



PBSA Newsletter May 2010

Shetland Bred Pony Tops SPS-BS Ridden Performance Scheme for 2009

The Hunter Family from Unst were delighted to discover that a pony they had bred had topped the rankings in the Shetland Pony Stud-Book Society Ridden Performance awards scheme for 2009.

The four year old piebald gelding Clivocast Nemo was bred in Unst then sold on to Vivian Hampton from Stevenage, to whom he still belongs. He was shown under saddle in lead rein classes during 2009 and did so well that he was Champion pony in the performance scheme, no mean feat for a four year old. The stud's achievement was recognised by a special rosette and cash award sponsored by the Central Prefix Registry.



4 Year Old Gelding Clivocast Nemo
ridden by Emmie Parkhouse

Derogation & Micro Chipping Update

Sadly, the PBSA's application to Scottish Ministers, on behalf of all Shetland pony breeders in Shetland, requesting that they be permitted to use the derogation from compulsory micro chipping of foals, under Article 7.1 of EC Regulation 504/2008, has been unsuccessful.

Shetland's remoteness and extensive use of grazing on hill land and scattald meant there was hope that Shetland could be considered as having its ponies kept in "wild or semi-wild conditions". Ponies that are recognised as such and awarded this status need not be micro chipped.

Shetland is in the unique position of having only one official exit for its ponies through the port at Lerwick, so that being the case, it would be quite easy to monitor shipping and microchip ponies on the quayside when sold to buyers out-with the Islands. The EC horse passport regulations and microchip rules are essentially a human health measure and as there are no slaughtering facilities in Shetland licensed for equine slaughter, there is minimal risk of horses and ponies entering the food chain here. The expectation was that ponies born in the Isles that were likely to live their whole life and die in the Isles would have no need of a microchip and could therefore be allowed to be exempt from this rule.

The Scottish Government, after consideration of the application that contained the points outlined above, and after consultation with other relevant authorities, decided that as these are managed and maintained herds, the wild or semi-wild status cannot apply to Shetland as a whole.

There is no reason, however, that individual breeders cannot apply to the Rural Directorate if they feel that their circumstances may merit consideration for use of the derogation. The EC Regulation 504/2008 can be viewed on the PBSA website and applications for derogation should be made in writing to David McLean at the Animal Health and Welfare Division of the Rural Directorate – david.mclean@scotland.gsi.gov.uk.

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Important Dates

Friday 9th – Sunday 11th July – Shetland Pony Performance Show, Malvern, Worcestershire
 Saturday 24th July – Stallion Evaluation Day, Gott Farm
 Sunday 25th July – Stallion Performance Testing, Gott Farm
 Saturday 7th August – Voe Show
 Saturday 7th & Sunday 8th August – International Breed Show, Hickstead
 Wednesday 11th August – Cunningsburgh Show
 Saturday 21st August – Walls Show
 Sunday 22nd August – Viking Show
 Saturday 28th August – Unst Show

Society Pony Sales 2010

Saturday 1st May – Aberdeen Spring Sale
 Friday 24th September – Builth Sale
 Saturday 25th September – York Sale
 Saturday 2nd October – Carlisle Sale
 Thursday 7th & Friday 8th October – Lerwick Show & Sale
 Sunday 10th & Monday 11th October – Aberdeen Show & Sale
 Thursday 14th October – Bridgewater Sale
 Tuesday 19th & Wednesday 20th October – Reading Show & Sale

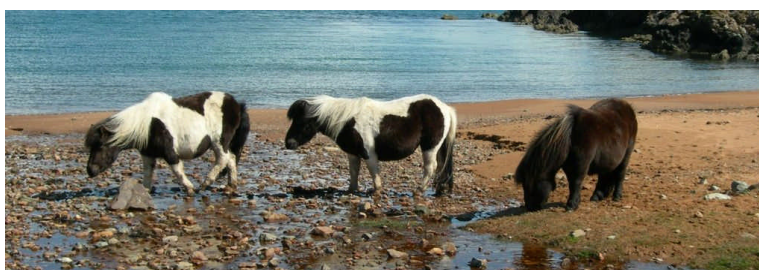


Champion Foal 2009 Sale, Lerwick

Early spring is never the best time to sell ponies, especially this spring when we are still recovering from what we have been told is the hardest winter the UK has endured for 30 years. Reports from the three Society Sales held already this year indicate that this, coupled with the recent recession, means that it is no longer sustainable for people to buy ponies like they have been doing. There will always be the few good prices for ponies that are of special interest to particular buyers but in general the demand is just not there as it was.

