



PBSA Newsletter Autumn2012

Rattler of Berry



Ratty came to Pat's as an unbroken stallion in 1990 and came to us not long afterwards after being gelded. I was only about 6 months old and he was my first pony, who I'd sat on before I could walk. My mother broke him in when she was pregnant with my younger brother in 1991. I've done all Pony Club activities with him which he loved, though we used to have a bit of difficulty with eating grass mid dressage test – there was nothing a 4 year old me could do...! In fact, we frequently stopped to eat grass in the middle of anything we did, particularly funny mid gallop when I'd end up on the floor in front of him on my hands and knees – I'm sure

he used to laugh at me! That was his little trick, and he's had everyone off like this on numerous occasions, ever my mother! His favourite thing to do was gymkhana, which he really excelled at, and we were often in the ribbons at the local show. He was so quick and small we had the bending race and the potato race covered! He also loved his fancy dress, and has gone dressed as all sorts, from a bull, Donkey (from Shrek), a war horse, a Victorian horse pulling a hay cart and Cowboys and Indians, which he also often won, possibly due to his quirky personality. He is widely known among all our family friends, most of whom have ridden him at some stage and have very fond memories of our little man! He used to take us sledging or skiing in the winter, pulling us along with a harness. One particularly funny moment occurred when he was pulling me along our quiet lane on roller blades (I was about 10) and he saw a very attractive field with the gate open – before I knew it I was going down the field, on roller blades very, very quickly! He certainly adapted to family life very well, and loves to come into the house (on a regular basis!) for apples/toast/cups of tea/anything else available. If he's wandering the yard, getting up to mischief, he'll come to the house door and rattle his feet on the grate to tell everyone he's there and wants to come in! He's such a little character and has given us nearly 22 years of fun (and counting), teaching many young people how to ride! My oldest and best friend, Rattler of Berry – now enjoying a happy retirement with us, aged 35!



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Viking Shetland Pony Show 2012 report by Charlotte Cree-Hay



The 2012 Viking Show was held on Sunday 19th August, despite thick mist in the days running up to the show and many hours spent waiting at Sumburgh, eventually, one way or another all the judges arrived in time for the show. The show day itself was spent mostly in brilliant sunshine especially in the afternoon, with a welcome breeze to keep the midgies at bay! With just over 150 entries across the three rings the numbers were significantly down on previous years however the judges had their work cut out judging some classes of good quality ponies.

Miss Susan Dunnet was judging the Standard ponies in Ring 1 and when interviewed by Radio Shetland commented how impressed she was by the quality of ponies forward. After much discussion and a bit of civilised debate between Miss Dunnet and Miniature judge, Mrs Joan Lambert the Performance judge had to be drafted in to have the final say in who was to take the title of best foal, an award that eventually went to the Vatna stud with their standard filly foal, Vatna Heidi.

In Ring 2 judge Mrs Joan Lambert had a busy day as this year saw much larger entries in the miniature ring than in the standard ring. At the end of the day and after much deliberation the Overall Miniature champion was Rum of Berry, a 3 year old colt bred by the Berry stud and exhibited by Bjorn Larsen. Reserve Miniature Champion was awarded to Benston Kara, shown and bred by Mari Williamson of the Benston stud.

Mrs Kay Gibb judged the performance classes and was also impressed with the standard of ponies and riders. Hannah Anderson was awarded the prize Best Young Handler with her pony Clothie Zimbell and Kira Fraser won Best Driven Pony with stallion Hollydell Hazard who also went on to take Ridden Champion with Arianne Fraser. In the ridden classes Miranda Moss and Clothie Night Ginko were Reserve Ridden Champion with Mrs Gibb choosing stallion Hollydell Hazard ridden by Arianne Fraser as the Champion Ridden Pony.

