

BRITISH SHOW PONY

SOCIETY

69th

A.G.M.

ANNUAL REPORTS

SATURDAY, 2nd, February, 2019

AT

1.30 P.M.

THE

Leicester Marriott Hotel, (Smith Way)

Grove Park, Leicester. LE19 1SW

The British Show Pony Society a Company limited by guarantee

Registered in England and Wales No 5308982

Notice of Annual General Meeting of the British Show Pony Society
(Registered number 5308982)

Notice is hereby given that the British Show Pony Society will be holding its Annual General Meeting (“AGM”) on Saturday, 2nd February 2019, at 1.30 p.m. at The Leicester Marriott Hotel, (Smith Way), Grove Park, Leicester. LE19 1SW

The following business will be dealt with at the AGM:

- 1) Apologies.
- 2) Approval of the Minutes of the 68th Annual General Meeting of the Society held on 3rd February 2018 these Minutes having been circulated, and to discuss matters arising.
- 3) The 2018 Financial Reports - Head Office and Championship Shows.
- 4) Elected Council members.
- 5) Consideration of the following Reports: -
 - 5.1 National Chairman
 - 5.2 Company Secretary
 - 5.3 Summer Championships Show
 - 5.4 Winter Championships Show
 - 5.5 Midsummer Show
 - 5.6 Dope Testing
 - 5.7 Joint Measurement Board
 - 5.8 Entertainment Committee
 - 5.9 Heritage Championship Show
 - 5.10 Chairman of Area Chairman
 - 5.11 Chairman of Scottish Branch
 - 5.12 Qualifying Shows
 - 5.13 Judges Assessment & Conference Committee
 - 5.14 Chef D’Equipe
- 6) Presentation of Awards – Mrs S. Thomas
- 7) Any other business
- 8) Guest Speaker – Mr Peter Slack

Members wishing to bring up items in Any Other Business are requested to write in six days prior to the A.G.M.

Please note that proxies may be used. For copies of proxy voting form and details contact Head Office on 01487 831 376.

The Meeting will close by 3.30 p.m.

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT MARRIOTT LEICESTER
HOTEL, GROVE PARK, SMITH WAY, LEICESTER, LE19 1SW ON SATURDAY
FEBRUARY 3rd, 2018 AT 1.30 PM**

1) **ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES**

70 Members attended, 10 Apologies were received.

The Chairman, Mrs Pat Pattinson gave a speech:

I open this meeting by paying tribute to our past Chairman Jim McTiffin. Jim was Chairman when I was first elected to serve on Council: amongst many other things Jim will be remembered as the guiding light of the evening performances in the sheep shed at Peterborough. A great family man, so it is no surprise that his particular signature tune was "We are Family" Jim became a life-long member of Council, A fellow of the Society and will be much missed.

Paul mentioned this lady earlier today; I too pay my respects to Joan Lewis. Joan not only held a wealth of knowledge, she was always eager to help with a ready smile. A proper and true role model.

If only the social media idiots who delight in blaming everyone else for their own shortcomings could possibly try to match up! This is predominately a children's Society – a Society for families and there is no place for bad behaviour. I do remind myself they make up a small minority and I promise that complaints re such behaviour will be dealt with, following our tried and tested policy.

Horse and Hound recently featured a common and inclusive disciplinary policy between ourselves, British Show Horse, CHAPS, NPS, and Sport Horse; a ban or suspension from one may be imposed by others. I believe an independent disciplinary/appeals panel is to be formed by representatives of involved Societies.

My congratulations are extended to returning Council members and to Barbara White on taking on the Chair of Area Chairmen. The Areas (not forgetting Scottish Branch) are the backbone of the Society who with many of the officials juggle their family, working, business lives as volunteers, enabling us to deliver quality experiences.

2017, our Championships Shows were well received. Burghley as always, an amazing day. I admit that I was sceptical about the inclusion of LRWSP: those 12 young jockeys proved to be both crowd pleasers and show stoppers!! Olympia – magical.

As always, we worked closely with both RIHS and HOYS. Our members enjoying both. Speaking of enjoyment; a difficult but wonderful task with co-judge Joy Hall; to select the Supreme Horse and Supreme Pony of the Year at HOYS. I think we got it right Joy! So, what for 2018?

Our Championship Shows with little tweaks here and there. Burghley and Olympia; we continue to co-operate with RIHS and HOYS and work closely with other Societies. Our Assessment Day is once again extremely well supported – good for the future. We are committed to building on the positive, to listen, to inform and to evolve. We will strive to provide quality competition across the board.

As always, my personal thanks to our Patron Joanna McInnes and President Robert Oliver for their unstinting support. To Treasurer Les Pole, fellow Council Member, Area Committees, Judges, Stewards, Course Builders all officials including the "back room boys" you are all amazing. My thanks to our generous sponsors, all at Arena UK, our hardworking Office Staff, Company Secretary Karen Toynton Ward, Executive Officer Joy Hall and you our members A great team.

Finally, on a personal note, I should like to thank so many of you who have shown and extended such kindness to Terry and I over the last few months. Jim was right ... we are family. SIMPLY THE BEST.

2) **MINUTES OF THE LAST AGM MEETING**

The minutes of the last AGM held on Saturday February 2nd, 2017 were signed as a true record. The minutes were proposed by Mr P Cook, seconded by Mr Nigel Hollings and approved.

3) **2017 FINANCIAL REPORTS**

Copies of the Head Office and Championships Show Accounts were circulated. Mr Martin Wood, Accountant to the Society told the meeting that the Treasurer, Mr Pole was ill with flu and unable to attend the AGM and wished him a speedy recovery. He then went through the accounts. Both the Head Office and the Championship Shows companies had made a profit. He thanked Joy Hall and Karen Toynton Ward for all their help with the accounts. Mr Richardson proposed the accounts, seconded by Mrs Janet Bushell and adopted.

4) **REPORT ON COUNCIL MEMBERS**

Mr Wood from Gross, Klein Wood, the Accountants reported that there had been no ballot and the following members had been elected: -
Mr P Hilton, Mr N Hollings, Mr M Hall, Mrs D Christie and Mrs D Gregson.

The Chairman congratulated the returning Council members.

5) **CONSIDERATION OF THE REPORTS**

Chairman's, Secretary's, Joint Measurement Boards, Summer Championships Show, Dope Testing, Chef de Equipe, Press and Publicity, Entertainment and Fundraising, Winter Championships Show, Qualifying Shows, Young Judges, Assessment and Conference Committee, Chairman of Scottish Branch, and Chairman of the Area Chairmen.

The Chairman told members that Mr Richardson had stood down as JMB representative and thanked him for all his help with the JMB.

All the reports were proposed by Mr S Richardson, seconded by Mrs P Dorman and adopted.

