

THE FELL PONY SOCIETY

Spring 1996



A - Z of the Breed Description

Nostrils - large and expanding',

Lowmoat Sam, sire: Lunesdale Jerry, dam: Lowmoat Sheila and **Lowmoat Paris**, sire: Townend Briar, dam: Lowmoat Helen, both foaled in 1992, bred by Mr George Johnston, owned by Mrs Polly Pullar, Perthshire.



A reply to the Autumn newsletter photo, from Jane Glass: "Firstly, I would like to thank yourself (Rachel) and Carolyn Grundy and the many friends who sent me cards, for their good wishes. I have no intention of retiring although occasionally things do get me down to ground level! Also I am a little slower and so it is a great help if, on occasion, I can get a lift back tot he Horse Box Park! I enclose a photo taken by Averill Minson of me using Wolds Donald Duck as a Taxi at Lincoln Show".



Mr Ricardo Siepmann, from Hamburg, driving Tarnbeck Fantasy, summer 1995. The Siepmann family also own Townend Heather Bell and will soon be the new owners of Wolds Donald Duck.

The Fell Pony Society

Patron - H. M. The Queen

President: Mrs M C M Laing

Chairman: Mrs E A Ball

Vice-Chairman: Mr J P Gibson

Secretary/Treasurer:

Mrs R H P Bell, Riccarton Mill, Newcastleton,
Roxburghshire, TD9 0SN, Scotland. Tel & Fax: 013873 76251

Sales Officer:

Mrs M C M Laing, Twislehope, Hermitage, Hawick,
Roxburghshire, TD9 0LS, Scotland. Tel: 013873 76272

Publicity & Exhibition Officers: Mrs M Laing,
Mrs P Forsman, Miss B W Walker.

Trainee Judge Chairman & Show Affiliation Secretary:

Mrs A A D Newall, Todridge, Great Whittington,
Northumberland, NE19 2HP.

Trainee Judge Secretary & Press Officer: Mrs P Robson

Representative to the N.P.S.: Miss M G Longsdon

Representative to the B.H.S.: Mr R B Sutcliffe

Editor Fell Pony Newsletter: Mrs R H P Bell

Council

To Retire 1996: Mrs C H Robinson, Mr P L Forsman,
Mr E M Wilson, Mrs G Williamson.

To Retire 1997: Mrs E A Ball, Miss M G Longsdon,
Mr J S Dargue, Mr R B Sutcliffe.

To Retire 1998: Mrs M C Murray, Miss B W Walker,
Mr T H Harrison, Mr M Allen.

To Retire 1999: Mr J P Gibson, Mr H F Wales,
Mr A W Morland, Mr W S Potter.

To Retire 2000: Mr B M Allen, Mr R B Charlton
Mrs M Laing, Mrs A A D Newall,

A Message from the President

We are well into 1996. Following a very, very busy year last year, let us hope we have got over some of our hurdles.

The work in the office does not get any less and I am sure many of our members do not realise how lucky we are to have Rachel Bell as our Secretary.

Please try and help with the administration as much as possible by filling in your registration forms correctly and sending subscriptions at the right time, also the different show entries which have to be submitted in plenty of time.

Last year I was able to have more time to speak to some of our members at shows etc. In the past I have felt I have been rude on occasion by not speaking to people and always seemed to be rushing - but I do not rush so much now!!

You will find details of our forthcoming 'Open Day' further on in the newsletter but may I ask those intending to come along to send for their tickets straight away as the number of tickets is limited.

Molly Laing

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

The Fell Pony Society has had a very busy year in 1995 with a greatly increased workload falling on the shoulders of all the Office Bearers.

Your Council Members are responsible for running the Society and, nowadays, are committed to a lot of work. This year we have had four meetings, some lasting up to eight hours. There is an increasing load of paper-work to be read through between meetings to enable responsible decisions to be made at Council Meetings. Added to this, nearly all the Council Members are involved in running the many events and enterprises connected with The Fell Pony Society which often entails many hours of work behind the scenes. Included in the incorporation of the Society as a Company, each Council Member will be legally contracted as a Director of the Company. It is not a job to be undertaken lightly and we appreciate this responsibility and commitment.

The Council has approved the new Company formalities, worked out by our Solicitor, Mr Derek Scott, who has managed to achieve Company status with very little alteration to the original Rules of the Society. It is to be hoped that this format will go forward to be approved at the Extra-ordinary General Meeting on 30th March 1996.

This has been necessary to keep us abreast of the changing demands brought about by our entry into Europe and the Common Market. It is also in order for us to keep our status as the Mother Breed Society. The Dutch and Germans have formed "Daughter" Fell Pony Societies and the French are hoping to do so in the near future. We have to tread a difficult path, keeping our old breed of pony as it has been for years, while progeny are being spread to far flung places in the world. This year we have to tackle the introduction of Passports and the various regulations this will inevitably bring.

Meanwhile, another season of enjoying your ponies to the full is just beginning and I hope you will all have a very happy and successful year, whatever your part in the Fell Pony Society World.

Elizabeth Ball

Secretary's Letter

As I begin this 1996 edition of our Spring Newsletter I wonder where to start! I think it could be a bumper issue when I consider the 'fat file' looking at me - and to think only a few weeks ago I actually thought I may need to search for some articles from Fell Pony members! As our Chairman has said in her Notes above, there has been a lot of work to

do in the past 12 months and the next 12 will certainly mirror them. As I enter my 7th year as Secretary and Treasurer I have to say that the work has expanded almost beyond belief and what used to be a committed part-time job has evolved into one's life, never mind full-time! Long gone are the seasonal fluctuations in the work flow, it is now constant and growing. The Company formation has been one recent aspect of this and I am in contact with our Daughter society representatives almost on a weekly basis. We have and require far more contact with government bodies and other breed societies in order to keep abreast of the pending changes - I quote from my recent Report to Council, "that we may find our way through these unchartered waters". In essence the Society really seems to have developed into a small (or maybe not so small) business.

