

Miniature Horse Club Of Great
Britain

NEWS REVIEW

Spring Edition 2007



New Website
www.mhcggb.net

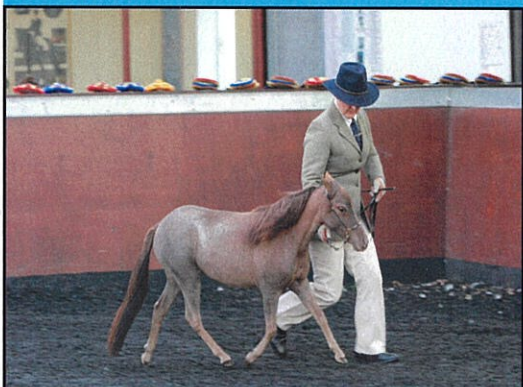
Members Photo Gallery



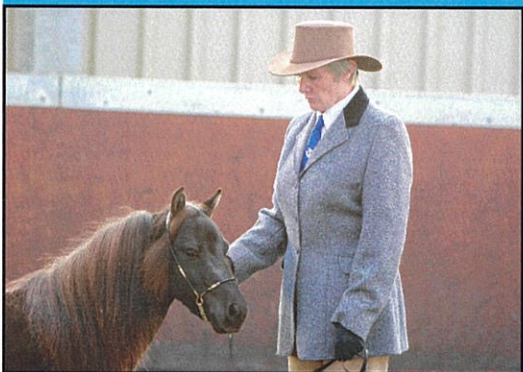
Supreme Dream Luckys
Royal Celebration Cham-
pion at The Linda Shanks
Memorial Show Owned and
shown by Jill Jones of
Supreme Dream Miniatures.



Asils Picasso who is MHCGB High Point
Champion 2yr old colt & High Point
Champion British Bred 2006. Picasso
amassed over 2000 points at Miniature
Horse Club shows throughout the year.
He obtained many wins in both Refined
classes & British Bred classes under a
variety of judges.



CDM Blaze Of Glory
Supreme foal of 2006 at
MHCGB Championship Show
owned by Cheryl & Eric Clark



Just to prove how strong these mini horses are!! This was Rebel's 2nd time in the cart, hence the lead rope going to Caroline (the brakes just in case!), but so far all is going well. Now I've got to work how to get 3 horses, 4 people and the cart to the show in one lorry? The cart isn't fancy like the posh ones others have, so you can't take it apart to transport it! Looks as if we'll have to start this week-end and drive him there! (Or leave it attached to him in the lorry?). I need a driving bridle if you know of any one who has one to sell. The one I use we got from the York sales and has been chopped down to fit but does look a bit tatty. Looking forward to seeing every one soon! Joan



Dear Members. Please send us
photos of your horses and we
will publish as many as we
can in the forthcoming issues

FRONT COVER

CELEBRATIONS LUCKY ROYAL OWNED BY CHERYL CLARK

If you would like your picture to be considered for the front cover of future issue's please send good quality pictures to the editor.
There is no charge

If you specify a cover request of a particular issue the charge is £75.00

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Advertising Rates

Front Cover can be requested for £100

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DEADLINE DATES:

Summer Edition	Jun/July/August	25/07/07
Autumn Edition	Sept/Oct/Nov	25/08/07
Winter Edition	Dec/JanFeb	25/11/07
Spring Edition	March/April/May	25/02/08

Check Out The Club Website For News Updates And Club Information

www.mhcgb.net

Presidents Letter

Dear members

Hello and welcome to our first magazine of 2007. We have had quite a few new members already this year, hello to you all and thank you for joining us. So we are off already to a positive start, Miniature Horse ownership is certainly on the increase.

The first show of 2007 is looming the newly located National Spring show now at Arena UK, Grantham. Hope you will be joining us. The schedule is on our website to download.

On the subject of the website, we have had a change of address we are now www.mhcggb.net please add this address to your favorites. We regularly update so please keep checking for new shows, news and our for sale lists. Schedules for all our area shows will be available to download for your convenience. Much better than the old days of stamped addressed envelopes!

You will see from the notice contained in the magazine we are increasing the height limit to 38" at shows other than area shows, which do have separate classes for Category B horses. We really want to encourage these taller horses into the show ring. As we all know there is no magic wand that stops these horses growing at 34" and it is such a shame that these horses are not used. They are often the better examples of show horses in miniature with much better horse proportion. So if you have a taller horse in your field, bring him out!

