

NEW YOUNGSTOCK, STALLION & MARE AND PONY PERFORMANCE AWARDS 1995

Premiums of £25 each are offered to the four youngstock age groups - Foals, Yearlings, Two and Three year olds. The Sire and Dam of each winning pony also receive £25 each. The winning performance pony, aged 4 years and over receives £50 and it's Sire and Dam also receive £50 each. Further details of the Awards are given below.

The results of the 1995 Premium Awards are appended:

(There is insufficient space to print all the results in the newsletter but the full list of results will be on view at the AGM and Stallion Show.)

Winning Foal:

PIKESTONE BRETT - Owner Mr J Hunter
Sire: Lunesdale Henry - Owner Mr A W Morland
Dam: Lunesdale Rosie Lee - Owner Mr J Hunter

Winning Yearling:

TOWNEND MIDNIGHT - Owner Miss C Simpson
Sire: Heltondale Josh* - Owner Mr E M Wilson
Dam: Townend Dusk II - Owner Mr E M Wilson

Winning Two Year Old:

LUNESDALE LIZZIE - Owner Mr A W Morland
Sire: Lunesdale Henry - Owner Mr A W Morland
Dam: Lunesdale White Rose - Owner Mr A W Morland

Winning Three Year Old:

WAVERHEAD BEAUTY II - Owner Mr & Mrs D Wilkinson
Sire: Heltondale Duke IV - Owner Frau D Preiser
Dam: Barbondale Petal - Owner Mr J Bell

Winning Performance Pony:

WOLDS DONALD DUCK - Owner Miss J Glass
Sire: Charlie Drake (Dead)
Dam: Wolds Oriole - Owner Miss J Glass & Mrs A Minson

The 1995 winner of The Barncross Perpetual Cup offered to the breeder of the winning Performance Pony and the Inglegarth Shield for the winning Pony is Miss Jane Glass.

The Premiums are only awarded to live ponies. The points are accrued to the pony, therefore if a pony is sold during the show season, the points accrued to date are transferred to the new owner (if subsequent points are gained). The 'current' owner is deemed to be the person who gained the last points with that pony by 30 September and any further transfers of ownership after this date would not entitle the new owner to the Premium.

In 1996 the list of qualifying shows will again be extended again to encompass shows holding N.P.S. qualifiers, which will enable Fell Pony owners throughout the U.K. even more opportunity to compete for the above premiums. These shows are in addition to our own FPS events, which are listed below:

FPS Shows & Events: (Where appropriate in-hand, ridden and WHP sections will apply to all of the following) Stallion & Colt Show, Windermere Fell Pony Show, Barningham Fell Pony Show, Lowther Fell Classes, Breed Show, Southern Show, Linnels Spring Performance Trials, Southern Mini Event and Blawith Autumn Trials.

Due to lack of space in this newsletter, please obtain a list of the qualifying NPS shows and your new score sheets - on which you must obtain the Secretary/Judge's Signature at each show/event - from the Youngstock & Performance Pony Premium Awards Secretary, Mrs C H Robinson, 6 Crossgates, Lamplugh, Workington, Cumbria, CA14 4TU. **S.A.E. PLEASE.**

'AT HOME PREMIUM' AWARDS Through our HBLB Grant The Fell Pony Society awards up to six Premiums of £50 each to the stallions who have sired the most registered Fell foals up to 31 December of the following year. To qualify for an At Home Premium, the stallions must parade in the At Home Premium at the Stallion & Colt Show and from 1 January 1995, it was made a requirement of entry that the stallions are also blood typed. The following results are for those stallions who paraded in the 1994 Stallion & Colt Show and whose progeny were subsequently registered by 31 December 1995. The results of the 1994/95 Premiums are appended:

| Name of Stallion | No. of Registered foals | Owner |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|
| Waverhead Prince II FP234C* | 18 | Mr J Bell |
| Heltondale Black Prince III FP188C* | 12 | Mr T B Capstick |
| Lunesdale Henry 6932 | 11 | Mr A W Morland |
| Murthwaite Victor FP652C | 11 | Mr W S Potter |
| Lownthwaite Gary FP825C** | 10 | Mrs N Lightfoot |
| Heltondale Duke IV FP227C* | 10 | Mr H F Wales |

* = Blood typed, ** = Sire and Dam also Blood typed.

The following list of stallions are the remainder who were paraded and the number of registered foals sired by them is shown:- Ralfland Victor FP626C*sired 9; Lunesdale Mountain Mist FP716C sired 8; Heltondale Bobby FP644C sired 7; Rackwood Prince FP523C**sired 6; Townend Duke III 7001* sired 3; Heltondale Crown FP751C* sired 3; Townend Septimus FP723C* sired 1.

As you can see, apart from the highest scoring stallion Waverhead Prince II, there have been a few stallions who were just out of the Premiums by one or two progeny.

OPEN DAY To be held on Sunday, 31st March 1996, starting at 11 am, the venue by courtesy of Mr George Bowman, at his Stable Yard, Penrith, Cumbria. We are very grateful to Mr Bowman for allowing us to use his indoor school.

Please note the tickets are limited to 100 - open to members and non-members. It is especially hoped that native pony judges will take up this opportunity.

There will be 2 classes each of in-hand and ridden Fell Ponies (1 traditional ridden, 1 modern ridden) for judging and discussion by 3 Master Judges, followed by questions from the audience. Tickets cost £3, and are available from Mrs Molly Laing S.A.E.

please (address at front of newsletter). Please make cheques/P.O.'s payable to F.P.S. Directions and further details on the tickets.

Please note there will be an outside caterer to provide hot food all day, from 10 am.

STALLION & COLT SHOW Did You Notice the wrong date in the Autumn Newsletter? - this is the trouble with leap years, they creep up on you and you forget to take 2 days off for the new date, instead of the usual 1 day!

The Show will again be held at Dalemain, by kind invitation of the McCosh family, on **Saturday, 11th May 1996**. Think of the second Saturday in May and hopefully you won't go far wrong! The Breed Show however, is a different story, so please take note

of the new date for the 1996 Breed Show.

The Judge for this year's Stallion & Colt Show is Mr E M Wilson, Townend, Wigton. Schedules will be sent out to everyone who exhibited in 1994 and 1995. Will others please apply to Mr B Allen, Tarn Bank, Arnaby, The Green, Millom, Cumbria, LA18 5HZ, or collect a schedule at the AGM in March. Entries to be returned to Barry Allen.

The Stallion Show will commence at 11.30 am. All ponies of 3 years and over must be licensed and will be measured in the morning by the vet in attendance - please arrive in good time for your class, as the vet will only be in attendance for a couple of hours.

Show numbers will be handed out at the measuring stand by the Steward - Miss B Walker. The Ring Steward is Mr R Bicknell and Rosettes/Trophies Steward is Mrs M C Murray. **Stallions entered in the At Home Premium class must be blood typed**

prior to and as a condition of entry and will be required to parade in the relevant class - please submit, either with your entry or to the Show Commentator, some details of your stallion for a short commentary during the parade. This year the stallions will be trotted out individually during their 'commentary' slot - so we really do need a few words to say about each pony, e.g. show wins, if it is ridden/driven, successful progeny, any details for visiting mares, etc.. **Please note: following the success at last year's show, entries for the Driving class will be open to Geldings, 4 years and over.**

BEWCASTLE OPEN DAY We are holding an Open Day for the Native Pony Association of Cornwall on Sunday, 26 May and a warm invitation is extended to any F.P.S. members who would like to come. Please ring Mary Longsdon for details on 01963 33343.



