

EXMOOR PONY SOCIETY

Committee Meeting held on Zoom at 10.00am on Tuesday 17 September 2024

Trustees present:

Geoff Bryant (GB) – Vice Chair

Rachael Davies (RD) - From Item 13 onwards

Mark Drummond (MD)

Portly French (PF)

Nigel Hill (NH) - Chair

Sheralee Matravers (SM)

Stephanie Poulter (SP)

Rob Taylor (RT)

David Wallace (DW) – Vice Chair

Others present:

Jay Gee – Secretary

Steve Lodge (SL) – For the relevant items only, and not during trustee discussion/vote

Apologies had been received from Deborah Drummond (Treasurer) and Ruth Thomas (President).

Declaration of Interest/Confirmation of Confidentiality

It was proposed by MD, seconded by SM 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 16 July 2024

It was proposed by SM, seconded by SP and unanimously agreed that the minutes of Tuesday 16th July 2024 were a true record of the meeting.

Probationer Judges Scheme

NH explained that he had been approached by a member of the public at the Breed Show regarding the EPS Probationer Judges Scheme. She had said she passed her assessment approximately ten years ago but had not then progressed to join the scheme. She had not given any further detail.

The trustees requested that she be asked to send in an application form as usual, to include an overview of her experience over the past ten years or so. They would then review this application and decide on the next steps.

Area Report

The Secretary read aloud an email from Janet James regarding the Pony of the Year Final. There had been seven ponies in the Youngstock Final, but only six rosettes had been provided as standard. Janet suggested a stock of additional finalist rosettes be purchased so all finalists (not just Youngstock) could be given one.

The trustees felt that these additional rosettes would encourage entrants and agreed with Janet's suggestion that these be undated, so the Society would not incur costs for annual retailing. The trustees were happy to arrange for the Society to pay for these in whichever way was easiest for the Midlands Area Representatives.

Inspections

The Secretary asked the trustees to action the Inspection Discussion Day agreed at the July 2024 meeting. The trustees felt that this should not take place until around early March 2025..

An inspector had informed the Secretary that one of the foals he had been asked to inspect was out of a mare he currently owned. This mare was on loan to the party who had made the foal notification. The trustees asked that an alternative inspector be appointed, as such links were to be avoided wherever possible.

The trustees felt that all inspectors would inform the Society of any relevant links as a matter of course anyway. However, they agreed that it would be prudent to add it to the guidelines, especially given that the document also served as a learning tool for Trainee Inspectors.

The Secretary raised the issue of a lack of written guidance as to what constitutes an inappropriate link when appointing inspectors. The trustees felt that prescriptive guidance for each possible scenario was not appropriate. Instead, it was important that the Secretary was able to use her own discretion to weigh up any links with other factors, including the distance of any available inspectors from the inspection location.

Legacy Donations

SM would circulate information regarding Make a Will Online to trustees. Trustees would review this information and decide whether a Zoom call with Make a Will Online should be organised.

Horse & Hound Charities Christmas Fund Pages

It was proposed by DW, seconded by GB and unanimously agreed that the EPS would pay £400 for an advert in the Charities Christmas Fund pages of the 19th December 2024 Horse & Hound edition.

RD joined the meeting.

Sole Trader

It was proposed by MD, seconded by RT and agreed that the EPS would continue to employ the services of Sole Trader.

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstentions: 1

The trustees would continue to review this at least annually.

2025 Judge Appointments

SP proposed, MD seconded and it was unanimously agreed that Jill Graham should be invited to judge the EPS Spring Show 2025.

GB proposed, SM seconded and it was agreed that Stephanie Poulter should be invited to judge In-Hand Classes at the EPS Breed Show 2025.

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstentions: 1 (Stephanie Poulter)

*DW proposed, GB seconded and it was unanimously agreed that **David Brewer** should be invited to judge the **Geldings and Groups and HOYS Conformation** Classes at the EPS Breed Show 2025.*

PF was not present for this vote due to technical issues.

It was unanimously agreed that the following 2025 judging invitations should be sent:

- *Breed Show:*
 - *Ridden and HOYS Ridden: Gill Evans*
 - *Reserve: Margaret Partridge Keane*
- *Pony of the Year Final:*
 - *Judge: Robyn Westcott*
 - *Reserve Judge: Ann Whittle*
- *Autumn Show: Ann Western*

Friends of Exmoor Ponies Articles of Association

It was proposed by GB, seconded by MD and unanimously agreed that GB instruct a solicitor to draft the Articles of Association for 'Friends of Exmoor Ponies Limited'.

Working Hunter Pony Classes

It was proposed by DW, seconded by MD and unanimously agreed that the two bowls donated by Mary and Gordon Ware would be presented annually to the Overall Champion of the EPS Spring Show and the Overall Champion of the EPS Autumn Show. The cup donated by Mary and Gordon Ware would be presented annually to the winner of the Junior Performance Awards.