6) **PRESENTATION OF AWARDS – Mrs Sharon Thomas**

Mrs Sharon Thomas presented the awards, and this were given out by Mrs Pat Pattinson Chairman and Mrs Joanna McInnes Patron of the Society.

COLONEL GUY OBBARD – LONG SERVICE

The first of these awards is presented for Long Service to the BSPTS. It goes to a gentleman who has been a member of the Society for over 40 years and was first an active showing member with his daughter Emma and then later became Chairman of Area 8, which he held for twelve years. During his term of office, he worked tirelessly to ensure that the Area was one of the most successful during that time.

He has sponsored the Summer Championships show for over thirty-five years and has always been a very strong supporter of the Society for all this time.

He and his wife breed Champlers ponies and this year won the Horse of the Year Show with Champlers Allsorts ridden by Hannah Horton in the Coloured Section.

Unfortunately, Colonel Guy Obbard is unwell at present, but he is absolutely delighted to have been given this prestigious award and recognition by the Society.

So, on behalf of the BSPS we thank you for your 40 years of support to us.

SHARN LINNEY, OLIVIA BRIGHTMORE AND THISLEDOWN VAN DER VAART – OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT

This Outstanding Achievement award is made, surprisingly, to a combination of three members of the BSPS. The jockey part of this his award was only four years old when she became a member of the BSPS and rode the First Ridden Pony, Cosford Challenger, and quickly qualified him for The Royal international Show and won many Championships with both him and other Novice ponies.

At the age of five at her very first Winter Championships she was Mini Novice M & M Champion and Mini Restricted M & M Reserve Champion. She was privileged to gain the ride on Thisledown Van Der Vaart last season and fulfilled her dream to Qualify and ride at HOYS for the very first time.

Her other achievements with this pony were, winning three back to back RI qualifiers, going Mini Champion each time, this included both RI Qualifiers at the Winter Championships. She was First and Champion at the Great Yorkshire Show, Second and highest placed Section A at Royal Windsor and first and Champion at Royal Cheshire County Show

Sharn Linney has led Charlie as he is known at home for five years. In his first year of competing with Sharn, he became the Winter Heritage Novice Restricted Champion at the 2013 Winter Champs. A special relationship and a Star was born. They went on to become the HOYS M & M Lead Rein Pony of the Year and Mini M & M Champion in 2015/16 /17, three consecutive years.

Sharn Led Thistledown Van Der Vaart with seven-year-old, Olivia Brightmore as his jockey. This amazing team not only won the HOYS M & M Lead Rein Pony of the Year, they then took the Mini M & M Championship title and the final accolade was to become the 2017 HOYS Supreme Ridden Pony of the Year.

Would Sharn and Olivia step forward to receive this Outstanding Achievement Award, not only for themselves, but also on behalf of the amazing pony Thistledown Van Der Vaart.

MADISON DALLEY AND ARCHWOOD ROMEO GIGLE- OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT

The next award is also made for Outstanding Achievement to another young lady who has competed with three different ponies in 2016. As a fairly new partnership with one of them, they won the 138 Show Pony Class at HOYS in that year.

Moving into the 2017 showing season, they took many Championships and Supremes throughout the year including:

Champion Show Pony at Stithians where she qualified for HOYS,
Supreme Champion at Both the BSPS Wales Summer Championships and South West Pony Association Championships.

In July at the Royal International Horse Show She won Her Pretty Polly Class, and went Supreme Pretty Polly Champion 2017. They never thought that that their season could get even better...., but it did.

At The Horse Of the Year Show, this partnership retained their 138 CM Show Pony of the Year Title, a massive achievement. To their even greater delight, their success continued in the International Arena where Archwood Romeo Gigle and his jockey Madison Dalley were crowned the Kathleen Wood Champion Children's Riding Pony of the Year. Our congratulations go to Madison. A wonderful achievement, and a dream come true.

Would you please come forward Madison to receive your Achievement Award

EQUESTRIAN PERSONALITY MRS. DAVINA WHITEMAN

The final award for this year is made for an Equestrian Personality to someone who has made a tremendous input into the development of the Showing World, as we know it today.

Her showing debut was at the Royal Show at Lincoln in 1946 on a skewbald Allerton Nuts in May, where she gained fifth place. The pony was originally a present from her grandfather Major John Lee Smith. This was the start to an illustrious career as both a rider and producer for herself and an opening as a Show pony producer for her father Keith who had set up a successful livery yard (Allerton), supported by his capable wife Joan.

In 1948 she rode Firefly and won the 14.2 Show Pony class as it was then, at the Royal International Show held at that time, at The White City in London. In 1950 she rode Mr. Albert Deptford's Glide On, My Pretty Maid and Pretty Polly, a name we all know well today. All these ponies were very big prize winners in that year.

Pretty Polly's first win was at the British Timken Show and then she went Reserve Champion at Henley on Thames. She was almost unbeaten and was HOYS Pony of the Year in 1950 and 1951 held at Harringay Arena. After which time, a new rule was made barring the previous year's winner from competing.

She went on to produce some of the best-known ponies ever:

Mirth, Polly's Gem, Jenny Wren,

Polly Perkins, Arden Bronze, Arden Love, Snailwell Charles, Creden Lucky Charm, Polyanthus, Whyrale Fantasia, Squirrel Seraph, Cusop Lullaby, Blue Rain, Holly of Spring and many many more.

The riders of all these ponies, which were trained by her have gone on to great heights in the equestrian world. HOYS Champions in:

1964 - Creden Lucky Charm ridden by Judy Bradwell who won Burghley in 1970 with Don Camillo

1969 - Favourita ridden by Jane Souter who also won Burghley in 1988 as Jane Thelwell, (Wallace) riding Kings Jester.

1972 Snailwell Charles ridden by Nigel Hollings, the first boy to win the title, but he **never** won Burghley!.....but he was awarded the coveted Gold, Blue Peter Badge for his achievement, as reported in the Telegraph

1975 to 1978 Holly of Spring Ridden by Catherine Cooper was Pony of the Year four years in succession, which is still a record, held today.

She also produced Hunters for Virginia Haddow nee White, Norman Swallow, and a hack for Peter Wilson.

She was Vice Chairman of Ponies of Britain, established in 1953 and when it changed to Ponies Association (UK) in 1988 she became Vice Chairman and Show Director, with her mother Mrs Joan Lee Smith as Chairman. In 1998 she became Chairman of the Association until 2017. Along with her committee they organized four major Shows and Championships a year, together with various conferences and training days.

