

THE FELL PONY SOCIETY

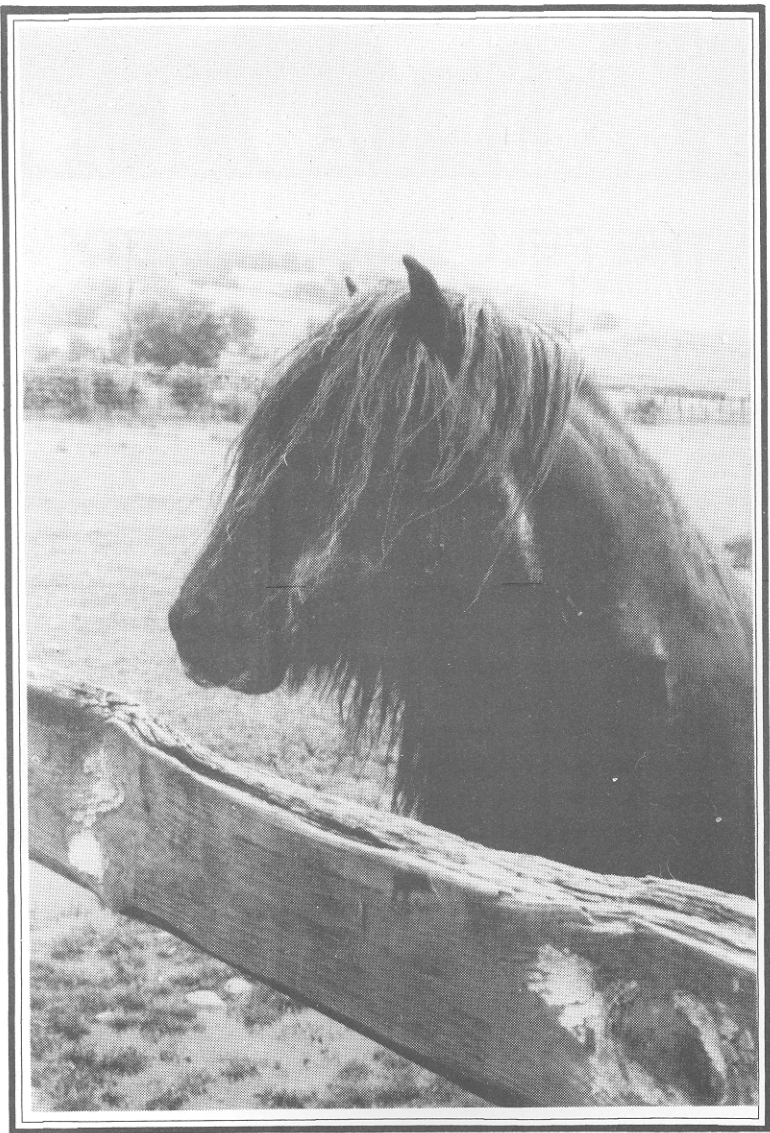
Autumn 1998



Photo Anthony Reynolds

BEWCASTLE BOY BLUE FP650G

Owned by Miss M G Longsdon & Mr R C Goddard
taking a lap of honour after winning The Templeton Qualifier
at the South of England Agricultural Show 1998



TEBAY CAMPBELL TON VICTOR 6614

(sire: Lownthwaite Stardust, dam: Tebay Brandy)

Mrs Greta Noble's prolific stallion, now in his 23rd year,
pictured at home in Cumbria in August this year

The Fell Pony Society

Patron: Her Majesty The Queen

President: Mrs M C M Laing

Chairman: Mr R B Charlton

Vice-Chairman: Mr B M Allen

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Trainee Judge Secretary: Mrs C Allen

Representative to the NPS: Miss M G Longsdon

Representative to the BHS: Mr R B Sutcliffe

Editor Fell Pony Newsletter: Miss S M Wood

COUNCIL

To retire 1999: Mr H F Wales, Mr A W Morland, Mr W S Potter, Mrs M Raines
To retire 2000: Mr B M Allen, Mr R B Charlton, Mrs M Laing, Mrs A A D Newall
To retire 2001: Mr E M Wilson, Mrs C H Robinson, Mr P Forsman, Mr P Boustead
To retire 2002: Mrs E A Ball, Miss M G Longsdon, Mr J Bell, Mr R B Sutcliffe
To retire 2003: Mrs M C Murray, Miss B W Walker, Mrs S C Morton, Mr M Allen

Chairman's Notes

Since the AGM I am honoured to have been elected as Chairman of your Council.

