

NESHPE S NEWS

January 2007



Firstly a very **merry Christmas and a happy New Year** to you all! I had a lovely Christmas and a pretty good Hogmanay at the Union Street celebrations - I hope you can all say the same!

Now we are all fully recovered from the festivities I thought I'd better get back to work and get this newsletter to you all! Included with it are rosettes from the photo competition and annual awards for those who couldn't make it on the night and shirts for those who were patiently waiting for me to post them out - sorry!!!

The next date in the club diary is the **AGM** - details below. We look forward to seeing you all on the night. We understand that it can be a difficult time of year to motivate yourself to dedicate an evening to the club but it really is the best way to get your ideas across to us and have a hand in helping the club grow and flourish at a time where we are seeing many others fold.

This is also an ideal time to purchase a **NESHPE S planner** and write the date in **NOW** so you don't forget! We look forward to welcoming members - established and new - and planning the clubs direction together for the coming year.

As ever, if you have any stories, ideas etc for the newsletter please forward them to me at info@neshpes.co.uk. Have you bought something that you couldn't live without or do you have tip you would like to share with everyone? Funny pieces also very very welcome!

I would like to hear about your best horsey bargain for the next newsletter!!!!

If you have an idea for a club activity/day out etc please get in touch with any committee member. We are here to work on your behalf!!

2007 AGM

Tuesday 6th March - 7 for 7.30pm
Ardennan House Hotel, by Inverurie

How time flies when you are having fun ... it's that time of year again!!

This is **your** chance to discuss **your club** with your committee, suggest any **ideas** and shape the **future** of the club.

You can of course only do this by attending - so come on lets see you all on the night!!!

Are you mulling over the idea of putting yourself forward for the committee or thinking about offering to help with an event???? It's really not that bad ... honest!

Please feel free to give one of the committee a call and have a chat.

All members are most welcome.

If you have any items you wish to be included in the evenings **agenda** please contact Susie before the **27th February**.

Please also contact a committee member to register your attendance or apology.

A new addition to NESHPEs!!

In response to members requests at the 2006 AGM, NESHPEs have invested in the future, its members and its events in purchasing a **load lugger!** This enclosed trailer will allow our **growing stock of equipment** to be **stored** and **transported safely** and **conveniently**. The committee envisages the load lugger becoming a small **self sufficient show unit** to allow any NESHPEs event to have a secretary's base, suitable range of versatile equipment and an investment that our members will benefit from. The club will look towards investing further in items - such as a plastic dressage arena etc. - in the future.

Further details and **members** discussion with of course take place at the AGM.



Best Member Rosettes

NESHPEs best member rosettes were awarded to the following members in 2006.

Aberdeen Spring Show - Emily Cowie
Strathbogie FC Show - K&R Stewart
Fettercairn - K&R Stewart
NERC - no award
Echt - John Reid
New Deer - John Reid

Banchory - K&R Stewart
Turriff - no award
Keith - G&A Towns
Aberdeen Highland Pony Show - no award
Grampian Foal Show - John Reid

Well done to everyone who received a rosette during 2006 - the best of luck for 2007!



Go on - treat yourself!

Did Santa not quite get it right this year? Were the sales a bit of a disappointment? Well, why not treat yourself to a NESHPEs **shirt** and a **year planner**. And what about that friend that helped you with your horse last year - I'm sure they would love a **year planner** too!!!! To answer your shopping needs we currently have a number of rugby and polo shirts in stock along with the 2007 year planner! The planner features photographs from members who submitted entries to the photo competition and shows Highlands across the seasons doing what Highlands do best - a bit of everything!

Year Planners - £2.50 plus pp

Rugby Shirts - £20 plus pp

1 x small - bottle green
2 x medium - red, royal blue
3 x large - navy, black

Polo Shirts - £14 plus pp

1 x small - red
3 x medium - royal, red, bottle green
1 x large - black

2006 NESHPE AWARDS AND ANNUAL DINNER

Over 50 members, family and friends joined together for a fantastic evening of stunning food, good company and a bit of fun along the way on 24th November at the Alford Golf Club.

Thank you so much to everyone who took along such a great spread of raffle prizes, as ever this is a great boost to the club funds and will allow us to grow and look to the future.