Auctioneers are bemoaning the almost empty sale rings with very few buyers attending; even the usual dealers have been absent as many have not yet sold on the ponies bought back in the autumn. Few colts or young stock found new homes at the recent sales with many leaving the ring without a bid. The basic economic fact remains, that supply is currently outstripping demand. This means that buyers can afford to be choosy and only the very best ponies are selling. The fate of those that don't fall into this category, and there are many, is much less favourable!

With mares due to foal and the stinting season about to start, perhaps this is a good time of year to think seriously about how many foals are going to be produced and on the market in 2011. Please give serious thought to how many mares you run with stallions this Spring and resist the temptation to over breed can you guarantee the resulting foal a decent future, or will it end up being hawked around the country in the hope of making a few pounds more?



Foal Registrations

When registering your new foals please remember that there has been a price increase and change of forms since 2009.

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.

Viking Shetland Pony Show 2010



As you may know, Barbara Tait & June Brown have decided to take a back seat organising the Viking Show. They, along with all others involved, have done an excellent job & will be a very hard act to follow.

It is imperative that the success of the 2009 SPSBS Breed Show filters to the Viking Show to continue the invaluable promotion of OUR Shetland ponies. I know from the turnout at previous Viking Shows that you are all keen to use it as a showcase for your ponies, so let's utilise it to the best of our ability.

With the winter we've just experienced it's hard to look as far ahead as the showing season. This year's show will be held on Sunday 22nd August at Seafield, Lerwick. There will be the normal 3 rings - miniature, standard & performance. Closing dates for entries will be STRICTLY no later than Sunday 18th July. Show rules, schedule & entry forms will be emailed to all PBSA members in early June as well as being available to download from the PBSA website. Paper copies will also be left at various locations throughout Shetland - more details to follow. We are also delighted to announce that the Butterby Shetland Pony Stud in Durham have donated a fantastic trophy to the show to be used for the open ridden class, many thanks to Keith and Lynda Hutchings.

Preparations for the show are well under way. Would you, or any friends/family, be willing, in any capacity (large or small) to assist with organising, admin duties, number crunching, fundraising, setting up, clearing up, etc? As they say, 'many hands make light work'. Naturally, some will be able to help prior the show but can't help out on show day & vice versa.

I'd also be delighted to hear your ideas & suggestions to improve the show. We might not be able to incorporate them into this year's event due to time constraints but there is always next year. Assistance, in any shape or form, would be very much appreciated. I look forward to hearing from you.

Hope you all have a successful foaling & look forward to seeing you on 22nd August.

Mari Williamson
 Viking Shetland Pony Show Organising Committee
 Tel: 01806 588718
 Email: garthsvale@hotmail.com or mari.williamson@uk.bp.com

New Judge

Shetland now has another SPS-BS approved judge. Steve Rendall from Catfirth in South Nesting recently completed his probationer judging term and has been welcomed onto the Society's Intermediate Panel. He has accepted an invitation to judge in South West England later this summer and has already received enquiries for 2011.

Another Shetlander, Irvine Burgess, is currently in his last year as a probationer judge so hopefully will advance to the Intermediate Panel next year. He is following in his mother Lorna's footsteps, as she has been a senior panel judge for many years.

The SPSBS council has suspended the current probationary judges scheme in order for a review to take place but we hope to encourage more Shetlanders to put their names forward once the review has been completed.

PBSA Website

PBSA members are invited to use, free of charge, the facilities on the website which was developed to provide our members with a platform to showcase their ponies and promote their studs globally.

The Shetland Stud Directory has proved very popular, especially with visitors, as a means of contacting studs of interest in particular areas. It enables them to plan trips in advance and maximise their time spent in the Islands. These Stud-cards contain a colour photograph (which can be changed at any time), a short description of your stud, map location, all necessary contact information and a link to your own website, if you have one. Anyone who has not yet created a Stud-card can contact the PBSA for more information.

Advertising on the 'for sale' and 'wanted' pages is also free of charge to PBSA Members. Adverts can stay on the site for as long as necessary and will only be removed when we are requested to do so. Each advert can contain detailed text (within reason) and up to six photographs. Please try to give an accurate description of the pony for sale and include information such as sire & dam, breeding history and any successes in the show ring. Pictures will also help to sell your pony, so please try to submit photographs which will do it justice - a far away, out of focus picture will not reproduce well on the website and will do your pony no favours!