Don't forget our newly introduced Futurity class, details are in the magazine. Don't miss this opportunity to win a cash prize, the more horses we have entered the more we have to give away.

I'd like to also take this opportunity to welcome our new faces to MHCGB committee Joan Baker and Wendy Lees, Joan I'm sure you will know from her witty quips at our championship show as commentator. Wendy also you may have met at the shows showing her horse Conundrum gold Sparkle. Wendy is taking on the thankless task of MHCGB Treasurer.

Kind Regards
Jill Robinson
President

THE STORY OF DARKO

First of all let me tell you how the name Darko came about. Darko's official name is Sooner Anadarko. We used to live in Oklahoma, USA and we loved it there. So I choose the name Sooner for my prefix because Oklahoma is also known as the Sooner State. It was called this after the land rush. Anadarko is the Native Indian capital of Oklahoma.

When I started with my miniatures I planned to breed from them and during the summer of 2005 I took that step and decided to put one of my miniatures in foal. I sent Sally to stud at Jane Davenports and she was there for a couple of months. When she came back we didn't think she was in foal as she continued to have seasons. Then out of the blue we found that she was pregnant. We were very surprised but happy. We weren't sure of her due date, but thought it was around the end of July, so we planned our summer holiday to France.

Everything was going well. I had Sally examined by the vet on several occasions just to make sure she was ok. In May I started getting up a few times in the night to check on her. I hadn't had a miniature foal before and I didn't want to miss anything. I wasn't sure what to expect and I was constantly asking advice from other miniature horse owners and especially from Eileen Yaxley, a fabulous friend who knew about breeding.

One day, just before going to work, I noticed Sally wasn't quite right and when I went into her stable she was quite jumpy. I then noticed she had a lump in her side which looked like a foal's foot. I rang the vet who immediately came out. He said it looked like she had been kicked by one of the other horses. I doubted it, as Sally is the boss of the herd and the other's are quite frightened of her and kept out of the way. Anyway, the vet said to keep her in and keep an eye on her and to ring if she didn't improve. Two days later, she wasn't any better and the vet came out again. He then said he didn't think she had been kicked, and to turn her out for a little while to see if walking around would help to take some of the swelling down, but if she hadn't improved by Monday then he would send her to the Equine hospital. On the Saturday dinner time, (which was 3rd June,) when I was putting her back into the stable she had terrible diarrhoea. First of

all I thought it was the medication she was on for the swelling. I stood by the stable door just watching her and then she started getting down and rolling. She then looked like she was having a fit. I rang Eileen immediately and she said she was fine and was in labour. The next thing to look for was a white bag. I hung up on Eileen and watched. Luckily I had been reading up on foaling and the next thing I saw was a red bag. I knew this meant a red bag delivery and rang the vet. He said he was on his way and to keep an eye on Sally. I also rang my daughter, who only lives locally.

When my daughter arrived Sally was about to expel the red bag (placenta) and I thought the foal would be dead. Tracy, my daughter, then said to go and get some towels incase the foal was alive. Then the foal was being delivered but Tracy had to pull him out as he was stuck. By this time, I was back onto Eileen, who said to get the foal out of the sac and to check the foals mouth and to rub the foal. The foal was a colt and very nicely marked.



He was gorgeous. The vet arrived then and began to rub the foal vigorously. He said the foal was about 4 weeks premature and only kept alive as the sac and placenta was intact. He had 6 inch foal slippers and was very weak. The vet checked Sally and said she had no milk. He gave her an injection to get the milk flowing and said to just watch Sally with the foal and not disturb them and he would be back in an hours time to check on them. Sally kept kicking the foal with her front legs to tell him to stand up. He kept neighing and bless his heart, he kept trying to stand. He would stand for virtually seconds and then collapse. When he did stand up he was on his pasterns and not his feet.

Really, he would never have reached his mother's udder even if she did have any milk. The vet came back and checked Sally again and she still had no milk. The vet then said we would need some colostrum for the foal and he would go and get some. He also said to place rugs around the foal and keep him warm. By this time it was 9pm at night and he said we would have to feed him every hour all through the night until Sally started producing milk. We put our toy poodles coat on Darko and fixed up the stable next to Sally with our camp beds and just waited for the vet to return.

By this time Sally was pawing Darko too much and we had to keep stopping her. Darko had a cut on his leg caused by Sally pawing him.

