

Minutes of the General Meeting held on 6 November 2013 at Nottingham Trent University at 11.00am

In Attendance:

Sophie Hill (Anglia Ruskin University)
Carol Boulton (Association of British Riding Schools)
Ruth Court (Blue Cross)
Mandy Jones (Blue Cross)
Gemma Taylor (Blue Cross)
Brig. Paul Jepson (BEVA)
Ryan Rouse (Bransby Horses)
Nicola Broadberry (Bransby Horses)
Mary Low (British Connemara Pony Society)
Tessa Muir (British Horseracing)
Martin Taggart (The Donkey Sanctuary and NEWC Management Board)
Gwen Smyth (Equestrian Needs)
Amanda Berry (HAPPA)
David McCormick (HAPPA)
Rebecca Evans (Horses4homes & NEWC Vice-Chair)
Lindsay Plant (Horse Rescue Fund)
Jackie Crook (Horse Rescue Fund)
Sue Carr (Jigsaw)
Tim Carr (Jigsaw)
Rachael Owens (Mare and Foal)
Sian Morris (Mare and Foal)
Mary Henley-Smith (Moorcroft Racehorse Welfare Centre)
Dr Carol Hall (Nottingham Trent University)
Jayney Caspar (Nottingham Trent University)
Anna Gregory (Nottingham Trent University)
Nicolas De Brauwere (Redwings and NEWC Chairman)
Rachel Angell (Redwings)
Anne Whitehorn (Redwings)
Ellie Parravani (Redwings)
Kristien Verheyen (Royal Veterinary College)
Steve Carter (RSPCA)
Lisa Morris-Tompkins (RSPCA)
Cathy Hyde (RSPCA)
David Buckton (SEIB)
Sian Ellis (The Horse Trust)
Dr Sarah Freeman (University of Nottingham)
Tony Tyler (World Horse Welfare)
David Boyd (World Horse Welfare and NEWC Management Board)
Sam Taylor (NEWC Administrator)
Wendy Minor (NEWC Administrator)

GENERAL MEETING

Welcome and Apologies

The meeting commenced at 11.00am and NDB welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked all those present for attending. Thanks were also extended to Dr Carol Hall for hosting this meeting at Nottingham Trent University.

1. Apologies for Absence

Dr Harry Greenway (NEWC President)
Dr Mark Vaudin (Animal Health Trust)
Sarah Hemmings (British Mule Society)
Iain Graham (British Showjumping)
Lynda Lodge (British Skewbald and Piebald Association)
Emily Hunt (Cardiff Council)
Georgina Dale (Dartmoor Livestock)
Carol Morse (Donkey Breed Society)
Sandra Mansell (Exmoor Pony Society)
Pamela Bluck (HACK)
Grace Muir (HEROS)
Jerry Watkins (Horseworld)
Pat Hartley (Mill House Animal Sanctuary)
John Rutter (Mountains Animal Sanctuary)
Liz Mansfield (National Pony Society)
Dawn Goodfellow (Northern Racing College)
Sarah Holton (Racehorse Owners Association)
Di Arbuthnot (Retraining of Racehorses)
Claire Milican (Riding for the Disabled)
Sue Pike (SPEAR)
Joanna Price (Sussex Horse Rescue)
Jenny MacGregor (SWHP)
Petra Ingram (The Brooke)
Carolyn Madgwick (Trading Standards)
Alan Pearce (Welsh Pony and Cob Society)
Carl Bettison (Worshipful Company of Farriers)
Dr Mark Kennedy (WSPA)

2. Minutes of the previous meeting

NDB asked all present to go through the previous meetings minutes page by page and requested all present to make any comments. All members in attendance felt they were an accurate record of the meeting. (Proposed JC/ seconded PJ)

3. Matters Arising

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

4. Chairman's Report & Accounts to 30.06.13 (Annex 1 and 2)

Prior to all reading the report NDB wished to thank a number of organisations. Firstly thanks were given to the Nottingham Trent University for providing the venue, refreshments and lunch. Thanks were also given to Bipin Thaker, SEIB, for the time and effort put in towards NEWC as Treasurer. Finally NDB wished to note to all present that the NEWC office had moved into the BHS office space at the end of June which will save NEWC a substantial amount on a yearly basis.