This year the annual awards went to a range of names already gracing club trophies and many who were new to the scheme. This was fantastic to see and shows what great times the club has ahead.

So after the AGM when your newsletter drops through the door and there is a strange looking sheet with it, take a minute, have a read and pop it in a safe place! Start filling out the sheet and get it back to us at the end of the year and your name might well be seen on a few of the trophies!!

This years results were as follows:

Clashmach Shield - awarded to points newcomer. Baker Trophy- part-bred Highland pony award

1st Emily Cowie

2nd Jenna Robson

3rd Amy Sylvester-Evans

4th Angela Cresdee

1st Emma King

2nd Roger Searle

Whitehall Trophy - jumping award

1st Amy Sylvester-Evans - Newton Crown

2nd Kate Lines - Magnus of Brathens

3rd Angela Cresdee - Falcon of Forglen

Sinclair Trophy - junior member

1st Kayleigh Archibald

Denmill Tankard - In-hand points

1st Emily Cowie - Moss-side Lairig Ghru

2nd John Reid - Katie O' The Glens

3rd John Reid - Shevock Shappire Speedwell

4th G&A Towns - Hannah of Forglen

5th G&A Towns - Pibroch of Forglen

6th Kayleigh Archibald - Ghillie of Brathens

McNair Plate - performance award

1st Angela Cresdee - Falcon of Forglen

2nd Amy Sylvester-Evans - Newton Crown

3rd Kayleigh Archibald - Ghillie of Brathens

4th John Reid - Shevock Shappire Speedwell

5th Kate Lines - Magnus of Brathens

6th Jenna Robson

Whitehead Cup - overall points

throughout the North-east.

1st Amy Sylvester-Evans

2nd John Reid

3rd Angela Cresdee

4th G&A Towns

5th Kayleigh Archibald

6th Emily Cowie

Donald Gunn Memorial Trophy - In-hand points at selected shows

1st G&A Towns - Hannah of Forglen

2nd Emily Cowie - Moss-side Lairig Ghru

3rd G&A Towns - Pibroch of Forglen

4th = John Reid - Shevock Shappire Speedwell

John Reid - Katie O' The Glens

6th G&A Towns - Naomi of Forglen

NESHPE Cup - awarded by the committee to the most improved rider throughout the year

Kayleigh Archibald.

Callich Bhan Trophy - awarded by the committee for outstanding achievement or contribution

Pat Watson.

2006 Photograph Competition

Again we had a fantastic response to this years light-hearted competition. We hope this has also been reflected in the year planner which features a selection of entries. As some classes had as many as 15 entries I have only listed the top three places in each class. Thank you so so much to everyone who took the time to trawl through their albums and computers and put together an entry - it was lovely looking through all of your photographs.

A huge thank you must also go to K and Duncan McArdle who had the difficult task of judging this years competition - thank you both very much!

Class 1 - Stallion

- 1st Karen and Robin Stewart
- 2nd Susie Shepherd
- 3rd Amy Sylvester-Evans

Class 2a - 1,2 and 3 year old

- 1st Amy Sylvester-Evans
- 2nd Sally Keddie
- 3rd Sally Keddie

Class 2b - 4 years and over

- 1st Kate Lines
- 2nd Karen and Robin Stewart
- 3rd Amy Sylvester-Evans

Class 3 - Mare and Foal

- 1st Lesley Carnegie
- 2nd Amy Sylvester-Evans
- 3rd Karen and Robin Stewart

Class 4 - Foal

- 1st Susie Shepherd
- 2nd Amy Sylvester-Evans
- 3rd Lesley Carnegie

Class 5 - NESHPEs event

- 1st Amy Sylvester-Evans
- 2nd Dawn Atherton
- 3rd Amy Sylvester-Evans

Class 6 - Head shot

- 1st Kayleigh Archibald
- 2nd Kate Lines
- 3rd Amy Sylvester-Evans

Class 7 - Best caption

- 1st Karen and Robin Stewart
- 2nd Brenda Searle
- 3rd Jo Millar

Class 8 - Landscape

- 1st Susie Shepherd
- 2nd Dawn Atherton
- 3rd Dawn Atherton

Class 9 - Blast from the past

- 1st Amy Sylvester-Evans
- 2nd Karen and Robin Stewart
- 3rd Amy Sylvester-Evans

Class 10 - Hairiest Highland

- 1st Jenna Robson
- 2nd Dawn Atherton



“Want to buy a Highland?” ... “No Ta” (4 months later) “Want to buy a Highland?” ... “Erm, yes!”