The vet arrived at 11 pm with some colostrum and bottles. I had not prepared for this eventuality and didn't get any powder milk in or bottles. I know in future!!! We tried Darko with the bottle and luckily he had a sucking reflex, although not strong. He also couldn't stand up so Chris held onto Sally and I sat on the floor with Darko on my knee while I tried to get him to drink the milk. We then had to feed him every hour on the hour all through the night. We set up an alarm clock so we wouldn't miss a feed. Also the colostrum was quite thick and would not melt down. The vet said to slice it up and to add cow's milk until we could get some mare's powdered milk in the morning. This was 1am now. We then spent a very long night with our little boy. At 9 am the vet came back to see how we were getting on and gave Darko an injection incase of any infection. Darko seemed ok, not great but holding his own. He was quite cold so we put him on a hot water bottle and added another dog coat. Sally still didn't have any milk and was getting less interested in Darko.

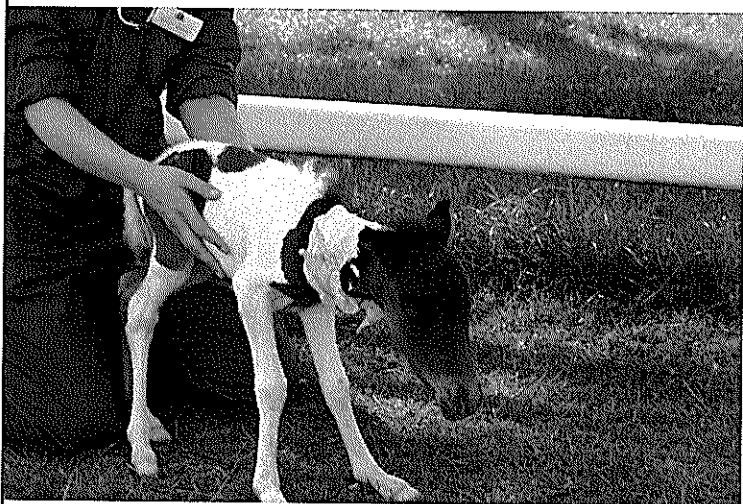
At 2pm Darko started going down hill fast. He became very limp with a very weak suckling reflex. The vet came out and decided he had to go to Leahurst Equine hospital as he might be a dummy foal. The vet had to phone in to see if they would take Darko. As it happened they said it was ok to take him and that Sean McCann, a foal specialist would be called in. So we loaded up Sally and Darko and set off to the hospital which took about 40 minutes. When we got there, I went to book Darko and Sally in. This being a Sunday, there was only a few staff in and Darko and Sally

were rushed off to start treatment. Darko had a catheter put into his neck and lots of blood taken. They also made a makeshift oxygen tent for him. Sean, the vet and his staff then worked on him for 3 hours. My daughter, husband and I just held Sally and watched them all work on Darko. I was then told there was nothing we could do and to go home. They wanted to know if I would like to be contacted if they thought he wouldn't make it, but we just said do what you can and to put him down if they thought it would be kinder.

We all went home leaving Sally and Darko behind. Every time the phone rang I thought it would be the hospital but I heard nothing all night. The next morning I rang the hospital and was told he was holding his own and I could visit him the next day. When I went to visit him, Sally was put in a paddock on her own because by now she didn't know she had a foal, although she didn't hurt him she just wasn't interested in him anymore. Darko was lay on a heat pad but the oxygen mask had gone. He was walking for about 3 minutes, although he walked on his pasterns. I couldn't believe he could stand! He was now drinking out of a bowl. The hospital prefers foals to drink from a bucket/bowl rather than a bottle so they don't inhale the liquid. Although Darko wasn't out of the woods he was much brighter. The hospital had given him a transfusion because he had no antibodies as he hadn't had any colostrum at birth. The amount we had given him wasn't enough. While Darko was in the hospital he had round the clock care. Darko stayed in the hospital for 5 days and then we were allowed to take him home. We were told he would have to live in the kitchen as he wouldn't survive in a stable just yet. We also had to feed him every couple of hours.

Darko had to sit on my daughters lap in the back of the Landrover because the vet didn't want him getting overheated. You can imagine people's faces when they drove up along side of us at traffic lights. Anyway on getting home we put Sally back with the other horses and put Darko in the kitchen. My husband went out to Toys'R'Us to buy a playpen to put him in. We then set up our camp beds in the lounge next door as this is where we would be sleeping for the next couple of weeks.

