



# Sports Pony Studbook Society (SPSS)



## Minutes of the 2017 Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 16th December 2017 at the Twigworth Premier Inn, Gloucestershire

Present:	Jacke Mathieson Lucy Sheldrake Jackie Vincent Philippa Cole Abigail Owens Penny Walster Dianne Kilshaw	Meeting Chairman, SPSS Director & SPSS Chairman SPSS Director & Studbook Manager SPSS Director, Company Secretary & Treasurer. SPSS Studbook Secretary & Committee Member SPSS Committee Member SPSS Member SPSS Member
Apologies:	Kirsten Coward Jodie Shaw Kate Odey Sue Clarke Tom McManus	SPSS Committee Member. Proxy vote Jackie Vincent

Item on agenda	Description	Action
Meeting opened	<p>The Meeting Chairman, SPSS Chairman Jacke Mathieson, opened the meeting, thanking everyone for attending the 2017 Annual General Meeting of the SPSS and gave a brief introduction highlighting significant successes in 2017 (see Annex A).</p> <p>Those who had been present at the 2016 AGM then reviewed the minutes of that meeting and Jacke Mathieson proposed that they be approved. This was seconded by Lucy Sheldrake and carried after the voting process.</p>	
Ordinary Business Resolutions	<p>The Meeting Chairman introduced the Ordinary Business and explained that a simple majority vote was necessary to pass Ordinary Resolutions.</p> <p><b>First Ordinary Resolution</b></p> <p>Philippa Cole proposed that Jacke Mathieson be re-elected as SPSS Chairman (Jacke had served 3 years since her original election).</p> <p>This ordinary resolution was seconded by Lucy Sheldrake and carried after the voting process.</p> <p><b>Second Ordinary Resolution</b></p> <p>Jackie Vincent proposed that Lucy Sheldrake be re-elected as SPSS Studbook Manager (Lucy had served 3 years since her original election).</p> <p>This ordinary resolution was seconded by Jacke Mathieson and carried after the voting process.</p>	

	<p><b>Third Ordinary Resolution</b></p> <p>Lucy Sheldrake proposed that Jackie Vincent be re-elected as SPSS Director, Company Secretary, Treasurer &amp; Committee member (Jackie had served 3 years since her original election).</p> <p>This ordinary resolution was seconded by Philippa Cole and carried after the voting process.</p>	
	<p><b>Fourth Ordinary Resolution</b></p> <p>Jacke Mathieson proposed that Philippa Cole be re-elected as SPSS Committee Member &amp; Studbook Secretary (Philippa had served 3 years since her original election).</p> <p>This ordinary resolution was seconded by Lucy Sheldrake and carried after the voting process.</p>	
	<p><b>Fifth Ordinary Resolution</b></p> <p>To receive the Financial Statement and Treasurer's Report (see Annex B). Jackie Vincent reported that the SPSS accounts are in an overall healthy state. Bank balance at end of 2016 shows an increase on 2015. The Grading Tours have been a major investment for the society, costs have mostly been covered but not entirely. Prices have been held for several years to encourage new members. 2017 is showing approx same bank balance as 2016.</p> <p>Lucy Sheldrake thanked Jackie Vincent for completing the accounts each year free of charge.</p> <p>Jacke Mathieson asked all present for show of hands re Ordinary Resolutions 1-5 and all were unanimously voted for.</p>	
	<p><b>Sixth Ordinary Resolution</b></p> <p>Changes to Fees &amp; Charges:</p> <p>Lucy Sheldrake outlined the need to increase membership fees. Membership fees had last increased on 1<sup>st</sup> Jan 2016 and as some members had already renewed for 2018, it was decided that these changes would be effective from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2019.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Individual increased to £30 annually from £27.50; remaining at £25 for Standing Order payments.</li> <li>• Family increased to £40 annually from £37.50; remaining at £35 for standing order payments.</li> <li>• Life Membership to remain the same.</li> </ul> <p>Lucy Sheldrake proposed and Jacke Mathieson seconded these amendments to membership fees.</p> <p>The Directors outlined the need to increase charges for Grading in light of the difficulties faced trying to cover the costs of the Tours in previous years. Following a discussion, it was decided that, with effect from 1<sup>st</sup></p>	

