

September
2009

NESHPE NEWS



I'm sure you will all agree when I say that its hard to believe that we are now into September! I hope you all managed to drag the BBQ out at least once.

Included with the newsletter this month is an entry form for the photo competition - entries close **12 OCTOBER**, full results from the Aberdeen Highland Pony Show and details of our next two events.

We have decided to hold off our information day, which we had planned for the autumn, as we felt this may clash with the Highland Pony Society's event, which I am sure many of you will be intending to support. We hope that the 2010 committee will look at holding an event around March/April time instead.

As ever, please do feel free to get in touch with the committee if you have any suggestions for events or possible venues. We want to ensure that we are continuing to give you what you want!

Aberdeen Highland Pony Show - 23rd August 2009

Unfortunately it seems impossible to write this without mentioning the weather!

After a promising Saturday, where Duthie Park was basking in sunshine and a light wind, we were met with grey skies and a wicked wind on Sunday morning. After battling with the marquee and losing the secretary's tent once, we were relieved to see that people were coming as a convoy of trailers entered the park.

The majority of the morning classes were lucky enough to only see some passing showers, unfortunately the in-hand, ridden and best member championships saw the worst of the weather with torrential rain and an strengthening wind. This gave us no option but to cancel the prize-giving. It really was a great shame not to have such a fantastic turnout of ponies presented with their trophies at the end of the day, but we are sure many were happy not to have to get wet again!

It was a fantastic day for member Janet Smith, who took the in-hand championship as well as the NESHPE Best Member championship with her mare Tess of Glendoll, who was shown with colt foal at foot. Tess qualified for the Best Member championship at Fettercairn Show.

On only her second outing of the season, the three year-old Oliviette of Whitefield took the reserve in-hand and best filly title for J Alan Baird.

The ridden championship went to member Nicola McLean with Newton Cherry. The pair have had a fantastic year to date, taking the championship at the NESHPE spring show to name but one. Reserve in the section went to a delighted Carol Ogilvie with Murraypark Strathbroick who has also had a successful year in both the show ring and dressage arena.

Standing reserve champion in the Best Member championship was Robin and Karen Stewart with Denmill Catkin who qualified at NERC's North East of Scotland Horse Show.

Show secretary Karen Stewart was pleased with the show despite the weather.

She said: "It was certainly the wettest show in decades which is so disappointing after all the work that goes into the show. Thankfully we still had a great turnout of quality ponies and a number of brave spectators.

"Unfortunately we did have one competitor who fell off during a ridden class. Following precautionary treatment, I am pleased to say that both her and her pony have been given a clean bill of health and we hope they haven't been put off coming back to the show next year.

"I would like to thank all the members and friends who offered to help out and battled through the day with me. We are very privileged to have such a setting for our 'special' show and each of the judges - who hadn't been to the show before - were taken aback by the superb setting and atmosphere that the show and those attending create.

"We have also had a great deal of positive feedback about the show which makes all the hard work worthwhile. One thing is for sure, next year can't be any wetter!!"

Full results from the show are included with this newsletter. Official photographs are available from www.animalsnapperphotography.com



End of season ride out

Sunday 27 September

Stablesbrae, Durriss

10 for 10.30am set off

Soup and sandwiches on return

A relaxing ride out through the miles of off-road hacking in Durriss and its many forests. There will be minimal road work on quiet roads with the rest on established forest tracks. Suitable for all abilities/fitness levels.

Please get in touch with Susie to register your interest by **Sun 20th Sept** so we can easily get in touch with everyone in case of changes due to weather etc.

The ride is free, although donations welcomed for refreshments.



NESHPES Annual Awards Dinner 2009

Friday, 20 November


The Barn and Bushal, Thainstone, Inverurie

7.15 for 7.30pm

Three course seasonal dinner

£20 per head, including complimentary glass of wine on arrival - please bring a raffle.

Tickets MUST be purchased in advance by Monday 9th November from Susie.



NESHPES 2010 CALENDAR

Month-per-page calendar featuring members entries in the 2009 photo competition.

£4 each

Available from November - please contact Susie to place your order



Best Member Rosette winners 2009

Grampian Foal Show - N/A

Royal Northern Spring - L McDonald - Morven of Coynach

Strathbogie FC Show - N/A

Angus Show - L McDonald - Morven of Coynach

Fettercairn Show - J Smith - Tess of Glendoll

North of Scotland Horse Show - K&R Stewart - Denmill Catkin

Echt Show - L Cushnie - Lancelot of Whitefield

New Deer Show - G&A Towns - Pamela May of Forglen

Banchory Show - K&R Stewart - Coulnacraig Jacobite

Tarland Show - L McDonald - Valentine of Coynach

Keith Show - K&R Stewart - West Lodge Alby

Aberdeen Highland Pony Show - J Smith - Tess of Glendoll



A 'future' for performance Highlands? - Kirsten Binnie

It was with some trepidation that I set out for the 2009 BEF Futurity Evaluation at Fountain Equestrian, Dyce, on August 25th this year.

Not only was I presenting, I think for the first time ever, a Highland pony in the dressage section, I was also hoping to fulfil my ambition of being one of the handlers just 13 weeks after my second hip replacement.