After a long day of showing and judging all three judges came together to deliberate over the championship. In the end it was the island bred yeld mare, Merkisyre Dion bred by George Tait that took the title of Supreme Champion. The Reserve Supreme Champion was awarded to ridden stallion Hollydell Hazard, ridden by Arianne Fraser and owned by the Hollydell Stud.

Another highlight of the day was when Helen Thomson was gifted a Presidents Award to mark a lifetime of work and dedication towards the Shetland Pony. Society President, Joan Lambert took time out of judging in the Miniature Ring to make this special presentation to a quietly delighted Helen. As Mrs Lambert said, 'It [the presentation] has been a well kept secret up until today, which in the Shetland Pony community is no easy job!'

A big thank you to all those who gave their time and effort to make the show a good experience for exhibitors and spectators alike. The show secretary, stewards, runners, caterers and all those who set up and tidied up the show park do a fantastic job and their contribution to the show ensures it's continued success. The Viking Show Committee would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Tait family on winning Supreme Champion with Merkisyre Dion.

We hope to see you all again next year at the 2013 Viking Shetland Pony Show.



Shetland Pony Sales 2012

It is 54 years since the first sale of registered pedigree Shetland Ponies was held in Baltasound and since that time the market has seen some highs and lows. Unfortunately, with the economic climate as it is, the current market is quite depressed. This is not a solely Shetland phenomenon however. Low prices and a lack of buyers have plagued sales across the country with one in Chelford, Cheshire, recently being cancelled due to lack of entries.



The 2012 sale took place at the Shetland Marts on Friday 5th October with 82 ponies entered. A considerably lower number than in previous years but it is hoped that breeders are now going for quality rather than quantity when producing foals.

The Pony Breeders of Shetland Association (PBSA) have been working closely with the Shetland Livestock Marketing Group (SLMG) to identify ways of developing and safeguarding the sale for future generations. The format of proceedings was altered slightly this year with the show which is usually on the evening prior to the sale being held on the morning of the sale immediately before it started. Both vendors and spectators commented on the positive nature of the move and thanks to the nice weather the change was successful. The show classes saw reasonable entries which were ably judged by Shetland Pony Stud Book Society judge Jimmy Wilson from Dollar, Clackmannanshire.

The principal show awards were as follows:

Best Filly Foal entered in the Sale - Gue Niamh from Carole Laignel, Dunrossness.

Best Colt Foal entered in the Sale - Foula Quality from Mr J Gear, Foula.

Overall Best Foal entered in the Sale - Foula Quality

Best foal from Unst - Gardie Foxtrot from Mr W Spence, Haroldswick.

Best Bay foal from Unst - Gardie Foxtrot

Best foal from outwith Unst - Foula Quality

Best filly foal from all the affiliated Shetland Shows - Gue Niamh

Best Colt foal from all the affiliated Shetland Shows - Foula Quality

The sale of ponies followed on from the presentation of show trophies with bidding getting off to a slow start and no tremendous prices being achieved. Top price of the day was 300gns for the champion foal, Foula Quality bought by Miss D Peterson, Nesting. Although trade was slow there was still interest from buyers out with Shetland with some new faces arriving off the boat. A more well know face, Mr Thomas, who had travelled from Wales, thought that the sale was an improvement on last year and urged Shetlanders to keep it going.

SPSBS Photo Competition

Want to share your love of Shetland Ponies? The SPS-BS are running a Photograph Competition this year entitled **SHETLANDS ARE FUN**. Send your favourite photo of your Shetland pony having fun to the Society Office. All photos will appear on the website with the 1st, 2nd & 3rd Place Winners featuring in next year's Magazine. **Entries to be in by 31st October 2012. So get clicking & take part!**

Visit by BBC ALBA report by Helen Thomson

In February this year I got a phone call from Jackie McLean of BBC Alba about filming Shetland Ponies in Shetland. My first comment was "but Shetland is not Gaelic speaking!" That was understood, but apparently we do have a Gaelic-speaking vet in the islands who would help!