I was reading through some old Minutes of General Meetings and read that in 1964 it was reported we had a record level of "140 members, including 14 Junior members". Well, now we are the 3rd largest of the native breed societies with approximately 1,300 members, superceded (not surprisingly) only by the Shetland and Welsh Societies. Interestingly however, we still have

the same small proportionate number of Junior Members, currently approximately 60. Of course the success of the Society relies on teamwork and we do have a good team of workers and helpers made up of Council Members and non Council Members and a very hard working Chairman and President - my sincere thanks to them for their much valued contribution and dedication. Dedication and hard work is certainly what it takes these days!

Following concerns being voiced by some of the hill breeders, the Council decided to hold discussions with the hill breeders at the end of last year. The Chairman and Secretary were asked to represent Council and listen to the views and wishes of the hill breeders. The main points of this discussion are relayed in '*Council Information*'.

The Spring Council meeting was held a little earlier this year, at the end of January, in order to encompass the extra time required to do a final check and print of the new Company Rules, etc, a copy of which you will find enclosed. You will also see on the front cover of the Rules booklet the notice of the Extra-ordinary General Meeting (EGM), which will start at 1.00 pm on Saturday, 30 March 1996. Our Annual General Meeting will be held immediately after the end of the EGM, which at a guesstimate will be approximately 2-2.30 pm. The timing will obviously depend on how many written questions concerning the new Rules have been submitted prior to the EGM for discussion at the Meeting (see the Rule booklet for further details of this).

We have received a few donations towards the cost of our company formation and a note of many thanks is due to those members.

I have contacted our overseas owners/breeders and invited them to submit their news items for inclusion in our newsletter and hopefully this will become a regular feature.

Many of you will have read the newsletter articles written by Wendy Crosswell about her involvement and achievements in Endurance Riding with her Fell mare Lowgreen Topsy (Bramble). From conversations I have had with several Fell owners I know Wendy and 'Bramble' have inspired many to take up this growing sport and/or believe that their Fells can do the longer distances at faster paces. Wendy has very kindly offered to run a points scheme for Fell Pony owners and further details of this are to be found in *Council Information*.

I received some information through the post last week telling me all about the 'Internet' and it's future role in society. Apparently their view is that in a few years the Internet will have superseded the post and fax to become the primary means of written communication around the world. In effect this would mean that you as members would not receive this newsletter from the Society but that it and any other information to be relayed would be sent through your personal computers! Well, it sounds great in many respects but I think it will be quite a few years before we are in that position!

In the meantime more pressing concerns relate to the pending Company formation, Passports, integration with daughter societies and calendar events!

The Christmas Raffle went very well and raised some valuable funds for the Society. Again, many thanks to those who generously donated gifts and money towards prizes. The nett proceeds raised were just under £1,500 and there were a total of 18 prizes. The Council have deferred the matter of running another raffle to the members for discussion at the AGM.

Her Majesty The Queen has kindly sent a donation to the Society and I have written on our behalf thanking Her Majesty for her continued interest and support of the Society. Her Majesty's team of Fell Ponies, driven by HRH The Duke of Edinburgh, are a wonderful advert for the Society and new interest is gained in the Fell Pony each year from spectators who see the Fells capabilities in competition at the various horse driving trials.

Miss Betty Walker and I attended a course on genetics at the University of Liverpool in early January and it proved to be a very interesting and educational course. Betty has provided us with a report for this newsletter. The course is co-organised with the Rare Breeds Survival Trust and if anyone would like further details of the next course they should contact the RBST - or contact me and I will supply you with their address, etc.

The 1996 subscriptions are due now and those Full Members wishing to vote at the forthcoming EGM and AGM on 30 March must have paid and received their membership card before the meetings. Therefore please send your subscriptions to the office in good time before the 30 March. As it is costly to send out reminders none are sent until the autumn newsletter is due to go out - note that if you have not paid by this time you may not receive your autumn newsletter.

There is much more information pertaining to the above and many other subjects within *Council Information* and the proceeding pages. Should you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact the office which is open for calls between 9.30 am - 4.30 pm (please allow for lunch break). However, there is an answering machine and fax machine on the same line, so that you should be able to leave a message.

My good wishes for an enjoyable and successful year.

Rachel Bell

COUNCIL INFORMATION

GERMAN AND DUTCH DAUGHTER FELL PONY SOCIETIES

Council has approved that one representative from each Daughter society may attend 2 Council Meetings per year. The representative will not have voting rights but may submit proposals and items for discussion.

MEETING BETWEEN BREED SOCIETY SECRETARIES

The Council agreed that another meeting as per last January may prove beneficial. The Secretary to arrange this.

YOUNGSTOCK & PONY PERFORMANCE PREMIUM AWARDS

The retrieval of results for the above from NPS Qualifying classes had proved difficult in the 1995 season, causing a delay in publishing the results. It was therefore agreed that the onus for the collection of the results would be placed on the competitors. *Points scheme sheets will be required for each pony entered in the scheme.* The points sheets can be obtained from the Secretary. At the end of the show season the points sheets are to be submitted to Mrs Christine Robinson, 6 Crossgates, Lamplugh, Workington, Cumbria, CA14 4TU. See further on in newsletter for 1995 results, etc.

MANDATORY TRANSPORT/MOVEMENT RECORDS

New legislation has been introduced throughout the U.K. which, depending on how your individual county interprets this legislation, may require you to carry a record

book in each vehicle you use to tow/transport horses and which will show your journeys. An ordinary diary may suffice. The new legislation can affect you whether or not you transport horses as a business. However, you would be advised to check out the position in your area by contacting your local police station.

