

# **Sport Horse and Pony Lead Body meeting - 24 January 2007**

## **Ansell Room, BEF building, Stoneleigh Park, CV8 2RH**

### **Minutes**

#### **1. Welcome from the Chairman Hugh Thomas**

#### **2. Apologies**

Trakehner Breeders' Fraternity -David Clark, EquiCours - Kathy Evans, SHB(GB) -Catherine Burdock and Marian Eydmann, Thoroughbred Breeders' Association - Louise Kemble, Hurlingham Polo Assoc - Sophie McPherson

#### **3. The Strategy for the Horse Industry in England and Wales – purpose, update and Aims and the function of *British Breeding* in the process**

Graham Suggett, Director of Equine Development, BEF, delivered a short presentation on the above. This is available by email upon request.

Following the requirements of the Strategy for the Horse Industry in England and Wales and a wide consultation between April and July 2006, the Lead Bodies for the four industry sectors are proposed to be:

- Sports Horses and ponies – *British Breeding*
- Recreational horses and ponies – British Horse Society
- Native and indigenous horses and ponies – British Horse Society
- Racing thoroughbreds – Thoroughbred Breeders' Association

It was emphasised that no organisation need be restricted to membership of any one Lead Body. It has also been mentioned that Native Ponies GB could serve as Lead Body for the native and indigenous sector. *Post meeting note - Native Ponies GB have been advised to follow this up with the British Horse Society*

#### **4. Suggestions regarding how the sport horse and pony Lead Body can meet the Aims of the Strategy.**

Attendees were asked to bring their organisation's points and to be prepared to assist in achieving the Strategy's Aims.

Hugh Thomas opened the meeting for discussion with emphasis on collaboration and the open exchange of productive ideas.

A number of practical issues were raised by attendees which are now understood to be issues which could be openly discussed and potentially resolved if the sport horse and pony sector of the industry placed their collective weight behind a Lead Body. Examples of matters giving cause for concern were microchipping of equines, branding of equines, UELNs, taxation of horse ownership, Government support for the industry, responsible breeding, the integrity of various processes of grading and evaluation, sport horse showing classes. Such issues will feature on the agendas of future meetings.

#### **5. Next steps and action points**

It was proposed that *British Breeding* act as Lead Body for the sport horse and pony sector of the industry by Pat Campbell and seconded by Celia Clarke and this was unanimously accepted.

This can be achieved by *British Breeding* ceasing to be an arm of the BEF, bringing all the relevant sport horse and pony breed societies into membership and becoming a BEF member in

its own right. It is thought that a representative of each organisation wishing to be represented within the sport horse and pony sector be offered a seat on the Council of *British Breeding* and that the Council elect a competence-based Board of *British Breeding*. In order to achieve this, *British Breeding* will need to be appropriately constituted and a timetable of actions to fulfil the Aims of the Strategy for the Horse Industry in England and Wales set out.

In order to achieve this, a steering committee was called for to prepare drafts which will be fed back to the sport horse and pony sector. The following people volunteered and were accepted: -

John Shenfield

Celia Clarke

Lynne Crowden

Mark Shaw

Mary Wilson

Graham Suggett agreed to Chair this steering group with Jan Rogers acting as Convener and Secretary.

Date of next meeting of the steering group to be decided by email

Any questions or points to be raised to be sent to:

Jan Rogers. Tel: 07725 332595. Email: janrogersequine@aol.com

#### **6. Any other business**

None

The meeting was closed and BEF thanked for the provision of lunch.

#### **In attendance:**

BEF Chairman and meeting Chairman Hugh Thomas

BEF Director of Equine Development Graham Suggett

AQHA Pat Dyke

BWBS Lynn Crowden

BSPA Sandra Lawrence

CHAPS Mark Shaw and Caroline Hamilton

AES Henk Mindermann

SPSS Celia Clarke

BHHS John Shenfield

AHS Finn Guinness

NaStA Roger Truelove

BEF Head of Equine Development Jan Rogers

Cleveland Bay Colin Green

NPS Felicity Brown

IDHS Mary Wilson & Chris Hewlett

BHS Pat Campbell

*British Breeding* Management Committee Chairman Richard Meade