



THE FELL PONY SOCIETY

Autumn Newsletter 1999



Her Majesty The Queen, Patron of the Fell Pony Society with Mr R B Charlton , Chairman, and Mr B M Allen ,Vice Chairman of the Society, in the Main Arena at the Lowther Horse Driving Trials, Penrith, Cumbria during Her Majesty's private visit in August this year.



THE ROYAL MEWS
BUCKINGHAM PALACE

11th August 1999.

R.B.Charlton Esq.,
Linnel Wood,
Hexham,
Northumberland, NE46 1UB.

Dear Bob,

The Queen has asked me to tell you how greatly impressed she was by the very large number of Fell Ponies at Lowther, and in particular the splendid condition in which they all appeared to be.

Her Majesty greatly appreciated your kindness in showing her round, and introducing her to so many members of the Society.

In particular, The Queen has asked me to tell you how greatly she appreciated the beautiful presentation of the Fell Pony and foal which you made to her on behalf of the Society

Yours sincerely,

John Miller,

THE FELL PONY SOCIETY

Patron: Her Majesty The Queen

President: Mrs M C M Laing

Chairman: Mr R B Charlton

Vice-Chairman: Mr B M Allen

Secretary & Treasurer

Mrs J A Slattery

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Exhibition Officers

Mr & Mrs P Forsman & Miss B Walker

Trainee Judge Chairman & Show Affiliation Secretary

Mrs A A D Newall

Todridge, Great Whittington, Northumberland NE19 2HP

Trainee Judge Secretary: Mrs C Allen

Representative to the NPS: Miss M G Longsdon

Representative to the BHS: Mr R B Sutcliffe

Editor FPS Newsletter: Mrs J A Slattery

Council

To retire 2000: Mr B M Allen, Mr R B Charlton, Mrs M Laing, Mrs A A D Newall
To retire 2001: Mr E M Wilson, Mrs C H Robinson, Mr P Forsman, Mr P Boustead
To retire 2002: Mrs E A Ball, Miss M G Longsdon, Mr J Bell, Mr R B Sutcliffe
To retire 2003: Mrs M C Murray, Miss B W Walker, Mrs S C Morton
To retire 2004: Mr A W Morland, Mr W S Potter, Mrs M Raines, Mr D Wilkinson

MIKE ALLEN
1949-1999



Mike Allen died, tragically, on the 4th September 1999.

He was the breeder of the Baronshill ponies, and had been a respected judge for ten years. He was first elected onto the Council in 1993, being re-elected last year with a huge vote of support from the members. This was not surprising as he took his duties so seriously, rarely missing a meeting and representing the views of the membership at every opportunity.

Mike was born in Lancashire, but spent most of his 50 years in Cumbria. He was a blacksmith by trade, but his passion was for ponies and veteran cars. He had a fine sense of humour and found it easy to make friends. I will miss the hours spent putting the world to rights after each Windermere Show.

A large number of Society members were present at the funeral at St George's Church in Kendal, as a testament to the high regard and affection in which Mike was held, and a show of support for Susan his wife, and his family. Our thoughts are with them now.

The Society has lost a Breeder, Councillor and Judge, but most of all, we have all lost a personal friend.

Barry Allen

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT AUTUMN 1999

Firstly, on behalf of the Council and the Society I would like to convey my deepest sympathy to Sue Allen, her children and grandchildren who will all miss Mike so dreadfully.

The Management of our Society and the Fell Ponies that we all wish to preserve in their true state for posterity is going through a period of great and complex change. Probably the most difficult and dramatic constitutionally since it's foundation in 1923. Such change has particular consequences for each and every pony owner - large and small. The decisions to be made need to be viewed from several directions and consequently there is much strong debate in arriving at satisfactory conclusions. In the Spring 1999 Newsletter I said more information about Council business would be made known to Members. We are progressing in that respect, but more has to be done in open clear communication. There are certain times however, when it is wise to collect as many views as possible, but not to publicise half a story. That can be contentious, incorrect and lead to wrong conclusions.

We have some major subjects in progress of discussion which can take long periods to resolve - maybe years. Inevitably the Chairman, the Council and our Secretary, chiefly appear to be problem solvers and hence give the impression of gloom. That is NOT so, and as a constructive optimist I will do my best to lead you all to continued success. I say "continued" - because our breed has hit the "high lights" in many spheres in recent years. I am confident that the quality and geographical spread of that success will go on through the next century.