PERMANENT IDENTIFICATION OF EQUINES - HOT BRANDING In line with the EU requirements for all registered equines to be identifiable the Council is considering the few options available that would be workable in practical and financial terms, particularly with reference to unbroken ponies. It has therefore been decided to arrange a hot branding demonstration. This method of identifying ponies has a long time and tested history and is quite acceptable on welfare grounds - it is quicker to hot brand a horse than to freeze brand one and very often the horse does not know it has been branded. If you would be interested to come to the demonstration, please contact the Secretary.

FOAL MORTALITY INVESTIGATIONS

The Society has benefitted in the 1995 season from having the independent interest of both Dr Derek Knottenbelt at the Liverpool University of Veterinary Science, Leahurst, S. Wirral and the Ministry of Agriculture Veterinary Investigation (V.I.) Centre, Penrith. Because most foals identified with the syndrome were situated in Cumbria, (this is because Cumbria has the largest concentration of breeding Fell Ponies) most breeders found it easier to use the local V.I. centre at Penrith and therefore only a couple of foals were sent to Leahurst. All breeders (i.e. in the last 5 years) should have received their questionnaires which were devised by the University of Liverpool. It is appreciated that these forms are long and require quite a lot of detail which is a little off-putting. However, if you can do your best to complete them as far as possible and send them to Dr Kottenbelt at the address above the information will be entered on to their computer system which is ready and waiting to ingest and break down this data. **DO NOT** send your questionnaires to the V.I. centre at Penrith.

During the forthcoming season if you have a foal which is starting to show signs of lethargy, staring coat, diarrhoea, anaemia, secondary infections (such as runny nose, cold, cough) typically around the age of 3 weeks and upwards, then depending on your locality you must contact either:

Dr Derek Knottenbelt, Leahurst, tel: 0151 794 6041

Mr Andy Holliman, Penrith V.I. Centre, tel: 01768 885295, or

Your local Veterinary Investigation Centre and refer them to Andy Holliman.

Three other northern V.I. Centres are Thirsk - tel: 01845 522065; Newcastle - tel 0191 266 2292 and Preston - tel 01772 861611.

Footnote: Dr Knottenbelt wishes to reiterate the importance of this research and that if we do not collectively co-operate with the knowledge we have of ponies which have bred these foals then this illness has the potential to be very serious. Therefore we must deal with this head-on, as it will not go away on it's own. In addition, with everyone's co-operation we are far more likely to find the necessary funding from the few select bodies who may be prepared to help us.

In addition, the following report has been supplied by Mr Andy Holliman:

During June 1995 the V.I. Centre at Penrith was asked by local veterinary surgeons to investigate a syndrome involving unusually high numbers of deaths of Fell Pony foals, usually in the second or third month of life. Cases were reported on several farms. Most foals were normal at birth, became depressed and suckled less in the second or third week and progressed to death. They all appeared pale. Some had diarrhoea and others had discharge from the eyes and nose. Coughing was another variable feature.

Laboratory examinations revealed anaemia, immunodeficiency (reduced ability to fight infection) and nerve damage. The anaemia accounts for the dullness and pallor observe in these foals. The immunodeficiency allows opportunist infections such as parasites and viruses to cause diarrhoea and pneumonia. These infections would not usually cause severe disease in foals with a normal immune system.

The evidence available so far suggests that we are dealing with neither a viral nor a toxic cause. The combination of anaemia, immunodeficiency and damage to the nervous system has not previously been reported in ponies. The condition appears to be age-related and a genetic defect is the most likely explanation for these findings.

Further diagnostic work is required to confirm and extend these results. This will involve blood sampling a number of foals at birth and at different stages during the course of the condition, together with eventual postmortem examination to confirm the presence of the range of abnormalities noted during the investigation in 1995. The aim of this investigation is to build up enough samples and data, with the co-operation of breeders, to establish conclusively the cause of this distressing syndrome.

The successful resolution of this work is, of course, in everybody's interest, not least the affected foals. The Fell Pony represents an important source of income on many fell farms and is an important part of the local economy. This distressing syndrome is both a welfare concern and a significant source of financial loss on affected farms. Hopefully this work may lead to a test that will help identify ponies carrying this condition.

Owners who think they may have had similarly affected foals in the past and who are interested in helping with this investigation should contact their veterinary surgeon to contact the above, before foaling begins. As always in our work, all information received will be treated in the strictest confidence.

CIRENCESTER AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE - GENE MAPPING PROJECT

100 free blood sampling tubes/needles have been sent to the Secretary for anyone willing to donate samples of their ponies blood for a research project being done to see what connection there is between the different native breeds of Britain. The work is being undertaken by Mr John Dooley of Royal College of Agriculture, Cirencester, Gloucestershire, GL7 6JS. Mr Dooley explains this Equine DNA Analysis Project as follows: Research presently underway at the Royal Agricultural College involves a genetic study of rare equine breeds of the British Isles. Three researchers are employed in this study which is funded by the Leverhulme Trust and The Rare Breeds Survival Trust. Dr Harrison, the project supervisor, was initially concerned with investigating the levels of relatedness among the various breeds. From discussions with the RBST the breeds to be included in this study were finally selected and this included the Fell Pony.

The specific question relating to Fell Ponies is "to calculate the relationship between the Dales Pony and the Fell Pony". As part of this investigation it is hoped also to calculate the level of inbreeding within the Fell Pony breed and to identify "rare alleles which should receive a high priority in conservation programmes". In order to answer the questions posed it is necessary to sample as large a selection of ponies as possible. This involves taking a 5-10 ml blood sample from each pony. DNA is then extracted from this for use in the research. The technique of RAPD (Randomly Amplified Polymorphic DNA) fingerprinting is being used by John Dooley to study the pony breeds including Fell, Dales, Eriskay, Exmoor and Highland.

It is hoped to collect as many samples as possible in order to reduce the probability of errors occurring.

