

Draft Minutes of the General Meeting held on 18th November 2015
Held at HAPPA, Shores Hay Farm, Briercliffe, Lancashire
Optional Tour of Farm – 10.00am
Meeting commenced at 11.00am

In Attendance:

Carol Boulton (Association of British Riding Schools)
Ruth Court (Blue Cross)
Lisa Lanfear (CHAPS)
Michael Crane (The Donkey Sanctuary)
Martin Taggart (The Donkey Sanctuary and NEWC Director)
James Taylor (Greatwood Caring for Retired Racehorses)
Amanda Berry (HAPPA)
Sarah Arthur (HAPPA)
David McCormick (HAPPA)
Sophie Kendrick (Hope Pastures)
Sue Sarucan (Hope Pastures)
Jackie Crook (Horse Rescue Fund)
Lindsey Plant (Horse Rescue Fund)
Jerry Watkins (HorseWorld)
Charlotte Morgan (Lluest Horse & Pony Trust)
Dionne Schuurman (Lluest Horse & Pony Trust)
Dr Carol Hall (Nottingham Trent University)
Nicolas De Brauwere (Redwings and NEWC Chairman)
Andie Vilela – (Redwings)
Martyn Hubbard (RSPCA and NEWC Director)
Jackie Wilson (RSPCA)
Beth Clements (RSPCA)
Anthony Burnett (SEIB)
Emmeline Hannelly (The British Horse Society)
Charlotte Launder (The Horse Trust)
David Boyd (World Horse Welfare and NEWC Director)
Wendy Minor (NEWC Administrator)
David Jordan (Animal Refuge)
Vicki Dobbin (Animal Refuge)
Debbie Busby (Evolution Equine Behaviour)
Jackie Hickman (Guest Speaker)
Steven Gale (Guest Speaker)
Stewart Everett (Guest Speaker)
Alex Shipp (Guest Speaker)

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Welfare Council**

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GENERAL MEETING

Welcome and Apologies

The meeting commenced at 11am. NDB thanked everyone for attending and also thanked HAPPA for hosting the meeting commenting on their fantastic facilities which have recently been finished.

1. Apologies for Absence

Dr Harry Greenway - NEWC President
Mary King – NEWC Vice President
Lesley Barwise- Munroe – NEWC Vice President
Petra Ingram – The Brooke
Pauline Grant – Sussex Horse Rescue
Georgina Dale – Dartmoor Livestock Protection
Iain Graham – British Showjumping
Natalie Waran – Royal (Dick) School of Vet Studies
Grace Muir – HERO's
Lynn Cutress – Redwings
Carol Morse – Donkey Breed Society
Jenny McGregor – SWHP
Sian Morris – Mare & Foal
Tess Styles – British Driving Society
Prof Paul Jepson – BEVA /ROR
Mark Johnson – British Mule Society
Sandra Mansell – Exmoor Pony Society /RSBT
Dr Mark Vaudin – Animal Health Trust
Carl Bettison – Worshipful Company of Farriers
Chris House – Guest Speaker
Lee Hackett – The British Horse Society
Ryan Rouse – Bransby Horses
Tony Welsh – British Horseracing

2. Introduction from HAPPA

Sarah welcomed everyone, on behalf of HAPPA, on a very wet windy day to their brand new building and facilities at HAPPA. Recently they have been celebrating the completion of their development project at Shores Hey Farm which includes a newly constructed Visitors Centre building, housing the Scullery Café, Farm shop and Gift shop and the equally impressive Conference Suite. Also the isolation unit, tack shop, new stable block and equine crew barn which were also included in this development. Sarah said that the completion of the building project was a long awaited milestone. Attendees enjoyed an optional tour of the Centre on arrival.

3. Minutes of the previous meeting Proposed JW Seconded AB

4. Matters Arising

All members present felt there were no matters arising since the previous meeting.