PICTURED ABOVE - RIDERS AT THE 1995 TRAINING DAY. L to R: Jenny, Elaine, Sue, Penny.
BARN END TRAINING DAY - DO YOU WANT TO LEARN ABOUT DRESSAGE OR JUMPING - NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY!

This could be just the day to help you or your four legged friend get started - especially if you have thought about trying the Spring Performance Trials but keep putting it off. This will be the fourth Training/Instruction Day to be held on Sunday, 12 May 1996, commencing at 10.00 am, at Barn End, Sockbridge, Penrith, by kind invitation of Peter & Pauline Forsman. So that each rider can gain maximum benefit it will be restricted to a limit of 10 riders/ponies, so go for it before you change your mind again! Tel: 01768 890372. The following is a summary of last year's Training Day:

We held another successful training day on 28 May last year. Eight enthusiastic members and ponies attended to be instructed in flat work - dressage and jumping. Margaret Murray was as superb as ever, instructing and helping all the riders and ponies to achieve new heights. Carolyn Pannon, on Lazybank Princess Royal, had a great day - especially as the pony was new to this sort of thing. At the other end of the scale was our daughter on 24 year old Bowderdale Jess - Suzanne was extremely pleased as Margaret was able to improve Jess at this late stage in her career.

Gary Pigney, a local Show Jumping personality, gave the jumping instruction. He was extremely keen, to the extent of bringing extra jumps and poles to ensure he gave all members a good day. Gary

covered the basics with trotting poles for the novices before encouraging them to jump some inviting combinations. The experienced ponies also benefitted as Gary, an active BSJA competitor, was able to pass on hints and tips to bring out the best in the experienced riders and ponies. The instruction for flatwork and jumping is done on an individual basis, so when they are not busy, the riders can have a relaxing hack around the many bridle paths in the locality.

Riders and Ponies at the 1995 Training Day:

| | | | |
|-----------------|---------------------------|------------------|------------------------------|
| Sue Wardle | - Guards Joseph | Beth Ingham | - Baronhill Black Prince |
| Elaine Metcalf | - Tarnbeck Savanah | Suzanne Forsman | - Bowderdale Jess |
| Penny Baldwin | - Townend Ruth IV | Joan Hopkinson | - Heskett Raffles |
| Carolyn Pannone | - Lazybank Princess Royal | Beverley Hodgson | - Esther Maree of Inglegarth |

Peter Forsman

SPRING PERFORMANCE TRIALS & N.P.S. MOUNTAIN & MOORLAND

W.H.P. CHAMPIONSHIP QUALIFIER

These events will be held on Sunday 23 June 1996, at Linnel Wood, Hexham, again by kind invitation of Mr & Mrs R B Chariton.

The Qualifier will commence at 10.00 am and is open to registered stallions, mares and geldings, five years old or over. Exhibitors need not be members of the National Pony Society nor ponies entered in the Competition Record. The Qualifying exhibitor must however become a member and the pony be entered in the WHP Competition Record within seven days for the qualification to be valid. At the Final riders must be members of the NPS. The height of the jumps is increased for ponies exceeding 13.2hh. It is therefore essential that you have an accurate assessment of your pony's height. A copy of the full rules will be made available to all Qualifier entrants. **The Spring Performance Trials**, for those new to the event, this is completely separate from the Qualifier. It is run along the lines of a normal one day event with dressage, cross country and showjumping phases. The main differences are the manner of scoring (points scored rather than faults deducted) and the choice of jumps available in the cross country and showjumping sections. The intention is to provide courses challenging enough for the experienced and sufficiently encouraging for the less experienced or novice combinations. This year will again include a Novice class.

Details and entry form are available from Barry Allen, Tarn Bank, Amaby, The Green, Millom, Cumbria, LA18 5HZ. (large SAE please). Anyone thinking of entering for the first time can have their concerns eased by speaking to Barry on 01229 774528.

There is a £10 allowance for competitors travelling over 100 miles, and details of stabling and accommodation can also be obtained from Barry. Jump judges and stewards are always in short supply and anyone wishing to help will receive a very warm welcome.

WINDERMERE FELL PONY SHOW This will be held on Sunday, 30 June 1996, at the National Park Visitor Centre at Brockhole, Windermere. Schedules will be sent to recent competitors and will be available at the AGM, or from Barry Allen (01229 774528)

BARNINGHAM FELL PONY SHOW To be held on Saturday, 13 July 1996, at Barningham Park, Richmond, by kind permission of Sir Anthony Milbank. Please note refreshments available on the showground. Schedules will be available from Mrs Margaret Wilson, Townend, Haltcliff, Heskett-New-Market, Wigton, Cumbria. Tel: 016974 78638, and Mrs N Eamshaw, Hawkstead Farm House, Barningham, Richmond, N. Yorks. Tel: 01833 621261.

LOWTHER FELL CLASSES To be held on Saturday, 10 August 1996, by kind invitation of Lowther Horse Driving Trials & Country Fair. The Fell Pony classes will be judged in the Main Ring. There will be 2 Judges again - Mrs G M Cockbain and Mr D Lee. The in-hand classes will be split as follows: (a) Yearlings; (b) 2 & 3 year olds; (c) 4 years and over. Brood mares with foals **may** be split into a separate class depending on entries, and (d) Riddden class which may also be split, again depending on entries.

Show schedules will be available at the AGM and Stallion Show and will be sent to last year's exhibitors, others should apply to the FPS Secretary, Rachel Bell (S.A.E. please).

BREED SHOW Our 27th Show will be held on Sunday, 4 August 1996, at Brougham Hall Farm, Penrith, by kind invitation of Mr & Mrs A Helme. **Note: there may be a change of showfield and you**

must read your schedule carefully for any changes/information. You will note above that the date has been changed following a change of weekend made by Lowther HDT and this year the show will be held on a **Sunday**. It is envisaged that this will be a one-off situation. Schedules will be available at the AGM and the Stallion Show, otherwise please send a S.A.E. to Mrs Molly Laing (address at front of newsletter) or Show Secretary: Mrs Margaret Murray, Park House Farm, Baldersdale, Barnard Castle, Co. Durham. Schedules will NOT be automatically sent out to last year's exhibitors. **Entries close 20th July, to be sent to the new Entries Secretary, Miss Dawn Ford (as per 1994 Show).**

***NEW - SOUTHERN MINI EVENT** This will take place on Sunday 25 August 1996. We are again very grateful to have been offered Shotover for our new venture. We will be using a different area of the park by kind permission of Mr Richard Joyce, who is very generously allowing us the use of all his facilities at the Green Triangle Stables, Home Farm.

The day will follow the lines of a traditional ridden event, although each section may be entered separately. That is Dressage, Cross Country, and Show Jumping, also you may enter for the total scoring of the three phases. There will be an Open and Novice class (which will be divided as entries warrant it).

We would like to stress that we intend to start this on a very simple scale, so that 'everyone' can come and have a try. We hope that the 'professionals' amongst you will bear with us while we get this new event established! We would like to make an appeal for stewards/helpers/jump judges. Schedules available at the Stallion Show or from Miss Mary Longsdon - see 'Southern Show' details for address.