Ladies and gentlemen, it gives me great pleasure to announce our Equestrian Personality for this year is Mrs. Davina Whiteman

7) **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Mrs Dorman spoke on the decline of the Cradle stakes younger jockeys. She felt that the Society should try and encourage new younger members by having smaller fences and perhaps introducing a beginner's cradle stakes with a low height of perhaps 40 or 45 cms. It was difficult for 10 year old jockeys to compete on novice ponies due to the height of the fences. Mr Coton, Course Builder felt that it was difficult to build courses at a low height due to lack of fillers. Mrs Prickett suggested that Areas could have some made as she had done. Mr Hilton thanked Mrs Dorman for her input and agreed that it was important not to lose focus and to look at heights to make sure that they were fit for purpose.

Mrs Nelson felt that BHS trainers should be encouraged to judge the Training Stakes to help children get around the courses and learn. She felt that this needed revision to try and stop ponies getting eliminated in these classes.

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked members for attending and declared the meeting closed at 2.30 pm.

NATIONAL CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2018

2018 – Another year in which the B.S.P.S. continue to lead in the equestrian calendar.

Our Judges Conference, full to capacity, gave rise to much debate. Well done Paul Cook, Joanne Pybus and Karen Toynton-Ward.

The A.G.M. was well supported, reports agreed, and accounts adopted. Once again, Sharon Thomas introduced deserving award winners. Congratulations to all. As day gave way to evening members and guests enjoyed yet another sell out Ball. A truly fantastic evening filled with fun, laughter and dancing 'til dawn. My thanks too for the generous donations of some seriously amazing auction and raffle prizes. Not to be missed!!

Again, our Assessment Day attracted a good many candidate. A fair but rigorous process; our assessors are keen to enable and encourage. It is certainly so pleasing to see so many young people willing to make this important commitment.

Praise and more praise to Arena UK team who pulled out all the stops at the Winter Championship Show to actually ensure there was a Show! Much was reported re Dunkirk Spirit, Stalwart members and a very dedicated team headed by Joanne Griffin. The Show did go on and all those Easter Eggs found willing and new owners.

Our stand alone – Mid Summer Show offers H.O.Y.S. qualifiers, Novice and Open classes attracting good entries across the board.

July sees so many members travelling to Hickstead, home of the Royal International Horse Show. I am very pleased to report that all the B.S.P.S. classes were filled with quality as well as quantity. The much coveted Supreme Pony title going to Matt Cooper riding Highland stallion Benbreac of Croila. History in the making. The 'Tea Ladies R Us' were on duty yet again, dispensing tea, cakes, sandwiches and sometimes a drop of something warming especially needed on the final say when the heavens opened with total body soaking rain!

The Summer Championship Show, as always, an eclectic mixture of superb showing culminating in a nail biting Supreme. Congratulations young Maisie Binks who riding Woodview Ianthe gave a polished performance to impress judge Pearl Underwood and lift the top spot.

High on the agenda for anyone over the age of 3 is the Entertainments programme. Fun filled, packed with excitement and variety. Well done Sharon and Marilyn.

Burghley – continues to provide competition unlike any other. Thrills, Spills, hope and optimism for 40 finalists eager to impress the three judges:- Linda Pearce – Dressage, Linda Brudenell – WSP and Show Jumping – Bruce Saint. Well done Champion Lucy Robinson with Townranney Brian. Many thanks to all especially our generous Sponsor Chrissie Wheeler "The White Company".

This year, results genius Anthea Derby kindly judged the 12 LR WSP jockeys who again did not disappoint on any level; proving yet again their crowd appeal.

October sees so many of the showing fraternity descend on the N.E.C. and the H.O.Y.S. Thrilling to see our members give good account and Lucy Glover riding Carmens Novello take the Supreme Pony title.

National chairman's Report cont

The 'D' word as in Dunkirk came into play at the Heritage Championship. Who would believe that we braved the tail end of hurricane whatever and unrelenting rain to follow. Well of course we did, and again thanks to Arena UK team and all our stalwart officials. Dedication beyond belief!

What better way to finish the year than sharing the magic that is Olympia? The impact and excitement generated by 40 ponies and their jockeys is truly awesome.

We, as a Society are committed to providing top quality showing, listening to our members and striving for fair play. Our policies and procedures exist for all members; no more so than with Dope Testing. My thanks must go to fellow Director Dawn Christie who carries out this difficult task with the utmost discretion and professionalism. The results of same are always posted on our website.

Finally, my personal thanks to all Volunteers, Officials, Stewards, Judges, Area Chairman & their Committees who give themselves unstintingly and form the backbone of our Society. My gratitude to Patron Joanne MacInnes, President Robert Oliver, Vice chairman Paul Cook and fellow Directors who again as volunteers give of themselves so willingly. Combine this with our Head Office Staff, Company Secretary, Karen Toynton Ward, Executive Officer Joy Hall, members may be assured we are there for them and will continue to deliver the very best of showing.

I remain proud to serve as your Chairman.

PAT PATTINSON
(National Chairman)

COMPANY SECRETARY'S REPORT 2018

BSPS MARCHES ON!

I am delighted to present my annual report for 2018 and thank members for their continued support.

After last year's Conference I thought that couldn't be surpassed but, yet again, we started the year with over 200 judges attending another action packed meeting, followed by the Annual Ball, which over 300 members attended and partied until the early hours!

The Judges Assessment came next and Paul Cook as Chairman led the team to assess over 40 judges to go onto the Show Pony and Mountain and Moorland Panel and the standard was, as always, very high.

Winter Championships followed and thanks, as always, must go to the fantastic team of stewards and officials, headed by Joanne Griffin as Chairman, who coped with terrible wet weather with their normal efficiency and professionalism and ensured that the Show carried on which was a feat in itself!

The Midsummer Show, especially for plaited ponies, was another success with entries at record levels in most classes. Members have now firmly welcomed this Show into their calendar and thanks must go to our Chairman this year, Mrs. Pip Baker-Beall and her team as well as Grandstand Media Ltd for their Horse of the Year Show qualifiers.

The Summer Championships were again the highlight of the year. The Show had a great atmosphere and wonderful night performances with some quality ponies competing for the top honours. Our hard-working Show Committee headed by Chairman, Mrs Pat Pattinson, assisted by enthusiastic Show Director Mike Hall once again pulled out all the stops to make this Summer Championships another memorable Show! Special thanks must go to Sharon Thomas who again entertained children with lego, party games, decorating cookies, Playbus, and an enormous Dog Show!!

With only a week in-between, a small team of hardworking officials and stewards moved to Burghley International Horse Trials for the White Company Gold Cup, a wonderful competition in an enviable location in front of Burghley House. This has certainly become a competition to win and the camaraderie between children certainly sums up all that the BSPS is about. Special thanks must go to Anthea Derby, ably assisted by Marc Caine, for producing the results on the computer so effortlessly.

Our calendar moved on to the Heritage Championships in October, classes were full of exceptional, quality ponies and dedicated riders. Members really enjoy this show at the end of the year and if they do manage to qualify for Olympia it is a great end to the showing year.

