

MINUTES OF THE NEWC GENERAL MEETING



Date: 23 November 2021

Start time: 10.00am

End time: 1.05 pm

Location: Zoom

Present

Dr David Marlin	NEWC President	Sarah Hollister	HorseWorld Trust
Carolyn Madgwick	NEWC/The Horse Trust	Dionne Schuurman	Lluest Horse & Pony Trust
Claire Gordon	NEWC/World Horse Welfare	Rhian Hubbard	Lluest Horse & Pony Trust
Hannah Bryer	NEWC/The Donkey Sanctuary	Shannon Brady	Lluest Horse & Pony Trust
Ruth Court	NEWC/Blue Cross	Abi Smart	Mane Chance Sanctuary
Dr Carol Hall	NEWC/Nottingham Trent Uni	Syra Bowden	Mare & Foal Sanctuary
Gemma Stanford	NEWC/The British Horse Society	Gillian Gratton	Mare & Foal Sanctuary
Kirsty Withnall	NEWC/RSPCA	Liz Morgan	Margaret Green
Dr Rachel Kay	NEWC	Abbie Cook	Margaret Green
Giles Webber	ADCH	Madge Taylor	National Pony Society
Ed Bracher	RDA	Helen Lacey	North Wales Horsecatch
Anna Collins	Maktub Consulting	Sarah Holton	Racehorse Owners Assoc
Dr Amber Batson	Understand Animals	Lynn Cutress	Redwings Horse Sanctuary
Alex Shaw	Greatwood	Philippa Gilmore	Retraining of Racehorses
Helen Yeadon	Greatwood		RDA UK
Kim Ayling	World Horse Welfare	Bryony Lancaster	R(D)SVS
Justine Harrison	ABTC	Andy Foxcroft	Safe Haven for Donkeys
Frances Lloyd	Ash Rescue Centre	Bernadette Langfield	Shy Lowen
Jenny Rogers	Ash Rescue Centre	Nicolina Mackenzie	South Essex Insurance Brokers
Vicki Alford	Blue Cross	Sophie Cookson-King	The British Horse Society
Maria Kavanagh	Blue Cross	Dawn Avery	The British Horse Society
Rosanna Elliott Hart	Bransby Horses	Lydia French	The British Horse Society
Rachel Jenkinson	Bransby Horses	Cathy Hyde	The British Horse Society
Kerry Wainright	British Connemara Pony Society	Jenna Goldby	The Donkey Sanctuary
Georgina Dale	Dartmoor Livestock Protection Soc	Mark Avison	The Horse Trust
Carol Morse	Donkey Breed Society	Jan Rogers	The Horse Trust
Jenni Nellist	EBTA	Caroline Turnbull	The TBA
Catherine Bell	EBTA	Julie Burrows	Thornberry Animal Sanctuary
Jane Myers	Equiculture	Susan Walker	Thornberry Animal Sanctuary
Elaine Tasker	EMW Sanctuaries UK	Rowland Michell	Welsh Pony & Cob Society
Liz Pharaoh	HAPPA	Chris Shaw	World Horse Welfare
Tracy Heaton	HAPPA	Jon Phipps	World Horse Welfare
Amanda Berry	HAPPA	Alana Chapman	World Horse Welfare
Nicola Endersby	Here 4 Horses	Guy Reynolds	Worshipful Co of Farriers
Kate Nottage	Horse Rescue Fund	Tony Tyler	World Horse Welfare
Sharon Howell	HorseWorld Trust	Steven Gale	World Horse Welfare

1. Welcome and apologies

Claire Gordon (CG) welcomed attendees and thanked all members and speakers for joining the meeting.

Apologies were received from:

Nic de Brauwere	NEWC/Redwings	Linda O Hare	North Wales Horsetwatch
Dr Mark Kennedy	NEWC/RSPCA	Caroline Johnson	Oak Tree Animals Charity
Peter Hepburn	ADCH	Vickie John	The British Horse Society
Jim Green	BARTA	Claire Sheppard	The TBA
Sue Gillingham	British Connemara Pony Society	Meirion Davies	Welsh Pony & Cob Society
Siobhan Lord	EMW Sanctuaries UK	Claire Shand	Westgate Labs
Sarah Jane Williamson	Mare & Foal Sanctuary	Penny Baker	World Horse Welfare
Rebecca Sherrell	Mare & Foal Sanctuary	Sam Chubbock	World Horse Welfare
Linzi Green	The Moorland Mousie Trust		

Attendees reviewed the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 11th May 2021. The draft minutes were accepted by attendees as a true and accurate reflection of the meeting, proposed by Ruth Court (RC) and seconded by Gemma Stanford.