5. Chairman's Report & Accounts -NDB

NDB welcomed two new members to the meeting, Hope Pastures and Animals Refuge encouraging everyone to be more involved with our smaller members. NDB reported that the Racehorse Owners Association has resigned from membership.

Link Days - NEWC office continues to coordinate these days and is in the process of putting a Protocol together. These days need to meet the local needs and provide a consistent service and message.

Castration Days – These days are driven by the BHS in association with the BEVA Charitable Trust, a partnership working success.

Passport Training Day – Recently hosted at the Blue Cross and led by veterinary Nicola Berryman from Redwings. Many organisations were represented on the day and all attendees were updated on the passport legislation and learnt how to correctly complete a passport form.

Education Forum – This focus group meets to discuss ideas and initiatives and was inspired by the need for a formal education presence at Appleby. This group has written Preserving Welfare during the Economic Crisis and more recently the Grazing Muzzle Guidance and video which are available on the NEWC website. Online PDF's are available and a leaflet will be printed in the New Year.

NDB requested that any interested members sign up to make their contributions to the forum which meets once a year with regular conference calls.

New Directors – NDB reported that NEWC can now bring in Directors who are outside the membership but who are experts in a required field. This year we have welcomed Ryan Rouse, Dr Carol Hall and Martyn Hubbard to the NEWC Board as Directors. NDB made a plea for anyone wanting to engage with NEWC to stand for election at the next AGM.

Inspections – NDB thanked colleagues LH, DB and MT for undertaking the inspections of prospective members this year and said he would like NEWC to visit all existing members. NDB said that holding meetings at member organisations is reassuring as the quality of horse welfare can be seen.

Compendium- NDB said that the Compendium needs to be updated as it has a strong responsibility and will continue to remain useful in many areas. The subject of horse behaviour has been highlighted for improvement within the content of the Compendium. The grazing muzzle information needs to be included but we need to decide how much we will include. Defra wish to pass on the statutory codes to the ESC for public consultation so maximise the input and unify the work. The tethering guide also needs to be updated and enforced.

Finance – NDB reported that Teresa Whistlecraft from Redwings is now the NEWC treasurer. Accounting is now reported differently since becoming a CIC. NDB reported that NEWC has a healthy balance although much of the funds are restricted. The Strategy Fund has been handed over to the ESC for their new website.

Voluntary Donations were received last year from our larger member organisations and this support is still needed.

Subscriptions – as reported at the last meeting there will be a 10% increase. A vote was taken and was unanimously agreed for a 10% increase.

6. Farriery Talk – Neglect of the Equine Hoof – Jackie Hickman

7. Control of Horses Act – Steven Gale (Annex 1)

8. The Equine Register Project – Stewart Everett /Alex Shipp

9. Any Other Business –

Horseheard - Heather introduced the work done by Horseheard and requested an opportunity to run a day for NEWC to include some practical sessions. This is Equine Facilitated Learning and Heather said they need facilities where they can use horses ideally indoor such as an Approved Riding Centre or a NEWC member. A session will last between two to three hours and therefore would not be appropriate to include within a NEWC council meeting. An additional summer meeting was suggested for this, maybe back at HAPPA with the sun shining! CH also offered to host at Brackenhurst College, NTU.

Elise Pilkington Trust – A workshop is planned for next year to invite potential and smaller members to. Subjects covered will include grant applications for smaller members and how to go about it.

CEVA Horse Behaviour meeting at BHS 19 November- It was suggested that NEWC may host a portal for this.

Emergency Euthanasia by Police Firearms Officer –

JW reported that the Fire Service, when acting as the incident control on incidents that ultimately require firearm destruction, could do with awareness training on safety and welfare aspects associated with such incidents.

The Horse Trust with LANTRA award – this Field Officer Training qualification is due to be launched on 1st December which will cover welfare standards, record keeping and animal care.

10. Date and venue of AGM

19th April 2016. Animal Health Trust, Lanwades Park, Kentford, Newmarket.