Thanks must go to all our Council Members who give up enormous amounts of time and energy to ensure that the Society continually strives for perfection, to Lynne, Sharon, Shirley, Alison and Lorraine for their commitment and hard work, to the stewards and officials for running brilliant shows in all weather and last, by my no means least, our Executive Officer, Joy Hall, for guiding the Society in the right direction.

KAREN TOYNTON WARD
(Company Secretary)

SUMMER CHAMPIONSHIP REPORT 2018

Having started and finished our Championship shows in torrential rain it seems a distant and unlikely memory that prior to our 49th Summer Championship I was worrying re the heatwave; the lack of rain and any likely effects on the showground. My concerns proved to be unfounded as the week opened with another exciting Young Judges competition. Congratulations to winning team Area 6 and individual member Scott Dixon. Well done and thanks to all Area Chairman committees and trainers for supporting and enabling these young people; they really do represent the future of showing.

My personal thanks also to producer Craig Elenor who provided a very useful, informative and interesting seminar, helping competitors to present their ponies correctly. I know from the positive feedback this was well received, giving helpful guidance and much food for thought.

As always, the Inter Country WHP Team competition was hotly contested with England Kempton having triumphed for the second year running. Noble Sir Prize, the 143cm winner with Lucy Eddis took reserve being pipped to the championship by Mark Davidson riding Matt Cooper's Intermediate Belle Vue Tomboy. Mark and Tomboy went on to take the prestigious Desert Orchid Championship with Lucy Eddis and 153cm winner Cashel JJ in reserve spot.

Mention must be made of the beautifully dressed yet challenging course built by Graham Barclay which continues to attract the country's crème de la crème of our WHP competitors. It is no secret that I believe we, as a Society host the best WHP courses, this being evident in all our rings and all our tracks. No less than the testing Noble Bing where Scottish based Zara Weir took the overall worker Supreme with 143cm Beech Hall Ryan. An equally testing HOYS track saw young Josh Williamson riding Plasdavrene Matty's Mate to take the 133cm ticket and section championship; making the journey from Ireland all the more worthwhile.

The Heritage workers too faced some daunting tracks providing excellent competition. Overall Heritage Supreme WHP Champion going to Emma James riding her sister's Connemara Glenmore Gwennic.

The overall Heritage Ridden Supreme saw Becki Penny riding Highland stallion Ellister Islay Spruce pull out all the stops to take this coveted title.

The week also gave rise to top quality competition in all disciplines. Hannah Green with Intermediate SH The Politician scooped the HOYS title, the Blue Riband and stood Reserve in The Best of the Best final.

Another Intermediate jockey enjoying a great week saw Charlotte Elliott Grooby collect her first flower sash riding Intermediate SRT Holmestone Tailor Made plus a personal tally of 7 wins, 2 titles, 3 reserves and a HOYS ticket. (Just need the partridge in a pear tree Charlotte!!!!)

A young jockey also enjoying a very successful week was Martha Jobling Purser, who took the Open SP Supreme, Reserve Champions of Champions and premier League Championship with 148cm Litton Cerise. Martha also headed the Ronnie Marmont Supreme with SHP Assagart Kittywake.

Summer Championship Show Report Cont

Claiming the overall Pretty Polly Supreme was 14year old Jessica Walby with SHP with 143cm Highwayman's Footsteps. The Novice SP title saw Alina Korzersky Gillham with Tuscany Sweet Serenade beat off all competition. A special journey for Libby Taylor Hopkins certainly paid off as she stood Novice Supreme SHP with 143cm Eskside Carnellian.

Not letting the 'big un's 'rule the day; the Supreme Mini SP Champion went to Barkway Sweet William with Lily Ahern Lee; whilst Scarlett Elenor with Thistledown Lawman took the Mini SHP title. Mini Supreme M&M went to Izzy Sharifi riding FR Glebedale Mumbo Jumbo.

After amazing performances from all section Champions, Supreme Judge Pearl Underwood, selected 8year old Maisie Binks riding FR Woodview Ianthe as the Philip Judge Overall Supreme. Super stuff.

One of my personal highlights of the week; the parade of Area Teams never fails to delight. The Arena buzzes with excitement, banners and magical if not manic prize giving. Fantastic, keep up the good work; long may it continue.

Variety, diversity plus fun and games provided by the Entertainment gurus Sharon Thomas and Marilyn Ludlow' who yet again exceeded all expectations. A cracking disco with DJ Myles Cooper saw everyone dancing into the wee small hours. A fabulous way to end an amazing show.

As always my thanks to a brilliant team, great officials, stewards, judges, the course builders, the 'back room boys' Arena UK, our generous sponsors and sporting members who all make the BSPS Simply the Best

Until next time
Enjoy your sport.

PAT PATTINSON
(Chairman Championship Show)

WINTER CHAMPIONSHIPS REPORT 2018

Living up to its name the 40th BSPS Winter Championship Show took place over the Easter weekend at Arena UK Grantham. The weather was atrocious but the Dunkirk spirit prevailed. A huge thank-you must go out to everyone involved in the running of the show. The staff from Arena UK and W.H. Security worked day and night to keep the show on the road.

With nearly all competitors forward the seven rings were kept busy throughout the three days. Our stewards and judges are 'simply the best' battling the elements with smiles on their faces and passing on encouragement to the competitors.

The stars of the show were the competitors our members. To produce such beautiful and immaculately turned-out animals for the ring was nothing short of a miracle. It was though a magician had waved his wand over everyone. The competitive spirit was to the fore especially in Fridays Gold Cup competition. Classes for both Novice and Open ponies, with the first four in the Open 133cms, 143cms and 153cms qualifying for The White Company BSPS Gold Cup final at The Land Rover Burghley Horse Trials on Sunday 2nd September 2018. The 'joker' fence in the show jumping phase for the open classes added excitement to the competition. The 153cms winner Cashel Bay JJ took the open Championship owned by Polly Eddis and ridden by Susie Eddis as her elder sister Lucy is now at university.

Many thanks to Anthea Derby and her team including the computer who run this competition with such precision.

Saturday was mainly Winter Novice day with competitors who had qualified during the winter months coming forward for their finals. Due again to the weather it was decided to streamline the evening performance with the individual class presentations taking place during the day and just the championships being judged early evening in the indoor arena.

Our guest judge Elaine Cassidy had the pleasurable but unenviable task of judging the Supreme Novice Championship. Her champion was the Intermediate Show Riding Type Whalton Reprise ridden by Harriet Dennison for owner Faye Helliwell.

The finals of the Winter Restricted took place on the Sunday with all eligible competitors coming forward for the Supreme Restricted Championship at the end of the day. David Griffin was our guest judge for this championship and with all nine performing so well it was not easy to find a winner. His choice was the W.H.P Restricted Champion Noble Peppermint ridden by 11yr old Ruby Ward for her mother Kelly Ward.