	<p>January 2018:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stallion Grading fees would increase to £150 (from £120) (Rule 21.1)</li> <li>• Mare Grading fees would increase to £80 (from £75) (Rule 21.2)</li> </ul> <p>Following from these increases in grading fees, it was decided to also increase the fees for registering an already graded stallion or mare (as they are not required to attend an SPSS grading event). It was decided that, with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2018:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the charge for registration of already graded stallions be increased to £200 (from £120). (Rule 17.2)</li> <li>• the charge for registration of already graded mares be increased to £80 (from £70). (Rule 17.3)</li> </ul> <p>Jacke Mathieson proposed these amendments and Jackie Vincent seconded. Jackie Vincent then asked for a show of hands for Ordinary Resolution Six and it was unanimously voted for.</p>	
Other Business	<p>The Directors explained that, before the meeting started, they had asked Penny Walster to join the committee and as Penny had accepted, she had been co-opted onto the Committee and would be put forward for formal election at the 2018 AGM.</p> <p>Lucy Sheldrake reported on her recent experience attending the Welsh Pony and Cob Society (WPCS) Annual Performance Awards Dinner. Presented with the unexpected opportunity to speak to the 200+ assembled, she outlined the opportunities for SPSS and WPCS to work together and that SPSS will be able to offer their membership something additional for their breeders &amp; producers of competition ponies.</p> <p>Lucy Sheldrake &amp; Philippa Cole outlined the changes to BEF funded breeders initiatives that have previously been in place, notably the Futurity Series and the British Breeder Magazine. There is much uncertainty surrounding these at the moment and decisions about what will be available to promote the SPSS in the future are not yet finalised. However, there will be two stallion parades in 2018 instead of the usual one and SPSS has booked to attend both. On the international scene, the Pony European Championships are at Bishop Burton in August 2018 and Lucy reported that SPSS will have an advertising presence there.</p> <p>Dianne Kilshaw suggested all marks from the grading and evaluation tour be made public with the aim of introducing a more competitive element. Philippa Cole explained that grading marks and the distribution chart for the evaluation marks would be made available again this year, as they have been in previous years (as soon as there has been time to collate the information) but emphasised that time and resource constraints did not allow for anything more than this. Lucy Sheldrake agreed &amp; explained that a list of names and percentages were meaningless without all breeding information also being made available.</p> <p>Jacke Mathieson thanked Philippa Cole once again for her marvellous work on the Stallion Guide in 2017.</p>	

Meeting Concluded	The Chairman thanked all for their input & discussion and announced that the AGM was concluded.	
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Annexes:

A. Chairman's Statement

B. Treasurer's Statement

## Annex A

# CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT

Firstly, can I start by welcoming everyone to the 2017 Sports Pony Studbook Annual General Meeting. I would like to thank you all for your attendance and also thank all our members for the support which they have shown the studbook throughout the year.

SPSS passported and SPSS graded ponies along with other British-bred ponies continue to shine on all levels & across every discipline. We as a studbook always aim to herald all British Pony successes and would urge members & pony breeders to notify us of their triumphs, at every level, so we can highlight them for all to see. Only by doing this can we continue to build a strong recognised brand, thereby increasing demand for the fantastic competition ponies we breed here in the British Isles.

That brings me on nicely to our 2017 Grading & Evaluation Tour - I am once again happy to report that this year's Tour was a great success. Over an eight day period at the beginning of September, we took our Grading Team on a 2000 mile tour of the UK.



We visited 23 locations in total and were presented with 112 ponies for youngstock evaluations – 59 foals, 26 yearlings, 18 2yos & 9 3yos.

Our members & British pony breeders again presented some truly outstanding youngsters, with 38 of them scoring 80% or higher to be awarded the much coveted SPSS GOLD premium.

We graded 60 mares and approved 18 new stallions into the Studbook.

For the first time ever, we offered stallion grading at 7 of the venues on the tour. This was in direct response to requests from our members and we take great pride from this, as it truly demonstrates we are a dynamic & inclusive studbook. We always welcome suggestions from our members & act on them wherever possible

2017 saw Welsh ponies coming to the fore with both our Supreme Stallion Champion & Reserve being pure bred Welsh ponies (section b & a respectively) & our overall Youngstock Champion being part-bred Welsh, whilst actually being SPSS passported. There were also several Gold Premiums awardees which were pure or part-breds. This has injected new vigour & enthusiasm amongst Welsh Pony & Cob breeders & highlighted what our gradings & evaluations can offer them. Our Studbook Manager was invited to attend the WPCS Performance Award Dinner recently, where she presented a Highest placed SPSS registered award. Hopefully such opportunities to work alongside WPCS, & other British studbooks, will continue to grow going forwards.