The milk I was using wasn't the right type and although Leahurst gave me enough for a couple of days we then set out trying to find some. I did find some mare's replacement milk eventually at a feed merchants an hour's drive away. So we stocked up on that.



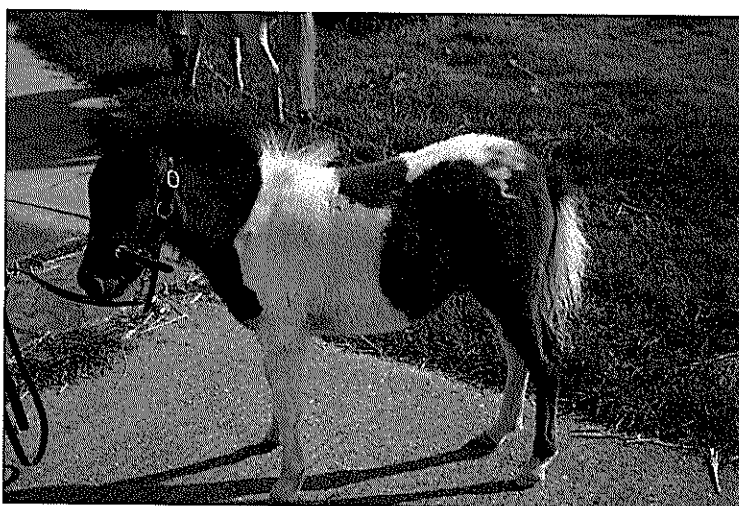
During the night my husband and I would get up to feed Darko and during the day we would put him in a pen outside in the shade. The first day he was fine, trying to jump around and was full of himself. The next day he started going down hill and was walking backwards. I called the vet who came straight out said he was very dehydrated and was going into organ failure. We were told he would die very quickly if nothing was done. At this time both my husband and I decided we would rather have him put down than send him back to the hospital. It had already cost me a fortune in vet bills and I just couldn't afford anymore time in the hospital. So, we had to feed him with glucose water drink every hour on the hour for the next 10 days. To get the glucose drink down him we had to syringe it into him because he wasn't interested at all. We were told getting him to drink milk wasn't as important, but we did manage to get some down him too. It took two of us to do it as Darko couldn't stand properly, so Chris held him up and I syringed the liquid into his mouth. I also had to inject him with antibiotics too. Luckily, or not, we should have been going to France for our holidays so we both had time off work. I don't know how we survived those next 10 days but we did and so did Darko. Then on the 8th day, I noticed Darko had one leg twisting out, the vet came again and said his legs were windswept and that he had to stay in the playpen with restrictive movement. He was also standing on

his pasterns and not on his hooves because he still had his foal slippers on. So, for the next 8 weeks Darko lived in our kitchen. We put dog pee wee pads on the floor and blankets and changed these every hour. We went through boxes of these things and we were washing blankets by the dozen.

When Darko was 8 weeks old we moved him to a stable, which is next to the house as we were still feeding him 24 hours a day but now it was every 2 hours during the day and 3 hours at night. He still had restrictive exercise until he was 4 months old and then he was allowed in a small paddock. We then had to introduce him to another horse, we decided it must be Sally. First of all we put Sally in the paddock next to his and eventually let them be together.

Now, you wouldn't believe he had a bad start in life. His legs are normal and straight and he is very colty. I have been told by Sean the vet at Leahurst that he will be harder to handle than a "normal" horse brought up by his mother.

I took Darko back to Leahurst just before Christmas and everyone that had treated him came out to see him. They were all amazed that he had lived. One of the professors, had taken a picture of Darko at 2 days old next to a shire foal of the same age and was very proud of it. He told me that everyone thought he had a 90% chance of dying and that Chris and I should be very proud of what we did.



Many thanks Anne for sharing Darko's story with us.

We look forward to seeing him at the Spring Show

What makes a Miniature Horse different from a Pony?

Many knowledgeable horse people and new comers often put this question to me. Those keen to learn more about miniature horses with a view to buy one or indeed to try to understand why one horse is placed above the other on type.

A Miniature Horse in my opinion, whatever its breeding should if you could imagine it scaled up resemble a given type of large horse. It should possess horse proportions and if refined in type should resemble a Thoroughbred, Arabian, Show Hack, Show Riding Horse or Hunter type. Draft types would perhaps resemble heavyweight cobs, Clydesdales, Suffolk Punch, and Percherons etc. Ideally if it were photographed without any background you would think it a large horse and not 34 inches or under.

How does a horse differ from a pony in characteristics other than size?

