

# NESHPE NEWS

February 2008



Thank you to everyone who made the effort to attend the AGM on 7th February, the committee really do appreciate how difficult it can be to attend during the week. For those of you who couldn't be there, your new committee is introduced later in the newsletter - a photo will follow in the next newsletter so you can say 'hi' when you see us out and about!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Hugh Duncan, Heather Duncan and Angela Cresdee for their time on committee and commitment to the club. In their place Helen Gauld and Lee-Anne Matheson kindly 'agreed' to join the committee.

I would also like to thank all the members for their support and continued interest in the club - remember I am always looking for something to fill a space in the newsletter so please do get in touch with any ideas.

If you have email access you will hopefully have received a membership form, score sheet pack and entry schedule for our new performance show. For those who don't have an email address copies should be included with this newsletter. If anyone is having email problems or hasn't received one with this newsletter please do get in touch.

For those of you who haven't entered the annual awards before, everything should be explained in the accompanying sheets - which we have expanded slightly to make them more user friendly.

We really hoping to get more and more correspondence out via email this year to those who have the technology. Could you drop me a quick email if you are happy to receive your newsletters etc via email please.

Please do stay in touch, if you have a story to tell, a cracking photo to share or a memory which is extra special to you that you would like to share with us all don't be shy! Please just get in touch with Susie - I am more than happy to receive bits and bobs for the newsletters!!

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## 2008 Quiz Night

**Thursday 27th March 2008**  
**The Ardennan Hotel, Inverurie**  
**7.30pm start - prompt**



Yes, it's time to dust off those brain cells again after the cold, dark winter and put those evenings in front of 'Who Wants To Be A Millionaire' to use.

The winning team from last year - "Clueless" - will be setting the questions for what always promises to be a very interesting and fun-filled evening!

Teams with a maximum of 5 members - £5 per team.

This is not a 'horsey' quiz so please do feel free to bring along friends and family. Don't worry if you are coming on your own though, there are always plenty of opportunities to join with others and make some new friends.

## 2008 - dates for your diary



**Quiz night - Thurs 27th March** - The Ardennan Hotel, Inverurie - 7.30pm start.

Please RSVP the committee if you are hoping to come along.

**NESHPES spring performance show - Sun 20th April**, Fountain Equestrian Centre, Dyce

Schedules available from club website or any committee member

Classes for all!

**Pleasure ride - May** - Strathdon area - Further information available shortly.

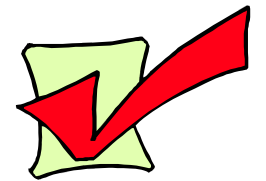
**Annual social BBQ - June** - WE ARE SEEKING A VENUE FOR THIS - IF ANYONE HAS ANY IDEAS OR SUGGESTIONS PLEASE CONTACT THE COMMITTEE.

**Social night - Friday 15th August** - evening - VENUE SUGGESTIONS GREATLY RECEIVED!

We thought it would be nice to have a summer social evening - cheese and wine, a race night, a 'talk and mingle' night, another BBQ - any 'wants' appreciated!

**Driving demonstration - September** - Arbroath - Details to follow.

**Annual awards dinner - 21st November** - venue tbc.



### Donnie's Corner

Aye aye a'body! I havna been here for ages, I've been an affa good boy recently. I even let the farrier trim my feet and only kicked him twice!

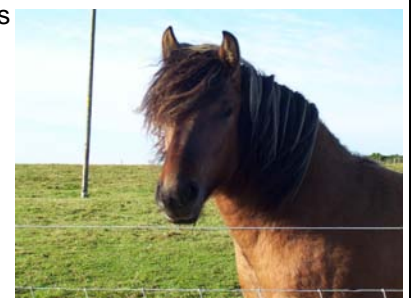
The mannie and the wifie have put me back in with Mum and Fay, and my new Unty Oulie (whit a big fat thing she is, but quite bossy so I jist keep oot o' her way). The wifie says I was bothering Leeyo too much, bit he wis getting an affa fine feed and I jist had damp chaff (BORING!). They had to tie me up while Chook and Leeyo et their tea, and I didna like that at all. I worked out how tae wrap the rope round my legs, so the wifie had to keep unclipping me, which gave me a minty for a bite o' Leeyo's tea.

I even managed tae wrap the rope round my neck twice which made the wifie go 'ogod ogod ogod ogod'. She dis that quite a lot actually.

Mum and Unty Oulie winna let me onywhere near their tea, so I usually jist eat oot o' Fay's bucket then move on to my ain. She bites me a' the time while I'm daein' it, but I dinna think she minds really. Fay looks rite stupid just now, Unty Oulie et her mane and tail one day. Telt ye they dinna feed us properly!

Bye for noo,

Donnie



### *Introducing your committee*

Unfortunately at the AGM we were a little short of volunteers to join the 'motley crew'. However with a bit of gentle persuasion we have found a few new 'volunteers' to help us through the year.