The team didn't get the best of weather. In fact, in Eshaness they had to stop filming because of the strength of the wind.

On Saturday, 25th February the crew went to Gott to speak to Davy Robertson and film his ponies. Hannah Anderson and Clothie Zimbell met them there complete with clibbers, meshies and kishies - a touch of olden times. From there they went West and met the Gaelic-speaking vet.

On Sunday morning they came South to meet Irvine Burgess and film the Robin's Brae ponies then went to Spiggie Beach where Bronagh Goodlad drove Tirrik of Sunnydale to an exercise vehicle and then Hannah Anderson with Clothie Zimbell, Aimee Budge with Clothie Night Echo and Melody Goodlad with Tirrik of Sunnydale rode along the sands getting deeper and deeper into the waves! This so intrigued the cameraman that the observers were concerned he was going to get as wet as the kids as they galloped past. The crew nearly missed their flight back to the Mainland!

Foal Registrations

The deadline for submitting foal registration forms has changed to 31st October. All registrations received up until this deadline will appear in the stud book for that year, those received after 31st October will go in to the following years stud book.



When registering your new foals please remember that there has been a price increase effective from January 2011 and the new style registration form **MUST** be used, as the Society Office will not now accept the older type. A selection of the most widely used forms and an up-to-date price list are available to download from our website www.shetlandponybreeders.com/news or can be obtained directly from Society.

Many breeders seem to be under the impression that microchips must be ordered through the Society and forwarded to a nominated vet; this is not the case, microchips can be obtained from your own vet at the time of implantation. Foal names must not exceed the maximum of 35 digits long including any prefix, spaces or apostrophes. Anyone who intends selling foals at a Society Sale must remember to submit their foal registrations no later than 4 weeks prior to the sale closing date.

New Council Members from 2013

As you are all probably aware Carole Laignel started her term as a SPS-BS Council member at the beginning of 2012. From the beginning of 2013 Steve Rendall and Roselyn Fraser will stand down and will be replaced by Janice Priest from Unst and Ingrid Dickie from Yell. We wish them well for their term on Council.

Shetland Pony Evaluation Scheme 2012

The annual PBSA Shetland Pony Evaluations took place at Gott Farm on Saturday 28 and Sunday 29 July.

In addition to the Stallions there was once again an opportunity for Mares to be brought forward for evaluation. Judges this year were Mrs Roweena Provan, Mrs Sue Pye and Mr Ian Spence.

There were 9 Stallions, 7 junior, 2 senior, and 5 Mares, 2 Junior, 3 Senior, forward on the day producing 10 gold 3 silver and 1 Bronze awards. There were also 2 ponies forward for performance test, one being ridden and 1 long reined, which were awarded Bronze and Gold awards.



The evaluations next year will take place on Saturday 27 and Sunday 28 July. Anyone interested in entering a stallion or mare for evaluation, or getting more information on the scheme, should contact Leona Smith, Area Organiser, on 01950 460531 or spesareaorganiser@hotmail.co.uk for more information. Judges for next year are Mrs Sue Pye, Mr Ian Spence and Miss Zoe Bell.

Please note that any pony presented for evaluation MUST be parentage verified by DNA (both parents) prior to evaluation. Should these results not be available on the day of evaluation, the pony will not be accepted and must wait until next evaluation. If both or either parent is not available for DNA testing then contact should be made with the Area Organiser.

The PBSA would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere thanks to David Robertson and his family for their hospitality and allowing us to host the Evaluations at Gott Farm this year. It is very much appreciated.



The scheme—A personal Perspective by George Tait

All breeders of registered Shetland ponies all over the world, such as Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Holland etc have to have their colts, which are proposed to be stallions, put forward for evaluation—all countries except the UK.