PLEASURE RIDE 1996 To be held on Sunday, 29 September 1996, in the North Lancashire area. Further details and application form may be obtained from Mrs G M Cockbain, Rakefoot Farm, Keswick, Cumbria, CA12 4TE.

SOUTHERN FELL SHOW This will be our Eighth Show and we are delighted to be invited back to Shotover House by Sir John Miller, on Sunday, 8 September 1996. The classes will remain the same as last year and we are pleased that Mrs Christine Robinson and Mrs Gwen Williamson will be coming down to judge. We are endlessly grateful to all who sponsor our classes and give us so much generous support. Hopefully we will see a little more sun this year, so do come and have a good day out. Schedules will be available at the Stallion Show or from me - Miss M G Longsdon, Orchard Cottage, Cucklington, Wincanton, Somerset, BA9 9PT. Tel: 01963 33343.

AUTUMN PERFORMANCE TRIALS Pict Hall, Blawith, Nr Ulverston, will again stage this event, by kind invitation of Mr & Mrs R Baxter, on Sunday, 22 September 1996. Last year saw encouragingly increased entries and it is to be hoped that support for this excellent day out can be maintained. Details and entry form from Barry Allen - see Stallion Show details for address (S.A.E. please).

ANNUAL REGISTERED SHOW & SALE OF FELL PONIES, PENRITH. This will again be held at Penrith Auction, courtesy of Penrith Farmers' & Kidd's, on Friday, 18 October 1996. The Judge for the show classes is Mrs N Lightfoot, Waver Head, Wigton, Cumbria. Please note the closing date for entries is 1 month before the sale. *Vendors are strongly requested to submit foal registration applications to the Secretary well before the Sale day, so that their registrations may be processed, which will greatly assist the administration on the sale day. All ponies must be registered by the date of the sale.*

For entry forms contact Penrith Farmers & Kidd's Plc, Agricultural Hall, Penrith Auction Mart, Skirsgill, Penrith, Cumbria, CA11 0DN. Tel: 01768 862323, Fax: 01768 863962. Catalogues also can be obtained from the Auctioneers direct - the cost is £1.40 (inclusive of postage and packing).

Fell Pony News & Articles

'Genetics and Conservation Workshop' - 10-13 January 1996, at Liverpool University.

I arrived before Rachel on the Tuesday evening and some of us early arrivals went across Sefton Park for dinner. After 3 times around the park we ended up in an Italian Restaurant. A party of 17 at one table and 1 bill! A good way to start.

Accommodation was at 'Roscoe and Gladstone Hall of Residence'. Comfortable beds and excellent food! The course was well attended - 39 people representing many breeds. An old lady with parrots at the bottom of the garden; a circus trainer; zoo keepers; breeders of dogs; rare breeds of cattle and sheep, etc. Horses were well represented including Dales, Exmoor, Welsh Cobs, British Spotted Ponies, Lusitanos and, of course, Rachel and I for the Fells. The car park was filled with an assortment of vehicles from old vans to Mercedes!

On Wednesday, we assembled at the labs and got to work. Two lectures and a lab session in the morning, a short break for lunch followed by similar sessions in the afternoon. We started at 9.15 am and finished at 6 pm!

Dr Ian Gill proved to be an excellent lecturer. He was enthusiastic, explained everything very clearly and was very easy to listen to. I don't think anybody even blinked during his lectures!

He started by explaining the basics of the genetic code and how it works. He concentrated on variety and how this is due to very small differences in the coding. Although a particular gene may have many different versions, called alleles, within the breed, each individual animal can only have two - one copy inherited from the sire and one from the dam. (I think of alleles as being like different spellings of the same word). At each mating one copy of the genes is passed to the offspring from each parent so that each animal has two copies of each gene. An animal can therefore pass on only one or other of two copies, and half the variety of the parents is lost at each mating.

Dominance occurs when two different alleles of the same gene are present, and one allele is expressed rather than the other. Colour is a good illustration. In Shorthorn cattle Red x White results in Roan because both alleles are equally dominant. But Bay x Chestnut will result in Bay offspring only because chestnut is recessive to Bay. However, if these animals are crossed a quarter of the offspring will inherit Chestnut from both parents and will express their colour; they will be chestnut. Because the only way to tell if an animal is carrying a recessive gene is when one of its offspring inherits two copies of this allele and shows the recessive, it is very difficult to get rid of a recessive which is not wanted, e.g. a recessive disease.

In the practical session we made slides of cattle chromosomes (coiled up sections of the DNA) and looked at them through the microscope.

In-Breeding was the main subject for Thursday. Dr Gill talked about selection and the advantages and problems produced. All breeds are by definition 'in-bred'. They are homozygous (have the same allele) for the factors which make the breed distinct, but the rest of the genes are a random sample, with several alleles and it is important to keep this variation within the breed.

In small populations, e.g. where one bull sires a whole generation, half of the variety can be lost in each generation, and once an allele is lost it cannot be regained. Small populations are therefore at risk because loss of variety makes it difficult to adapt to new situations and new diseases. Loss of variety can lead to weakness and poor fertility. When this happens outcrossing is used, but an outcross will change the breed so it should only be resorted to when the problems are serious and there is no alternative.

We ended the day with an excellent dinner at Chester Zoo!

On Friday, Lawrence Alderson of the Rare Breeds Survival Trust continued the subject of small populations with lots of examples of breeding policies and pedigrees - an excellent session. He pointed out the danger of one breeder having too great an influence in determining the direction a breed should go. This comes about by the over use of particular males from one line so that this line takes over and, what he called a 'pyramid' develops with all animals going back to one founder member. The way to avoid this is to have males from as wide a base as possible.

Beware that what may appear to be an 'improvement' does not, by in-breeding for it, turn out to be a disaster! All in-bred lines reduce variety, but do so differently so that if there are a number of separate

in-bred lines, variety can be regained by crossing these lines together and without going outside the breed.

The afternoon session was on Continuous Variation, all of which became a bit technical as it relies on mathematics!

The course finished on Saturday, with visits to Chester Zoo or Croxteth Hall Farm & Country Park, where they had a number of rare breeds.

I think we all left with much food for thought.

Betty Walker

MORE GENETICS! Following discussion at the Autumn General Meeting and a request for further information on DNA, Ruth Ward has supplied us with a further insight to this fascinating subject:

In the nucleus of a cell, structures are found called chromosomes. These structures exist in pairs and different species have different numbers in the nucleus. For example, a human has 46 chromosomes (23 pairs) in the nucleus of every cell, while a horse has 64 chromosomes (32 pairs).

Within these chromosomes is DNA. This is a double-stranded helix. Each chromosome contains one of the structures. The helix contains 4 different bases and also sugars and phosphates. These form nucleotides, which make up the chain of DNA.

In the sex cells, or gametes, of a horse, there are only 32 chromosomes and therefore no pairs. When a gamete from the sire joins with one from the female, a new cell is formed containing chromosomes from both parents. This new cell, which develops into a foal, therefore also contains DNA from both parents.

The DNA in a chromosome 'unzips' from the double helix and replicates onto another molecule called RNA. This enables proteins to be made from the code of bases that was present on the original DNA.