As always, we would welcome any news items or articles/old pictures for the Archive Page, currently we have some excellent pieces by Margaret Hunter and Jim Smith but we need more of you to share your experiences and memories with the outside world.

Good quality photographs are always needed to refresh our Homepage; any seasonal pictures of Shetland ponies in their natural environment would be very much appreciated.

Anything to do with the website contact June at: admin@shetlandponybreeders.com

Membership

The membership subscriptions for 2010 are now due and the fees remain the same as in 2009 - £15.00 for adults, £7.50 for juniors, £10.00 for adult associate membership and £5.00 for junior associate membership.

A joining form is enclosed with this newsletter, please complete it and return it with the correct fee to Sonja Flaws, The Treasurer, PBSA, 5 Dale Park, Dunrossness, Shetland, ZE2 9JH.

We hope that you will join again this year 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.

Stallion Evaluation Scheme

The annual PBSA Stallion Evaluations will take place at Gott Farm on Saturday 24th July. Judges this year will be Mrs Anna Stevens, Mrs Roweena Provan and Mr David Gibson. Anyone interested in entering a stallion for evaluation should contact Leona Smith, Area Organiser, on 01950 460531 or leonaburgess@hotmail.com for more information. This year there will also be the opportunity for stallions who have already been through the evaluation scheme to return on the Sunday, 25th July, and undergo a performance test. There will be ridden and long reining tests to choose from with the intention of introducing a driven test next year also. For more information regarding the performance test please contact the Area Organiser. Please note that Stallions must be parentage verified by DNA (both parents) prior to evaluation. Should these results not be available on the day of evaluation, the stallion 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 organising committee would like to say a special thank you to Mrs Lorna Burgess for all her hard work and dedication. Previously Shetland's organiser for the SPS-BS assessments, Lorna has been invaluable in supporting the new scheme in its first 4 years and has now taken a back seat with her daughter Leona stepping ably into the role. Thank you Lorna.



Prints of Breed Show Paintings Available

Prints of the 2009 Breed Show Ring Champions paintings are now available from Shetland Silvercraft. Shetland artist, Anne Barron, was commissioned to produce paintings as prizes for the 2009 Breed Show ring champions and she produced 5 beautiful paintings depicting Shetland ponies in their natural habitat.

If anyone is interested in purchasing prints of any of the paintings then they should contact Shetland Silvercraft at Shetland Jewellery, Soundside, Weisdale, Shetland, ZE2 9LQ. Telephone 01595 830275. Fax. 01595 830 352 or Email info@shetlandjewellery.co.uk



International Breed Show

The SPS-BS International Breed show is being held on Saturday 7th and Sunday 8th of August at Hickstead Showground, West Sussex. The schedule and entry form is available from the society office or can be downloaded from the International Show website at <http://www.spsbsshow.com/> The closing date for entries is 16th June. More information can be found on the website.

Lauraine Manson from Skeld will be travelling to Hickstead to undertake duties as a steward at the show and Roselyn Fraser and lasses will be travelling down with the Clothie Stud to compete in ridden and driven classes.

Viking Show Word Search

Enclosed with his newsletter is a word search, with a £20 cash prize, to raise funds for the Viking Shetland Pony Show. If you would like to support the show then you can complete the word search and return it with the £1 entry fee to Mari Williamson, Garthsvale, Voe, Shetland, ZE2 9PT by Monday 31st May. If for any reason there isn't a word search enclosed then one can be downloaded from <http://www.shetlandponybreeders.com/news.php>

**Pony Breeders of
Shetland Association**

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Email: pbsa@btinternet.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.

Just For Fun!



Seven year old stallion Shoormal Vire has been demonstrating the versatility of the breed whilst in the care of Charlotte Cree Hay of Redsand Stud. Bred by June Brown of the Shoormal Stud and owned by Steve Rendall of the Hollydell Stud, Vire is currently being used by Redsand stud and is also being broken to ride and long reined.



We are on the web!
www.shetlandponybreeders.com

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

Limited Stock of 2009 Breed Show Merchandise Still Available

There is still a limited stock of Breed Show merchandise available at reduce prices.

Badges -	Blue & White Plastic (not pictured)	£2.00
-	Silver & Blue Enamel	£3.00
Shetland Pony Census 2009		£5.00
Commemorative Rosettes		£2.00
Show Catalogues		£1.50
Car Window Stickers (not pictured)		£1.00



If anyone is interested in purchasing any of these items then please contact Roselyn Fraser on 01806 566479 or email roselyn.fraser@btinternet.com.