Elizabeth Ball was Chairman for five consecutive years and we all owe her a debt of gratitude. On your behalf I record in this Newsletter a warm thank you as a tribute to her able and diligent work in achieving so many successful occasions for the breed, as well as leading us during some difficult times.

Barry Allen continues as Vice-Chairman and, with Cath in great support, he contributes much hard work - often unknown but nevertheless important to the Society.

Both Elizabeth and Barry have advised and helped me a lot.

I will not duplicate items that are covered in other sections of the Newsletter. I do welcome comments and criticisms, which of course I expect, but trust they will be positive and unselfish. This will give us the payment we deserve, which can only be measured in terms of the pleasure we have in breeding, owning, enjoying and preserving our heritage.

100 years of my family with ponies is hard to condense. Many of you won't know me. I had been out of the limelight for a while until my father, Roy, who was your President, died nearly ten years ago. His grandfather, Robert, owned and bred ponies from the time he moved to The Linnels in 1890. They were mostly driving ponies - Hackneys and other trap/flat cart ponies.

My grandfather, Roy, was buying his first ponies at that time when only in his teens. Before the First World War he decided to concentrate chiefly on Fells, but always kept a few Dales and a good hunter. As their secretary he led the field in both re-establishing the Dales Pony Society and in publicising the qualities of the Fell worldwide after their numbers were depleted in the 1914-18 War. I have his notebooks in my drawer!

He wrote a book, "A Lifetime with Ponies" soon before he died in 1949. I plan to re-publish it. It contains a wonderful historic story, with many good tales, which picture his fanaticism about Native ponies and Fells in particular.

My father, another Roy, continued this tradition with enthusiasm all his life. He had an in-built natural instinct with horseflesh, as well as with "horsey people", and this covered aspects from playing polo in Persia, flat racing in the desert, crossing rough hill country when hunting the Haydon foxhounds for 15 seasons, driving a pony and trap to Hexham station to catch the train, yoking the hunters & Clydesdales to do farm work, 60 years leading a Pony Club - all this as well as his stud of Fells! They also ran a family engineering business in Newcastle, as well as the home farm.

I have no wish to sell myself except by example but I've picked up lots of bits from my forebears.

I showed my first Fell under saddle at the NPS show on Roehampton Polo Field in 1949, aged 11. We were just middle of the line up; father was Champion on a 4 year old, I think, which he later sold to Australia. I've been learning ever since!

Supported by Sarah, and my children, we can face the challenge and succeed in "changing times". Our future has to be good. Thank you all and good luck.

Good luck also to Templeton finalist Bewcastle Boy Blue, the gelding owned by Mary Longsdon and Richard Goddard, featured on the front cover, when he competes at the end of September. He is the first Fell to make it to the final of this prestigious award.

Equally, those ponies which have qualified for Olympia deserve our good luck and support. If you have the opportunity to go to the Horse of the Year Show to cheer them on, I'm sure they would really appreciate it.

The finalists this year are Waverhead Black Magic owned by Mrs Sheila Hardy and ridden by her daughter Alison, who swept the board at Ponies (UK) by winning Best Fell, Ridden M & M Champion, Ridden Supreme Champion of the Show, Reserve Supreme of the Show and was narrowly beaten into second place in the Pairs with Heltondale Rob owned by Mr D Eltringham.

Darrenvale Jason, owned by Mr and Mrs Russell Sutcliffe won the Fell In Hand Championship & went on to become Supreme In Hand M & M Champion at Ponies (UK).

And last but not least, Miss Debbie Boylan with her gelding Lownthwaite Hot Shot completes the trio. It promises to be an exiting finale to an excellent year for the breed in the showing.

Bob Charlton

Secretary's Letter

The date of the Autumn General meeting is dictated by the date of the Mountain & Moorland Auction at Penrith mart, and this year it is a week later than previously. This means I have a week longer to include some results which would otherwise arrive just too late, such as the Southern Show. Somehow by the time the Spring Newsletter comes around, last year's end of season results seem distinctly old news.

A big effort has been made with this edition to enlarge it, not only from the visual aspect with easier to read type size, but also in the contents with more stories and more photographs. I know from speaking with members how much they look forward to receiving this magazine and for those who

haven't been able to get to events this year, it may be their only way of keeping in touch with what's been going on. Filling more pages also depends on more contributions from members so please keep them coming in, especially good photographs.

The publication of the minutes from the Annual General Meeting is a new feature too. Apart from saving time during the general meetings in reading the minutes, inclusion with the Newsletter means all members will be kept informed of the Society's business, not just those who are able to come to Penrith. It is to be hoped that more members will take an active interest as a result of being better informed.