These proteins are formed from triplets of bases on the RNA. Some of these triplets code for amino acids, which join to form proteins, while some triplets do not. These are known as non-sense triplets.

To find out if a foal has DNA from one parent, the DNA is allowed to replicate onto RNA and the protein-triplet sequence is formed. The level of accuracy in this method of identification is very high, as there are 64 possible triplets formed from the four original bases and each individual has different sequences of these 64 triplets. If the triplet sequence is different in the foal's chromosome than that of one of its suspected parents, then that particular horse is not one of the parents.

Ruth Ward

QUANTITY OR QUALITY? Numerically we have now a Society with a firm future, but, I feel a little culling or grading would not come amiss. Currently a foal with registered parents can itself be registered for a few pounds. It may conform to the characteristics most desired in the breed or, equally it can be a runt with poor bone, no stamina, excess of white feather, etc.

Equally is it too easy to get a Stallion Licence for a few pounds, veterinary inspection and blood typing? Older, experienced pony owners who show and work their ponies and mix with others can more quickly develop 'an eye' for a 'good pony'. But a novice new owner, maybe with few Fell contacts, who has no transport to go to Breed or good Mountain & Moorland Shows, can so easily flounder, buying poor stock and/or putting it to the wrong stallion for convenience and breeding down instead of up towards an ideal Fell Pony. If there is such an animal?

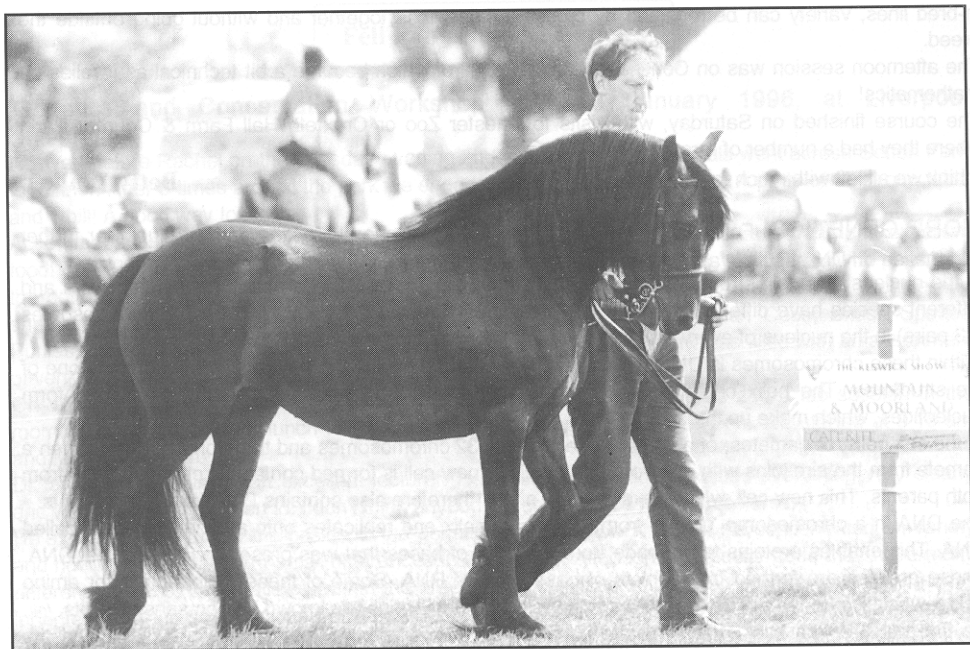
I have just been to the Continent to a two day stallion grading for a single native breed; 125 x three year olds, plus some older, advanced stallions. A senior four person Grading Panel of judges and an audience on the last day of up to 7000 people, who paid to come. The atmosphere was electric and an experience not to be forgotten. On the first day 97 stallions were graded out, leaving 28 to go forward for the final day when eventually 15 were chosen to go for a 50 day training/assessment session where action, riding, driving, stable manners, etc., were marked, then given breeding privileges till their first offspring have been graded as foals. Finally becoming a senior very true to type sire.

This system would be over the top, time consuming and expensive for us as Fell owners but, a stallion and mare grading, in a simple form would discourage people from breeding or registering poor stock and the quality ponies could demand a higher stud fee or selling price. A person new to the breed would have a 'yardstick' with which to judge an animal if it had a 'star grade', 'top grade', 'standard grade' or 'ungraded' classification approved by a panel of three or four senior judges. What do you think?

Also, would a lower height limit, for example 12 hh, discourage poor stock?

Judy Hill

Judy Hill's letter brings some valid points across and Council will discuss some of these issues at the next Council meeting. In the meantime, as Judy says "What do you think?"



Picture above: Barbondale Ruby FP1792, foaled 1989. Dark Bay, with black points. **Sire:**

Greenfield Gay Lad, Dam: Barbondale Rosette. Bred by the late Mr Alan Shuttleworth.

We purchased Ruby from Mrs Shuttleworth in June 1995. She first entered the show ring, in hand, at Lowther in August, where she was placed 2nd. From there she went from strength to strength. At Appleby, our local show, she won both in-hand and under saddle, ridden by Alison Knight. She also took the Fell Championship. At the Breed Show, again ridden by Alison, she won the novice mare class. She won her class in hand and took the championship at Borrowdale. At the Southern Fell Show Ruby was 1st In-hand, In-hand Champion and Supreme Champion. Ruby won other prizes both In-hand and under saddle at Keswick and Crosby Ravensworth.

David & Katherine Wilkinson

LOWNTHWAITE ROB TROPHY Every year I look for a pony that has advertised the breed. Rob was a great pony - all the Laing family rode him.

So every year we find a pony to award with the perpetual silver cake basket.

The pony to win the trophy in 1995 was '**Packway Curlew**' owned by Miss Barnacle, who has had her for fifteen wonderful years - the pony has lived until her thirties.

If you want to know more about the Rob Trophy have a look at the photos in the book on the stand at Shows or meetings.