Head

To me a pony often has a less chiselled head than a horse, by this I mean that the cheekbones are less prominent and this is usually accompanied by a larger muzzle and thicker nostrils. The ears on ponies are generally smaller than those on horses. Indeed horses with small ears are often described by judges as being "a bit pony" in the head.

Neck

The neck of a horse in comparison is usually longer in proportion than that seen in the average pony and should not be thick or low set. Many ponies have necks that on the underside tend to go straight down into the front legs without a clearly defined chest. Whereas a riding horse should possess a refined tapering neck, not too cresty without a developed underneck and very importantly a well defined and elegant throat. The elegant throat would mean in a ridden animal that it would be able to flex and achieve cadence. Quite often a pony will have a thick throat, which would make this impossible. As already mentioned a clearly defined chest will add to horse characteristics when accompanied with an elegant sloping shoulder.

Body

Horses on the whole have much more defined withers than ponies. There are often saddle-fitting problems with ponies particularly small Native ones because they have no wither. Therefore a well-defined wither is required and because of this a less flat appearance to the back than many ponies have. The depth of heart room should be present in the horse as well as in the pony but the pony will undoubtedly possess a deeper body in relation to its length of leg than the horse will. They should both be short coupled.

Legs

I have mentioned that the horse will have a greater length of leg than the pony in relationship to his body depth. In addition a more horse like appearance is achieved by a slightly longer cannon bone than in the pony. I am not advocating long weak legs that are associated with things such as sickle hocks or back at the knee but a length seen in the Thoroughbred proportions rather than that seen in say the Connemara. Another aspect of the leg is that the knees should be quite small and neat to give a horse appearance, large round knees particularly adds to pony appearance. The pasterns should be elegant and sloping rather than short and upright. The feet should be in proportion to the leg and bone that the animal has.

Hind Quarters

The quarters should be in proportion to the rest of the animal and show quality in the refined horse, without showing weakness. The gaskins of a pony are often a little shorter in proportion than seen in the horse. The tail should be set high to give a horse appearance, many ponies particularly those of native blood have lower set tails and many do not carry them at all well.

Very importantly we look in the horse for a hindquarter that is level with or slightly lower than the height of the wither. Many ponies and this is seen a lot in the miniatures have hindquarters higher than the withers. Sometimes in the show ring this is disguised by standing the horse with his hind legs too far out behind him.

Movement

A horse will often move with an elevation and length of stride that a pony will not achieve, many ponies not tracking up. The hind leg of a horse should flex and drive the animal along, with a light forehand. Often ponies particularly the smaller ones move with a straight or stilted hind leg action with corresponding short choppy movement of the front legs. The ponies give an appearance of trotting into the ground rather than over it, being very on the forehand. This is not seen anywhere near as often in a horse, particularly a blood one and if seen instantly recognised by a horseman as indicating that the horse will be an uncomfortable ride, and to be avoided.

The above comparison is my opinion and I am sure that everyone will have his or her own thoughts on the subject. As a Painter and Judge of horses I have spent a long time looking at their anatomy and have had the privilege of having been commissioned to paint a vast variety of them. I have been involved with horses all my life and during the past 30 years I have successfully bred and produced top class Connemara ponies and eventers. Now as a breeder of Miniature Horses I try to identify the shortcomings in my stock so that I may selectively breed for the characteristics that I require in order to produce a miniature of true horse proportions.

Philip Matthews-Brown
Washbanks Miniature Horse Stud

NEW FOR 2007



MINIATURE PONY CLASS



As a result of members votes at the AGM we are pleased to announce that at our Club Shows we are introducing a miniature pony class, if we have sufficient entries this class will be split in age groups.

2007 FUTURITY SCHEME

The object of the scheme is to promote and reward financially top class Miniature Horse Breeding. The class is open to horses bred in the UK from parents of any breed or type.

Members may enter as many horses into the scheme on payment of the £10 registration fee as they wish. All money from applications will be entered into the 2007 prize fund to be distributed between 1st to 6th placed horses in the Futurity class at MHCGB National Championship Show.

All applications for the 2007 Futurity class must be received by the president by 31st May 2007 to be eligible.

Entry to the Futurity championship class at the national Championship Show is guaranteed and does not require further qualification.