As some of you already know, "*Riding*" magazine has been revamped and now includes a regular feature on Native Breed news written by Valerie Russell, whose support and promotion of the "hairies" through her contributions is unstinting. Feedback from readers enquiring for sales lists following the article "In Praise of Fells" in particular was very positive. There's a special offer subscription enclosed which may solve some of your Christmas present problems and provide enjoyment throughout the coming year for the subscriber.

Judging by the increased number of enquiries received this year from people wishing to buy ponies, at home and across Europe, the publicity the breed has received in recent months has awakened a welcome interest in people who are keen to lend support to the breed at a time when it is under severe pressure. With the horse market across the board being depressed, every sector of farming suffering and winter feed prices likely to hit record levels following the disastrous "summer" months, a long winter is hardly going to help matters. Reports coming into the office suggest that colt foals are much in demand this year, with breeders planning early their future breeding programmes.

Amongst the many letters I've written this year, one I remember particularly well was to Mrs Greta Noble whose late husband, Sarge, in his will bequeathed the Society a substantial legacy. This generous gesture came as a complete surprise and is very much appreciated.

In May the Society's Chairman since 1993 stood down for a well deserved rest. Liz's hard work, knowledge and eternal optimism were much appreciated by me, especially when I was newly appointed and having to learn "on the job". Her successor, Bob Charlton, is following closely in his father, Roy Charlton's footsteps and keeping the family involvement over three generations very much alive. As a breeder, judge and exhibitor, he is very much immersed in the Fell pony world and is discovering that one of those essential Fell pony characteristics, stamina, is also a pre-requisite for his new role! His fax machine has already gone into relapse through over-use. I wish Bob, and all his family, well in this new undertaking.

Sally Wood

Nancy Lightfoot

1947 - 1998



Nancy with her 7 y.o. stallion Lownthwaite Gary taking the Championship at the Stallion & Colt Show, on 9th May 1998, shortly before her tragic death.

As two of the many mourners who had gathered at the lovely little church of Westward on 27th May to say farewell to Nancy, we sang the hymn "All Things Bright and Beautiful" and I found myself thinking of how much joy Nancy had brought to so many lives in such a caring and unselfish way.

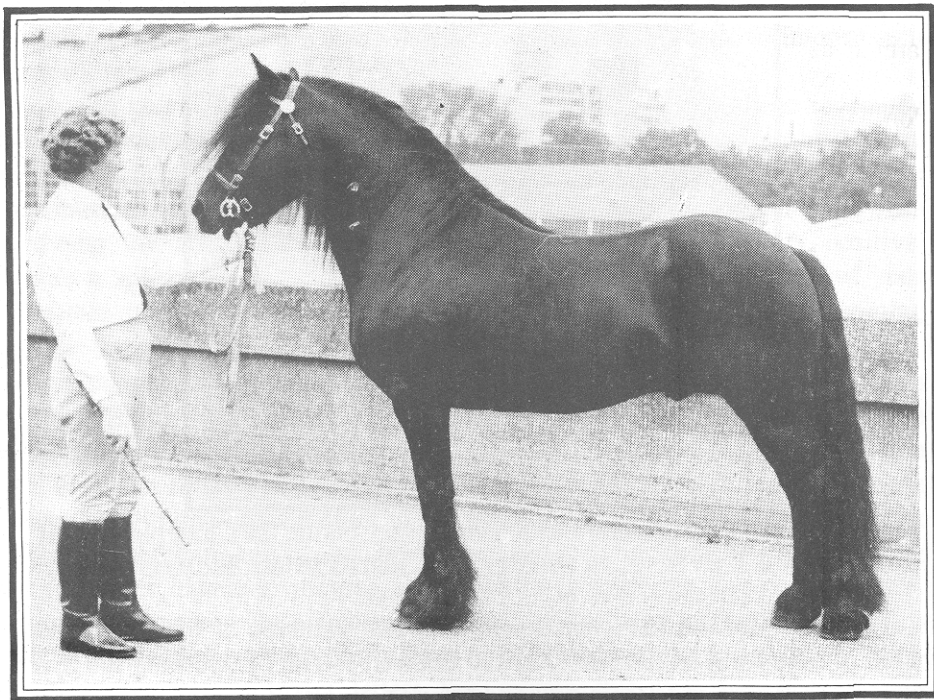
Margaret and I have known Nancy most of her life but we came to know her better during last winter, when she would arrive on a wet, cold morning after doing her chores on her father's farm at Waverhead. Throwing her wet coat on the Aga, often speaking proudly of her family and grandchildren Jamie & Jack, would help plan our day's work over a cup of coffee.