In an evaluation colts are put forward in front of three judges. Individually, the judges will look at the colt being shown before coming together to decide on its marks across five sections. These sections are: Body (Head, Shoulders, Ribs and Quarters), Head, Feet and Legs (Forelegs and Feet, Hindlegs and Feet), Action (Walk and Trot) and Overall Impression/Temperament.

Within each of these 5 sections the three judges will together decide on a mark out of ten. Once the points are added together, it is turned into a percentage which is given to each colt. 80% + = Gold, 70—79% = Silver and any colt marked under 68% is not allowed for breeding, but can be put forward again in the following years to try to improve upon its previous score.

The biggest advantage to this test is that it not only provides you with information about the quality of your stallion but also gives an indication to others, should you be trying to sell your stallion or ponies sired by that stallion.

Fortunately for Shetland Pony breeders in Shetland there is an opportunity to participate in a similar evaluation. However in the past six years it has been held there has only been a small percentage of breeders attending. If you are trying to improve the quality of your stud and/or selling potential to Scandinavia and other countries, participating in the evaluation will only improve your possibilities.

If you have colts you are intending to use for breeding, for the benefit of Shetland's reputation for producing true Shetland ponies and for your own, please attend next years assessments to be held on 27 & 28 July 2013.

The Shetland Pony Evaluation Scheme—A Scandinavian Perspective

If the breeders of Shetland Ponies in Shetland use the stallion assessment, then the offspring will be accepted by stud books outside the UK. It is important to go to the assessment, then it is easier to sell colt/stallion to countries in Europe. In Norway, Sweden, Denmark and Finland they have the same system as your stallion evaluation. When you have that the breeders will know more about the positive and negative points of your pony and often you can be blind to your own breeding.

People from Scandinavia/Europe will then not be afraid to buy ponies from Shetland and of course they will be worth more. Stallions that have not been through the scheme have no value to Shetland breeders outside the UK. I would also recommend that you take mares for evaluation.

Having all stallions and mares evaluated will make their offspring more attractive to buy and will bring more buyers to the Shetland sales. People will not buy ponies if they will not be accepted into their studbooks.

Shetland Ponies bred in Shetland from evaluated parents—It will be a quality mark for Ponies in Shetland.

Tore Skarpnord

The Way Forward by Frances Taylor

The way forward, in this day and age, is a good visual presence on the internet. As some of you may be aware, I have had to take a step back from my pony training business. While I am recovering from extensive spinal surgery, I have decided to devote my time to taking photographs of Shetland ponies to promote the Shetland pony from Shetland.

My photos are seen all around the world but I primarily only take photos of my own ponies because they are the only ones made available to me.

If you would like your ponies photographed for your own use, then please call me to arrange a photoshoot. I am happy to give my time for free (most professional photographers charge for this) as I think it is very important for **the Shetland ponies in Shetland to be promoted as they are the best there is of the breed.**

I am happy at present to give my time and skill for free and you can use these photos to promote your stud. I will not charge but will have copyright of the photos I take. This is important. Shetland ponies from Shetland are not promoting themselves to their maximum advantage. We have the best scenery and the best little horses but we are the studs being left behind.

Contact me on 01595 809 432 (frances@fstaylor.co.uk) if you wish to book a photoshoot. I can also build websites (though untrained in this, I created www.thordale.co.uk).

I am happy to sit in the field with my camera and take photos of your ponies in their natural environment or you can stand each one up to be photographed individually. My time and my camera are yours to use for free. I want to see Shetland ponies from Shetland in the public domain and media. We need to get the word out that we have the best!



The Shetland Pony Indoor Riding School



The Shetland Pony Indoor Riding School recently opened its doors in Burrs. Owned by George and Barbara Tait, of the Merkisayre Stud, the club is aptly named as it specialises in using only Shetland Ponies—all of whom have been bred and raised by the Tait's themselves.