That may seem a tall order (or, according to my mum, idiotic) but as I have discovered over the last few years, there is nothing quite like a Highland for boosting your confidence.

I bought George (Glen Bruar Beinn Losgarnach) from Mairi Page and John McCulloch from Fochabers three years ago as a 10-month old colt and set about handling him, doing some in-hand showing and, earlier this year, before the operation, lunging him in a saddle and then sitting on him.

I have to say I have been very lucky as he is pretty quiet and he has pretty much taken to everything we have presented him with without too much fuss. He does, however, have an opinion on most things and a bit of a 'spark'.

So I entered for the Futurity as I was fed up of having operations and missing out on shows and enlisted my friend Carol to help with the handling and trot-up. We did one practice at the yard loose schooling and then I took him to another friend's yard for a second session to make sure he had the idea of running free and showing off his paces. He managed to do all of this for me with me walking with one stick and he even loaded and travelled for me with no helpers for the first time ever.

Once I'd arrived at Fountain and done my last-minute polishing, Carol put George's ample mane into a running plait so the judges could see his neck properly, he wore his in-hand bridle with Saltires on the browband and we were brought forward for the vetting.

I had heard just before our vet call that she was being particularly picky about horse's feet. George was stood up for the vet and she looked all round him and commented that he was in very nice condition. She picked up one forefoot to inspect it and he was fine about that, and then she went for the other one which remained steadfastly on the ground!

I have to say she was great about that and eventually got the second forefoot up, fortunately it hadn't put her off and he got a vet score of 8.25 out of 10.

We now moved on to the evaluation in the indoor school. It involved standing him up for the three judges – including Alison Fellows and a Dutch representative – then walking round a triangle made up of two plastic fir trees and a pole, followed by trotting round the triangle. They are then let loose and expected to trot and canter free to show off their paces.

George stood perfectly (he just thought he was doing a showing class) while they walked round him and then Carol walked and trotted him on the triangle. The judges told her to let him loose and he obligingly cantered and trotted around – with some encouragement from my large lunge whip!

At the end, of course, George being the character that he is, decided he had better investigate the fir tree and before being caught he crept up to one of them and had a nibble. Unfortunately realising it was plastic, he dropped it, gave himself a scare and turned round and bucked at it just in case it was going to attack him and then cantered off to be caught! Everyone was laughing at his antics and I think someone said, "that's what you get when you bring a native"!

The entire evaluation was recorded by Enduropics.com and the photographer even managed to get most of the sequence with the plastic tree on camera – so that will be one for the album!

George's scores were:

Vet score (conformation, especially limbs and hooves, potential to stay sound – 8.25/10 (very nice condition)

Conformation – 7.5/10 (nice proportion but short in limb)

Paces – walk – 7.5/10 (could cover more ground but regular)

Trot – 7.5/10 (regular but lacking freedom and expression)

Athleticism – 15/20 (quite athletic but canter tends to be downhill)

Type and temperament – 7.5/10 (super topline, what a pity the legs are not longer! Lovely temperament)

His total score was 53.25 which led to him being presented with a 2nd premium rosette. Let's hope there will be more natives at this event in years to come, and especially Highlands, particularly as they are already proving so successful at dressage. The BEF Futurity Evaluation also has classes for sports ponies. George was presented in the dressage section against sports horses and warmbloods. A number of sports ponies also came forward, mostly Welsh or Welsh part-breds or riding pony types.

Donnie's Corner

Aye, aye a'body, Donnie here again!

Hasn't the weather been awful? I've been getting etten alive by clegs, and deeved by flies and that hot sun's horrible on my woolly coat and lang hair. The wifie got me and Mum a special bucket o' licky stuff that was supposed to help. The wifie put it by our shed, and ivry night I'd take it doon to the water to mak it easier to hiv a few licks, then a drink of water because licking is affa' thirsty work. It wis funny seeing the wifie heaving it back up to the shed every day, but it wis good exercise for her.

Mum is a bit of a dribbler, and it wisna long till the water was all broon and minging and the wifie had to change it for us nearly every day, magic! A fine game is to hang about while the wifie turns the tap off and drains the water oot, then she pits it back on and it starts filling up again. It taks AAGES though and she always wanders off.

I wis being helpful and battering on the trough to let her know I was needin' a drink and it wisna filling up quick enough, and she was running up and down the hill getting all red and sweaty and shouting at me. She says she's put on a bit of podge since giving up the fags, so I reckon I wis doing her a double favour by giving her some more much-needed exercise. And she wis teaching me a few new words ...

Onyway, we had the whole lot eaten in a week and I was havin' a great time chasin' the empty bucket round the field and smashing it into wee bits. The wifie was horrified and going 'Oh God, you'll get colic, that bucket's supposed to last well over a month you wee monster'.

She took it away and that wis the last o' the licky buckets. I'm nae sure it wis actually ony use for keeping the flees awa', but it was a rare game while it lasted!

See ye soon, Donnie



COMMITTEE CONTACTS

www.neshpes.co.uk

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

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

Committee member - Helen Gauld