Nancy's lifelong experience on her father's farm had helped her to become a very gifted and respected farmer who we greatly appreciated at The Height. We knew her ability to judge and show all livestock, especially Fell ponies. Nancy's many triumphs were possibly crowned at the Fell Pony Society Stallion Show by winning the Championship with Lownthwaite Gary only a fortnight before her tragic accident.

Apart from Nancy's many local friends, she also had distant and foreign friends including members of the Dutch FPS who I know greatly appreciated her help and friendship.

We have all lost a dear friend but as we continue our tribute to Nancy, I know that not one of us will forget her cheerful smile that will remain forever in our memory.

Ian and Margaret Dixon



Wembley, July 1969: Nancy (above) and her sister Barbara spent a week with their stallion Waverhead Rambler 4101 at the NPS Native Pony Exhibition where the breed won the Silver Medal

A note from the Bell and Lightfoot families:

Jim, Frances & Barbara Bell, Stephen, Dawn & Hilary Lightfoot would like to thank everyone for their flowers, cards, letters, telephone calls and donations. Over £1,300 was raised in aid of St Hilda's Church, Westward and Fell Pony 2000's appeal. We were all so very grateful for your kindness. Bless you all.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Give the Fell a Chance (Spring '98)

I heartily concur with the sentiments of Kath McVicker.

Please do not be put off showing your ponies in mixed M&M classes. I have ownership of a Fell gelding who is my pride and joy. I bought him from the late Mr Clifford Howarth, as a 5 month old foal. Knowing very little about the Fell pony I was delighted to have him complimented by local farmers as "a bonnie lad" and so determined to try my luck in the show ring.

Not owning transport of my own we don't get to many shows & we don't get very far afield. Despite another Fell pony breeder who told me, based on my description of him to her, to forget he was registered as a Fell pony and just put him in Handy pony & WHP classes I decided to try my luck anyway. I entered him in a mixed class for 2 year olds at a show for coloured ponies and to my delight he was placed 2nd. As this was his first time out anywhere on his own, and the first time he been near a show, his behaviour was not exemplary so I was over the moon with his success.

We did not show again until the following year. This time we entered the 3 y.o. mixed M&M class at a local show. Under a Fell Pony Society judge, and despite having a white foot, the pony won and took the Championship. At two later showings last year he took 3rd under a judge who didn't recognise his breeding without asking, and 4th. The last result was partly my fault but it is not easy keeping up with a trotting Fell when hampered by a broken toe!

So the moral of my letter is "Never say die" and keep presenting your Fells to as many judges as possible so the breed is far more readily recognised and, who knows, you may enjoy as much success as I've had with my Bolton Abbey Hero. Happy rosette hunting to you all.

**Diane Talbot,
Riccall, York**

Emphasise the Positive

Since the media publicity of the "foal syndrome" which has ranged between the sensible and informative to downright ridiculous and alarmist, I feel that some of the marvellous achievements of our members have been totally eclipsed.

Darrenvale Jason's Reserve Championship at Olympia 1997 was mentioned in one line in the Spring 1998 Newsletter whilst pictures of and information about sick foals dominated the front cover and inside pages.

Earlier in the same year Fell ponies had been outstanding at the Royal Show with Darrenvale Jason winning the Fell Championship and then going on to take the Supreme in hand title. Deborah Chadwick's Hedgethorpe Bluebell went on to win the Supreme Breeder's Championship after winning the Fell Youngstock section.

1998 has also been an incredible year for Fells. Mrs Hardy's Waverhead Black Magic was indeed magic at Ponies (UK) when, after winning the ridden Fells, he went on to win the Supreme M&M ridden Championship and Reserve Supreme of the show, and together with Mr Eltringham's Heltondale Rob narrowly missed winning a huge M&M pairs class. Mr Sutcliffe's Darrenvale Jason was the Fell in hand Champion and went on to wow the crowds with an in hand display that outdid even the Welsh Cobs, to take the Supreme M&M in hand title. At the same show Lizzie Briant and Townend Callum beat strong opposition to take the coveted Kingsford Championship title.

At Malvern, the Williamson family's Townend Lucy IV took Reserve in the Super Solvitax Veteran ridden final whilst Deborah Chadwick again qualified for the "workers" at Wembley with Stennerskeugh Dandy.