The show hosts a variety of classes including back to back qualifiers for the R.I.H.S and also H.O.Y.S. qualifiers for both Coloureds and Pure-Bred Arabs. In only its second year the qualification tickets for the BSPS Working Sports Pony on a Lead Rein are much sought after. The first four qualify for the final held in conjunction with the Gold Cup at Burghley. What a difference a year makes to the young competitors in this class, homework done, 10 out of 10 to them all, they were superb a joy to watch here's hoping they keep up the good work.

Winter Championships Report Cont

The Easter theme is very much part of the show with chocolate eggs being awarded to everyone who had qualified for the 'Winter Classes'. The 900 plus eggs made an impressive display in the secretary's office. Sharon Thomas organised the children's entertainment which included a treasure hunt, egg decorating and card making which the children enjoyed and thanks must go to Sharon for this valuable part of the show.

Sheer determination and hard work by the 'team' enabled the show to go ahead so many thanks again to Arena UK, W.H. Security, stewards, judges, course builders, sponsors, Joy Hall and Karen Toynton-Ward in the office, the staff at head office, Philip Hilton Show Director, Simon Richardson Vice Chairman of the Show, Alex Rothwell Health and Safety and the biggest thank-you going to our members. I am proud to be the Chairman of the Winter Championship Show.

Thankfully Easter in 2019 is later with the show taking place at Arena UK on April 19th – 21st (Fri – Sun).

Sunshine on order!

I would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year and an enjoyable showing season.

JOANNE GRIFFIN
(Chairman of Winter Championship Show)

MIDSUMMER SHOW REPORT 2018

This show was originally conceived to enable our members to devote one whole day competing in Horse Of The Year Show qualifiers, it has grown to a well established date on the pony showing competitors diary. After many requests we included the ever popular Gold Cup competition which was an additional class for all the Working Hunter pony riders, both these sections were very busy with large numbers forward.

Thank you very much our brilliant show team with Sharon Thomas at the helm as our show Director and Karen Ward taking the secretary's job on as per usual, they were ably assisted by our ever wonderful team of stewards, judges and course builders. The Gold cup was organised by Anthea Derby and her team who ran to full capacity.

The sun shone all day and the show ponies were glorious in all sections with even more ponies forward than in previous years.

The winner of the Mini Championship was the delightful Pony of First Ridden type after winning a strong class, Brookwater Tom Thumb with Florrie Duncalf, in the Reserve spot was Litton Perfection lots of lovely smiles, cheering and clapping accompanied them on their lap of honour.

The riding pony Championship as usual was extremely hotly contested by six beautiful ponies, Carmens Novello the 148cm winner ridden by James Read with the Reserve spot going to the 128cm winner Whiteleaze Aurora partnered by Mia Donaldson.

Working Hunter pony classes were busy all day , with well built courses and a real buzz felt around the rings, this is the sort of atmosphere that the ponies and riders thrive on.

Champion WHP was the ever consistent 133cms Stockham Secret Envoy , ably ridden by Chloe Lemieux, and in Reserve position was the well known pony Noble Sir Prize with Susie Eddis.

Show Hunter Pony classes were extremely large and of superb quality with our Championship being taken with a good gallop by Wolferlow Esperanto the winner of the 153cms class, ridden by Josephine Ready, in Reserve place was Greylands Razzle Dazzle beautifully ridden by Jessica Solterman who had travelled up from East Sussex.

Intermediate classes were of a very high class standard with many of our members now competing in adult classes which is so good to see as these classes were originally conceived to enable the transition into open horse classes to be easier.

Intermediate Champion was the small riding type winner, Lindeth Quizzical ably ridden as usual by Harriet Dennison, in Reserve position was the 158cm winner Small Land Water Mark, well ridden by Ellis Taverner-Burns.

This show has an exceptional relaxed atmosphere with competitors enjoying time to picnic at the side of the rings, everyone I met seemed to enjoy their day without the usual rushing from ring to ring.

Again a successful show, well organised by a top class team, thank you to everyone.

PIP BAKER-BEALL
(Chairman)

BSPS DOPE TESTING REPORT 2018

The Dope testing programme began this year at the Winter Championships where ponies were randomly selected for testing. I also attended BSPS Area 3A, Area 4B, Area7, NCPA Notts/ Lincs (PP Royal International qualifiers) The Royal International Horse Show (where I was also asked to oversee the Dope testing for the British Show Horse Society)The BSPS Summer Championships as well as The Heritage Championships.

I am pleased to report that out of twelve tests taken all came back clear..... however, we are fully aware that a variety of substances are being abused on the showing circuit.

The FEI update their website in January. The British Show Pony Society adhere to the prohibited substance list of the FEI which includes both banned and controlled substances. All competitors and owners should check the list every January for any new additions. If a horse or pony needs veterinary attention and subsequent medication, there should be a discussion with the vet if the equine is to be shown. Drug clearance times from the animal's system may vary, so the onus is on the competitor/owner to ask this question.

Dope testing is a costly business! Each kit for testing costs £27.50. If the samples are then sent to Newmarket there is a further cost of £250.00. If there is an "irregularity" found in the sample, then the sample is taken for further detailed analysis at an additional cost of £600.00. These are 2018 prices.

The British Show Pony Society along with The British Show Horse Society are two of the most pro-active showing societies in the Dope Testing area.

We are not secretive about testing but try to be as confidential as possible until results arrive at the BSPS head office. Results are then posted on the website, usually within 2 weeks of posting the sample to the LGC in Newmarket.

I would like to ask ALL members to please read SECTION D of the rule book, Dope testing and sampling procedure every year as rules may change!

Dope Testing Officer is not the most popular job, but someone has to do it!! Most people are very accepting and pleased that the BSPS has raised the profile and become more active in trying to make it a level playing field for all competitors.

Finally, to dispel any misconceptions in order to conduct a valid test a vet does not have to be present and a stable isn't always necessary!!!!!!

DAWN CHRISTIE
(BSPS Dope Testing Steward)

JOINT MEASUREMENT BOARD REPORT 2018

Having taken over from Simon Richardson as BSPS representative to the JMB at the start of 2018, I have attended all meetings and am pleased to report that there were no BSPS registered animals called for re-measurement during this period. The fees for measurement in 2019 have increased by £1 to £90.

It has also been necessary to increase re-measurement charges to £800.00.

This year the JMB has issued 2700 Measurement Certificates, compared to 3563 in 2017.

As your BSPS representative for the JMB please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any issues which cannot be resolved by contacting them direct, my details can be found in the BSPS Rule Book or via the BSPS Office. Most queries can usually be answered by looking at the JMB website (www.thejmbonline.co.uk) or contacting the JMB Office, Tel: 01293 862101 or (admin@thejmbonline.co.uk)

Wishing you all a good 2019 showing season.