Leading the instruction at the club is Bjorn Roar Larsen from Norway who has recently moved to Shetland having been a frequent visitor over the years. Bjorn is a fully qualified instructor and has a wealth of experience; in the past he has competed for his country particularly in dressage and has a keen interest in Icelandic Horses. Also offering lessons is Maya Whittal from Shetland, who has an Honours Degree in Equine and Business Management and has spent all her life working with horses and ponies from growing up on Shetland Ponies to breaking and training thoroughbreds on a racing yard in New Zealand.

Using a selection of ponies which have been trained by both Bjorn and Maya and using the help of local riders Bronagh Goodlad, Rhea Laurenson, Melody Goodlad and Hannah Anderson, the ponies are all well behaved and cater for all levels of riding. They have shown to all be enjoying their work and especially love the attention from all the children!



The school so far has been successful as children from 4 years and up enjoy the experience of working with their 'own' pony. Children learn the importance of grooming, how to tack up, riding correctly and what to do with the pony once they have finished riding. Run in 8-week blocks the school is well under way and everyone is looking forward to

what more is to come from the Shetland Pony Riding School.



If you would like to find out more information about the Shetland Pony Riding School please contact: Barbara Tait on 01595 859626 or Elaine Tait on 01595 859135.

New Zealand & Australia



Whilst we in Shetland were waterlogged Stephen Rendall was enjoying somewhat milder and drier conditions in Australia and New Zealand.

Presented with a tempting work opportunity on the other side of the globe Stephen jumped at the chance and set off on his 12,000 mile journey in November 2011. Being ever the enthusiast where Shetland Ponies are concerned he decided to mix business with pleasure and accepted 3 judging appointments while he was there.

The first port of call was the inaugural Northern Region Shetland Pony Show in the North Island of New Zealand on 3 December. The show was relatively small with only 21 ponies forward but there were a wide variety of well-supported classes varying from in-hand to versatility and everything in between which made for interesting judging! There is an obvious passion for the Shetland Pony in New Zealand however the majority of the ponies and events take place in the South Island so although there were a limited number of entrants forward for the show it was a promising start that bodes well for the future.

The next stop involved popping over to Southern Australia for a slightly more formal judging experience. 10 December saw Stephen judging at the Shetland Pony Enthusiasts of Victoria's 31st Annual Show. With upwards of 400 entries the show was very well supported and with 30 classes to judge a gruelling 11-hours lay ahead. With temperatures up to 26°C it made for a very long and tiring, but enjoyable, day. Class arrangements differed from the traditional UK format in that they were split by type, height and age in some cases. For example there were Stallion classes for over 9.2hh ponies aged 4+, 5-6, 7-8 and so on. On the whole there were some good ponies forward.

The final judging duties came back in New Zealand on 28 January at the 16th annual South Island Shetland Pony Show run by the New Zealand Shetland Pony Breeders Society (Inc). It was well supported with 90 ponies forward doing a variety of classes once again and it was good to see involvement by exhibitors of all ages.

As well as judging appointments Stephen spent some time visiting Studs and the influence of imported stallions was very evident. Harviestoun Pharoah, bred by Lucy Poett in Perthshire is currently standing at Gleneagles stud in NZ after having been imported from Scotland.

On the whole it was a very enjoyable and educational experience for all parties. Exhibitors were left with an insight into how things are done in the UK and a greater understanding was gained of our antipodean counterparts. The main thing that stands out is their use of the pony, no matter what sex, size, age or colour they are all expected to do a job whether it be as a child's pony, be long reined or do agility classes. Huge thanks must go to Sue Jackson of Gleneagles Stud in New Zealand and Jo Maurice of Otway View Stud in Australia for their help, encouragement and fantastic hospitality.

There are obvious differences in the way things are done in the Southern hemisphere in comparison to the UK and more so in New Zealand, where showing and Shetland Ponies are relatively new to some, than Australia but the one constant that spans the globe is the passion and enthusiasm that exists for this the most special of our native ponies – the Shetland Pony. gleneaglesstud.co.nz, www.otwayviewshetlandponies.com, www.shetlandpony.org.nz.