ENDURANCE RIDING PERFORMANCE AWARD SCHEME

This new scheme has been created by Mrs Wendy Cresswell and will incorporate both Pleasure and Competitive Rides with points given on a mileage basis for placings and rosettes. As there are many Fell Pony owners currently involved in all forms of endurance riding we hope you will take part in this new scheme. For further details and points sheets please contact Wendy: 8 Station Cottages, Low Moor, Rillington, Malton, North Yorkshire, YO17 8JX - please send a S.A.E. The results will, of course, be printed in the newsletter.

BRITISH EQUINE VETERINARY ASSOCIATION - TRADE IN STALLION SEMEN After several years of negotiating in Brussels, MAFF have announced recently that agreement has been reached on regulations governing trade in equine semen with the EU. From 1 October 1995, provided that semen is collected in approved conditions from stallions that have undergone appropriate health checks, it will be possible to trade both chilled and frozen semen between all member states of the EU. There is no requirement for stallions to undergo a period of quarantine before semen is

collected. However, a health certificate will be required, signed by the vet supervising the centre where the semen was collected. Such health checks are required to prevent the importation of diseases such as EVA, which obviously have disastrous effects on the whole breeding fraternity. The UK and Ireland are in an enviable position with regard to many infectious equine diseases and this is in all our interests to maintain.

The rules governing import and export of stallion semen from/to countries outside the EU remain unchanged and are subject to existing bilateral agreements. There are no regulations governing movement of semen about the UK - other than breed society rules on the use of AI, which must be observed to prevent refusal of progeny from registration.

Therefore, if any Fell Pony breeder is interested in using AI for either export/import or within the UK they should first contact the FPS for an application form, which includes the Society's Rules on AI. If you wish to import semen into the UK then a copy of the appropriate health certificate must be submitted to the FPS once the application has been approved. To date AI has not been used within the Fell Pony breed, although it is likely that it will be utilised in the foreseeable future.

Footnote: A new company, Farmkey Equine Breeding Services, backed by the resources of Genus Breeding, is setting up a new mare AI and stallion semen collection and freezing service. If you wish to find out more about this service, Farmkey can be contacted on tel: 01824 703351/fax: 01824 705091.

CODES OF PRACTICE (including E.V.A.) - the Horserace Betting Levy Board have updated their *Codes of Practice*, which cover the control of diseases in breeding stock. Copies of this are available from the F.P.S. - contact the Secretary.

COUNCIL ELECTIONS Council decided that it may assist the voting members if an introduction was submitted by each candidate standing for election. You will therefore find such introductions for this year's candidates - inclusive of the existing Council members standing for re-election and new nominees - at the back of the newsletter before the notice of the forthcoming Annual General Meeting and Agenda.

HILL BREEDERS MEETING - 22 November 1995

The Chairman and Secretary were asked to attend the above meeting, held at Orton, Cumbria. The hill breeders had held a meeting in the previous week and were therefore able to provide a report of that meeting, which was the basis of discussion on the 22 November (the Council was subsequently supplied with copies of this report for their November meeting). Approximately 17 members attended the two meetings. The chief points for discussion being 1. The hill breeders wished DNA/blood typing to be voluntary, with no barring of non blood typed stallions in the Stallion Show 'At Home Premium Class'. 2. A disclaimer should be introduced on the forms of Application for Registration of ponies so that the breeders Certificate B is worded as the owners Certificate A 'to the best of my knowledge and belief'. 3. There should be classes at all Society shows for heath bred and reared breeding stock and the grant money should be directed towards the breeding of the true Fell Pony type. 4. Further funding should be sought from bodies such as the National Trust/Park. 5. VAT on Fell Pony sales should be reduced to the current 'bloodstock' levels - suggested the NPS/BHS take this up.

Following discussion the hill breeders said they would not want subsidy from the HBLB Grant as they would not want the restrictions this might incur. Instead there was a proposal that some of the Grant money could instead be used towards a new stallion licensing scheme. The Chairman suggested the legal status and Society's standing on the disclaimer would be looked into. There was comment that problems could arise from roaming stallions on the fell and other mongrel stock, however, it was noted that this affected the minority as not all hill breeders are affected by alien stock.

Following the above, Council have considered the points raised at their 2 subsequent meetings and further discussions will be required. To date no changes have been made to the blood typing requirements of stallions/colts. Following requests for funding and

prior to the meeting with the hill breeders, approximately £1,600 had been apportioned from our HBLB Grant for use in a mountain and moorland scheme. Because this was rejected by the hill breeders as a subsidy for their use, the money has since been redistributed back to our usual Grant categories. The Council have not made a decision to date on the disclaimer within the Application of Registration. Further discussion will be required for any restructuring of the stallion licensing scheme - no changes have been made to date.

BRITISH HORSE DATABASE (BHD) Our British Horse Society representative has attended 2 recent meetings and the BHD was discussed at both of these. The Welsh Pony & Cob Society is a member of the Horse Consultative Group and decided to hold one of the aforementioned meetings to discuss the recent recognition of the BHD, granted by MAFF, for stud book status. This has been viewed as a serious infringement of many of our British stud books and societies. This new status granted to the BHD has, therefore, been poorly received and following the meeting a protest is being submitted to MAFF.

TRAINEE JUDGES SCHEME

As Chairman of the TJCommittee, Mrs Newall reported that the placings for the 1996 trainees had been designated. In addition Miss Sarah Mueller, from Germany would be training at summer shows, with a view to encouraging a good standard of judging in Europe. There are currently 14 applicants for the TJS.

NEW & DISBANDED AFFILIATED SHOWS

As Show Affiliation Secretary, Mrs Newall reported that new Fell Pony classes were being introduced at the Weardale Agricultural Society, Co. Durham, on 31 August. For schedules contact Mrs M V Humphrey, Honorary Secretary, Coronation Crossing Cottage, Ireshopeburn, Weardale, Co. Durham, DL13 1HD. Two shows have been disbanded: NCPA Cumbria (Spillers) and Bishops Waltham & District Show, Hants.