Miss Longsdon created a first when Bewcastle Boy Blue qualified for the Templeton final and recently Mr P Metcalfe's Lunesdale Prince Henry was beaten by one one point in an open dressage class of 33.

There are doubtless many others who have achieved great things and even more who simply enjoy their ponies quietly at home, but if this is to continue and the Breed is to have a future we must now put the "foal syndrome" into perspective and publicise instead the versatility, successes and pleasure of owning a Fell pony.



**Carole Morland
Tebay, Cumbria**

Council Members' Contact Telephone Numbers

Mr B M Allen	01229 774528	Mrs S C Morton	01768 881216
Mr M Allen	01539 726273	Mrs M C Murray	01833 650474
Mrs E A Ball	01556 680216	Mrs A A D Newall	01434 672218
Mr J Bell	016974 78644	Mr W S Potter	01931 716267
Mr P Boustead	01524 383665	Mrs M Raines	01748 824547
Mr R B Charlton	01434 673262	Mrs C H Robinson	01946 862439
Mr P L Forsman	01768 890372	Mr R B Sutcliffe	01254 776389
Mrs M C M Laing	013873 76272	Mr H F Wales	01768 361388
Miss M G Longsdon	01629 640709	Miss B W Walker	017687 77202
Mr A W Morland	015396 24615	Mr E M Wilson	016974 78638

The Fell Pony Society

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 28th March 1998
at Lowther Parish Hall, Hackthorpe, Penrith at 1.00 pm

The Chairman, Mrs Ball, opened the meeting at 1.30 pm, the start having been delayed by a technical problem.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Mrs S Audley, Mrs A de Belin, Mr N Tweedie Smith, Mr G Jackson, Mrs J Fairburn, Mr G Guy, Mrs I Potter, Mrs P Robson, Mr F Dargue, Mr J Hodgson and Mrs G Cockbain.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the last meeting held on 18th October 1997 were read. They were accepted as a true and accurate record, proposed by Miss M Longsdon, seconded by Mr R Bicknell.

3. Matters Arising

Mr S Kelly suggested in the interests of time that minutes be circulated in advance of the next general meeting. It was agreed minutes will in future be published in the Newsletter.

It was noted that the Dartmoor pony has been accorded Rare Breed status.

4. Chairman's Report

Mrs Ball thanked everyone for attending. She paid tribute to the work of Dr Knottenbelt, the Fell Pony 2000 team and the volunteer helpers who had organised a successful series of regional breeders' meetings about the Syndrome and the work being done towards finding a solution to the disease.

5. Election of Council and President

A secret ballot for appointment of 5 council members was held, the results being announced at the conclusion of the meeting. Nominations for President were Mrs M Laing, proposed by Mr A Morland, seconded by Mr R Sutcliffe, and Mr D Scott, proposed by Mr R Bicknell. Mr Scott declined. Mrs Laing was duly re-appointed.

6. 1996/97 Accounts and re-appointment of Auditors

There were no queries about the accounts which had been circulated previously to members. Adoption was proposed by Mr P Forsman, seconded by Mr S Adams. The auditors, Stephenson Armstrong & Co, were re-appointed, proposed by Mrs S Charlton, seconded by Mr M Allen.

7. Presentation of Awards

The Chairman and Mrs W Cresswell presented the 1997 Endurance Awards, being:

High Point & Highest Mileage Competitive Awards to Mrs A de Belin riding Gamsworth William, Highest Mileage Pleasure Award to Mrs F Carradus riding Udale Raven Black. Accumulative Mileage Award rosettes: 100

miles: Miss R Woodruff/Heltondale Emma; 200 miles: Mrs P Finch/Waverhead Rose, Mrs E Hockenhull/Sleddale Dainty, Mrs J Sellors/Browedge Tommy, Mr N Tweedie-Smith/Dalemain Wake-Robin; 300 miles: Mrs P Dodds/Hillhead Minstrel, Mrs J Hopkinson/Hesket Raffles, Mrs M Townsend/Mr Peat; 400 miles: Mrs A Knight/Lownthwaite Romany, Mrs A de Belin/Gamsworth William; 500 miles: Mrs F Carradus/Uldale Raven Black; 600 miles: Ms S Wardle/Guards Joseph.

Senior Points Scheme winner: Mrs D McGrail/Heltondale Lady VIII and Junior Points Scheme winner: Miss R Brunskill/Peepings Nutcracker.

"At Home" Premium Awards winner: Mr J Bell/Waverhead Prince II.

