

**Minutes of the General Meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> April 2015**  
**Held at RSPCA, Gonsal Lane, Dorrington, Shrewsbury**  
**Optional Tour of Farm – 10.00am**  
**Meeting commenced at 11.00am**

**In Attendance:**

Carol Boulton, Association of British Riding Schools  
Kerry Taylor, Blue Cross  
Mandy Jones, Blue Cross  
Ruth Court, Blue Cross  
Ryan Rouse, Bransby Horses  
Sarah Hackney, Bransby Horses  
Sue Gillingham, British Connemara Pony Society  
Tony Welsh, British Horseracing Authority  
David Harbinson, Donkey Breed Society  
Michael Crane, Donkey Sanctuary  
Jane Lloyd, HACK  
Graham Capper, HACK  
Amanda Berry, HAPPA  
Emma Finnegan, HAPPA  
Sarah Arthur, HAPPA  
Lindsey Plant, Horse Rescue Fund  
Jackie Crook, Horse Rescue Fund  
Bethan Matthews, Llust Horse and Pony Trust  
Nicola Matthews, Llust Horse and Pony Trust  
Sally Burton, Mare and Foal  
Sally Page, Mare and Foal  
Nicolas de Brauwere, NEWC Chairman /Redwings  
Steve Carter, RSPCA  
Gareth Johnson, RSPCA  
Kate Clements, RSPCA  
Philip York, Society for the Welfare of Horses and Ponies  
Mike Davis, Thoroughbred Rehabilitation Centre  
Dania Leyshon, Welsh Pony and Cob Society  
Niki Brewer, Welsh Pony and Cob Society  
Andrew Johnstone, Welsh Pony and Cob Society  
David Boyd, NEWC /World Horse Welfare  
Carl Bettison, Worshipful Company of Farriers  
Wendy Minor, NEWC  
Sam Taylor, NEWC  
Robyn Petrie-Ritchie, Guest Speaker  
Teresa Hollands, Guest Speaker

## **GENERAL MEETING**

### **Welcome and Apologies**

The meeting commenced at 11.00am and Gareth Johnson welcomed everyone to the meeting on behalf of the RSPCA and thanked all those present for attending. NDB thanked the RSPCA for the use of the excellent facilities and the refreshments and lunch being provided during the day.

### **1. Apologies for Absence**

NEWC President, Harry Greenway  
NEWC Vice President, Lesley Barwise- Munroe  
NEWC Vice President, Mary King  
BHA, Jenny Hall  
Leadchange, Andrew McFarlane  
RBST/ Exmoor, Sandra Mansell  
British Showjumping, Iain Graham  
Royal Dick, Prof. Natalie Warren  
SPEAR, Sue Pike  
R.O.R., Di Arbuthnot  
Jigsaw, Sue Carr  
Redwings, Lynn Cutress  
Dartmoor Livestock, Georgina Dale  
National Pony Society, Joanne MacInnes  
Sussex Horse Rescue, Pauline Grant  
BEVA, Paul Jepson  
AHT, Dr Vaudin  
Riding for the Disabled, Claire Milican  
British Showjumping, Iain Graham  
Horses4homes, Donna Hall  
Safe Haven for Donkeys, Wendy Ahl  
SEIB, Donna Wilson  
Greatwood, Helen Yeadon  
CHAPS, Katie Double  
Equine Grass Sickness, Kate Thompson  
The Brooke, Petra Ingram  
Devon Horse & Pony, Alison Phillips  
HEROS, Grace Muir

### **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 by Gareth Johnson / seconded by Amanda Berry)

### **3. Matters Arising**

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

### **4. Chairman's Report & Annual Accounts 2014 (Annex 1 and 2)**

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

The Articles of Association state all members to be full members. This document will be sent out to members for consultation shortly.

As NEWC is now a CIC all Management Board members are now known as Directors and accountable to Companies House.

Treasury Role: NDB thanked Bipin Thaker for undertaking this role for the past two years and announced that Redwings have now taken on this role.

NDB thanked the BHS for continuing to provide the NEWC office.

NEWC continues to provide the secretariat for the ESC.

NEWC now coordinates the Equine Link days.

NDB asked for nominations to Board of Directors from the membership.

GC asked if NEWC were as active as they could be. NDB replied that we could only be as active as our members wanted to be as we cannot dictate what they do and said that we are a centre point. GC added that the local authorities need guidance and advice and that NEWC could be the advisory body.

NDB said that NEWC can set standards, as in our new NEWC Code of Practice, and members will engage individually and some activities are shared between charities.

GC asked what the procedure was for a member who did not meet the standards required. NDB replied that we can investigate but that many complaints are about non-members.

PY said he would be happy to help with a complaints process.

### **5. NEWC Statistics: Annex 3**

CB asked a question about prosecutions adding that they can be very upsetting for innocent parties involved. NDB agreed that the conduct of vets needs to be ethical and court evidence should be based purely on the five needs listed in Section 9 of the Animal Welfare Act. Witnesses need to be more robust.

Prosecutions are a very expensive way to go with very little result.

WPSC members said that they recommend improvements that their members should make and work at a good relationship with them. Improvement notices are being used to prevent the involvement of the RSPCA. NDB added that this something that has been done for a long time. WPCS said that they have had a good response from the vets and farriers. NDB added that the BHS have organised a Castration project and that many vets are going to be involved in the subsequent Castration days.

### **6. Kerry Taylor – Blue Cross – Equine Link Days : Annex 4**

Kerry gave a presentation on her findings from her recent research project where a small sample of horse owners were surveyed at Hamble airfield in Southampton. KT hopes to continue with this project throughout the year by

attending subsequent passporting days and recording information to expand on her research.

CB reported that Hamble Airfield is closing and asked if these findings from her recent passporting day could be shared with the Local Authority in Southampton. GC asked why the Local Authority was not present as passport enforcement is their role. NDB added that Local Authorities are involved as a multi-agency approach is used.

DH (WPCS) reported that the WPCS had recently been audited by DEFRA as they are a PIO. Many PIO's are not receiving the Change of Ownership on horse passports. The WPCS have a tear off slip within the passport which is sent to the PIO by the seller which says they are no longer the owner, which seems to be effective.

NDB added that a new database will be up and running by next summer and will make this process of changing ownership a lot easier.

DB asked about the Manifesto of the Horse 2015 and asked if we are promoting it as the General Election is getting close.

MC said we should be asking the ESC Steering group members about this as they produced it jointly with BHIC.

- 7. Guest Speaker – Robyn Petrie-Ritchie - Dartmoor Pony Research - 'Breeding management options for semi feral herds': Annex 5**
- 8. Guest Speaker – Dr Teresa Hollands, BSc(Hons),MSc(Animal Nutrition) – Nutrition in Horse Welfare: Annex 6**
- 9. Any other business :**

GC asked that, with regards to passports, could NEWC be the main point of contact with local authorities, providing advice and involving them in the Link and Castration days.
- 10. Date and venue of AGM**

**HAPPA & WPCS both offered use of venue. Venue & date to be confirmed by the NEWC office in due course.**

NDB thanked all for attending and also our three excellent speakers Kerry Taylor, Robyn Petrie-Ritchie and Dr Teresa Hollands.