FREE BLOOD TYPING KITS - as part of the Horserace Betting Levy Board Grant.

The Society will again offer **25 free kits**, which will be offered in the first instance to **Senior Licensed Stallions**. Depending on the demand and the number of kits still available in the autumn, the remainder are offered for use on **Dams of Licensed Stallions**. This will enable owners of licensed stallions to have both their stallion's Sire and Dam blood typed. **In addition from 1995 the scheme includes approved breeding mares, which are not necessarily the dams of licensed stallions.** All blood typed ponies are now identified within our computer system and will be identified as such within the stud book etc, with '*' after their registraton number.

HORSERACE BETTING LEVY BOARD (HBLB) GRANT 1994/95

Re-distributed by The National Pony Society

The Fell Pony Society's 1995/96 allocation from the HBLB was £3,974.00. Added to this the Society was obliged to contribute a minimum of 20%. We did in fact contribute 20.85%, giving a total of £4,800.00 to be distributed within the approved categories designated by the HBLB. Through our grant we are able to offer Premiums and also fund other areas such as the blood typing scheme. These are areas which are beneficial to the improvement of our Breed. We are most grateful for the continued support given to us by the HBLB. Details of our 1996/97 Grant allocation have not yet been given but with the drop in revenue the HBLB forecast our Grant will be cut by either 6 or 12%, depending on whether or not they grant us with the benefit of Rare Breed status, i.e. RB status = 6% cut, non RB status = 12% cut on our total Grant.

COUNCIL MEMBERS' TELEPHONE NUMBERS:

Mr Barry M Allen	-	01229 774528	Mr M Allen	-	01539 726273
Mrs E A Ball	-	01556 680216	Mr R B Charlton	-	01434 673262
Mr J S Dargue	-	017683 51459	Mr P L Forsman	-	01768 890372
Mr J P Gibson	-	01207 270230	Mr T H Harrison	-	01931 716653
Mrs M C M Laing	-	013873 76272	Miss M G Longsdon	-	01963 33343
Mr A W Morland	-	015396 24615	Mrs M C Murray	-	01833 50474
Mrs A A D Newall	-	01434 672218	Mr W S Potter	-	01931716267
Mrs C H Robinson	-	01946 861127	Mr R B Sutcliffe	-	01254 776389
Mr H F Wales	-	017683 61388	Miss B W Walker	-	017687 77202
Mrs G Williamson	-	01229 716477	Mr E M Wilson	-	016974 78638

This concludes *Council Information*

GENERAL INFORMATION/NEWS ITEMS

1996 SUBSCRIPTIONS

Please note the new subscription rates:

Subscription renewals are due annually on 1st January. Members in 3 months arrears of their annual subscription are not entitled to the privileges of Members of The Fell Pony Society.

FULL MEMBER	- £15.00
JUNIOR MEMBER	- £ 7.50
FAMILY MEMBER	- £ 7.50

Remember: you must have paid your 1996 subscription and received your membership card before the E.G.M. & A.G.M. to be eligible to vote (Full Members only). Please produce your current membership card to Mrs Laing when you arrive at the Meeting on 30 March. You will then be given a voting card and papers. This procedure saves much time at the meeting. Please return your voting card to Mrs Laing at the end of the meeting.

Members who have not paid their subscriptions by the autumn may not receive their autumn newsletter. As usual to keep costs down members will not receive reminders of un-paid subscriptions until the autumn.

Standing Order Payments: Unfortunately there has been some confusion with some members 1996 subscriptions paid by standing order. The reasons have been three-fold. Firstly, some members have not instructed their bank to update the payments to the above new subscription rates and in some cases the banks have credited out two payments to the FPS - one at the old rate and one at the new rate. These will have been refunded to the respective members by the time you receive this newsletter. The chief problem has been that the Bank of Scotland has centralised it's operations and in doing so have changed the Society's account number and sort code numbers. The new

details were on the new standing order mandates which you should have received from the Secretary last year. However, several payments to the Society have been submitted without any description and therefore the identity of these creditors is not necessarily detectable from the Society's bank statement. Unfortunately some of these have also been paid at the old subscription rate. Therefore if any member who normally pays by standing order and has checked to see a debit on their bank statement but has not yet received their membership card (which should be enclosed with this newsletter) should contact the Secretary with details of when the amount was paid, etc.

Hopefully we can soon discover any of the remaining undetected payments when you read this! And hopefully we will not have a repeat of this next year.

Please note the new FPS bank account details at The Bank of Scotland:

SORT CODE - 80 17 06

ACCOUNT NUMBER - 00678824

STALLION & YOUNGSTOCK GUIDE This is a relatively new publication and includes adverts of some of the major studs and breeders - including details of stallions at stud and youngstock/trained ponies for sale. In the back of the Guide is a list of stallions standing at stud. Details of newly licensed colts will be inserted.

PONY SALES LIST Available from either the Sales Officer, Mrs Molly Laing (see front of newsletter), or the Secretary. Note: there is no charge to advertise on the sales list but in return it is vitally important we are advised when ponies are sold, so that the list may be kept properly up to date.

Buying & Selling Ponies The late Miss Peggy Crossland asked me many years ago to help her with the buying and selling of Fell Ponies for the Society. This started in the early sixties. Over the years many people have 'phoned or written and told me about their ponies for sale/wanted and I have been able to help them. As this free service continues we now have a list of ponies going out to people on request. But now the trouble is people are not letting Rachel or me know and the list gets longer and longer. Could you please let either of us know when a pony is sold and to whom. A quick message by letter or 'phone advising of the sale would suffice. Also, those looking for a pony should let us know so that we can remove their name from the 'wanted' list. This would save time and money.

Molly Laing

CUPS & TROPHIES Unfortunately there has been a recent spate of damaged trophies and this is unsatisfactory both from the donors viewpoint - who have spent a lot of money providing the trophy, plus the great sentimental value attached - and secondly it is costing the Society unnecessary sums to have the repairs done - in some cases engraving also is having to be re-done.

