

# NESHPES NEWS

January 2010



Happy New Year to you all, 2010 has certainly made it's mark throughout the North-east! I hope you are managing to get some normality back to day-to-day life and that your ponies are coping with the continuing cold snap.

With no sign of the weather improving, the committee did consider postponing the fast approaching AGM but it was decided that, with a number of events planned for the first quarter of the year, it would be best to crack on. Obviously, we understand that if the weather continues some of you might not be in a position to attend. If you feel this might be the case and have something that you would like the committee to consider please do put your thoughts in writing and send them to Susie via email or letter. The committee will discuss any points prior to the AGM.

All that's left for me to do is to say thank you all again for your fantastic support over the last year!



## 2010 NESHPES AGM

Thursday 28th January 2010

The Burnett Arms Hotel

Banchory

7.30pm start

Refreshments available

Please contact Susie to register your apologies/confirm that you hope to attend.

## **Wrestlaw Robbie - "our pony of a lifetime".**

**At the end of 2009, Wrestlaw Robbie died suddenly following an operation to treat a injury sustained in the field.**

**In memory of Robbie, Elspeth More tells us about her very special member of the family.**

I got Robbie after a period of 8 years, we were looking for a wonder horse which could do lead-rein (for a 6 year old) first ridden (for a 9 year old) and something suitable for me, and to be honest we didn't think such a horse could exist. It was with great excitement that my sister, Nicola, and I set off to Sue Knowles in Inch to view a very novicey 6 year old highland gelding with the rather grand name of Wrestlaw Robbie. We immediately liked the look of him and decided he would do.

Robbie started me off in dressage again and as you know proved to be very successful, the day he won the intro championship will always be a great day to me as there were over 20 in the class and beating the fancy warmbloods was wonderful. He also went on to win the Buchan league and both of the equitation jumping leagues. This discipline really was up Rob's street as speed was not required just style which he had in huge amounts! He also had a great year with NESHPEs winning the best overall highland, most points in jumping and best newcomer.

Both of the girls learned to ride on Robbie and he gave them both great confidence although there were moments when he had had enough and wasn't backwards in showing them! Both girls won the junior intro dressage leagues on him and Rachel had just really started jumping on him and was really enjoying it.

Although he could do most things very well, he still used to enjoy showing me up on occasions - unfortunately usually at NESHPEs events - this year mucking up his dressage ( which he was very ashamed of or so he told the horse whisperer!) to almost bucking me off in his gallop in the workers and then at the Aberdeen Highland Pony Show, despite being called in second in the ridden, refusing to budge with the judge whilst Nicola and I cringed with embarrassment in the ring. This was all part of Robbie's character and made him the horse we all loved so much.

Robbie did everything from fancy dress, family pony, cross country, cutest face, you name it he did it. With over 300 rosettes to his name he truly was a star. We will all miss him so much, especially his best friend and number one fan, Arrie. We are all in shock but however cruel life can be, we have all the most wonderful memories of this truly special and unique character. I have been very fortunate and had some wonderful horses throughout my life but I don't think any others have been as special as Robbie and I don't think any others will ever be.

### **COMMITTEE CONTACTS**

**Chairman - Lesley Carnegie - 01569 767370 - l.gunn@rgu.ac.uk**

**Vice Chairman - Amy Sylveter-Evans - 07922 197371**

**Club Secretary - Susie Shepherd - 01330 811 449 - info@neshpes.co.uk**

**East Brachmont, Durriss, Banchory, AB31 6DY**

**Show Secretary - Karen Stewart - 01330 811 802 - stablesbrae@btinternet.com**

**Committee member - Helen Gauld**