During the summer I have attended Breed Shows at Penrith, Lowther, The Royal, the Stallion Show at Dalemain and the German Breed Show in Aachen. They were all a great success, as was Windermere and many other County and local shows. Various other events have taken place and most of those are covered in this Newsletter or listed in the Calendar of events.

I, on your behalf, thank all those organisers who work so hard in their various ways. I also wish to thank the many breeders for producing our foals - often uneconomically - and usually because it is "in their blood", in the love of their breed and the FUN we get from it.

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Judging at shows is so often debated, remember that the judges are asked for their view, on that particular day, about each pony's performance from the line up in front of them.

When in the ring it can be very different from standing on the ropes at the ring side!

Our progress on three major issues of importance continues. They are Identification, Daughter Societies and the Syndrome. All these three are complex and difficult. We will do our utmost to resolve them in the long term interest of the Fells. Perhaps our most difficult hurdle is the confusion, not of our making, between modern rules, regulations and legislation, both National and International.

I must thank the Council members for the work they do on your behalf and the considerable time they give in that respect.

Your President Molly Laing, has been a tower of strength and I am sure you join me in thanking her and sending our good wishes during her time of illness.

Barry Allen, my vice-Chairman works as hard as ever in running events, ably assisted by Cath, and also provides much well considered advice.

Judith has been a tower of strength to me, and in turn to the Society; she has already grasped the job with enthusiasm, faced several problems ably, and works such hours and times that are necessary to complete the task.

I was privileged to escort Her majesty The Queen to the Fell Pony events during her private visit to Lowther Horse Driving Trials. Her presence was a great compliment to the Fell Pony. Her considerable knowledge was abundantly clear. Sir John Miller wrote to me on her Majesty's behalf after the Show. Her words speak for themselves as you can see on the inside page.

Thank you Your Majesty for your continual support.

R B Charlton

DNA , CASH AND THEFT

Well hopefully this heading will have grabbed your attention, because we might need your help DNA is gradually replacing blood typing as a means of pony identification and parentage testing. You will no doubt have read elsewhere in this newsletter that the Council has decided to DNA test filly foals from next year onwards.

There is a cost of course - £30 at time - and if you breed 10 fillies, it is a lot of money. it is unreasonable to expect the breeders to bear the burden. So how do we finance the new arrangement ?

This is where the theft comes in of course. Most Societies have cash flow problems, and we are suggesting the theft of an idea from the Exmoors. We introduce our very own lottery.

The Exmoor Society calls it their "200" club". the idea is that members pay £12.00 per year for a ticket in a monthly draw. There are 4 lucky winners each month who receive £50, £30, £20 and £10. At the AGM we would have a special draw where the prizes would increase to £500, £250, £100 and £50.

What does the Society receive? based on the figures above, 400 members would produce a profit of £2,690 which would go a long way towards covering these costs. And the members? well I can guarantee you would stand a better chance of winning than you do with the National Lottery.

Details are included with this Newsletter, please support the venture and return the form to the Secretary as soon as you can.

Barry Allen

OFFICE HOURS

As I am sure you are all aware, the position of Secretary involves working longer than 9 to 5, and sometimes for various reasons I am working away from the office, at a meeting down country or at the bank or post office, therefore if you would like to call into the office to see me - please ring first, and then you are certain I will be there, it saves waiting around and tempers fraying!!!! and muttering dark thoughts about the Secretary 'liggin on'.

Mornings are usually the best time for visitors, if I am not in the office the answer phone will be on. Sometime I am in the office and the answer phone is on, because I am engrossed in a task which needs to be completed in a given time, this is not because I do not wish to talk to you, but just that there is more work, than hours in the day some days.

You can always leave a message and I will get back to you when I can, or if you wish to pick forms up from the office I can arrange to leave them with Helen who is the receptionist for Mr Nicholson.

AVAILABLE FROM THE OFFICE

- ◆ DNA KIT'S
- ◆ EXPORT DETAILS
- ◆ MAFF MINIMUM VALUE FORMS
- ◆ MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORMS
- ◆ REGISTRATION FORMS
- ◆ SALES LISTS (PONIES)
- ◆ SALES MERCHANDISE

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Secretary's Open Letter to the Members

Dear Members,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for the very kind welcome you have extended to me and for all the support and good wishes I have received, and for your patience whilst I find my way around all the rules, regulations and procedures. I would also like to send good wishes to Molly Laing who has been unwell all summer, our thoughts are with you Molly and you have been missed.