NDB reported that the Equine Crisis continues to dominate the work of NEWC and the whole of the equine welfare sector. NEWC has been working together with the main charity members raising awareness of the gravity of the challenges we face.

NDB thanked MT for his work towards achieving a formal legal status for NEWC in becoming a CIC (Community Interest Company) and as secretariat for the EHWSG.

NDB also thanked MT for his work on the NEWC Code of Practice and the Elise Pilkington Trust for their generous provision of funding for the Code, which will be circulated to all members on its completion.

The Report and Accounts (Annex 1 and 2) were offered to the membership for comment.

KV asked how many horses were at risk and NDB replied that 7000 were at risk and SC added that in Wales alone there were £1500 horses at risk.

PJ asked what the Ragwort fund would be used for. NDB replied by saying that a Ragwort seminar or 'Summit' was being considered for the future in order to invite pro-ragwort (Bug Life) and anti-ragwort people along. NDB added that ragwort leaflets give people false hope and that the authorities do not use the legislation. A discussion took place about the evidence of ragwort poisoning and the need for more research.

PJ asked why the figure for legal fees was so high. NDB replied that we didn't really have a choice for this service, in applying for CIC status, which was good and came within the quote which had been accepted. NDB said that we also want to protect our trademark, but that work is being delayed until a future date due to the additional cost that will be involved.

5. CIC Vote – Martin Taggart

MT reported that the membership now needs to formally adopt CIC status and dissolve NEWC on a date decided (most likely on 01.01.14). On a show of hands the CIC status was formally adopted and seconded by RA. Notice of this motion had been emailed to all members in advance of this meeting.

6. Equine Link Project – David Boyd

The purpose of this project is to target horse owners needing subsidised passports, micro chipping, worming, castrations and equine checks for their horses. Twenty-one Equine Link Project days have been held so far in various regions with 541 horse owners attending these days. Jackie Hickman (RSPCA) has worked very hard in making these events effective. However there is a need to do more and greater support is needed. DB requested help from the membership with practical horse handling, administration on the day or by providing financial help. There are no diary dates at present as the request for organising one of these days is generated by the community as and when it is needed. Anyone able to help should email DB at World Horse Welfare DavidBoyd@worldhorsewelfare.org.

DB said that this section of society needs our help because they will go on owning horses regardless and we need to build up their trust. NDB added that you can see the love and compassion they have for their horses.

DBuckton asked if there were many hoof problems and NDB replied that there are not but added that there is a need to find out who the local farriers are.

In conclusion DB said that this work is facilitated by NEWC but was called the Link project by Jackie Hickman as it connects people together. SC said that this work falls under the AWW banner in Wales.

- 7. Speaker – Dr Sarah Freeman from Nottingham Vet School- Colic (Annex 3)**
- 8. Speaker – Jayney Caspar MSc Nottingham Trent University – Local Authority Equine Welfare Case Survey (Annex 4)**
- 9. Speaker – Amanda Berry from HAPPA- Throughput (Annex 5)**
- 10. Forum Discussion – Rehoming debate facilitated by Gwen Smyth- Equestrian Needs (Annex 6)**

11. Date and venue of AGM

The meeting finished at 4pm. NEWC AGM to be held at The Brooke on 8 April 2014.

Annexes

1. Chairman's Report -NBD
2. Accounts to 30.06.13
3. Colic Presentation- Sarah Freeman
4. Local Authority Equine Welfare Case Survey – Jayney Caspar
5. 'Throughput' Rehoming Presentation – Amanda Berry
6. Improving Rehoming Rates – Gwen Smyth