MHCGB are pledging £300 to begin the prize fund. Therefore the initial prize fund starts at 1st £100, 2nd £75, 3rd £50, 4th £25, 5th £25 and 6th £25 and will increase depending on the number of participating horses on this share basis.

for this opening year applications can be made by both breeders and owners, the intention in future years breeders will enter foals as a statement of their belief in their breeding programmes and that futurity nominated horses come with added benefits of ownership.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

We have been asked by many owners of category B horses to cater for them at shows who host MHCGB classes. Unfortunately we are unable to get more classes at many of these shows therefore to meet your requirements we are opening up all classes at hosted shows to horses not exceeding 38". This gives more qualification opportunities for these horses to compete at our National Championship Show. Please note many shows have printed their schedules for 2007 they will state classes are open to horses 34" and under, please be aware your category B horse can now compete in these classes.

Show Dates 2007

21st April

MHCGB Spring Show & UK AMHA Show

Arena UK, Grantham, Lincs

29th April 2007

Hambledon & District RC,

Langdale Hall Stables,

Melsonby, North Yorkshire.

SAE to the Secretary Vicky Pape, Grange Farm,

Croft on Tees,

DL2 2TF

01325 720846

www.hambledonidistrictridingclub.co.uk

5th May

Area 3 National Championship

Qualifying Show.

Contact Jane Parker. (area rep)

e mail pp@conumdrum.fsworld.co.uk

6th & 7th May

(Please note miniature show day is the 6th)

Leicester County Show

Secretary Mrs Hardy - Smith, Dishley Grange Farm,

Derby Road, Loughborough, Leicestershire

www.leicestershireshow.co.uk

13th May

Chyverton Park,

Nr Zelah,

Cornwall.

Secretary

Cheryl Fox at The Old Mill, Blackwater ,

Truro,

Cornwall.

TR4 8EG

01872 561172

cheryl@country-rider.co.uk

7th to 9th June.

Royal Cornwall

Secretary

Christopher P. Riddle,

Royal Cornwall Showground,

Wadebridge,

Cornwall, PL27 7JE

www.royalcornwall.co.uk

16th June 2007

The North East Of England Summer Show

Beamish Park,

Co Durham

Send sae for schedule to

Mrs A Barton

74 Deerness Heights,

Brandon,

Co Durham

DH7 8TX.

17th June 2007

Area 6 National Qualifying Show

Clottergate Show, Chelmsford Essex

Secretary Mrs Hilary Saville

21 Sunrise Avenue

Chelmsford,

Essex CM 14 JN

17th June (date to be confirmed)

CUMBOOTS SHOW

at Cumboots Dairy Farm, Cumboots,

Scalby, Scarborough, YO13 0PQ

classes + Championship as qualifiers but other classes open to all

.Very good Bacon sandwiches and home baking.

Schedules SAE please to

T Squire

, Overgreen Cottage,

Overgreen Lane ,

Burniston,

Scarborough

YO13 0HY

Tel 01723 870563

24th June

Derbyshire County Show

Emma Rushton 50 Spencer Avenue, Sandiacre,

Nottingham, NG10 5DAE-mail

emma.rushton@ntlworld.com

30th June 2007,

Crowlands Show,

Lincolnshire

Jackie Henfrey,

Gull Farm,

Deeping High Bank'

Deeping St Nicholas,

Spalding.

Lincs PE11 3DY

14th & 15th July
West Wales Show
Incorporating the MHCGB Area 4 show
The Showground, Cothi Bridge, Nantgaredig, Carmarthen
Secretary Mrs M Scale, West Wales Shows,
Benton Farm,
Burton,
Milford Haven,
Pembs.
SA73 1PE

14th & 15th July
Durham County Show,
Penshaw, Durham.
Secretary CDAS PO Box 58,
Chester le Street,
Durham. DH3 3GB

15th July Ashby De La Zouch. Show
Secretary Mrs L A Ensor, Tithe Farm Livery stables,
boundary, Swadlincote, Derbyshire

15th July
British Driving Society Area Show
schedules sae
Mr D Faulkner
4 Maidens Road,
Sutterton,
Nr Boston
PE20 2JU

28th July
Area 5 show
Sheepgate Equestrian Centre,
Boston, Lincs
(Contact Area Rep Pat England .
marieabeel@msn.com)

29th July
Northern Counties Pony Association Leicestershire &
Rutland Branch open summer show.
secretary
Chris Graham,
25 Beverley Drive,
Kimberley
Nottingham

5th August
All Miniature Breeds Show
schedules can be downloaded from
www.aesthetestud.com