When Mr Charlton stated at my interview that I looked like someone who liked a challenge, I was flattered - but what a challenge! I was there to help move the office into Brougham hall, but the Office in Brougham proved to have so many problems that the only option was to relocate, however inconvenient this has been for everyone, but necessary for the future of the Society in Penrith. The day Mr Charlton, Pauline Forsman and myself started the mammoth task of dismantling furniture, unconnecting electrician equipment and heaving boxes down the rather narrow twisted stone stairs the weather was hot and humid, Gordon a friend of the Forsman family arrived and his strong physique and cheerful assistance was greatly appreciated, especially at mid day I received a telephone call from my son asking me to drive up to Carlisle Hospital to be with my daughter-in-law until he could arrive from the South of England - she had gone into premature labour - what a day to abandon the troops! Anyway the move to my home was eventually completed and baby Alice made her appearance into the world.

Working from home became 'living at work' and so I was spurred on to find some sound suitable premises. My poor long suffering husband was heard to

mutter that he would be glad when I left home - thankfully he meant the FPS and not me personally!!

David Wilkinson, Pauline Forsman and myself moved into the new office at Federation House on the 23rd August, and the office is light and airy and a positive pleasure to work in, although I think the other occupants of the offices were slightly disconcerted when the Fell Pony Society moved in and rolled up in a horse box! and signed with relief when the only four legged encumbrance was Basil my whippet.

There was a certain amount of confusion with the telephone lines during our move. When we left Brougham we wanted to retain the original number 01768 891001, and so kept the number and had a divert put onto my line at home, and I am sorry if any of you were inconvenienced by the placing on and taking off the divert, the other complication arose when we had a second line for the modem, and BT in their wisdom gave this number to members. That number is directly linked to the computer and therefore does not ring out in the office, although to all intents and purposes a member ringing in will hear it ring as any other phone, and presume I am not there. However, I have taken them to task on two occasions and now hopefully the matter is resolved.

As always when one takes over a new position from someone who has worked efficiently, you follow procedures as there is no point in changing anything if it works perfectly well, but a fresh approach is always useful in taking an overview and seeing how we can improve certain aspects of how the Society functions. The Council have purchased a new Computer, apart from the benefit of spreadsheet and database advantages, this will allow more in house publishing to be carried out, and together with our own photocopying facilities reduce the considerable printing costs that the FPS pay annually. For instance the newsletter with colour photographs we are now producing for a lower cost than the black and white ones of the past because all the text and scanning has been prepared on a Zip disk for the printers, therefore reducing labour costs.

On the computer front, we wait with eager anticipation for a new CD-rom from the Continent containing software especially written for Equine programmes. The majority of Continental studbooks are using the software, and it will enable us to make better and more comprehensive use of computer records. The system that was purchased 8 years ago was a very basic DOS system that has limited

use in the changing world of computers and also the growing amount of information that the Society needs to store and in turn be able to access on an immediate basis.

As yet there is not an English version, but a demonstration CD is being prepared for the Fell Pony Society, we can then assess it's potential. The Rare Breeds Survival Trust have expressed an interest, as it will run in tandem with similar programmes of theirs. The NPS also want our opinion and information about it to see if it would be of use to their organisation.

I would like to revamp the Newsletter to include more news from the Southern members who must at times feel on a limb. Unfortunately I do not always get the time to go through the results in the Horse and Hound, however, I would urge you to send in results when you have done well with qualifiers etc and if possible send me a photograph, I cannot always promise to print, but I will try.

I was able to go to the Royal Show for the pony day this year, and thoroughly enjoyed meeting some of our southern members, seeing our rather smart stand organised by Mrs Sheila Hardy, and the hospitality in the capable and generous hands of Jim and Frances Bell, and wishing I was there for the week! I am hoping to attend the Equine Event in November when I am sure will meet many more of you.

The highlight of the summer had to be the visit of Her Majesty the Queen to Lowther, Her Majesty was so obviously delighted to be able to see the Show and to present the Championship. She was very impressed with the turnout of Fell Ponies, and wished she had entered some of her own.