MIKE HALL
(BSPS JMB Steward)

ENTERTAINMENT COMMITTEE REPORT 2018

At both the Summer and Winter Championships we organized the same favourite competitions, creative activities and entertainment that never seems to fail in keeping the children busy, entertained and out of trouble.

The Entertainment year starts with the Winter Champs., where we organise egg decorating, an Easter Bunny Treasure Hunt, which the children absolutely love, but we are quickly running out of clues. There are only so many places at Arena UK where we can send the children. Our normal creative and play tables are also available for the children.

At the Summer Championships the children's Marquee opens every day at 1.30 Where we are usually met by a group of children with Mummies and Grannies waiting for us to open. As usual there was an endless queue for the Free Play-bus, which is so popular with the children and worth every penny that we raise to fund it.

The play mat with John Deere tractors and Lego table were busy every day with children playing quietly but with intense interest, and again Daddies busy building on the Lego table supposedly helping their offspring or is it just keeping a low profile..... who knows? The Hammer beads were another success but gave us a challenge, as I forgot we needed to heat them with an iron to finish them off into mats, but challenge is what we face every day in the Play Marquee. Before the end of the first day, we had an extension lead and iron in full working order.

Entertainment Report Cont

Talking of challenges, the marquee itself proved to be a huge one this year, trying to keep it in one piece and secure, as the wind seemed to increase every day. Finally, on the Friday for safety reasons, the decision was made to move inside and with help we rearranged everything into the Main Ring Foyer. The right decision..... because later that morning the marquee totally collapsed and blew away in the wind destroying it completely.

Simon Airey the Animal Man has been to the Show for the last five or six years. I am still amazed that he still continues to entertain both parents and children with his educationally informative and entertaining repertoire, together with his amazing array of exotic animals, of which all the children and parents are invited to handle. I still get very nervous with a dozen snakes wrapped around children. I always ask Simon "Have you counted your snakes back into their baskets. He always asks me "have you counted your children"!!!!

This year's dog show organization seemed to be much improved, still chaotic, trying to prevent hundreds of children with their dogs and puppies trying to get into the ring all at once for their correct classes. Entries were taken on the gate, with plenty of helpers to direct everyone and catch loose dogs. The Fancy Dress Class was a huge success in the failing light with an *amazing* array of outfits that had obviously had a lot of thought and work put into them before the show. Well done children, we were bowled over by the outfits - Glad I wasn't judging, bring on 2019. It was a great night with lots of fun and laughter

The five a side football gains in strength and popularity year on year. The success of this event is purely down to Mick Clark with teams competing on a much fairer basis, being mixed children's teams. Mick organises and referees the matches organising the children into teams. We are extremely thankful for the time and effort he puts into this. He did tell me 2017 would be his last year. I did say "Watch this space" and surprise he was again there last year. A Big Thank You from us and the children.

The Ball was a sell-out success again, with a waiting list for cancellation tickets. The theme this year was an evening at The Moulin Rouge. Gentlemen guests behaved themselves impeccably as the fan dancers performed amongst the tables. Lady guests rose to the occasion again with the spirit of the theme with some amazing outfits. This year a bottle of champagne was awarded to the best-dressed lady. Well done Jo Jefferson

The Ball is our opportunity to raise funds to pay for all the organized events for the children's entertainment and it is fitting at this point for me to thank our sponsors for all the auction and raffle prizes. In particular, Whitewall Galleries who, as in previous years, donated two pieces of stunning art work for auction. Mr Terry Spraggett donated a wonderful day at Ascot Races in a private box and Mr. Robert Walker offered a day's tuition at his yard. Our grateful thanks go to those people for their very generous gestures.

There are so many people to thank for helping to make the entertainment so successful in every way, so to every one of you, on behalf of the children, Mal and myself THANK YOU.

To the children THANK YOU for making us smile every day.

Secretly..... We have as much fun as you do!

SHARON & MAL

BSPS HERITAGE CHAMPIONSHIPS 2018

Wow, what weather it felt like 4 seasons in 2 days.

Saturday not just a warm wind but a howling gale with temperatures peaking at 24 degrees
Sunday not just cool and damp but nonstop torrential rain and the temperature in the car going home reading 4 degrees.

Wow, what a show competitors said “ my favourite show” “you just have to get on with it and ignore the weather” “the WHP courses jumped well in spite of the weather” “the best show of the year”

The problems with the weather started the evening before when the course builders were unable to build their courses however with the help of many sandbags and slight modifications to the courses; we were ready to start on time on Saturday morning. The whp classes were well filled, the gold cup classes (dressage and jumping) proved popular, likewise the sports pony, the novice, the restricted, the training stakes and the performance class (no conformation) I hope the show offered jumping classes to suit everyone.

The flat classes were equally well supported, with again a full range of classes through from novice to Olympia qualifiers. The new in hand classes perhaps could have been better supported by entries on the day if the weather had improved. How wonderful to see our native breeds in large numbers gracing the rings. I particularly felt mesmerized to see in the ring 17 Fells filling the ring with grace and beauty performing with ease to prove what a good riding pony they can be.

The Olympia classes of course were the jewel in the crown sponsored by LeMieux with large numbers forward. The semi-final for Dartmoor, Exmoor and Shetland had 31 entries; the breed qualifying round for Connemara ponies had 22 entered. The competition was tense without aggression, a lovely atmosphere the qualifying ponies and riders were well supported by their fellow competitors as only heritage riders seem to do. Those qualifying displayed mixed emotions, laughter screams, I could not tell tears from raindrops but there was no doubt they were there. The classes were watched by large crowds adding their shrieks and cheers for the winning combinations. I am sure what encouraged the spectators to stay and watch was Paul Cook’s live commentary particularly at presentation time with background reports on the ponies seasons’ achievements, the judges comments were very interesting and much appreciated.

At the end of a very wet day it was time for the Supreme Championships. Understandably there were not many spectators present. However, the competitors were there to provide the different judges considerable challenges as ponies performed with unbelievable accuracy, suppleness and agility once again proving that the native pony has a lot to offer the modern day rider.

The Supreme ponies were

Mini Supreme – Blisland Echo - Rider Cate Kerr

Young Riders Supreme – Walstead Guinness – Rider Annabel Drake

Overall Supreme Champion – Colby Silver Sprite – Rider Samantha Roberts

Another Heritage Championships is over, a big thank you to everyone who was involved with the running of the show. especially the stewards in the rings, who give their time voluntarily. They remained at their post whatever the weather fired at them until the bitter end. I do hope everyone reports for duty next year.

PETER EMMERSON
(Chairman Heritage Championships)

CHAIRMAN OF AREA CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2018

This has been my first year in the privileged role of Chairman of Area Chairman. I must firstly thank Joanne Pybus for holding the reins until I was able to take over last November.