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SPS-BS President's Award



Helen Thomson was probably for one of the few times in her life left speechless when presented with the inaugural Shetland Pony Stud - Book Society Presidents Award for outstanding contribution and dedication to the Shetland Pony and the SPSBS.

It was at the Viking show in Lerwick where SPS-BS President, Joan Lambert, was judging that the surprise presentation was made and a true surprise it was.

This is the first time the award has been presented and came about as a result of a request to council to in some way recognise the contribution made by Helen over the years and will hopefully continue to recognise the contribution of others like her in the years to come.

This award is designed to be formal recognition of outstanding dedication and achievement and made all the more meaningful that it comes from their peers on the SPS-BS Council. This award may not be presented annually but when it is felt warranted.



We keep an Emergency Kit with a supply of mare's milk replacer, tested & recommended by
The National Foaling Bank
at Thordale Shetland Stud in Walls
& we will do what we can to supply the kit as & when necessary.

When the worst happens – you can find us! *cut this out to keep in case of foaling emergencies)*

CONTACT: Frances Taylor or Jo Tonkinson; 01595 809 432 or 01595 870 759

Or email frances@fstaylor.co.uk for more information

Kits: rubber teat, sterilising tablets, mare's replacer milk powder with full emergency feeding instructions.
Extra feed bottles, teats, foal replacement colostrum and prebiotic paste available too.

Contact Details

Carole Laignel, Secretary

Habbigarth

Dunrossness

Shetland

ZE2 9JG

Tel. 01950 460570

Email:

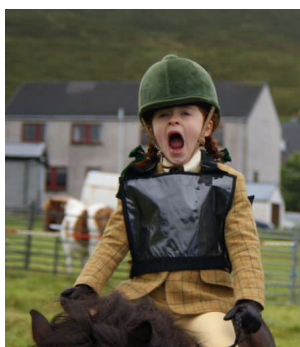
admin@shetlandponybreeders.com

The aim of the Pony Breeders of Shetland Association is to improve communications amongst island breeders in Shetland, encourage projects which can improve the quality of Shetland's ponies, to promote them within the Islands and world-wide and to look after the interests of Island breeders.

We are on the web!

www.shetlandponybreeders.com

Just For Fun!



The next generation of Shetland Pony Breeders!

You learn quickly that it's a tiring occupation and you find yourself in some interested places!



Shetland Pony Stub Book Society Performance Schemes



The aim of the SPSBS Performance Schemes is to promote the use of the registered pedigree Shetland Pony as a performance pony. To this end there are a series of Annual Performance Awards for various different classes focussing on ponies and handlers in ridden, driven and in-hand disciplines. The organisers

would like to encourage anyone who is interested to get involved. If you would like any further information please contact the following people.
Ridden & In Hand Scheme - Mrs S Bearcroft, Ropers Farm, Longdon Hill, Evesham, Worcs, WR11 7RP, Tel. 01386 446097.

Driven Scheme - Mrs Willowe Keeley, 51 High Street, Albrighton, Wolverhampton, WV7 3JF, Tel. 01902 372238.



Membership

The membership subscriptions for 2012 are now due and the fees remain the same as in 2011 - £15.00 for adults, £7.50 for juniors, £10.00 for adult associate membership and £5.00 for junior associate membership. A membership form is enclosed with this newsletter, please complete it and return it with the correct fee to Carole Laignel, Secretary, PBSA, Habbigarth, Dunrossness, Shetland, ZE2 9JG. We hope that you will join us and support the Shetland pony in Shetland and please remember to make use of the free stud advertising facilities available to you on the PBSA website.

Help Us Out!

We are always looking for photos and articles for the PBSA newsletter and website so would like to encourage everyone to send in their news/stories/articles/items of interest etc. Email: admin@shetlandponybreeders.com