Youngstock, Stallion & Mare & Pony Performance Awards:

Foal: Waverhead Gary/Mr J Bell; Yearling: Waverhead Pearl II/Mr J Bell; 2 Y.O: Inglegarth Illustrious/Mrs B Hodgson; 3 Y.O: Tarnbeck Shadow/D & G Williamson; Pony Performance: Townend Lucy IV/D & G Williamson.

8. Secretary's Report

The report commenced with thanks to the many hard working volunteers who help the Secretary throughout the year. Details of the *SideSaddle for Survival Ride* organised by the Rare Breeds Survival Trust in this their Jubilee Year were given and sponsorship forms offered to interested members. Members were invited to collect new registration forms for 1998 foals. It was explained the computer program modifications needed to produce passports were not complete, nor the pages of the passport designed yet. A binding system had been purchased and vinyl covers printed. Breeders were advised to send in applications as usual, observing the deadlines, although delays in issuing passports were likely until everything was ready and working.

Membership total was 1145 members and bank balances were given as at 27 February - Current Account £7,295.53 and Deposit Account £6,540.20.

9. Reports of Delegates and Sub-Committees

Mrs A Newall/Trainee Judges: Mrs H Moss, Mrs B Hodgson and Mrs S Helps had moved onto the "B" Panel, joining Miss S Muller, releasing 4 vacancies for trainees from the waiting list, who have already been invited.

Miss M Longsdon/NPS: The revisions to the NPS's constitution had been passed at its AGM. Mrs P Renwick (Shetland) and Mr D Mansell (Exmoor) were appointed as the native breed society representatives to Council under the new rules in the post AGM Mountain & Moorland meeting.

Southern Show: The 10th to take place will happen on 13th September by kind permission of Sir John Miller at Shotover, Oxford with 3 rings to accommodate increasing entries. Mrs Ball, Mrs Lightfoot and Mrs Johnson are to judge. Anniversary special rosettes & other goodies will be given to ponies.

Mr R Sutcliffe/BHS: The recent Horse & Pony Breeds Committee meeting had included 2 speakers. Mr Waterhouse, Trustee of the BHS, discussed the newly reorganised BHS. Mr Jones from BEVA spoke largely about the need for passports for all equines if commonly used drugs, used to treat colic and lameness for example, are still to be available for veterinary administration. The EU requires maximum residue levels (MRLs) of drugs to be established in any animals entering the human food chain, which includes equines. Without establishing MRLs, drugs will be withdrawn and any vets using them would be breaking the law. The research to establish MRLs is expensive and slow, which is why some products will disappear. Mr Sutcliffe quoted the following figures: 300,000 equines are slaughtered annually in Europe, of a population of some 2 million, producing 168,000 tonnes of horseflesh, equivalent to 1 lb per person for everyone in the EEC. 15,000 equines originate from Britain. This is a key issue in the aftermath of the BSE scare. Additionally, vets are now demanding "medical" passports, in which all veterinary treatment could be recorded, ensuring unfit animals do not go for slaughter. Mr Jones was unable to confirm whether this would be a separate document to the new Passport. A working party from the BHS Horse & Pony Breeds Committee, including Mrs Renwick, Mrs Campbell and Mr Mansell, had been set up to look into this matter, to report back to the BHS who will deal direct with MAFF on welfare.

Hanseperfd Exhibition, 24/28 April, Germany: The BHS has offered to distribute breed society leaflets from their own stand for a small charge.

10. Pony Pilgrimage

The starting point will be Dalemain on 9th May during the Stallion Show. Application forms were offered for interested participants. Two breed representatives per sector of the route (15 - 20 miles) were needed, these being free places, 50 people being needed to do a sector each, the dates now having been set. Followers are required to pay £10 to join in or obtain sponsorship. Third party insurance is compulsory, as are suitable hard hats and safe tack. Miss B Walker proposed a vote of thanks to Mrs Sheila Hardy of the Rights of Way Department of the BHS for all her work promoting bridleways and the native breeds.

11. Foal Disease Research & Fell Pony 2000 Up-Date

The Secretary outlined three developments since the Spring Newsletter had been printed. Namely, the Penrith team of vets headed by S Scholes had published its investigatory paper into the Syndrome in the Veterinary Record of 7th February, confirming the suspected genetic problem and calling for further investigations. The Horserace Betting Levy Board had accepted a submission by the Society for Fell Pony 2000 for grant aid, agreeing £2,300 which was most welcome. Finally, Fell Pony 2000's series of breeders'

meetings had started with Penrith, Kendal, Leahurst and Durham having taken place, Stoneleigh remaining.