There are two Area Chairman's meetings a year held in May and November. The Area Chairman and their Committee of dedicated helpers are an important part of the BSPS so please let them know if you have any ideas, grievances or suggestions which you would like discussed at those meetings. Feedback from the Championship Shows is taken seriously, and changes do occur following this feedback.

One of the major topics of discussion is Amendments to the Rules. Some are welcome whilst others not so much. All changes are discussed in detail and the findings are relayed to Council.

The Area Chairman and their Committees work tirelessly to provide shows and training days and in particular the promotion of the Young Judges competition at the Summer Championships. This is a fabulous competition and the training offered in professional yards is second to none. Please take advantage of this. It really is a wonderful competition and pathway for future judges.

I do hope your Area points and awards parties have been a success. A lot of hard work goes into the organisation of these parties and my thanks go to the Area Chairman and their Committees for this and everything they do throughout the year.

Happy Showing in 2019

BARBARA WHITE
(Chairman of Area Chairman)

BSPS SCOTTISH BRANCH LTD CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Summer 2018 was a very good summer with beautiful weather and nice temperatures, although quite hot for ponies, but it did give us some lovely Show days.

Next week is half term and we have a brief halt to our Shows as some families choose to go on a pony free holiday for a change. No doubt lots of new animals will be waiting in the wings to attend their first show, in fact our Workers have their first show the following weekend to give our members another outing before the short days of Winter are upon us.

The Branch has had a very good year with lots of new Members and ponies in all Sections, we are very glad to see lots of little jockey's starting on the BSPS pathway and look forward to following their progress throughout the years ahead.

I would like to congratulate all Scottish Members on their successes throughout the year. It was wonderful to see Kirsty Aird winning the 133cm M&M WHP, and the 143cm M&M WHP classes at HOYS and then going on to take HOYS M&M WHP Champion and Hannah Sloan taking 1st in the Intermediate WHP for the second year in a row and then becoming Reserve Champion. Zara Weir was Supreme and Worker Champion at the BSPS Summer Champs while Amelia England won the Gold Cup at the Show The WHP Team came 2nd in the Inter Country competition.

Scottish Branch Chairman's Report Cont

Our affiliated shows are holding steady and I continue to urge all our members to support all the Shows where possible. Our points Competition is running smoothly and hopefully this will keep entries coming into our Shows. The M & M classes continue to grow, and the standards of these classes is now of a very good level. I do believe that plaited Show Ponies are making a bit of a come back so I am looking forward to seeing more of these animals next year. The WHP numbers have taken a hit across the board this year, I do hope entries improve in 2019 as this section has always held up in the past.

Sadly, we did not manage to put forward a Young Judges Team this year, but I must thank Karen Slight for coaching our members. I do believe we might have a Team next year as some of our young people will be the correct age to enter. Thank you to the parents for their support and driving many miles to the Training events.

Our Showing season has been very busy. It started with the Warm Up Show at Muirmill where we ran more classes than in previous years and entries to the Show were up again. This show is very popular, and all members and non-members gain a lot from the training aspect of the Show. My thanks to Margaret Smith for organising and helping to run this event, next year our Secretary Elaine will be in charge.

Our Training Day was well supported but the terrible "Beast from the East" meant that some people were unable to get to event. Hopefully next year the weather will be kinder, and all places will be filled when we hold it once again at Muirmill EC. My sincere thanks to Helen Outram for organising this event.

The Summer Show was once again held at Highfield at Howe EC, thank you to Peter Page for organising and running this event. Entries were very mixed, and some sections were not so well filled, especially the WH ponies. We need more of our members to support this show. Next year Kelda Stewart will co-present this show with Peter and we are hoping for better filled classes as we have changed the date of the Show so that it runs before the Highland Show.

The qualifying classes for the Nursery Stakes at the Highland Show ran well and most of the qualified ponies competed at the show. Next year we have one more qualifying class at Kilmaurs Show so that opens up more chances for all ponies competing.

The WHP jumps continue to be a major challenge for us. We have finished up-grading our cup system and only one trailer was hired out this year, that trailer is stored at Alex Bankier's home and the other is stored with myself. After much discussion it has been decided that for 2019 we will be hiring a set of jumps for our Spring and Finale Shows as it has proved impossible to get help to load and unload our own trailers. We will retain our jumps until we are sure that this system is successful. If any Shows wish to hire our jumps they will have to go to Alex Bankier's home to collect them and then return them again after their Show.

A huge thank you to Graham Barclay for his continuing support and excellent course building and to Stephen Cowan who also builds the Show jumps for the Burghley and Gold Cup classes at our Spring and Finale Shows.

Scottish Chairman's Report Cont

The Finale Show was again held at Morris and it was a great success. Entries were up, and the atmosphere was electric at the Evening Performance. It is indeed the jewel in our Crown. Standards were high, and our Competitors had their ponies looking magnificent, so well done to all. The glitz and glamour gives our members a lovely way to finish their show season and the Gold Cup show jumping puts us all on the edge of our seats. Sincere thanks to Mandie O'Donnell the Show Convenor and Elaine Smillie, Secretary, well done to you both.

I would like to thank our Sponsors for supporting BSPS Scotland, without your assistance we would not be able to give our Members the awards that they deserve. Sponsorship is essential to the growth of our Branch and I urge you all to look towards new Sponsors for the future.

The Points Award Dinner Dance was once again held at the Westerwood Hotel, Cumbernauld and we all enjoyed a wonderful evening. The photo booth was hugely successful, and many happy pictures appeared during the evening, the booth will once again be at this years Dance. It was wonderful to welcome Pat and Terry Pattison to our evening where Pat very kindly presented the prizes. Pat is our National Chairman and I think she really enjoyed meeting many of our Scottish Members. Sincere thanks to Pat for her support. I must also thank Helen Outram for organising the event, she has organised the Dance for a very long time and I am grateful to her for the tireless work she does for BSPS Scotland.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our Judges and Stewards for continuing to give their time to support BSPS Scotland.

Our Winter season is already underway as I have mentioned, details and dates for next year will be available on our website, which has been upgraded and now contains all the details of our events.

Elaine has completed her first year as Secretary and my sincere thanks to her for such a wonderful job. She works many hours to complete our tasks and still has a smile to greet any competitors at our events. All her office systems are now up and running and our paper trail is less than ever. Thank you, Elaine, for the effort and support you give our Society. I would also like to thank all my Directors for giving their time to attend Meetings and their support at our Shows and Events over the year.

This year BSPS Scotland has grown and developed with remarkable success. I am proud to be involved and strive to provide a stepping stone for our competitors to embark on their journey of life. I look back with great satisfaction and forward with anticipation of what's to come.