Accidents happen but please take care of the trophies and try to prevent damage.

NEW - SOUTHERN MINI EVENT Details of this are to be found later in the newsletter.

GREAT YORKSHIRE SHOW In-hand Fell Pony classes will be held for the second year. The 1996 Judge is Mr R B Sutcliffe, Lancashire. The Show organisers have written to us asking that we bring your attention to a new Regulation following an increase in the poor standard of dress worn by some grooms appearing with stock in the judging rings. New Regulation:

"Grooms appearing in judging rings must be of smart appearance and in proper dress and, if applicable, in accordance with Breed Society Regulations."

To obtain a schedule/entry form please write to Yorkshire Agricultural Society, Great Yorkshire Showground, Harrogate, HG2 8PW, tel: 01423 561536, fax: 01423 531112.

NATIONAL STALLION ASSOCIATION STALLION PERFORMANCE TEST - Once again the FPS will offer a Grant of £100, being the cost of the entry fee, to

approved stallions to take part in the annual NSA Stallion Performance Test, to be held later this summer. Other costs involved will be met by the stallion owner. Successful completion of the Test will permit owners to advertise their stallion as Performance Tested. Further details of the requirements and further information and an application form can be obtained from the FPS Secretary. It is very much hoped that owners will come forward, sentiments which are echoed by the NSA.

CHRISTMAS and GREETINGS CARDS We will have 3 full colour Christmas cards, hopefully available from the Spring A.G.M. All the cards are taken from photographs of member's ponies. It is also hoped to have another greetings card, which is blank for your own message. The cards have proved very popular and are of excellent quality. **Please send clear, colour photographs suitable for next year's (1997) Christmas cards to the Secretary.**

NATIVE PONY NEWS Unfortunately the native pony scene has lost out on our own specialised magazine 'Going Native'. The editor, Dr Sue Baker, could no longer run the magazine and the last issue was despatched last month. There is no longer a native pony news column in any of the equine monthly magazines. This is a great tragedy and we can only hope that this situation will be reversed in the near future.

REGISTRATIONS, PREFIXES, TRANSFERS & STALLION LICENSING

To Register a Foal: This must be done in it's year of birth and **before** the 31st December. (The only exceptions are colt foals out of grading up Section (A) and (B) mares, which must be gelded before registration and foals bred by *Native Heath Breeders*, which in any event must be registered by the 31 December of the following year as Yearlings - contact the Secretary for further details). A yellow registration application form should be completed - the form is self explanatory but remember to include the foal's actual **date of birth** and be precise in it's colour and in particular **any markings**, which may be white hairs, brands, ear marks, or scars. The dam's record of service slip (provided by the stallion owner at the time of covering) should be attached to the top left hand corner of the yellow form and the appropriate fee should be enclosed - **£3.00 for Colts; £6.00 for Fillies (non members pay double fees).**

Name of Foal: A PREFIX is likened to a breeder's signature. It is NOT compulsory to register a prefix, but if you intend breeding several foals it is preferable to have one, as all your stock will be placed together in the Stud Book and it is of much service in tracing the pedigree of an animal. If a prefix is not registered, the name given to the foal must not seem as though it could be a prefix, for example it would be acceptable for you to name a foal 'Bobby Dazzler' but you could not call it 'Sleddale Bobby Dazzler' unless you registered 'Sleddale' as your prefix. As 'Sleddale' is already registered you could not have it anyway! This is where many come unstuck because it is not just a question of looking through the FPS Stud Books to see which prefixes have been registered, it's not as simple as that I'm afraid! Indeed there are 20,000 registered prefixes, logged with the British Central Prefix Register (to whom we affiliate) so you can see there may be some competition for the prefix you wish to choose. To register a prefix an application form should be obtained from the Secretary. Three choices of name in order of preference must be given. The choices must be a single word only (no hyphens or spaces), the completed form should be returned to the Secretary with the fee of £15.00, (£20.00 for those outwith the UK) payable to The Fell Pony Society. The registering of a prefix is not a lengthy process and once your prefix is established, your foal's registration application can continue.

TRANSFER TO GELDING: A Certificate of Transfer form is not required for notification of this but the pony's Certificate of Registration does need endorsing and must be sent together with the fee of **£3.00 for members, or £6.00 for non-members.**

TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP: A Certificate of Transfer form is required in this instance, which should be signed by the person who has just sold the pony to the New Owner. This is NOT necessarily the last registered owner but that is not the issue and it is accepted that the Late Owner may not have transferred the pony into their name. The Transfer form clearly states the procedure but remember if the box in the top right hand corner has been ticked to indicate that a mare or filly is believed in-foal to a registered Fell stallion, you must also obtain the record of service slip in order to register her resulting progeny.

STALLION LICENSING: This time of year is particularly busy with the licensing of new colts. Colts are eligible for licensing from 2 years old - after the 1st January in their second year, so they may actually be rising 2 years when the application can be made. It is a relatively straight forward procedure, as follows:

The owner of the colt must supply the Secretary with the name and address of a veterinary surgeon outwith their usual veterinary practice. The Secretary will then write to the appointed veterinary, enclosing an Examination and Report form. At the same time the Secretary will send a copy of the vet.'s letter to the owner of the colt and will also send them a blood typing kit. It is then the responsibility of the owner to contact the vet. to arrange an appointment for the colt to be examined. However, 2 points should be remembered: 1. The owner should arrange for the vet. to carry out the examination at the beginning of the week, to ensure that the blood sample arrives not later than mid-week at the Animal Health Trust. 2. The blood sample should only be taken from the colt if he passes his veterinary examination - therefore the vet. must indicate whether he has passed or failed the colt at the time of examination and if the colt has passed, the blood sample should be taken and posted immediately in the envelope provided. The markings and identification forms enclosed with the blood typing kit should be completed by the vet and returned with the blood sample to the Animal Health Trust, Newmarket. The vet. should return the FPS Examination and Report form to the FPS Secretary.