So looking forwards - 2018 is going to see the British horse & pony breeding landscape change slightly, with the BEF no longer able to support our industry via its initiatives such as the Futurity Scheme, Stallion Parade & British Breeders Magazine. Whilst the loss of this involvement, by a non-commercial umbrella organisation pulling everything together, may initially seem a retrograde step, I think we have to view this enforced change in terms of the new opportunities it will offer. The SPSS are already in communication with several of the organisations which have expressed an interest in taking over these schemes from BEF in the hope that collaboration will work in everyone's best interests & that collectively we can all work smarter & be stronger.

Our focus for 2018 remains unchanged we want to promote & support British bred sports ponies, their owners, producers & breeders. This we will do via ensuring we have a presence at events such as stallion shows & open days – we are already booked to attend four in 2018 so far and are always open to suggestions regarding any new events to attend.

We will once again produce our own stallion Guide in 2018, this has become an 'annual' asset to the studbook & all our members, an extremely valuable marketing tool for stallion owners & a superb reference for all pony breeders in the UK. The credit for its continued success & huge 'thanks' for all the work which goes into it must go to our studbook secretary, Philippa Cole.

The marketing of SPSS licensed stallions continues to go from strength to strength, allied with the stallion guide & our website, the FB page is now a great focal point for the studbook. The power of social media has to be embraced & I think it is fair to say the Phil & Lucy who manage our FB page are truly embracing it – our page's stats are testament to this with 50,000+ hits being achieved some weeks.

The Grading & evaluation of ponies is obviously central to all of our aims, so 2018 will again see us focus on this albeit maybe in a slightly different guise, depending on whether any of the collaborations spoken about earlier come to fruition. So as they say 'watch this space' & our Facebook page for the details as they unfold.

Finally, can I thank all of the committee for their hard work in 2017 and we all very much look forward to 2018, when I am sure we will again receive huge support from our members. May I wish everyone a Merry Christmas & here's to a very Happy & productive 2018.

## Annex B

# TREASURER AND COMPANY SECRETARY'S STATEMENT

## Company Secretary duties

- 2016 Accounts finalised in September 2017 and lodged with Companies house on 30th September 2017.
- 2017 Accounts due to be filed with Companies house by 30th Sep 2018
- Registered Office unchanged and is still: The Stables, Higher Farm, Limington, Somerset. BA22 8EG (changed on 20<sup>th</sup> February 2016).
- Annual Return completed for Companies House 8th September 2017 confirming the current Directors & Company Secretary:
  - Jacke Mathieson - Director
  - Lucy Sheldrake - Director
  - Jackie Vincent - Director
  - Jackie Vincent – Company Secretary

## Treasurer statement

### **2016 Accounts:**

### **Balance Sheet:**

At the end of 2016 SPSS had £11,136 net funds in the bank account, which is a marginal increase on the 2015 year end net funds of £10,946.

This is healthy balance of considering the extensive investment of the studbook on the 2016 grading & evaluation tour plus there were no significant 'one off' costs that were incurred in the year.

### **Profit & Loss Account:**

Overall during 2016 there was a contribution to net funds (profit) of just £190. This has meant the Society is in a relatively healthy financial state after two years of grading and evaluation tours (2017 being the third year).

Costs are very carefully managed and all expenditure is assessed before a commitment is made by the management team, particularly so when undertaking the 2016 grading tour (the second SPSS tour). The tour in the main covers all expenditure incurred we believed it was important to our Members to take SPSS grading & evaluation tour on the road, to meet more members and to evaluate more ponies or the society would simply not progress.

We are satisfied with the level of revenue we have received and appreciate our members have to be very careful how they spend their income, we have tried to keep our prices competitive despite knowing that they do not actually cover costs.

Our prices are considered to very competitive compared with other societies but at some point we may have to revisit some areas to ensure they are sustainable.

**2017 Accounts:**

The 2017 Accounts are not due to reported on in this AGM as it relates to 2016 and the 2017 accounts are usually finalised later in January 2018 (and reported to Companies House by September 2018) but the bank balance will be a very similar sum at the end of 2017 to that at the end of 2016 indicating the society is in a very stable financial position (i.e. approximately £11K).

**2018 Look ahead:**

SPSS intend to undertake a 2018 Grading Tour provided there is sufficient demand and the cost of doing so does not affect adversely affect the society.