12th August
The Linda Shanks Memorial Show,
Penshaw Equestrian Centre,
Co Durham.
schedules sae please.
Miss J S Goudie
Greengarth
28 whitburn Road
Cleadon Village
Nr Sunderland
Tyne & Wear
SR6 7QP

August 26th 27th
MoorGreen Show,
secretary
Chris Graham,
25 Beverley Drive,
Kimberley
Nottingham

August 27th
Area 2 National Championship
Qualifying Show.
(formerly MHCGB Summer Show)
Preston Park, Yarm, Cleveland.
Secretary Catherine Marshall
(as spring show)

1 & 2nd September
Dorset Show
1 & 2nd September
Agriculture house, Acland road, Dorchester,
Dorset,
TS1 1EF
www.dorsetcountysshow.co.uk

8th September
National Championship Show.
Sheepgate Equestrian Centre, Boston,
Lincs.

Crealy shows
Secretary.
Miss C Cozens
43 Calvados Road,
Taunton,
somerset.
TS1 2LA
6 May, 3 June, 22 July, 9 September

Member in the Spot Light

I first fell in love with Miniature Horses many years ago when I saw them in a class at Royal Windsor Horse Show. I have been into horses all of my life and even when my children were born I still carried on with all my horsy duties. Even my children were roped in whilst growing up, they munched raw carrots behind the rain covers of their pushchairs, splashed in the yard puddles and built sand castles in the out door school. So with three children, eight dogs and several horses I already had quite enough to do of a day and with each new family edition that I added on an almost weekly basis my poor husband Garry would say quite firmly "now that's enough this is the last one you are having" Well the very next day a friend of mine phoned me to say she had found a Miniature Horse that she thought I would like. I was really excited but mindful of the words Garry had said only twelve hours earlier. I told her that to be honest I had got enough animals and that I wasn't interested if it was all the same to her to which she replied "he's spotted". Well that did it for me and off we went that morning with the trailer in tow to pick him up. It was that day that I met a lovely lady called Anita Chaney. She had a field full of these tiny magical creatures and they took my breath away. I could not believe my eyes and when I first saw my boy it really was love at first sight. He was seven months old with huge locks of multi coloured mane and a brightly spotted body. He had tiny "stick" legs and his face was marked like that of a tabby cat. Well needless to say I bought him home to join the "Bradshaw menagerie" of animals in Belericay Essex. Once home I started to panic a little on exactly what excuse I was going to have to give Garry on having yet another equine edition to the already large equine family we already possessed. When he came home from work I took him to the stable where my boy was standing happily munching at his haynet and told him I had bought myself a new spotty fur coat. He looked at my new addition turned to me and said "the flaming thing is still alive", with a wry smile I knew I had won him over yet again and that is how I got my first Miniature.

His show name is Asils Spot on but for his pet name I named him Zog. The Z is for Zebra because he has stripes as-well as spots, the O stands for Osilot owing to the fabulous markings on his tummy and the G is for Giraffe because of the square markings he has down the back of his legs. Zog has the most wonderful temperament and as a Colt he escaped from his field (something which he'd did quite frequently and was a master at) and let all of my rabbits (yes yet more Bradshaw family members) out of their cages. Needless to say once these fury little critters were free we never saw them again!!

I get asked on a frequent basis as to why I have had him Gelded? Even though he is simply stunning to look at his quality of life was very important to me. I feel I have given him a better quality of life since having him castrated in that he can interact freely with all of his equine friends. As a colt he could be quite "nippy" and seemed to fancy everything from the small pigmy goat we have through to the wheelbarrow!!

I didn't get him with showing in mind and the first show I took him to he was only a yearling. The judge at the show asked me to take him home as he didn't look old enough to leave his mother, needless to say that put me off of showing to start with. The following year he developed sweet itch and within only a few days had rubbed his mane completely away to a raw bleeding mess. It was extremely upsetting for all concerned especially Zog, however I had heard of Boett rugs, and the best thing since sliced bread. It certainly cured the problem and stopped the midges and fly's getting to my precious boy and once he had one became a happy chappy once again. Because of the sweet itch it meant that his showing career was on hold as I had to wait what seemed like an eternity for his mane to grow back. When I took him out again to a few local shows I seemed to get very mixed reactions from most of the judges. They either didn't know how to judge a Miniature Horse and we were last or they loved him and we won, either way there was no consistency. That was when I decided to pluck up the courage to take him to a fairly large show at Highlands Park in Chelmsford. Well what a day to remember, he won every class entered and stood reserve Champion to a horse that was being shown by Philip Mathews-Brown. Philip was very nice to me and very complimentary about my Zog and it was then we discovered that our horses were actually half brothers and I chatted with Philip all the way back to the lorry. After being bitten by the showing bug I decided to take Zog to Sheepgate Equestrian Centre championship show. I couldn't believe how friendly and helpful everybody was. They showed me the correct way to present my horse and advised me on what I needed to wear. To this show I had also bought along my Daughter, Emma who is thirteen years old. Like me she is totally horse mad and doesn't need any form of persuasion to help me where the horses are concerned. At the start of the day I didn't really understand the showing system and had absolutely no idea I would be qualifying for the evening performance.