The owner of the colt is responsible for the payment of the veterinary surgeon's fees and also pays a licence fee of £25.00 to the FPS - the cost of the blood typing kit, normally £40.00, is subsidised within this fee. Upon receipt of the necessary and approved paperwork, the colt is licensed with a number which will appear in the current year's Stud Book, records are adjusted to show that the pony has been blood typed and the colt will be entered on the Society's Stud List. The owner will be issued with a Licence Certificate and a stallion record of service book - the latter to be returned annually to the Secretary by 1st September and which is re-issued each spring.

REGISTRATION AND TRANSFER FEES

The current fees remain as follows:

To Register a Colt foal	£ 3.00
To Register a Filly foal	£ 6.00
Stallion Licence (inc. blood-typing kit)	£25.00
Prefix (no obligation)	(UK) £15.00
	(outside UK) £20.00
Duplicate Certificate (when approved)	£20.00
Transfer of ownership	£ 3.00
Transfer of Gelding	£ 3.00

(Non-Members pay double fees)

STUD LIST - * IMPORTANT * - Would owners of stallions check whether or not they have transferred their stallion into their ownership. This is important as if the current owner is not registered, the computer stud list will be wrong and will instead show the last known registered owner. This means that prospective breeders will be contacting the wrong stud for the purpose of using/viewing the stallion. If you would like a list of registered and licensed Fall stallions at stud contact the Secretary. The cost of the list is £1.00.

FREEZE MARKS/BRANDS Please keep sending in details of ponies that have been freeze branded. Details should be sent to the Secretary. As a matter of course, freeze brand numbers should also be noted on your pony's Certificate of Registration.

DECEASED PONIES Please send the Secretary details of any ponies that have died, including the date of death. Preferably send the Certificate of Registration and once the death has been recorded, the Certificate will be returned if required, as many owners would probably like to keep them for posterity. This knowledge is most important, not least of all because ponies entered on the computer are recorded as being Live or Dead.

POSTCODES AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS - Please keep sending these in when you write to the Secretary, as they are of much assistance.

NATIONAL FOALING BANK The Society has again sent a donation of £25.00 to this notable charity, which offers assistance and advice, available **24 hours a day**, to anyone who may have lost either a mare or foal. For further information, contact Miss J E Vardon, The National Foaling Bank, Meretown Stud, Newport, Shropshire, TF10 8BX. Tel: 0952 811234.

THE FELL PONY SOCIETY SALES LIST OF STUD BOOKS & GIFTS

Large Black Stud Bk. (N.P.S. Vols. 1898-1980) £15.00 + £2.50 P&P.

F.P.S. Stud Books: FPS Volumes start from 1981, with Volume I. Volume II is for 1982, etc.

(Vols. I-V Lt.Green) Vols. I, II and III £1. each. Vols. IV/V (1984 & 1985 combined) £3.50.

Vol. VI (blue cover), VII (pink), VIII (yellow), Vol. IX (buff), Vol. X (Dk. Green)- all Vols. £1.50 each.

Vol. XI (wine) £2; Vol. XII (salmon) £3, Vol. XIII (cornflower) £3, Vol. XIV (primrose) £3- these editions

also includes 6 B/W photos. Postage & packing: Please add 50p per Stud Book or £3.50 for all 13 Vols.

Stud Book Binders/Newsletter binders: £4.50 + 50p P&P.

Newsletters: (back copies) 50p each. **Sweat-shirts:** Printed with logo, sizes **XL, L, M, S**. Cols: Navy, Red, Blue, Grey, Burgundy, Sage Green, £12.00 + £1 P&P.

Rugby style shirts in Navy, Sage Green, Burgundy and Bright Blue, with different coloured collars and self-coloured collars, £14.50 + £1 P&P. Same sizes as above. **Baseball Caps with Logo** in Navy, Black, Royal, Red, White, Jade, Khaki, £6.00 + 50p P&P.

Children's sweat-shirts: Size **XS**, Cols: Red, Blue, Navy, £10.00 + 80p P&P

Cotton Tee Shirts: sizes **L, M, S, White T-Shirts;** £4.50. Coloured T-Shirts; £5 + 50p P&P

Ties: Navy, Burgundy, Dk. Green, printed with logo £5.75 + 30p P&P.

Please give 2nd colour choice on all garments.

New: Attractive Member's Badge/Brooch: Silhouette of Pony (black enamel) £2.00 **Pens:** Blue Ink Ball Point - assorted cols. 30p. **Car Stickers:** 70p, **Comb & Case:** 30p, **Tin Badges:** 20p, **Leather Key Fobs:** 1.00. **Address Books** - 80p. All above printed with either The Fell Pony Society and/or Logo.

Mugs, Plates & Bowls (unbreakable): Solid coloured printed with FPS logo, colours: Red, Yellow, Dk. Green, Navy, White £1.60 each - Mugs add 50p P&P, Plates & Bowls add 30p P&P, or 60p for 1 of ea. Please give 2nd colour choice.

***New - Beakers (clear plastic with logo):** £1.50 + 50p P&P Proceeds to Southern Fell Show.

Clocks: Design as for the above mugs, plates and bowls. Proceeds to Southern Fell Show. £12.00 plus 80p P&P. **Crystal Tumblers:** Engraved with Fell Ponies - 2 designs, left and right - (taken from FPS

logo) £8.00 + 80p P&P for 1 tumbler.

Haynets: (nylon) **S** £1.80, **M** £2.50, **L** £2.70, 'Bowman' (fine holed) £4.00, all + 50p P&P.