Mr D Brunt, Secretary of FP2000, gave an updated report on their work. Current account balances weret £7000 with no debits having been made other than a cash float and registration fee for the Data Protection Register. The meetings to date had been self-financing with a target of £130 excess anticipated by the Stoneleigh date. Charity Commission registration was received on 28 January.

Using breeding records for this year, all breeders had been contacted personally to confirm details and obtain the name of their vets. All were subsequently invited to attend a meeting, this being 157 UK breeders representing 484 in-foal mares. 78 breeders replied, being a 50% return. Of those who replied, 50% have so far attended a meeting. The research focus has changed from the need for 12 affected foals to be taken to Leahurst to obtaining blood samples from as many foals as possible at birth, 24 hours old and 6 weeks of age. To date 28 breeders volunteered to supply samples from the progeny of their 118 mares, an excellent response. 8 volunteer vets, mostly in Cumbria, had also come forward to do work at reduced rates. Fell Pony 2000's aim is that every breeder is aware of the latest information relating to the Syndrome and the investigations. Recognising some could not attend, the Durham meeting had been recorded on video, loan copies of which would be made available to anyone wanting one. Mr Brunt praised the members who had volunteered to organise the meetings for FP2000 and the Cumbrian riding clubs which had held the first meeting presented by Dr Knottenbelt.

Major fundraising was due to start to raise the £25,000, mostly needed to fund an immunologist for 12 months at Leahurst. FP2000 is looking at contingencies including a possible semen bank of registered, blood typed stallions. Mr Brunt stressed the problems the Council will have to face with increasing demands from breeders asking which stallions are carriers and which matings are "safe". The questions are being asked already but until a carrier test is available they will continue. In the absence of a positive test, the responsibility must lie with a stallion owner to say if it is known the stallion has sired a diagnosed affected foal. He urged the Council to consider carefully the situation it will face as breeding information is collected, indentifying carrier ponies, and its responsibilities to all breeders. With advances in research techniques, he indicated a resolution to the Syndrome is fast approaching and therefore the Council should not delay its deliberations. He recommended drawing on the experience of the traditional breeders to help preserve the typical Fell pony for the future in the light of the Syndrome. He appealed for divisions within the Society to be set aside to help achieve a successful outcome.

12. Pleasure Ride 1998

Miss R Brunskill kindly offered to organise this year's ride to be held on 27 September from Talkin Head in the Geltsdale Valley, near Brampton.

13. Members' Suggestions

Miss Longsdon asked for any members willing to sponsor a class for £25 at the Breed Show to put their names on the list.

14. Any Other Business

Mrs B Hodgson asked if Council candidates in future years could be requested to answer some members' questions before the voting took place as the candidates' information in the newsletter did not address important issues of relevance to the Society but more personal information. It was agreed that a few questions could be asked of each candidate in turn, in the interests of fairness, prior to voting. This would also identify candidates to voters who were unfamiliar with them, which was welcomed.

Mrs C Morland marked the loss of a hill herd, Mr Trotter's Tebay ponies on the Howgills, sold, many unregistered, within recent months at local sales. She referred to the economic hardship of farmers in today's market and the drop in prices due to widespread Syndrome publicity, some of it insensitive. Mrs Ball replied that by tackling the disease now, the Society was doing as much as it could to prevent a far worse consequence for the breed and breeders if the situation were ignored. She said that whilst the hill breeders' say they cannot sell youngstock, Mrs Laing cannot find enough ponies to satisfy sales enquiries.

Miss H Fell spoke of the Brockhole Lake District Festival in the Windermere area on August Bank Holiday which would be a good opportunity for positive publicity for the breed. Publicity materials are to be supplied.

Mr W Lloyd said the Fell breeders no longer feel well-represented within the Society due to the increase in owner-only members. The Secretary said recognised hill breeders were very well represented in Council proportionately. She added that it was the hill breeders themselves who had decided not to continue with the M&M scheme which paid premiums to hill mares during Mrs Bell's term in office. The HBLB list of approved areas of expenditure for grant money included hill schemes and if they wished to establish a new premium scheme to help keep ponies breeding on the fells, they should forward a proposal for the Council's consideration.

Results of the Council Election

Mr M Allen: 98 votes, Mrs M Murray: 93 votes, Miss B Walker: 88 votes, Mrs S C Morton: 78 votes, Mrs M Raines: 60 votes, Mr J Langcake: 54 votes. Mr Allen, Mrs Murray, Miss Walker and Mrs Morton were appointed to Council for 5 years, Mrs Raines was appointed for 1 year.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 4 pm.