The lowest note of the year has to be the tragic death of Mike Allen, a person whom I will remember as being happy, kind, gentle, so very helpful and so very concerned with the future of our Society and the role of the Council.

I also extend sympathies to Wendy Black on the death of Joe her father, to Adele Ward for the sudden death of John Trail Thompson in Orkney and to Mrs Susan Laniardos on the death of her young granddaughter,

The Fell Pony Society
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 27th March 1999
At Lowther Parish Hall, Hackthorpe, Penrith at 1.15pm

The Chairman, Mr R Charlton opened the meeting at 1.00pm

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from:

Ms E Reekie, Mrs K Bennett, Mrs Ball, Ms de Belin, Mr Tweedie-Smith, Mr de Vos, Mrs Murray, Ms K McVicker, Mrs J & Miss V Jeory, Ms K White, Mr S Kelly, Ms J Patterson, Mrs B & Miss S Muller, Miss L Charlton, Ms J Black, Ms W Black, Mr I Dixon, Ms P Robson, Mr F Dargue, Mrs H Lee, Mrs B Hall, Mrs Bainbridge, Ms D Burn, Mr G Jackson, Ms L Briant, Ms A Armstrong-Foxton, Ms G Wilson, Ms P Fell, Mr B Lloyd and Mr W Robinson.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The meetings of the last meeting held on 28th March 1998 were read. They were accepted as a true and accurate record, proposed by Ms D Chadwick and seconded by Ms E Marshall.

3. Matters Arising

None.

4. Chairman's Report

Mr Charlton thanked everyone for attending. He paid tribute to the work of Sally Wood who had been Secretary for the past two and a half years, and Mrs M Laing presented Sally with a figurine of a Fell Pony Mare and Foal on behalf of the Council. Judith Slattery was welcomed to the post, and Mr Charlton explained the advantages of the Society having a permanent office at Brougham Hall, Penrith. Members of the Society were encouraged to visit the office and to take a general interest in the work being done there.

The Dutch members of the Society were welcomed. Mr Charlton progressed to explain about the informal visit to Lowther by Her Majesty The Queen, who expressed a wish to see something of the Fell Pony Show.

Mr Charlton pointed out that the Rules and Regulations had been revised and republished in January this year. Mr Charlton also wished to point out that the Council were regularly thinking about the problems of identification of ponies.

Fell Pony 2000 and everyone involved including Stuart Carter were congratulated on the progress they have achieved this year with the Syndrome.

5. Election of Council and President

For the first time this year candidates were invited to give their answers to a number of pre-determined questions for the benefit of the floor. After which a secret ballot for the appointment of 4 council members was held. Mr David Wilkinson was the new Council Member voted on in place of Mr Frank Wales. The other Council Members who were returned were Mrs M Raines, Mr A W Morland, and Mr W S Potter.

The nomination for President was Mrs M Laing, proposed by Mr P Forsman, seconded by Mr F Wales.

6. 1997/8 Accounts and Re-appointment of Auditors

There were no queries about the accounts which had been circulated previously to members. Adoption was proposed by Mrs E Ball, and seconded by Mrs S C Morton.

7. Presentation of Awards:

Mr Charlton presented the awards.

8. Secretary's Report

The audited accounts for the year 1/11/1997 to 31/10/1998 represent the second year since incorporation and overall the accounts were very pleasing and represent another step forward in the Society's financial stability. It was a difficult year in some regards due to the cancellation of the Breed Show, not only was there a loss of income directly attributed to the show, but also some Horse Racing Betting Levy Betting Premiums were unspent. Sponsorship from the show will be carried over into this year's show, and the balance of the entry fees remaining after the expenses from the show had been paid were donated to Fell Pony 2000 with the Members blessing.

The introduction of equine passports involved the alteration of the computer software programme, the investment in a binding machine,

and passport components. Registration forms were redesigned, all helping to push up administration costs. The cost of postage rose for the new passports from 26p to 38p, this will be shown more clearly in the next years accounts as most registrations will have been made from the 1st November to the end of December 1998. The raffle reached it's highest level ever, the proceeds were destined Fell Pony 2000.