***NEW: Quality Colour Greetings Cards 4 Designs available -**

1.) Scenic View with Fell Mare (blank inside), ideal for any occasion. **2.) Christmas Cards - Fell Ponies**

in Winter Snow Scene. **3.) Fell Ponies/Herdwick sheep in snow storm** **4.) Grey Stallion in the snow.**

(All with printed the message inside: *With Best Wishes for Christmas and the New Year*). All designs £2.50 for packet of 6 cards all supplied with white self-seal envelopes + 40p P&P.

***NEW: Black/White Postcard** - Pencil sketch of Fell mare by Lionel Edwards - 20p each or £2 per pack of 10 cards + 30p P&P.

Books: Good reading: 'The Fell Pony' h/back by Clive Richardson, £10.95 + 75p P&P. 'History of The Fell Pony' p/back by Clive Richardson, £1.50 + 50p P&P. **Allen's Learner Series:** h/back books @ £4.95 + 75p P&P each - Riding From Scratch, Riding A Dressage Test, Riding to Hounds, Riding to Music, Riding Long Distance. Also @ £5.95 + 75p P&P each - Riding Over Jumps, Riding Cross Country. **P/back 'One Fell Swoop'** by Susan Millard £2.75 + 50p P&P - a comic illustrated story of the Fell Pony. **Notecards:** (B&W silhouette of ponies) 5p each.

Payment with order to 'The Fell Pony Society'. Please add postage on all goods. **Order from Mrs Molly Laing, at the above address. Please state 2nd colour choice where applicable. Orders are sent promptly unless Mrs Laing is away from home. In any event if you have not received your order within two weeks, please contact Mrs Laing.**

POINTS SCHEME RESULTS The results of the 1995 Junior and Senior Points Schemes are as follows:

Juniors

- 1st - **695 pts Debbie Warren (age 15), riding Drybarrows Adam (age 15)**
- 2nd - **455 pts Michael Poole (age 11), riding Wolds Twite (age 17)**
- 3rd - **325 pts Beth Ingham (age 12), riding Baronshill Black Prince (age 6)**
- 4th - **305 pts Hannah Baldwick (age 14), riding Hardendale Rosette (age 5)**

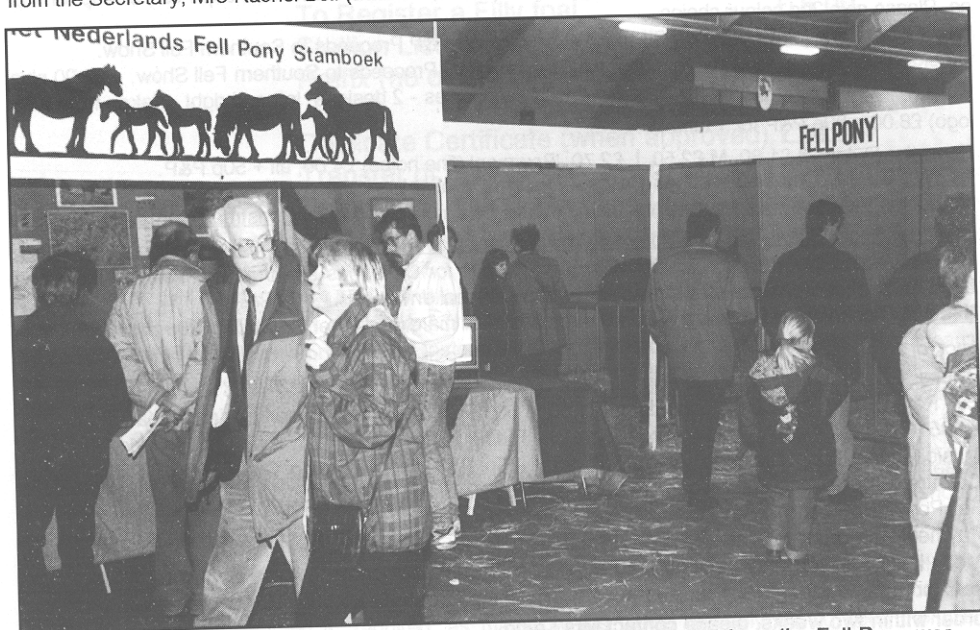
Good to see some more Juniors taking part and it looks as though they have all been really busy in 1995. Well done to Debbie for her success and to Michael who has achieved good scores for 2 years running. Both Beth and Hannah have done well competing on comparatively young ponies. Beth took part in our Instruction day at the Forsman's and is pictured in the photograph. Good luck to everyone with your 1996 Points!

Seniors

- 1st - **1680 pts Mrs Susan McKinlay; Guards Jonathan (owner/rider)**
- 2nd - **990 pts Mrs Susan Millard; Tebay Tommy (owner/driver)**
- 3rd - **980 pts Miss Jane V Brindley; Edenview Moonstroller (owner/rider/driver)**
- 4th - **935 pts Miss Susan Ravenshear; Lowmoat Blossom (owner J Ravenshear)**
- 5th - **835 pts Mrs Georgina Underwood; Sleddale David (rider/owner)**
- 6th - **640 pts Mrs D Godfrey; Townend Folly (owner/rider)**

Well done to all who have taken part and congratulations to Susan McKinlay for winning the Seniors for the *third year* in succession. It is interesting to note and a credit to the 2nd and 3rd placed winners that they have both achieved their points through driving competitions and shows, with the exception of a few ridden events for Moonstroller. It is really good to see the various activities in which all these ponies and their owners have been involved - it's a shame we haven't room for this information. Both the 1st and 4th placed ponies/riders have done a lot of dressage and jumping. To everyone who has taken part in 1995, your points accrued are a tribute to the work you have put in.

To obtain Junior Points competition rules and score sheets, please contact Mrs C Robinson, 6 Crossgates, Lamplugh, Workington, Cumbria, CA14 4TU. Senior Points Scheme details are available from the Secretary, Mrs Rachel Bell (address at front of newsletter).



Taken at the recent Horse & Horse Driving Fair in the Netherlands, where the Fell Pony was presented to a large number of public. Dutch FPS Chairman above wearing the white sweatshirt.