CG expressed thanks to Bransby Horses for their continued support with the NEWC finances and accounts. Thanks were also extended to Bransby Horses, The British Horse Society, The Donkey Sanctuary, Horsetworld Trust, The Horse Trust, Blue Cross, HAPPA, Mare and Foal Sanctuary, The RSPCA, Redwings and World Horse Welfare for their financial support that enables NEWC to employ an Executive Secretary to help deliver its 5-year strategy.

Summary of NEWC activities

- Dr Carol Hall (CH) and colleagues from NEWC member organisations published a research paper from findings of the AWRN-funded NEWC workshop 'How happy is the equine athlete?' held in March 2021.
- A new membership category has been created for educational establishments with an equine focus to connect education and welfare sectors and reach out to students as potential future horse-owners.
- NEWC welcomed eight new member organisations in 2021: The Dean Farm Trust, Cavalier Centre (Perry RDA), The HUGS Foundation, Dartmoor Pony Heritage Trust, Hopton Rehab and Homing Centre, The Moorland Mousie Trust, Equine Market Watch Sanctuaries (UK) and the Animal Behaviour and Training Council (ABTA).
- Homes were found for ~400 equines following the conclusion of long-running prosecution cases in 2021. CG extended thanks to the organisations involved with the intake, rehabilitation and rehoming of the equines through their centres.
- NEWC attended the British Farriers and Blacksmiths Association members' event at Stoneleigh in Oct 2021 to engage farriers with welfare support. Feedback from the survey of farriers attending the event will be available soon. CG thanked the member organisations who attended the event and helped to man the stand.
- The NEWC Rehoming Network Group held a successful workshop in October 2021 with over 40 attendees discussing lessons learnt from the implementation of virtual home checks and rehoming visits throughout the pandemic. Syra Bowden from Mare and Foal Sanctuary has kindly agreed to support RC as Vice-chair of the Network and members are encouraged to put forward suggestions for topics to feature in future workshops.
- CG encouraged members to make use of the directories on the NEWC website to upload details of job/volunteer vacancies, equines available for rehoming and to advertise forthcoming events.
- In partnership with the Elise Pilkington Trust, NEWC is aiming to host a virtual Grant Writing workshop in 2022 to offer support to smaller member organisations in applying for grant funding. If any members are interested in attending the workshop please email details to info@newc.co.uk.

2. **Kim Ayling, Senior Public Affairs Officer, World Horse Welfare**

- **Equine ID** - A Defra consultation is expected imminently to address gaps in the current Equine I.D. legislation. Scotland is discussing the registration of all equine premises and tracking of equine movement. The British Horse Council are working towards aligning equine legislation across the UK.
- **Transport for slaughter** - there is an opportunity to engage with Defra on The Animal Welfare (Kept Animals) Bill to discuss border control measures to prevent equines from being transported for slaughter.
- **Licensing of sanctuaries and rescues** - Defra has committed to a consultation, and Wales has promised to include a consultation in the recent Animal Welfare Plan for Wales. Scottish local authorities, sanctuaries and rescue centres are awaiting guidance on the implementation of licensing legislation which is now in force.
- **Animal Welfare during Transport** – workshops will be set up in 2022 involving Defra and the devolved administrations to work out what can be done to improve this legislation.
- **Fireworks** – Scotland has consulted on fireworks earlier in 2021 and promised to bring forward a Bill that will further restrict the sale and licensing of fireworks in 2022.
- **Covid-19** – an impact survey will be released in 2022 to identify where the sector might need support and to feedback to Defra.

3. **Dr David Marlin, NEWC President**

David provided an insight into his experience at Toyko 2020 from an equine welfare perspective. The FEI issued educational material and 'best practice' guidance for competitors including advice on preparation for transport, transport and management of horses during the Games. Of key importance was the consistency and repetition of information via multiple channels to avoid mixed messaging. Horses were allowed to rest and recover during 'quiet' periods in the afternoon and were afforded some group turnout where possible. Competitions were scheduled for early morning/evening to avoid excessive heat and shaded facilities were provided for shelter. David is involved in ongoing discussions with officials for the Modern Pentathlon and hopes to achieve a positive influence on horse welfare between now and Paris 2024.