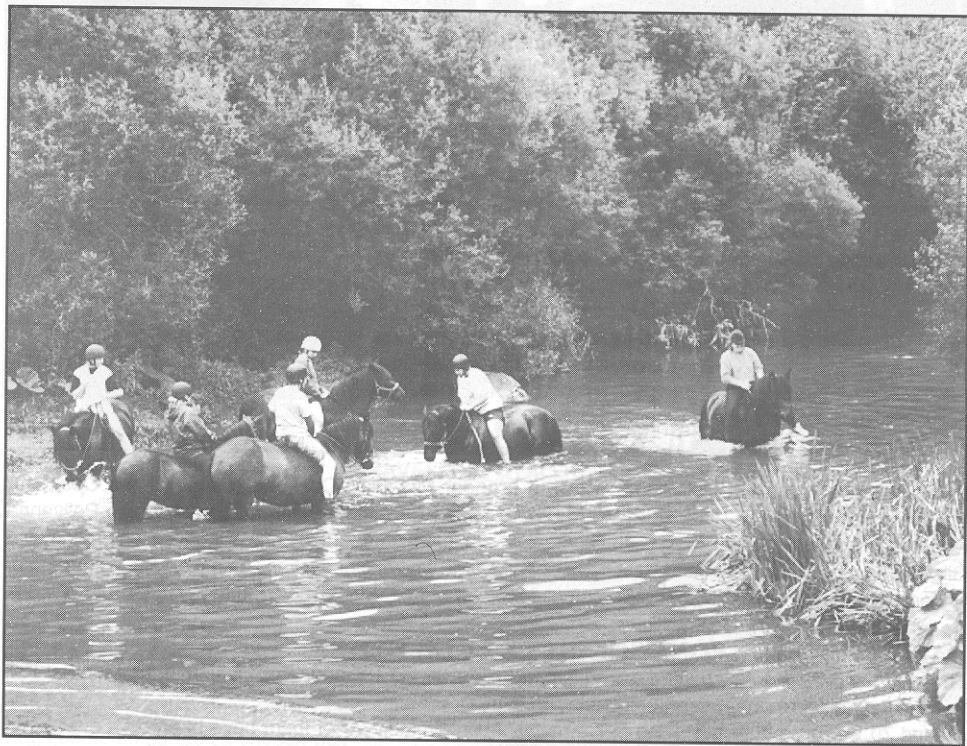
Molly Laing

FELLS ON HOLIDAY It's almost as if the ponies know when we're heading north on the A1. Always good travellers, on this journey I have more than once looked in the rear view mirror and thought "crikey, that's close" only to remember that the trailer is on the back, staring at me! As we turn off the A66 to Bolton there's almost a buzz from the trailer and as we unload them, they look eagerly (and wistfully, I fancy) at the wonderful view towards Cross Fell. Edith & Brian Stockdale, our hosts, come to cast knowing eyes over their four legged visitors (and perhaps the two legged ones too!), usually recognising the ponies either from brief overnight stops as foals on their way south, or from previous visits with them.

Our first trip of the year is for the AGM in March. Edith & Brian say that they know winter is coming to an end when we arrive for that meeting and of course the nation marks the Fell AGM by altering the clocks!

Only a few weeks later we return for the Stallion show. We have had some eventful stallion show weekends - picture three ladies changing a wheel on a trailer with 1 stallion, 1 colt and 1 gelding on

board, on the hard shoulder of the A1! Another time we travelled home with brake problems, but the ponies usually seem to be on their best behaviour in difficult times. The stallion show usually coincides with Jane's birthday so this is always a celebration weekend whichever end of the line we've supported. The highlight of the year is the breed show week. This is now our annual holiday and for the ponies too. We try to do Lowther and are now regulars at Appleby, two of our favourite shows of the year (along with Society shows of course). In between we do different things with the ponies. Swimming has been the highlight of the last two years: makeshift bridles are made and swimming costumes donned (by the riders!) and in we go. The water last year was wonderfully warm and the ponies really loved it - and it makes their coats so soft. When they're not swimming they often stand and paw the water making a fantastic splash.

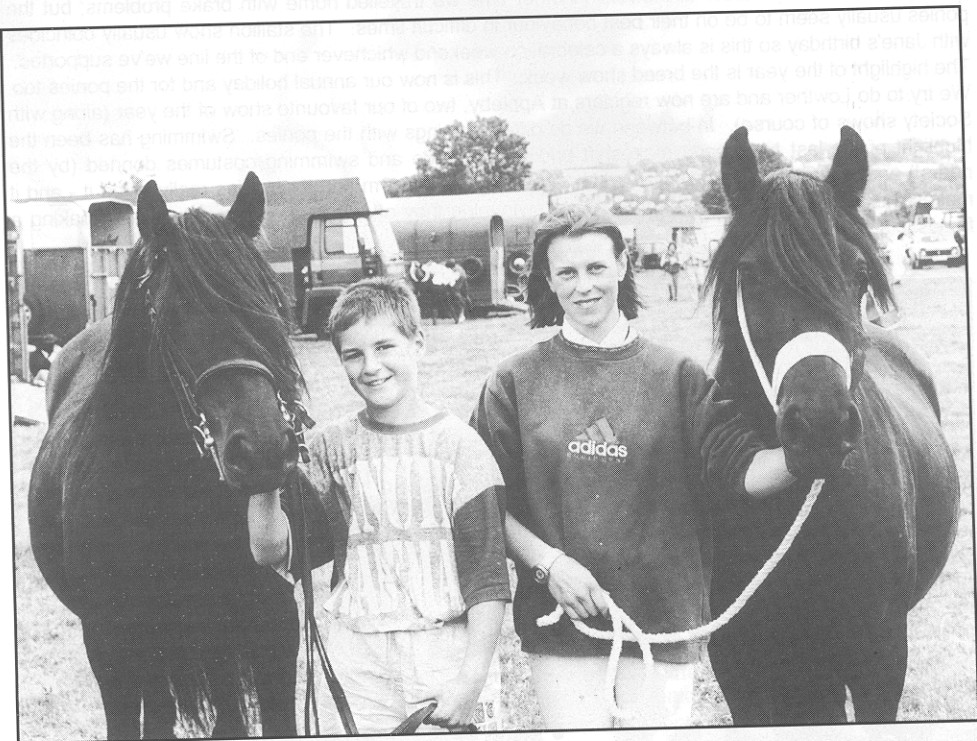


PONIES AND RIDERS ALIKE HAVING FUN IN THE RIVER - "Cor did you see that trout!"

We took them on the fells above Sarge & Greta Noble's one year, having a wonderful ride and being supervised by a lot of short eared, long haired faces! The Heltondale ponies definitely recognised home- I'll bet some tales were told in the stables that night. Sarge and Greta came to meet us as we came down off the fell and the ponies showed that they haven't forgotten what it's all about as we had to stand in a ford to let a large flock of sheep pass. They stood impeccably, hardly moving a muscle. The local farmers around Bolton now greet us like old friends as we ride their bridlepaths, even coming out to open gates for us. In return, we go to see how well their cattle have done at Appleby show. Our showing careers reached their peak last year when we won numerous prizes including second in the most useful item made from baling string and second in the brooch competition at Appleby - believe me getting a brooch ready for a show beats getting ponies ready, but it's just as nerve racking!! These are a few of the wonderful times that we've had in Cumbria. We hope we'll have many more and look forward to 1996. Thankyou everybody for making us so welcome.

Liz Whitley

Ed's note: I really enjoyed reading that, thanks Liz! I enjoyed it even more because I didn't have to type it in, as Liz kindly sent it on a disk. Brilliant! Any more like that?!



Pictured above: Carrock Pollyanna, with the breeder Mrs G M Cockbain's son, James Cockbain and Townend Candy IV, with Ruth Ward at the 1995 Keswick Agricultural Show, where Pollyanna was champion and Candy Reserve. The mares are full sisters. Pollyanna was also champion and Gilsland and Dalston Shows and Reserve at Hawkshead Show. Candy was Champion at Cockermouth, Ennerdale and N.C.P.A. Cumbria M&M 2 and 3 year old. (Photo: courtesy of Mr F C Wilson)

DAUGHTER FELL PONY SOCIETY DEUTSCHLAND:

The story, which for a few people began with a holiday in the UK and which was their first look at Fell Ponies, seems to be one with an enjoyable result.

Around 70 Fells are currently living in Germany. Approximately 20 of them have been born over here. We have 4 stallions amongst them, from whom one stallion has passed his German stallion performance test with a good result.

Naturally, not everybody in Germany knows what a Fell Pony is but after some articles in horse magazines and books and a little showing more and more people learn of them or are enthusiastic about the qualities of Fells. For my part, I am most pleased to see that farmers can see recognise immediately the qualities of this "new" breed. In addition the pony driving enthusiasts are very interested in this "new" pony.