Membership levels and registrations including transfers, stallion licenses and prefixes all improved without any alteration to the fee levels charged. Donations increased, the Horse Race Betting Levy Board was unchanged over the previous year. Show income improved, although the target or making all events break even was not achieved. Staff wages and office overheads rose with inflation, and the need for extra clerical assistance was much reduced.

Generally the Society's increase in turnover and allowance for inflation jointly caused the auditors fees to rise. Turnover rose £38,116.00 to £47,185.00 which is an increase of 24%. Bank balance rose from £9,731 to £18,082.00. Membership 1,017 paid members with 48 lapsed, many of whom have since renewed, giving a total membership of 1,083. £5,000 was bequeathed by the late Mr Sarge Noble.

9. **Reports from Delegates and Sub-Committees**

Mrs A Newall's Report

Trainee Judges – two have gone onto the 'B' List, one is on their second year now, and there are two new trainees. There is a long waiting list and candidates will be selected at Assessment Day in October. Applicants should learn showing etiquette before applying, and Traineeship takes 1 – 3 years.

Of the Rosettes to be handed out 130 cards sent 58 shows replied Mrs Newall reported that she is giving up distribution of the Special Rosettes. Gwen Williamson has very kindly agreed to take over from 2000.

Mrs Christine Robinson's Report

The Senior & Junior Points system was unchanged - 10 points for being there. The Junior Performance, any show will count, but only points for placings.

Miss Mary Longsdon's Report

At the NPS M&M meeting in February although there was little to report back. Miss Longsdon reported back that the Horserace Betty Levy Board annual grant was looking increasingly unlikely to carry on for much longer as the Board feel their connection with Native Breeds is questionable.

Mrs M C Laing reported for Mrs M Murray, appealed for sponsors for the Breed Show and Mrs Laing also reported that sales were very busy with enquiries for ponies.

10. **FP2000**

Mr Dennis Brunt thanked Sally Wood for all her valuable assistance to Fell Pony 2000. Mr Brunt reported that he felt as an organisation they had raised awareness both inside and outside of the Society and the issue was now well and truly established within the UK. Stage one of the research project had been pump primed, ie the haematology and immunology, have received a grant from the Home of Rest for Horses for £150,000 which was awarded two weeks earlier. Fell Pony 2000 had raised themselves £27,000 in support of the priming they have facilitated the combination of the UK research efforts into a single research team, so now the groups of Liverpool, Penrith, Cambridge, Edinburgh, Newmarket, Manchester, are all now working as one joint team. The previously offered specialist help is all starting to come forward, that includes a Professor from Pennsylvania University in the USA, a world expert in Immunology, and we are now getting Veterinary Graduate support from Aberystwyth University. We have also managed the first major blood sampling of foals, a major scientific paper has been written and submitted for scrutiny prior to publication on the investigation and the findings from the blood sampling exercises last year, this has already eliminated i.e . closed the doors on several possibilities, for example it is not SKID as the Arabian breeds, they found the antibodies, the blood proteins that are produced by the Immune system are at normal level in sick Syndrome foals, also normal are the cells responsible for their production, we therefore need to move on to other areas of research. www.equiworld is the new website for FP2000.

Need to continue to raise money, another £25,000 needed this year.

13. **Members Suggestions**

Mrs Newall suggested that the topic of a Breeding Enclosure was put onto the List for Council discussion following a suggestion by a member. Nomination of President should be written ahead of the meeting as with Council Candidates.

Ian Smith suggested the examination of colts to be licensed to prevent the breeding of 'rubbish'.

14. AOB

Brockhole - Hilary Fell asked for volunteers to provide help on a series of Sundays, and suggested an inclusion into "What Cumbria Has To Offer, which is a daily list of activities in the county.

Jean Wadd asked what the annual cost of the office would be. The rent would be £120.00 per month, the rates to be announced probably in the region of £600.00, and the electricity on top of that.

Beverly Hodgson reported that there was a Subsidiary of Genus who offered a late pregnancy test, which was available at 160 days and was determined from droppings, the cost was £10.00. Axiant is the name of the Company.

Claire Simpson appealed for support for Cartmel Show otherwise the class will be lost. Beth Slater has organised a pleasure ride from Kirkby Lonsdale Rugby Club on 16th May. There will be 10 & 12 mile rides.

Meeting Closed at 4pm.

Minutes taken by S M Wood, transcribed by J A Slattery

COUNCIL MEMBERS CONTACT NUMBERS

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