

MINUTES OF THE NEWC GENERAL MEETING



Date: 19 November 2019

Start time: 10.30am

End time: 3pm

Location: HAPPA, Shores Hey Farm, Briercliffe, Burnley BB10 3QU

Present

Nic deBrauwere	Chairman NEWC/Redwings
Claire Gordon	NEWC Vice Chair/World Horse Welfare
Ruth Court	NEWC Director/Blue Cross
Ryan Rouse	NEWC Director/Bransby Horses
Hannah Bryer	NEWC Director/Donkey Sanctuary
Carol Hall	NEWC Director/Nottingham Trent University
Loni Loftus	NEWC Director/Equine Behaviour Consultant
Carolyn Madgwick	NEWC Director/The Horse Trust
Rebecca Johnson	Blue Cross
Nicole Fahy	Blue Cross
Rosanna Hart	Bransby Horses
Victoria Elliot	Bransby Horses
Helen Horsfall	British Connemara Pony Society
Jenni Nellist	EBTA
Jane Myers	Equiculture
Suzanne Green	Greenway Veterinary Services
Amanda Berry	HAPPA
Tracey Capper	HAPPA
Liz Pharaoh	HAPPA
Sophie Kendrick	Hope Pastures
Leennie Martin	Hope Pastures
Suzi Tait	Hope Pastures
Rhian Hubbart	Lluest
Sally Burton	Mare & Foal Sanctuary
Syra Bowden	Mare & Foal Sanctuary
Madge Taylor	National Pony Society
Vicky Dobbin	Oak Tree Animals Charity
Caroline Johnson	Oak Tree Animals Charity
Philippa Gilmore	Retraining of Racehorses
Mark Kennedy	RSPCA
Beth Clements	RSPCA
Cathy Hyde	BHS
Gabrielle Madders	BHS
Gillian Carlisle	The British TB Rehabilitation Centre
Seema Ritson	World Horse Welfare
Becky Bedson	World Horse Welfare

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

Nic deBrauwere (NdB) welcomed and thanked all members for attending and HAPPA for hosting the meeting.

Julie Pharaoh-Gan, HAPPA Development Manager, welcomed attendees on behalf of HAPPA and invited nominations for the Ken Cranage Memorial Trophy 2020 to be submitted to HAPPA by 30.3.2020.

Apologies were received from:

Anna Gregory	Nottingham Trent University
Gilly Howard	World Horse Welfare
Sandra Mansell	ABRS
Iain Graham	British Showjumping
Georgina Dale	Dartmoor Livestock Protection Society
Carol Morse	Donkey Breed Society
	Horse Rescue Fund
Wendy Ahl	Safe Haven for Donkeys in the Holy Land
Claire Shand	Westgate Laboratories

2. Actions arising from previous meetings

2.1 Minutes of the NEWC AGM held on 3 April 2019

Attendees received and reviewed minutes of the AGM meeting held at HERO's on 3 April 2019.

Carol Hall (CH) requested correction: change NEWC Associate Membership category to Full Membership.

Minutes accepted by attendees as a true and accurate reflection of the meeting, proposed by CH, seconded by Ryan Rouse (RR).

2.2 Matters Arising

NdB welcomed Rachel Kay to NEWC as Executive Secretary. NdB announced the passing of colleague Chris House (MRCVS) and that there may be opportunity to honour Chris via NEWC in the future.

3. NEWC Director Updates

3.1 NEWC 5-Year Strategic Plan

CH summarised the NEWC Strategic Plan. Aims included: reducing number of unwanted equines; increasing public knowledge/perception of equine crisis; attracting wider membership; continued support of existing members. CH provided details of 'new initiatives': improve NEWC website and raise profile via social media; promote membership to Equine FE/HE providers; promote rehoming; identify/locate/map unwanted equines; develop Equine Research Network.

NdB reminded all that NEWC membership prices have increased and that several larger members kindly agreed to provide additional annual financial contributions: BHS, Blue Cross; Bransby;

HorseWorld; Mare and Foal Society; Redwings; RSPCA; The Donkey Sanctuary; The Horse Trust; World Horse Welfare.

3.2 NEWC Sub-Group Updates

3.2.1 Rehoming Network

Ruth Court (RC) presented overview of network aims: exchange plans/ideas; raise profile of rehoming; create better links; knowledge exchange; promote best practise. Workshop topics on: rehoming policies and packs; advertising; dealing with overweight horses/riders. Training days planned for future, possible topics include customer service, and human behaviour change training.

3.2.2 Research and Education Network

CH and Loni Loftus (LL) have submitted templates to group members for feedback/suggestions prior to meetings. Need to encourage equine FE/HE providers to join the network - students could conduct research projects on behalf of network members. NEWC can showcase CPD modules run by college/uni for equine industry staff. Raise awareness via showcase days to highlight work done in equine welfare sector. Next meeting is at Blue Cross in Feb 2020.

3.2.3 Crisis Planning

RR and Hannah Bryer (HB) gave overview of how NEWC membership helps with crisis management. Rescue centres are over capacity, collaboration via NEWC members is vital in maximising capacity across UK to accommodate equines in crisis. NEWC can showcase smaller organisations who don't benefit from media presence that bigger charities afford. NEWC delivers a professional image when representing members and provides unification in responding to press and dealing with public opinion. Opportunity for members to utilise skill sets from other NEWC members. Asked members to give details of resources, skill sets, equipment, marketing, facilities etc that they could provide to assist each other in times of crisis. Information held by NEWC to be regularly updated. Members encouraged to actively engage with others/NEWC.

3.2.4 Operational Partnership Working

Claire Gordon (CG) and Carolyn Madgwick (CM) visit members to help shape partnership with NEWC, understand what role members want to/can play in times of crisis. Situation is now so severe NEWC members must work as colleagues to lead the way in providing response and propose solutions to long standing crisis. CM asked what NEWC can do for members to get the most out of membership collaboration.

4. Speakers

4.1 Rebecca Bedson – World Horse Welfare Field Officer. Large scale equine welfare concern - coordinating the round-up of 160 horses by the M25 in Essex

4.2 Tracey Capper – HAPPA Field Officer. Her role at HAPPA and the Haworth Arabian stud case.

4.3 Suzanne Green BVM&S BSc MRCVS – Greenway Veterinary Services. Being an expert witness and the case vet at Haworth Stud.

5. Panel Q & A session with speakers and NEWC Directors.

Jenni Nellist (EBTA) asked what NEWC could do to assist smaller organisations in counselling staff for emotional burnout and trauma. RC suggested including topic in training session run by the Rehoming Network group. Jenni would put colleague (Debbie) in touch to offer assistance with the session.

6. Any Other Business

NdB asked members to contact NEWC if they can assist in rehoming horses for Sussex Horse Rescue who have between 100-130 horses they need help with.

Meeting closed at 3pm.

Date of next meeting

AGM April 2020 at The Horse Trust – date TBC.