

CONNEMARA PONY BREEDERS SOCIETY



Welcome to the CPBS 2021 Newsletter

I would like to send my best wishes to all members of the Connemara Pony Breeders' Society, and to your families and friends as we move forward to 2022.

The year 2021 has been very demanding for our society as we faced the continued challenge of coronavirus and its variants. I have been greatly encouraged by the commitment shown by both our staff and council members who ensured that the day to day services to our members have been maintained. Their work and dedication to provide a service to all is very much appreciated.

When we reflect on the year gone by it has not been easy but registrations and inspections continued apace and now we look forward to the year to come when hopefully, we will be welcoming our friends from both home and abroad back to Clifden for our Spring Festival and Annual Show in August.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my sympathies to those of you who have been bereaved during 2021.

Stay safe and healthy and we look forward to meeting up in 2022.

Dave Sheedy, President.

CPBS SUBCOMMITTEES

Inspection

Chairperson: Clare Oakes

Breeding

Chairperson: Henry O'Toole

Education

Chairperson: Ulla Dorothea Connolly

International

Chairperson: Phyllis Jones

Marketing

Chairperson: Eimear Coleman

Performance

Chairperson: Pat Flanagan

Rules & Procedures

Chairperson: Pat Geoghegan

Show & Grounds

Chairperson: Pat Geoghegan

2022 Membership Renewal

The 2022 membership subscription for the calendar year is now due for renewal. Renewals are accepted online or by post until midnight February 28th.

An Capaillín

Advertise your stud or business in 2021/2022 An Capaillín.

€100 full page/ €60 half page

Advertisements to be forwarded to f.grimes@cpbscouncil.com

An Capaillín will be available at the Spring Festival.

The Connemara Pony, A History

The Connemara Pony, A History written by Tom Mac Lochlainn is now available to purchase from Charlie Byrne's Bookshop, Galway www.charliebyrne.ie and The Bookshop Moycullen



2021/2022 Council members:

L-R Back row: Johnny F Brady, Pat Flanagan, Vincent Costello, Peter J O'Malley, Ciaran Curran, Gearoid Curran (Vice-President), Henry O'Toole, Pat Geoghegan (Company Secretary), Ray Halpin (Human Resource Officer)

L-R Front Row: Clare Oakes, Ulla Dorothea Connolly, Fiona Grimes (Finance Officer), Dave Sheedy (President), Eimear Coleman, Phyllis Jones.

Council members absent from the picture: Kevin Bolger, Martin Coyne, Joanne Hunter and Daragh Kevin Ó' Tuairisg

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Review of 2021

- HWSD status from 2021 now displayed in three places on the passport- front cover, pedigree page and inside back cover.
- Virtual Stallion Event in Spring which may be viewed on the CPBS Facebook page.
- First Performance Indicator Assessments held for 3 and 4-year old fillies. It is planned to roll this out to a wider range of ponies in 2022.
- Connemara mare Grey Lass and her foal Aimhrigin went to Áras an Uachtaráin for four months in a project to better manage the land there for nature. In an initiative from the President Michael D. Higgins and with ponies provided by Kylemore Abbey it is planned that a mare and foal will be placed there each year as part of this undertaking by the OPW.
- Free HWSD testing offered on a first come first served basis.
- Subsidised HWSD testing offered for a limited period.
- Despite the Covid-19 pandemic inspections went ahead with rigorous protocol observed. In 2021, 83 colts and 702 fillies were inspected.
- Seventeen Connemara ponies competed in the European Pony Championships in Poland in showjumping, eventing and dressage.



Grey Lass alongside her foal Aimhrigin, Sr.
Jeanne O.B.S, President Michael D. Higgins and
Former CPBS president Ann Marie Conroy.

Hoof Wall Separation Disease

Whilst HWSD affected ponies (HWSD/HWSD) are in decline it is disappointing that they are still being recorded in the breed. We ask breeders to be truly diligent in selecting mates. Please only breed N/HWSD ponies to N/N ponies or N/N ponies to N/N ponies. Always check the intended mate's HWSD status. Know your own pony's HWSD status and produce its test certificate when requested.

HWSD results 2019-2021 (figures relate to the year of birth of the pony, not the year tested).

Results as of 6/12/2021

Year of birth	Total	N/N	N/HWSD	HWSD/HWSD
2019	2567	2086	458	23
2020	2614	2085	510	19
2021	2153	1788	355	10

Weatherbys Testing Update

It is most unfortunate that delays continue to be experienced with DNA testing at DAFM designated technical outsource Weatherbys Scientific. This is a circumstance beyond the control of the CPBS and Weatherbys have apologised.

However whilst Weatherbys are investigating updating to a new more efficient system, the CPBS is obliged to continue with the existing method and it is likely that delays could continue. To avoid potential delays we ask you to send in your registrations as soon as possible until the situation is resolved. Your forbearance is appreciated in what is a very difficult situation for the CPBS and its breeders.

Connemara Pony Breeders' Society Contact Details

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