



CONSTITUTION

THE SOUTH WESTERN ASSOCIATION OF THE WELSH PONY AND COB SOCIETY

The name of the Association to be 'THE SOUTH WESTERN ASSOCIATION OF THE WELSH PONY AND COB SOCIETY' embracing the counties of Cornwall, Devon, Dorset and Somerset.

Objects

To further the interests of the Welsh ponies and cobs through holding training days, stud visits, lectures, meetings and by any other means decided by the Committee.

To encourage the show societies to put on suitable classes.

To promote the merits of the Welsh breeds as performance animals.

To support the aims of the equine industry in the prevention of cruelty to equines, and encourage further education of horse owners, keepers and others to ensure the health and welfare of equines as recommended in the publication "Equine Industry Welfare Guidelines Compendium for Horses, Ponies and Donkeys."

Membership

By subscription, the amount to be as agreed at the Annual General Meeting and to take effect from the 1st January following the Annual General Meeting. The subscription is due on 1st January in each year. The following categories of membership to be available:

Full: Full Members residing in Cornwall, Devon, Dorset and Somerset shall be entitled to vote by post or in person as applicable at meetings of the Association and receive one copy of any newsletter or news sheet. Those under 18 years shall not be entitled to vote. Full Members residing outside the area defined above shall not be entitled to vote or hold office.

Family: Family Members shall reside at the same address as the Full Member and pay a reduced subscription but not receive separate copies of newsletters or news sheets. Those under 18 years shall not be entitled to vote.

The Committee has the power to expel any member or to suspend or reprimand him or her in case he or she shall fail to observe any lawful rule made by the Committee or the Welsh Pony and Cob Society or whose conduct shall in the opinion of the Committee be derogatory to the character or prejudicial to the interests of the Association or the Welsh Pony and Cob Society.

Officers and Committee

All office holders or those delegated to represent the Association must be fully paid up members of the Welsh Pony and Cob Society.

At least 8 weeks prior to the Annual General Meeting a notice inviting nominations for the Officers and Committee shall be despatched to all members.

Committee Members should aim to attend at least two meetings per year not including the Annual General Meeting. Any member who is unable to meet this commitment will be asked to stand down unless the committee consider there are exceptional circumstances which prevent their attendance.

If there is more than one candidate for a vacancy a postal ballot will be held with ballot papers being sent to an independent scrutineer. The ballot results received from the scrutineer will be announced at the Annual General Meeting. Incorrectly completed or altered ballot papers will be discounted.

Officers

The officers of the Association shall be elected annually at the Annual General Meeting, to be held by 15th November each year, the officers being: Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer. All nominees shall have already served or be serving as a Committee Member.

Committee

The Committee should consist of at least 8 members preferably but not necessarily 2 members per county with no one county having a majority of committee members. A Committee member will serve for 3 years and at the end of that period will be eligible for re-election.

Any casual vacancy on the Committee shall be filled by the Committee and any member so appointed shall retire at the following Annual General Meeting but shall be eligible as a candidate for election to the committee in any capacity at such Annual General Meeting.

Sub Committees

Any Sub Committee set up by the main committee, ie Show, Stud, Newsletter etc to automatically cease at each Annual General Meeting.

Meetings

The Annual General Meeting is to be held by the 15th November in each year.

The Committee is to meet at least 4 times per year.

The Chairman of any meeting shall have a second and casting vote in the event of equality of voting.

The quorum of members at any Committee Meeting shall be 5.

Proper records must be taken of all meetings.

Finance

The financial year will end on the 15th day of October each year, and the accounts shall be verified by an ACCA or ACA qualified accountant. All monies received by the Treasurer on behalf of the Association shall be paid into an account with the Association bankers, and all cheques drawn shall be signed by either the Treasurer or the Secretary.

Indemnity

In carrying out the Association's business, no member of the Committee shall be liable for any loss to the Association arising from any investment or action made in good faith or for the negligence or fraud of any agent employed by him or by any other member of the Committee, except individual wrong-doing on the part of the member of the Committee who is sought to be made liable.

Child Protection

In compliance with the Child Protection Act the Association acknowledges all adults have a responsibility to protect children and that the Committee will have a nominated Child Protection Officer and will review current legislation annually.

Health and Safety

The Committee will continually review health and safety requirements including carrying out a risk assessment for each of the events.

Insurance

It is the Committee's responsibility to ensure the Association has adequate public liability and employee liability insurance.