

# Minutes of the Sport Horse and Pony Lead Body meeting

British Charolais Building, Main Avenue, Stoneleigh

11am – 2pm

Thursday 15 March 2007

## **Chairman:**

Graham Suggett

## **Steering Group:**

Celia Clarke

Lynn Crowden

Mark Shaw

John Shenfield

Mary Wilson

Jan Rogers (Secretary)

### **1. Chairman's welcome**

The Chairman thanked the Steering Group for attending and giving their time to develop this initiative

### **2. Apologies**

All Steering Group members were present

### **3. Scope of Sport Horse and Pony Lead Body**

British Breeding was initially set up to promote British breeding of all types yet the Lead Body initiative calls for a Body to represent just the sport horse and pony sector. British Breeding needs to consider how its initial obligations may be retained whilst embracing a Lead Body for sport horse and pony role.

## Membership

It was recommended that Members of the Lead Body would be:

- Defra listed stud books and breed societies with an expressed aim of producing ridden sport horses or ponies
- Evaluation, grading or performance testing organisations not in membership in any other way
- BEF member performance disciplines' Governing Bodies

In addition, all of the above must have agreed to provide voluntary data to the National Equine Database (NED)

Recommendations on basis for membership and voting rights are still to be formulated.

In addition to having members, it was recommended that other organisations be invited to attend Lead Body meetings in order to facilitate communication and sharing of ideas and best practice.

#### 4. Objectives

It was agreed that the Lead Body should seek to recommend a large number of attention-seizing initiatives and by providing inspired leadership, encourage owners, breeders, producers and trainers to participate.

It was recommended that the objectives of the Lead Body be:

A) To facilitate the implementation of all the Aims and Actions of the Strategy for the Horse Industry in England and Wales especially Aim 8, Actions 45-50

B) To communicate effectively and work collaboratively with its own members, the other Lead Bodies, BEF, BEF Member Bodies, BHIC and all sectors of the industry who may have an interest

C) To raise funds to support its objectives

D) Work closely with BEF which is charged to develop and implement and develop a Long Term Equine Development (LTED) Plan to include, in no particular order:

- Facilitate comparability between the different evaluations, gradings and performance tests carried out by its members evaluation of young stock up to the age of 6 years
- Facilitate comparability of results data from the above into clear and meaningful data groups
- Investigate the possibility of developing fair, clear and meaningful progeny rating data for stallions and mares based on performance, evaluation and grading data of progeny from stud books
- Facilitate comparability between grading and performance testing of mares and stallions
- Publicise that all members need to use EU international standard Unique Equine Life Numbers (UELNs) in the recording of all registrations and all activity
- Improve stud standards by promoting the Breeders' Quality Mark (BQM)
- Offer premiums for private/small breeders where they breed more horses and ponies which balance type and conformation with talent and athletic potential
- Promote and encourage the use of the National Equine Database and the provision of correct, complete and meaningful data
- Support the development of an Equine Breeding Value system
- Introduce trainer/evaluator selection and development processes
- Adhere to and promote welfare standards
- Adhere to and promote drug free sport
- Encourage the collation and use of research worldwide to inform the industry's decisions and encourage the use of other countries' processes and best practice where it is appropriate to do so
- Determine brand values for the British Sport Horse and Pony
- Market the British Bred Sport Horse and Pony by formalising an annual sales process for:
  - Broodmares in February
  - Competition horses in March or April
  - Foals in September
  - An annual National British Bred Cross-Discipline Championship

- Encourage collaboration between riders and breeders so that the best horses are brought to the attention of the best riders
- Make access to top trainers more accessible to breeders so that they may be developed to fulfil their potential
- Encourage the naming of breeders and producers on entry forms and in catalogues

## **5. Membership fees**

- A) It was suggested that membership fees are based upon subscription revenue of each member or the number of new horses registered each year
- B) It was suggested that seedcorn finance may be available from the Regional Development Agency in the location where the Lead Body is based. This is to be investigated once its location has been determined

## **6. Structure**

This item will be discussed in more detail at the next meeting

## **7. Constitution**

This item will be discussed in more detail at the next meeting

## **8. Communication process with Lead Body members**

This item will be discussed in more detail at the next meeting

## **9. Priorities and next steps**

It was decided that the priority was to set a notional launch date for the Lead Body process and this is to be 1 September 2007.

In order to meet this timeline the next meeting will be 19 April (Stoneleigh) and the following meeting will be 17 May (Stoneleigh) aiming to have the constitution, objectives and timeline formalised by 1 July.

Comments from interested parties regarding these minutes are welcome in writing in advance of the next meeting date to: [janrogersequine@aol.com](mailto:janrogersequine@aol.com)

## **10. AoB**

A) It was suggested that the Lead Body develop a 'kitemark' for British bred horses to include a verification process that the horse is:

- Sound of body and mind
- Of good temperament
- Has latent and performance potential
- Has been allowed to grow slowly with plenty of turnout when young
- Has been wormed and had its feet trimmed regularly
- Has been well handled and prepared for sale

B) A member of the Group brought to our attention that, according to E.U legislation, it is only permissible to restrict classes at a show to improve the breed of an equine. However it seems that there are classes at the Royal Bath & West Show which are restricted to the identity register of the organising Society. This apparently contravenes Article 3 of 90/428/ECC(26/6/1990) because sport horses are a general classification and not a specific breed. It was suggested that the Lead Body write a letter to the

livestock secretary of the Royal Bath & West Show drawing this to their attention.

Following AoB, the meeting was closed and the British Equestrian Federation thanked for financing the hire of the room and lunch.

**Further information:**

Jan Rogers

W: [www.bef.co.uk](http://www.bef.co.uk)

E: [janrogersequine@aol.com](mailto:janrogersequine@aol.com)

T: 07725 332595