COUNCIL INFORMATION

RESULTS OF COUNCIL ELECTIONS 1998

At the Society's AGM on 28th March, 6 candidates stood for election to Council, of which 3 were retiring members seeking re-election. There were 5 vacancies. The retiring members were re-elected and were namely Mr M Allen, Mrs M C Murray and Miss B Walker. Mrs S C Morton was successful in being elected for a period of 5 years and Mrs M Raines was elected for a period of one year, filling the vacancy resulting from Mr J Gibson's resignation mid-term. Mrs M C M Laing was re-elected as President for a further year.

At the first Council meeting of the new Council held on 12 May 1998, in accordance with paragraph 9.2 of the Society's Memorandum & Articles of Association, Chairman and Vice-Chairman were selected. Mrs E A Ball announced she was stepping down from the Chair. Mr R B Charlton and Mr A W Morland were nominated; Mr Charlton took the majority vote and was duly appointed. Mr B M Allen was re-elected unopposed as Vice-Chairman.

NOMINATIONS FOR COUNCIL ELECTION 1999

Nominations must be received by the Secretary by 1st January 1999. They must be in writing and signed by two members. Members are not eligible for election to the Council unless they have been Full members of the Society for at least five consecutive years.

STALLION GRADING PROPOSAL

The proposal outlined in the Spring newsletter resulted in one letter (pro) and one telephone call (against) from members! In its August meeting the Council, which felt the timing was not right to introduce such a scheme, decided to shelve any plans to alter the At Home Premium Scheme for at least two years.

TEACH-IN DEMONSTRATION

Thank you to those members who contacted the Secretary for details of this event. It proved impossible to organise it for this autumn so it has been deferred until autumn 1999.

The facilities of the new Greenlands Equestrian Centre near Carlisle have been booked for 2nd October. There is a large indoor school, gallery seating for 150 people, restaurant, bar and ample car parking.

The day will focus on all aspects of showing under saddle and will be of interest to judges, trainees, riders and members in general. The event will require some "guinea pig" ponies and riders. Anyone interested in volunteering is invited to contact the Secretary.

Tickets will be available next year, details will appear in the Spring Newsletter.

GRAND RAFFLE 1998

IN AID OF THE FELL PONY 2000 SURVIVAL APPEAL

Raffle stubs have been pouring in - thank you everyone who has bought and sold tickets. At the time of writing £3,000 has so far been banked which is the biggest sum raised to date by members in a big raffle.

The winners will be drawn at the Autumn Meeting on 24th October so if you've any used stubs still sitting around at home, please send them off now to Mrs Laing or the Secretary.

REMINDERS!

- **Stallion service books** are due back now.
- **Junior & Senior Points Scheme:** closing date 15th January 1998. Remember to keep a copy of your entry before posting off. Juniors send to Mrs C H Robinson, 6 Crossgates, Lamplugh, Workington, Cumbria CA14 4TU. Seniors: send to the Secretary.
- **Endurance Awards Scheme:** Return entry cards to Mrs Wendy Cresswell, Court Barn, Lingen, Bucknell, Shropshire, SY7 0DY.
- **Youngstock & Performance Awards (Premiums):** Completed forms to the Secretary after the last qualifying show has taken place. Only those returning completed forms will be considered for this year's premiums.
- **Breed Show Trophies:** All winners from 1997 should have been contacted by Mrs Murray requesting the return of trophies by now. It would be appreciated if they could be returned to the Autumn General Meeting rather than posted, to minimise potential damage and/or loss.
- **Free Blood Typing Kits (Horserace Betting Levy Board funded):** This year's allocation of 20 kits is not fully used. They are available for use on senior licensed stallions and senior broodmares. Apply to the Secretary with details of pony.

M&M AUCTION SALE

Penrith Farmers' & Kidd's plc at Skirsgill Agricultural Hall hope to have the catalogue of ponies entered in this year's auction available ten days before the day of sale, which is 23rd October. As previously, the cost is £1.50 including postage. Send cheque/PO to Penrith Farmers' & Kidd's plc, Agricultural Hall, Skirsgill, Penrith, Cumbria, CA11 0DN.

All vendors must complete a Certificate of Transfer form in respect of each pony being sold to hand in with the Registration Certificate to the Secretary before the sale begins. Foal registration documents will be taken straight to the sale in respect of those entered rather than sent to the breeder before.

The judge of this year's pre-sale show is Mr Jeff Hunter of Tebay.