wish to support the Society. No voting rights.

4: Student Memberships are for those aged under 25 and in full-time education. No voting rights.

5: Junior Memberships are for those aged under 18. No voting rights.

Membership renewals are due on or before **1st January**. The membership of any member who has not paid their annual subscription by 31st March shall lapse at the discretion of the Committee. Those who have still not paid after this date will be required to pay the joining fee again.

MD proposed, GB seconded, and it was unanimously agreed that:

- *The above Scale of Charges would take effect from 1st January 2026.*
- *The proposed Membership Fees, to be effective from 1st January 2026, would be presented to members for approval at the 2025 AGM.*

Member Complaint

SP left and re-joined the meeting during this item.

The trustees discussed who the “relevant authority” for referral of the matter would be. The complainant had asked that all three of Trading Standards, the Charity Commission and Defra be contacted, but the trustees did not feel that either of the first two were relevant, nor were they likely to have a system for complaints referred by organisations, as opposed to directly from the complainant. Therefore, Defra would be contacted.

In response to their latest correspondence, the complainant should be informed that the Society had begun the process of referring the matter to Defra. No additional reply should be made.

MD suggested that the RCVS’ advice should be included in the EPS rules. This would require a proposal to be put to the AGM. MD would draft amended rule for proposal.

Expert Witness Magazine

It was proposed by DW, seconded by GB and unanimously agreed that a listing would be taken out in Expert Witness Magazine’s online directory at a cost of £195+VAT for the duration of one year.

Co-option of Janet James

It was proposed by SM, seconded by GB and unanimously agreed that, subject to the receipt of the requisite documentation, Janet James would be co-opted as a trustee of the EPS with immediate effect.