JOYCE COLTART
(Chairman of Scottish Branch)

QUALIFYING SHOWS REPORT 2018

Following my meeting at Head Office, I put my recommendations to Council based on the reports received from all the qualifying shows. I am pleased to say that the number of adverse comments from the 2018 shows were minimal. I would also like to take the opportunity of thanking all those who prepared reports from the shows, I do need quality information especially numbers entered and numbers forward. The reporters were also able to send these in by e- mail.

The RIHS qualifiers were allocated once again on as fair a basis as possible and any new shows requesting qualifiers, I have tried to accommodate accordingly. The Pretty Polly SHP qualifiers have been split into small and large and again, these have been allocated accordingly. Unfortunately, there are restrictions as to the total number of qualifiers that we are allowed to allocate. The RIHS is being held in 2019 at Hickstead from 23rd to the 28th July. If you have never been then it is well worth the visit and many members tell me that it is one of their favourite shows (apart from our own Championship shows!).

By the time you read this, we will have completed the eighth BSPS Heritage classes at Olympia with a fantastic line up of 40 ponies qualified. The format for 2019 will be the same successful formula with the champion from the 10 direct shows qualifying. I have changed 2 of these direct qualifiers, BSPS Wales taking over from Pembroke County and Westmorland County taking over from the BSPS Scotland Finale show. No doubt it will still mean that all the top-quality Mountain and Moorland ponies in the UK will want to qualify for this prestigious competition either at the direct qualifiers or via the semi-finals or breed classes at the BSPS Heritage Championship show in October. The Heritage show is going from strength to strength, 2018 being no exception with excellent entries and an exceptionally friendly atmosphere. Again, if you have never been to Olympia just before Christmas, it is quite an amazing experience!

Happy Showing in 2019!

SIMON RICHARDSON
(Qualifying Shows Representative)

REPORT OF THE JUDGES ASSESSMENT & CONFERENCE COMMITTEE 2018

Introduction

This report covers the work of the BSPS Judges Assessment & Conference Committee for 2018.

Committee

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking all my Committee members for all their hard work and dedication during 2018.

Judges Conference

The BSPS Annual Judges Conference also included our course builders, held at the Marriott Hotel on Saturday 2nd February 2019.

Judges are required to attend one conference on a 5-year cycle but as always, judges come more frequently than they are required to do so. Particular focus in 2018 was Working Hunter Ponies and courses and course building, each table discussed the DVD clips, marked them and these were discussed by the whole conference.

On behalf of the Society, I would like to thank all our judges and course builders for giving up their time and expertise to judge and course build for the Society in 2018.

Future Judges Training & Assessment Days

Future Judges Training & Assessment Day was held at Arena UK in February 2018.

This year we held assessment for Show Ponies, Show Hunter Ponies and Mountain & Moorland (Heritage) Panels.

Future Judges have to complete an application form outlining their knowledge and experience. It is highly recommended that candidates attend a training event on the morning of the Assessment in preparation for assessment.

Candidates for the SP/SHP Panel are required to assess a number of ponies judged as a Championship class, e.g. Show Pony and Show Hunter Ponies together. Candidates for the Heritage Panel Judge Class or Heritage Ridden Mountain & Moorland ponies.

Candidates are required to assess the pony's way of going and manners both within a group and during an individual show and then the pony's conformation and type, giving them marks to produce an overall result.

Candidates for the Working Hunter Pony Panel judge a mixed height working hunter pony class, which also requires them to walk the course and pick up course building errors.

Candidates come forward to a senior assessor where their marks and placings are analysed, and individual ponies brought forward for an in-depth discussion. This is followed by a rules and dilemmas interview.

Candidates are then advised of their results at the end of the day. Not all candidates pass the assessment whilst others will be required to undertake a number of Future Judges appointments over a 1 year period.

If reports are acceptable, candidates will then go onto the main judging panel.

Future Judges Assessment now take place on a Sunday only, with a Training event in the morning. Assessments will alternate bilaterally with the next Show Pony, Show Hunter Pony and Heritage Mountain & Moorland assessment in **2020** and **Working Hunter Ponies in 2019**. Next year **potential Course Builders** will also be invited to come for assessment.

Assessment & Conference Committee Report Cont

Future Judges will be required to have completed three stewarding appointments at BSPS Shows and if, going forward for WHP Panel a course building training appointment also. We also engage Future Judges to observe / stand-in with a Senior Judge to gain experience subject to a confidentiality agreement before being accepted for assessment. To undertake this programme candidates will need to be members of the BSPS.

Judges Panel

The Judges Panel is reviewed annually. A number of judges have decided to retire from the panel and on behalf of the Society I would like to thank them for their contribution to the Society over many years and hope to see many of them at shows for years to come.

Young Judges

The Society has continued to run a Young Judges Competitions. A team and individual competition at the Summer Championship Show, judging a Supreme Championship of Show Ponies and Hunter Ponies.

I am extremely grateful for the very hard work of Dawn Christie who organises and oversees this competition. The event is sponsored by The Showing Journal who give a subscription to the winning individual and team. Prizes for the top 3 in the team and individual and Best Turned Out Team were sponsored by Jean Andrew.

I would like to take this opportunity in thanking all the BSPS Areas for the effort they put into training the young judges and for the standard of turn out at the final and our leading producers for holding training events at their yards throughout the year.

Summary

This has been a very busy year for my Committee. As always, I am accessible for judges and members alike to contact me with any queries or issues so please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Dates for your diary

Saturday 2nd February 2019 BSPS Judges Conference - Marriott Hotel Leicester

If you are a BSPS and NPS judge next year, Judges Conference (2019) will count for NPS also. The 2019 conference will focus on judging will be .

Sunday 10th February 2019

Future Judges Training & Assessment – Arena UK-
Working Hunter Ponies and future Course Builders
Assessment.

PAUL COOK

Vice Chairman, BSPS

(Chairman, Judges Assessment & Conference Committee)

CHEF d'EQUIPE REPORT 2018

Once again the number and quality of applicants for the England WHP teams far exceeded our expectations. This is a wonderful situation to be in as a selector but quite rightly leads to much deliberation and debate. We could have had four or five very competitive teams we were so spoilt for choice. There are some very talented young people in our society who work very hard to produce ponies to their absolute maximum ability. Well done all of you.

It was great to see teams from all the home countries taking part, leading to a wonderful competition. The Irish as always had some very good ponies and jockey's they are certainly the team to watch for the future. Wales had two very strong teams posting some excellent results, but as in recent years it was the Scottish teams that proved to be the strongest competition. Their strength in depth was evident when some of their strongest combinations of the last few years were not on top form, their newer members stepped forward. The final result was very close but England Aintree came out on top. Very well done to them.

It is very satisfying to see such fierce competition played out in such a wonderful spirit of camaraderie.

My thanks as always to my trusty "wingman" Joanne Griffin, who brings some sanity to what can sometimes be a tense and uncertain time.

PHILIP HILTON
(Chef D'Equipe)