In the middle of last October, some 30 Fell owners and friends met to discuss the foundation of a Fell Pony Society Deutschland. After some hours of taking and discussion, 18 foundation members - unfortunately the others had to leave earlier because of their long journey home - agreed the foundation of the Society of interest for the Fells and also it's Rules. The aims of which are similar to the rules of the UK mother stud book society.

Our first meeting for members of this new Society will be on the 2 March 1996 and will hopefully be as pleasurable as the foundation meeting.

It is not necessary to say that every Fell person from the UK would be most welcome by the German Fell owners and friends.

Barbara Mueller

DRYBARROWS ADAM When we bought 'Adi' we did not know what reaction we would receive.



Bought as a ride and drive and an all round family pony, he has competed at many local shows and is now known around our area as 'the hairy pony'. At his first show, surrounded by much smarter horses he soon became the centre of attention and to his delight has remained so ever since. We have had a very successful year with him, competing in driving competitions, dressage, showjumping, cross country, showing - you name it, he's done it.

Adi has also attended Pony Club and went to his first camp this year where he managed to cause chaos by tipping over wheelbarrows, dismantling his stable and attempting regular escapes.

Adi is even more busy than usual at Christmas time, helping Santa Claus on his rounds. For the past two years he has taken Santa round the local town in his trap in order to raise money for a childrens hospice. However, the highlight of our year came when at our first Southern Fell Pony Show. Adi won two of his classes, coming second in another.

Although we have had horses for many years, we have had one of our most enjoyable seasons yet with Adi. He seems to have become a favourite with not only us, but everyone who meets him. **Debbie Warren S: Twislehope Rupert, D: Heltondale Eve, foaled 84**

TRAVELLING STALLIONS

'Tis Maytime - the stallion men
Are trav'ling ponies yet again
Travelling far the quiet fellside
From Easter until Whisuntide.
Stallions proud with bloom and care,
Hard feathered feet and well brushed hair
Walk easily some distant track
Their master's needs strapped on each back.
Each horse and groom a chosen way
From morning light till close of day.
Leave Carrock's slopes for Borrowdale
Then Bassenthwaite for Matterdale.
Another route on lone Shap Fell
Some likely mares? One ne'er can tell.
Or, on through Ravens' dale to wait
Near Stouphill's bridge or farmyard gate,
P'haps at this call their day is past;
Good fireside meal and bed at last.

Yet other men with ponies proud
Will walk up Mardale into cloud
Cross Gatesgarth Pass to Kentmere green
Where likesome mares are often seen.
Steep Cross Fell slopes to Alston moor
Where late spring grass is short and poor.

Perhaps Helvelyn's startli way
Will find them on Ascension Day,
In thankfulness and silent prayer
For God's great world and sweet fresh air.
'Tis weekends while they stay at home;
Some neighb'ring mares will surely come.

From Hartsop head to Barton Cross
Tread Eamont's pools and flower filled moss
Where elm trees glow with sunlit gleam
Along the bank of every stream

The stallions back with sun adorns
For man, such joyful, peaceful morns
The season ends; fees for each horse,
A guinea to their man, of course.

**by the late Sylvia Mary McCosh,
September 1983.**

ADVERTISEMENTS

For Sale: Selection of Ponies - Please contact Sales Officer, Mrs Molly Laing, for a copy of the current sales list. Tel: 013873 76272.

For Sale: **Sleddale David**, 13.1hh, 11 yr old dark bay gelding. Numerous wins in-hand, ridden showing, x-country, dressage, etc. Res.Sp.Champion and Male CH. at Breed Show '95. 100% traffic and to manage. Is not suitable for a novice rider. Knowledgeable home essential. Also: **Threapland Thomas**, 2 yr old black gelding. Sire: Townend Flash VI, Dam: Karbeck Night Serenade. Shown in hand successfully. Well handled. Good with traffic and to manage. Will ride or drive. Super temperament. Tel: G Underwood for more details on 016973 22288 (Cumbria).

For Sale: **Sleddale Lulu**, 10 yr old mare, 13.3 hh. All black. Proven brood mare. Many wins in hand. Quiet to ride and handle. Good in traffic. Contact Mrs M Harrison, on 01535 633022(W. Yorks.).

For Sale: **Ludworth Samson**, 2 yr old very good looking colt. Black turning grey. For sale or would exchange for Ride/Drive mare. Contact: Mr C E Gardner 01642 882085 (Cleveland)

For Sale: **Gelding**, rising 5 yrs, 13.3hh. Heltondale Sire/Dam. Broken to ride and hacks out but requires further schooling. For sale to knowledgeable Fell-loving home. Now looking for someone with the time to make a fuss and to do him justice. £850 but right home more important than price. Contact Karen Skade 01270 216410 (Cheshire).

For Sale: **Corrennie Afton FP2227**, foaled.1.5.92, S: Midtown Jasper FP538C, Dam: Foggy Gill Jewel (B) FP1619. Black filly, approx 13.1hh. Also: **Inglegarth Rhapsody FP2334**, foaled 23.5.93, Sire: Ferrymount Timothy, Dam: Stennerskeugh Rosamund FP1882. Black, approx. 12.3hh (last summer). Both ponies vaccinations are up to date and regularly wormed. Broken to ride by Mr Robert Thorne, Annan. Both very calm natured ponies and beautiful. Both ponies love children. They get on well with each other - should wrok well together driving. Need riding regularly and a good home especially important. Contact Anna McQueen 01644 440270 (Castle Douglas, Kirkcudbrightshire).

For Sale: **5 yr old Grey Gelding**, hacking quietly, real gent, make driving pony. 01483 761274 (Surrey)

Wanted: **Good All Round Fell**, approximately 14 hh. Suitable for RDA work. Would consider youngster with right temperament. Excellent farm home, offering loan or buy. Contact Eve Pattinson (evenings) 01768 885262 (Penrith, Cumbria).

Wanted: **Bombproof Gelding, 14hh or over**, approx. 9-12 years preferred for novice male rider. Contact John or Dale Thatcher 01225 840581 (eves) or Work 01225 444565.

Wanted: **Gelding, over 8 yrs**, suitable for nervous novice Mum. Contact Mrs Teasdale 01947 600337.

Bed & Breakfast, @ £13.50/person. Also grazing/stabling available. Situated close to Wye Valley/Welsh Border. Contact Jennifer & Derek Hockey, Staunton, Glos, tel 01594 836900 Fax: 836991

Instruction & Holidays: **Adam Senior NCMH.** Full or part livery available in a secure fully covered yard with excellent facilities. All-weather arena, tuition/ schooling/breaking horses and ponies. Stable management days under professional guidance. Riding tuition/hour, adults or children, beginners, novices and experienced riders welcome. Reasonable fees. Open all year. Alston & Killhope Riding Centre, Low Cornriggs Farm, Cowshill, Weardale, Co. Durham, DL13 1AQ. Tel: 0388 537600.

Pony Manager

Computer Workshop is pleased to announce the arrival of their new computerised program PONY MANAGER. This program has been designed exclusively for pony owners and breeders and allows the effortless recording and retrieval of the information required for the good husbandry of ponies. Pony Manager will work on any PC compatible with DOS version 3.00 and above fitted with a hard disk.