4. **Dr Carol Hall, NEWC Director/NTU Senior Visiting Research Fellow**

- **The impact of different grazing and management systems on equine welfare** – NEWC Research and Education Group is starting to gather evidence for the advantages/disadvantages of different systems. NEWC members are invited to present information on their experiences of different systems at the next meeting on 01/12/21.
- **NEWC/EAA update** – NEWC aims to compile a Code of Practice for equines involved in EAA. Anyone interested in contributing to the development of the guidance is invited to contact carol.hall@newc.co.uk.

SPEAKERS

5. **Ed Bracher, RDA Chief Executive, and Anna Collins, Director of Maktub Consulting Ltd**

Ed provided an overview of the vision for the Human Equine Interaction Register (HEIR) which aims to bring together people involved in the sector and to ensure high-quality service provision and greater awareness of the scheme. Anna gave an update on the themes that emerged from the consultation process and progress with the register which is due to launch in January 2022. NEWC will be involved in consultation with HETI on the requirements for registered providers to meet minimum standards for equine welfare and management.

6. Helen Yeadon, Greatwood Charity Co-Founder

Helen provided an insight into the origins and development of Greatwood Charity, its evolution into education provision, and the experience gained/benefits of their group housing systems.

Alex Shaw, Greatwood Education and Wellbeing Lead

Alex gave an overview of Greatwood's 'Horsepower' educational programmes using ex-racehorses, which are formed around the five welfare needs. The sessions, aimed at pupils of primary and secondary school age as well as adults, address a range of topics including human and animal health, emotions, teamwork and communication skills, confidence-building, wellness and well-being as well as body language and behaviour in humans and animals.

7. Dr Amber Batson, Understand Animals

Amber presented a summary of research on 'alternative' grazing management systems which are increasingly popular and often driven by concerns over obesity/laminitis and other health issues such as colic. A simplified way of assessing equine welfare on 'alternative' grazing systems is to consider access to friends, freedom and forage. Significant factors to consider to meet welfare needs include ground conditions, track width and the provision of enrichment stations, as well as the human impact of labour and cost implications.

8. Ruth Court, NEWC Director/Blue Cross Horse Welfare Manager

NEWC is proposing to introduce self/peer accreditation for equine-keeping members. Re-vamping the current system will allow for future-proofing, increased engagement/involvement/networking of members and alignment with the ADCH model that has been generously shared with NEWC. Plans involve moving to a numerical grading format for minimum standards with assessment on a bi-annual basis and a director visit every 3-5 years. NEWC directors will continue to carry out initial site visits for new member applications. Members are invited to participate in a working party to devise minimum standards and develop operating procedures, please contact ruth.court@newc.co.uk.

Any other business

- CH informed members that NEWC is targeting membership to educational providers at FE/HE level. Members with links to educational establishments are encouraged to recommend NEWC membership and forge collaboration on improvements to equine welfare. NEWC is also planning to offer student supporter status on an affordable subscription basis. Suggestions from members are welcome for any mutual benefits that can be offered for students such as project work, volunteering/placement/career opportunities etc.

- World Horse Welfare has formed an impact group to look at environmental sustainability within the Charity. Members are invited to share their ideas/experience from similar initiatives to improve sustainability as a sector.

- Rowland Michell MRCVS, representative of the Welsh Pony and Cob Society, informed members that the Society has an Education and Welfare Committee, an honorary vet and a welfare officer. Rowland emphasised the importance of breed societies joining NEWC as they have a duty of care to promote education and welfare.

- Kerry Wainright from the British Connemara Pony Society raised the potential welfare implication of reducing minimum age limits for foals entering market sales which could impel breeders to foal earlier in the season during unsuitable conditions. Steven Gale (World Horse Welfare) suggested that including foals within equine I.D. legislation may be a useful point to consider in the forthcoming Government consultation.

- HAPPA Equine Inspector, Tracy Heaton, updated members on recent activities including the intake of eight Arab horses and current seasonal fundraising activities.

- Bryony Lancaster, University of Edinburgh MSc Equine Science Programme Director, is looking forward to working collaboratively with NEWC, The Horse Trust and SRUC on EAA research activities in 2022. Bryony informed members that there is an online Equine Grass Sickness course available for anyone interested in logging CPD hours. The course includes downloadable resources, information on the latest research, effective nursing and rehabilitation of chronic cases.

Meeting closed at 1.05 pm.

Date of next meeting

Annual General Meeting, Spring 2022 – date and location TBC.