

WPCS AGM 2015



Hatherley Manor Hotel, Gloucester

Report from WPCS website:

New Trustees Elected to Council

The Society Annual General Meeting took place on Saturday 28th March 2015, with Mr D.R. Harris being elected as President and Mrs E.R. French elected as President Elect.

The five new trustees elected to the Council are:

Mr J.E. Evans,
Mr E.P.J. Gummery,
Mr T.G. Hughes,
Mr J.P. Parry
and Mr C. Thomas.

Following the AGM a Council meeting was held, where Council elected Mr T.G. Hughes as Chair of Council and Mr J.T. Kirk as Vice Chair of Council and Mr S.F. Franklin as the Chair of Finance & HR.

A meeting to agree a strategy will take place on the 20th of April at Birmingham, and an induction and training day will be held on the 6th May followed by the first routine Council meeting on the 7th of May at Cardiff where Council will elect their standing committee members.

We would like to thank the retiring President Mrs Mary Redvers, and the retiring trustees for their hard work and support during their time on Council.

30th Mar 2015

WPCS AGM 2015

The WPCS AGM took place at the Hatherley Manor Hotel near Gloucester on 28 March 2015.



Anna Richards riding Sarum Japhet

Many congratulations to Anna Richards who was presented with the Young Achievers Award.



Penstacan Abraham ~ Royal Welsh 2014

Photo by Kathryn Edwards

Also to Bridget Wessely who was given a silver spoon presented by Ivor & Mafanwy Lloyd of the Derwen Stud to the winning geldings in the ridden classes at the 2014 Royal Welsh. Bridget's homebred **PENSTACAN ABRAHAM** won the Section D gelding class.

We were introduced to the new WPCS Secretary – **Andrew Johnstone**.whom you would have read about in the WPCS magazine if you are a member of the main Society!

Roo Johnstone joined the Welsh Pony and Cob Society as Secretary in mid-January 2015. English by birth and with a strong love for and association with Wales and rural pursuits, he served in the British Army as an officer in a reconnaissance regiment before working overseas in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

His later career also includes managing a raft of newspapers and magazines, business development for charities, the travel and lifestyle sectors, estate management and freelance communications work.

Never happier than when in the countryside, he is a keen shot and fisherman. Whilst his experience with ponies, cobs and horses has been more admiration and riding as opposed to breeding or showing, his family experience in farming and appreciation of all working animals puts him in good stead to learn quickly.

“The Society benefits from solid membership and expert staff in the office. My aims are to bolster services and benefits offered to members, to raise the Society’s profile within the equine world and increase interest from those who have so far had little to do with Welsh ponies and cobs,” says Roo.

“I’m looking forward to the shows and sales for the opportunity to meet and get to know the Society’s members as much as to see the Welsh ponies and cobs in action.”

Building on the Society’s charitable aims – education and welfare – are also key elements of Roo’s tenure.

The newly appointed a National Honoray Welfare Co-ordinator, **Mr Ed Gummery** introduced himself to the meeting and explained what he hope to achieve. He explained that tThe Welfare Officer and the Veterinary Officer, **Mr Roland Mitchell** can offer advice and guidance but the WPCS has no power of enforcement. The welfare of our ponies and cobs is paramount and the role of the two officers has two parts

- 1) Education and preventative action that includes working in partnership with other charities and enforcement bodies.
- 2) Reactive co-ordinating a network of Regional Officers recruited from the area associations that will respond by investigating written complaints. This will in the first instance be focused on providing advice and support to WPCS members to improve the welfare of the animal(s) in question if there is no immediate need to involve enforcement agencies. If no improvement is made within strict time limits the case will be referred to the appropriate enforcement body, supported by the WPCS Welfare Team.

Ed stressed that if you find yourself in difficulties in coping with looking after your ponies and cobs due to various situations that you would contact him so that he could help you before becoming a welfare case.

If you have any concerns about the welfare of any ponies or cobs, until members of the team have been appointed please write to either one of the SWA Officers or Committee Members or direct to Ed Gummery, WPCS, Bronaeron, Felinfach, Lampeter, SA48 8AG.