The total cost of the package is £95 plus £4.50 p. & p.

For more details please contact:

Computer Workshop

1 Drumshinnoch Brae, Thornhill, Dumfriesshire DG3 5EQ

Telephone: 01848 500296

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY - 1996

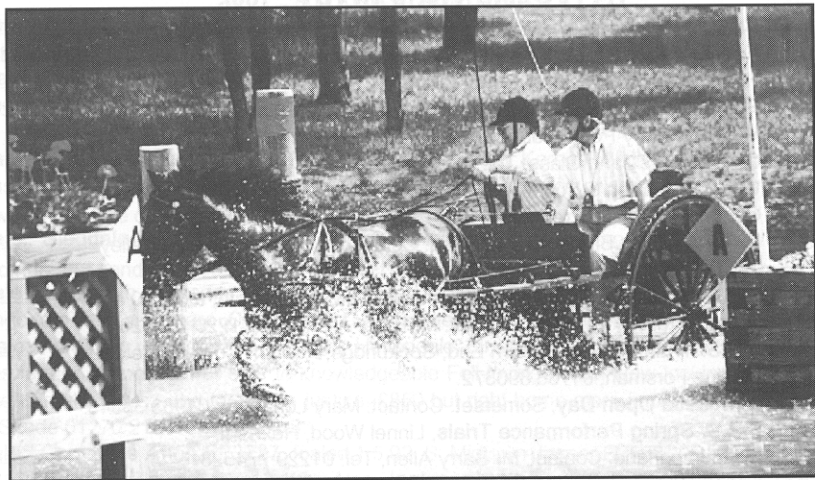
- 30 Mar 96 - **F.P.S. Extraordinary & Annual General Meeting**, Lowther Parish Hall, Hackthorpe, Penrith, starting at 1.00 pm.
- 31 Mar 96 - **F.P.S. Open Day**, at George Bowman's Stables, Robinson St, Penrith.
- 9 Apr 96 - Midlands Hairy Pony Club Show, Markfield Equestrian Centre, Leics.
Contact Miss Jane Glass, Tel: 01509 880261.
- 20 Apr 96 - W. Mids. Stallion & Youngstock Show, Malvern. Entries close 11 March.
Contact: Mr W E Farrell, Tel: 01925 266405, not later than 9.30 pm.
- 27/28 Apr 96 - N.C.P.A. Staffs Branch, Ailsager Eq. Centre. Contact Mrs Isobel Walley
Tel: 01782 502262.
- 11 May 96 - **F.P.S. Stallion & Colt Show**, Dalemain, Ullswater, Penrith, at 11.30 am.
Note: Saturday 11.5.96. Contact: Mr Barry Allen, Tel: 01229 774528.
- 12 May 96 - **F.P.S. Training Day**, at Barn End, Sockbridge, Penrith. Contact: Peter or Pauline Forsman, 01768 890372.
- 26 May 96 - **Bewcastle Open Day**, Somerset. Contact: Mary Longsdon 01963 33343.
- 23 Jun 96 - **F.P.S. Spring Performance Trials**, Linnel Wood, Hexham, Northumberland. Contact: Mr Barry Allen, Tel: 01229 774528
- 30 Jun 96 - **F.P.S. Windermere Fell Pony Show**, Brockhole, Windermere.
Contact: Mr Barry Allen, Tel: 01229 774528
- 13 July 96 - **Barningham Fell Pony Show**, Barningham Park, Richmond, N. Yorks.
Cont: Mrs M Wilson, Tel: 016974 78638/Mrs Earnshaw, Tel: 01833 621261.
- 4 Aug 96 - **F.P.S. Breed Show**, Brougham Hall Farm, Penrith. **Note: Sunday 4.8.96.**
Contact Mrs Molly Laing, Tel: 013873 76272
- 10 Aug 96 - **F.P.S. Fell Classes at Lowther Horse Driving Trials.**
Contact: Mrs Rachel Bell, Tel: 013873 76251
- 13 Aug 96 - Pound Cott Native Pony Performance Day, Milton Abbas, Dorset - whole show open to M&M only. Contact Mrs Jacky Hardy Tel: 01258 880057.
- 25 Aug 96 - **F.P.S. Southern Mini Event**, Shotover, Oxon. Contact: Miss Mary Longsdon, Tel: 01963 33343.
- 31 Aug 96 - Weardale Ag. Soc., St. John's Chapel, Co. Durham. New Fell Classes
Contact Mrs M V Humphrey, Tel: 01388 537398.
- 8 Sept 96 - **F.P.S. Southern Show**, Shotover House, Wheatley, Oxford.
Contact: Miss Mary Longsdon, Tel: 01963 33343
- 22 Sept 96 - **F.P.S. Autumn Performance Trials**, Blawith, Nr Ulverston.
Contact: Mr Barry Allen, Tel: 01229 774528
- 29 Sept 96 - **F.P.S. Pleasure Ride.** Contact Mrs G Cockbain, Tel: 017687 72133.
- 18 Oct 96 - **F.P.S. Show & Sale of Registered Fell Ponies**, at Penrith Auction Mart.
Further details from Rachel Bell or Auctioneers: Penrith Farmers' & Kidd's plc, Tel: 01768 62323.
- 19 Oct 96 - **F.P.S. Autumn General Meeting**, Lowther Parish Hall, Hackthorpe, Penrith, starting at 1.00 pm.

CANADIAN NEWS: "Just to let you know how Gibside Countess is doing in Canada. She is now 7 years old but still full of mischief, when left with nothing to do. All last year we were very busy going to pleasure driving shows as well as Combined Driving. We competed in Metamor, U.S.A. at preliminary level. It was the first time for Countess and we were placed 3rd. During the whole show the temperature was 34 degrees Celcius! But she took the heat in her stride. At the veterinary checks at the end of each marathon section, her pulse and temperature were back to normal in no time.

I miss riding and driving her now. She will have her first foal early spring. Countess has above normal intelligence! She knows a full dressage test with all the movements before I have it perfect. This brings comments on the Judges sheet: "Pony rushed the test!". Countess loves cone driving best and does it with top speed. We placed 3rd, out of 22 entries".

Erica Brunner & Countess

(see over for photograph)



ERICA BRUNNER, OF CANADA, COMPETING WITH HER FELL MARE GIBSIDE COUNTESS, Sire: Gibside Danny Boy, Dam: Waverhead Dawn. Foaled 1989. (photo courtesy of Ann L Pringle)

1996 COUNCIL ELECTIONS - DETAILS OF CANDIDATES

There are the usual four places available for Council at the 1996 elections, which will take place at the Spring A.G.M. on 31 March 1996. All four retiring Council Members have indicated their willingness to stand for re-election.

The four retiring officers are alphabetically listed as follows: Mr P L Forsman, Mrs C H Robinson, Mrs G Williamson, Mr E M Wilson.