Firstly let me introduce our new Chairman, Lesley Carnegie ...

**Lesley Carnegie** finally got her first Highland 4 years ago, and is not quite sure how she now has 4 - or how she became Chairman! Two of those are brood mares who Lesley hopes to have foals from next year. Lesley also still has her first 2 horses, Leo (32) and Duke (22), who are both retired. 5 dogs, 2 cats and 200 sheep complete the family!

Lesley works at the Robert Gordon University in Aberdeen, where she looks after access courses, college links and study support.

**Amy Sylvester-Evans** is our new Vice-Chairman. Amy is a saddler and harness maker who trained at Cordwainers College, London before returning north and buying the existing 'Wrights of Huntly' workshop in 2005. Amy now runs Grampian Saddlery Workshop from Letherty Mill, Inverurie. She bought her first Highland seven years ago from a local RDA group who were finding him a little 'sharp' - he is Mackenzie of Gargunnoch. She then found herself buying Newton Crown three years later to compete - doing a wide range of activities until he had an accident a couple of years ago and has sadly been on field rest since. However, Amy is hoping to bring him back into work slowly this year.

**Karen Stewart** is our Aberdeen Highland Pony Show secretary and is one of the club's original founding members, and was the club's first secretary. Now acting show secretary, Karen has been involved with the club in one way or another for the last 25 years. Involved with horses from an early age, Karen came into Highlands in the late 80s via her husband Robin, when he gifted her a Highland foal 'Karen of Arbeadie' who went on to become one of the founding mares of their Arbeadie, Coulnacraig and West Lodge studs. Now based in Durris, Karen works for Benfield Corporate Risk in her 'spare time', looking after the insurance needs of the Exploration and Production side of the oil industry.

**Helen Gauld** is one of our new recruits. Helen started her journey with Highlands about 20 years ago when she bought a yearling colt with her daughter at Aberdeen mart. They both became members of NESHPEs and enjoyed many wonderful fun days and events with the club and made a great many friends along the way. She now has five ponies and has taken a bit of a rest from the show ring. However, she is hoping to make a debut with the latest addition to her family this year. Helen works full-time on a shift rotation, enjoys good food, fine wine, good Malt and good company - but not always in that order!

and then there is me ...

Well as you will probably know by now my name is **Susie Shepherd** and I am your secretary. I have been secretary for five years now and hope I am now doing something right! My first pony was a rather opinionated and arthritic Highland who liked to 'dump' my 'very experienced' friends! Not that I enjoyed that at all!! Unfortunately arthritis got the better of him and he had to take things a bit slower. At this point Harry the welsh cob entered my life. 11 years and a week on I still have Harry and cannot thank him enough for everything we have done together! Harry and I moved to a new stable yard where I met Robin and Karen Stewart - and from then on my interest in Highlands grew again! 11 years on I am now the proud owner of a rather chunky and hairy yearling 'West Lodge Alexander'. In my spare time I am a Public Relations consultant at Mackenzie PR in Aberdeen.

Finally, **Lee-Anne Matherson** has kindly agreed to join us! Lee-Ann has owned Kelly her Highland pony for 12 years and has enjoyed every minute of it. They have grown up together and Kelly has quite a character and never ceases to surprise! Lee-Anne has recently moved to Aberdeenshire from Strathnairn, Invernesshire with her boyfriend David. She works in Dyce as a freight forwarder and when not chained to her desk she is very much a country girl and spends pretty much all of her time pottering around with Kelly or out training with her 17 month old lab called Tenner.

Well, that's us! Please do stop and introduce yourself if you see us out and about - it is great to be able to put a face to a name! If you want to contact any of the committee, details are included on the back page!



### Best Member Rosettes

The 'best member rosettes' are presented by NESHPEs to specific agricultural shows throughout the North-east and, as you may have gathered, go to the highest placed NESHPEs member competing with a Highland pony. The shows where rosettes will be presented during 2008 include:

The Aberdeen Spring Show

Strathbogie Farmers Club

Angus Show

Fettercairn Show

NERC 'Youngstock' Show

Echt Show

New Deer Show

Banchory Show

Turriff Show

Keith Show

Tarland Show

Aberdeen Highland Pony Show

Grampian Foal Show



PLEASE VISIT [www.neshpes.co.uk](http://www.neshpes.co.uk) and direct any club emails to [info@neshpes.co.uk](mailto:info@neshpes.co.uk)

#### COMMITTEE CONTACTS

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**Vice Chairman**      **Amy Sylvester-Evans**      ( 07922 197371 )

**Club Secretary**      **Susie Shepherd**      **East Brachmont, Durris, Banchory, AB31 6DY.**  
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**Show Secretary**      **Karen Stewart**      **Stablesbrae, Durris Home Farm, Durris, Banchory, AB31 6DS**  
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**Committee**              **Helen Gauld**              (077716 72943)  
                                 **Lee-Anne Matherson**      (07809 441332)