Lesley Carnegie's experience as a first time "granny"!!

And so it began! A friend had had a very nasty riding accident and was looking to sell her pony - my 2 old codger horses had finally been retired, and it was time to start looking for the Highland I had been promising myself for 25 years!

Fraoch (Purple Heather of Craignetherty) was tried out and performed a fine selection of bucks, rears and plunges. I made allowances - she had been eating in a field, uninterrupted, for 2 years, and I did want a Highland with a bit of spirit!

In the beginning, she got on beautifully with the old boys, but then her dominant character started to appear, and she and Duke started to fight. I had to separate them after she squashed him against a rail fence and tore all the skin off his shoulder, requiring 35 staples and hundreds of pounds of vet bills!

I started bringing Fraoch back into work that spring, and her temper deteriorated even further. We had many battles, and I was frequently in tears, threatening to sell her. However, I am as 'thrawn' as a Highland and things slowly began to improve. We eventually started to gel, she was getting fitter, I got her saddle refitted and flocked, bought her a double bridle, myself a bigger size of show jods, and started looking at show schedules. Big mistake!

Concerned about her weight, I was bringing her into the wee, nearly bare paddock just by the house, at nights. One morning I was horrified to find her lying with both offside legs caught in the fence. Screaming 'WIRE CUTTERS!' to my husband Ian, I flew outside, and we cut her free. After a few minutes she scrambled up, but was obviously very stiff and sore.

As the weeks went by, it became obvious she had damaged her shoulder badly, and I started thinking about putting her in foal. The vets thought she would be out of action for some months, and that being in foal wouldn't do her any harm. I phoned around and found Robin and Karen Stewart's Coulnacraig Highlander just 20 minutes away!

The vet and physio recommended working her gently to try and help the shoulder, she was not impressed as you can imagine, and we had a few more hairy moments. Then, we got the test results, and she was confirmed in foal! The exercise continued a little longer, though she became even more bad-tempered, and we were both relieved when maternity leave started officially.

The pregnancy went without a hitch, and about 2 weeks before foaling I stopped sleeping! I was still bringing her into the paddock at night, visible from my bedroom, and ideal for foaling purposes! Then, on the 20th of June, I looked out of the bedroom window about 11.30pm, and saw her having one enormous convulsion, so ran through to tell Ian (who, by now, was thoroughly bored with me proclaiming imminent birth every day for a month)!

Ian had to physically restrain me from rushing out at that point, but I calmed down and reminded myself what the books said about not interfering. All I could manage was to squeak excitedly until we saw a head and 2 front legs. Then, we casually sauntered outside, put the shed light on, and went to say hello to Hunter Macleod of Raedykes (aka Donnie) and his proud mum.

Everything else went perfectly – she cleansed - and yes, I kept it for the vet to inspect - and he was up and sooking within the hour. Ian went off to bed, but I sat in the shed until 6am to make sure he passed his foal dung, and texted everyone I could think of while having a wee dram to celebrate.

Since then, Donnie has been halter broken, wormed, injected, micro-chipped and had his feet trimmed very gently 3 times. He knows how to lead – sort of! – and is happy to be groomed and touched all over. He can eat hay and hard feed (just chaff and water, before anyone starts!) by himself, and is gradually getting more independent.

Fraoch is much more settled and happy now, she's almost pleasant! Being a brood mare suits her far better than this work malarkey, and her shoulder will never be back to normal, so a brood mare she will be.

Donnie is now a strapping 6 month old colt, with a strapping personality to match. Like his mother he has a definite 'thrawn' streak, and we have been through every anti-biting technique known to humankind. One book advises a light tap on the nose and a sharp "NO", but they obviously didn't test that technique on a Highland. I am reliably informed they get worse before they get better, oh goody! Next to come – weaning, castration and putting him in with Duke and Leo. God help them!

There are two morals to this story: Thank heavens it was plain wire Fraoch got caught on. If it had been barbed, neither she nor Donnie would be here today. And, spookily, the shoulder she damaged is the same one she injured on Duke. As they say, what goes

around, comes around!