There are four new nominees, alphabetically listed as follows:

- Mr Robert Beaty - proposed by Mr A W Morland, seconded by Mr W S Potter
- Mr Peter Boustead - proposed by Mr E M Wilson, seconded by Miss P Baldwin
- Mr Thomas Capstick - proposed by Mrs R M Eastwood, seconded by Mrs K Baggott
- Mr Walter Lloyd - proposed by Mrs G M Noble, seconded by Mr W S Noble

As indicated earlier, each candidate has supplied an appraisal as follows:

Council Members eligible for re-election: (N.B. *The number in bold type shown in brackets after each Council Members written piece relates to the number of Council Meetings they have not attended out of a possible total number of 18 Meetings in the last 5 years, or since they were elected*)

Mr Peter Forsman - I have been an enthusiastic FPS member for many years. Last year I was voted on to Council to fill a position that had only a year to run. Consequently I am up for re-election this year. I am one of Molly Laing's happy band of workers at Meetings and Shows and I am also responsible for building and running the Working Hunter course at the Breed Show. Each year, my wife and I hold a training day at our house for dressage and jumping tuition to enable FPS members to gain confidence and enter the Spring Performance Trial at Hexham.

Many of you will know my pony Bowderdale Jess, ridden by my daughter Suzanne. They have been a very successful combination for many years. Jess is 25 now and still going strong and because of her success I am trying to encourage others to compete in one day events, jumping, dressage, etc. I feel we must keep the active Fell Pony in the public eye, as some still think of Fells as a "beast of burden".

Finally, I must say that I am in favour of blood typing and/or DNA testing. In the world in which we now live, the Fell Pony is being exported to many countries. We find that in most of these countries DNA testing is the norm. This means that traditional practices have to be backed up by scientific testing and approved in order to keep the Fell Pony and the FPS in line with legal requirements. (0)

Mrs Christine Robinson - I became a member of the FPS in 1975, having been introduced to Fells while helping on a local farm - all their ponies were Fells and otherwise ran on the fell all the time. In 1977 I

acquired my first Fell Pony and haven't recovered since. A started showing in 1978 and have been breeding ponies regularly since 1984. I enjoy showing but equally get great pleasure from competing in all types of competition with my ponies - usually with a fair amount of success - and showing horse owners that ponies are just as good and can be a whole lot better!

I feel that it is very important to promote our breed as a true all-rounder, as without people to purchase the ponies the breed will surely decline. Equally as breeders we must show our integrity and stand behind our breeding policies. I also believe it is essential to the survival of the Fell Pony that we help the hill breeders in every way possible and try to encourage them all we can, both with support in completing the very increasing hazards of 'red tape' and the EU and in lobbying the various official bodies concerned.

(0)

Mrs Gwen Williamson - I have bred the Tarnbeck ponies on teh Seathwaite Fells for 25 years. My aim has always been to breed a good type of pony and with the help of my family to produce them for the show ring and performance events.

I have been on the Council for 15 years and hav only missed approximately 3 meetings due to illness or prior engagements.

In these changing times, with all the new rules and regulations coming from Europe, I have tried to help make the right decisions, with fellow Council members for the good of the breed and ideed for the future of The Fell Pony Society.

(3)

Mr Eddie Wilson - I have been an FPS member for most of my life and registered my own ponies in the early 1940's but my family had been breeding Fell Ponies before I started. I have been a Council member since 1971. My interest has been breeding and showing and we have bred many show prize winning ponies both in-hand and ridden. I am also a long standing FPS judge.

(3)

New Candidates nominated for election to the Council

Mr Robert Beaty - I have had a life long interest in Fell Ponies and the Stennerskeugh ponies, which I have bred for many years, are descendants of my father-in-law's well known Adamthwaite ponies.

Should I be elected to serve on the Council, I would be very keen to support that part of The Fell Pony Society constitution which reads "to foster and keep pure the old breed of pony which has roamed the Northern fells for years ... ", but I would like to think that in addition I can also offer a sound knowledge of Fell Ponies together with an enthusiastic, business-like and commonsense approach to all other aspects of The Fell Pony Society's activities and Council decisions.

Mr Peter Boustead - I have been a member of the Society for over 20 years, nine of these as a Council member. I am also on the Judges Panel and act as Chief Steward at the Breed Show.

More important than past achievements for a prospective Council member is future considerations. We live in a time of significant changes, many of them descending on us in the form of EU directives. Whilst recognising that some of these are desirable, indeed in some instances beneficial, others threaten the autonomy of the Society. Few Brussels bureaucrats have ever seen a Fell Pony, nor its habitat and the Council must ensure that unnecessary and unwanted change is resisted. The primary purpose of the Council is to preserve the heritage of the Fell Pony and serve the interests of the Society. Increasingly as we approach a new millenium this heritage seems constantly under threat.

Mr Thomas Capstick - I have been a member and breeder of the Murthwaite Fell Ponies for approximately 33 years. I was a Council member for 10 years. My ponies run as a natural semi-wild herd on the open Howgill Fells. I have never owned or bred anything other than a Fell Pony and to me they are my native breed of pony and not just a native breed of pony.

Mr Walter Lloyd - I was brought up among working farm horses and joined The Fell Pony Society in 1957.

With two foundation mares from Heltondale I established the Hades Hill herd on extensive hill common land in East Lancashire to breed for hardiness and versatility. Ten years ago I moved to the South Lakes, where I now have ten mares and fillies and their followers.

Now that fewer ponies are being bred on the open fells, and few are being used for harness work, I believe that support should be given to breeders to avoid losing these characteristics. It is my intention to actively seek out and encourage support of this kind.

NOTICE OF THE FELL PONY SOCIETY
EXTRA-ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING, AT 1.00 pm PROMPT, FOR THE
ADOPTION OF COMPANY FORMATION (see enclosure) AND

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Both Meetings will be held on Saturday, 30 March 1996, at Lowther Parish Hall, Hackthorpe, Penrith, Cumbria. The A.G.M. will commence at approximately 2.00 pm (following the conclusion of the E.G.M. which starts at 1.00 pm). Tea will be available after the meeting.

A.G.M. AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence.
2. Minutes of the previous meeting.
3. Matters arising from the minutes.
4. Chairman's Report.
5. Proposal from the Autumn General Meeting for the number of votes received by candidates at elections to be disclosed to the meeting.
6. Election of four Council Members. The following retire and are eligible for immediate re-election: Mr P L Forsman, Mrs C H Robinson, Mrs G Williamson, Mr E M Wilson.

There are four new nominations:

| | | |
|-----------------|---|------------------------------|
| Mr R N Beaty | - | proposed by Mr A W Morland |
| | - | seconded by Mr W S Potter |
| Mr P Boustead | - | proposed by Mr E M Wilson |
| | - | seconded by Miss P Baldwin |
| Mr T B Capstick | - | proposed by Mrs R M Eastwood |
| | - | seconded by Mrs K Baggott |
| Mr W F Lloyd | - | proposed by Mrs G M Noble |
| | - | seconded by Mr W S Noble |

7. Election of Officers - Nominees for Chairman and Vice-Chairman must be elected members of the Council.
 - a) Chairman
 - b) Vice-Chairman
8. Adoption of the Accounts.
9. Secretary's Report.
10. Reports of Delegates and sub-committees.
11. Breed Show
12. Suggestions for proposed Annual Lunch and Raffle.
13. Any Other Business.

Articles and photographs for the Autumn newsletter should be submitted to the Secretary by the 1st September.

**If undelivered please return to: The Fell Pony Society
Mrs Rachel H P Bell
Hon. Secretary/Treasurer
Riccarton Mill, Newcastleton,
Roxburghshire, TD9 0SN**