Luckily I had bought my evening attire (thank you Janice) just in case. Emma and I had a fantastic day and looked at all of the rosettes that we had won with Zog however I kept eyeing up all the beautiful ribbons that were yet to be presented. I commented to Emma on how beautiful the Grand Champion Rosettes were that how they were the best I had ever seen and how luck someone was going to be to take them home. I said if I won one I would frame it and charge people to look at it!! Well how ecstatic do you think I was when Zog was crowned Grand Champion British Breed Miniature Horse in a very strongly contended class. And yes you guessed it I took home one of those fantastic rosettes and although I have framed it I only charge a small fee for a peek!! It truly made my day to see Anita at the side of the ring when we won and can only imagine how proud she had been to have bred such a superstar. What made our day extra special was that we were invited to the after show party with all of the other competitors and the show organizers. There was lots of fantastic food and drink, though I did feel guilty that I had not bought any as I didn't know about the party. However it was a perfect finish the more than perfect day especially for Garry who had been helpful, patient and had clapped all day until his hands were raw. He commented rather contently with a beer in one hand and a plate of food in the other "this showing lark isn't too bad, is it"!!

Well it doesn't end there because we also had fantastic results the following week at Arena UK. Emma won the puissance under the spot light in the evening performance and even though the jump was twice the size of Zog and well past Emma's waist they cleared it in fine style to a mass of clapping and cheering. Emma also handled a foal for Cheryl (of minara Halters who makes my showing halters) in a couple of evening classes and again everyone was really lovely and helpful.

Well needless to say I have acquired even more "fur coats" one being a palomino spotted stallion again bred by Anita, he is called Asils Storm and you will see him out and about this coming season. My other is a tiny seven month old filly whom I bought from a very good friend of mine Colin. He normally breeds coloured show and hunter ponies and owns the Millpond stud. This is the first mini he has bred and she is a real little cracker. Watch out for this one she is called Millpond Little Tulip (out of a former HOYS winner Birling Trump Card), she has already qualified for mini HOYS and Royal London on her first Attempt!! Zog adores her and thinks he is her mum! He has taught her to piddle in one corner of the stable like he does and she stands next to him on the little step I have made looking over the stable door.

It has been a fabulous year and I can't believe how lucky I have been last season. With the new season fast approaching I look forward to seeing you all again this year. Let's hope we have lots of new members and to anyone who doesn't think their mini is good enough to show, go and give it a go. I can't explain how fantastic it is and you can really enjoy your Mini's in the company of other Mini addicts and make lots of new friends at the same time. Oh and this year I won't forget to bring food and drink for the after show parties!!

Wishing you all a successful year

Happy Showing

Sue Bradshaw



Driving..... Balancing a Vehicle.

When driving it is vital that the vehicle should be balanced, and this article has been written to explain its importance when referring to a two-wheel vehicle. This essential requirement is often not mentioned in any Miniature Horse literature or videos that I have seen. Experienced drivers of larger horses and ponies know all too well about its importance. Considering the small stature of the Miniature Horse who is often driven by an adult it is unbelievable that more emphasis is not given to it.

What do we mean by Balance?

To gauge whether a vehicle is balanced the seat of the vehicle should be parallel with the ground, so the person or persons in the vehicle would be sitting upright. When the occupants are in the two wheel carriage and the shafts are at the correct height for the horse the carriage is in balance when the tip of the shaft can be supported on the fingers and is weightless or virtually so. Any movement forward by the occupants would make the shafts heavier and thus tip the vehicle forward and any leaning back would create the opposite effect. When a vehicle is in balance the horse carries no weight or virtually no weight on his back. In this way the horse simply pushes into the collar to move the vehicle and is not carrying vehicle or occupants.

As mentioned earlier simply shifting weight forward or by the driver leaning backwards can alter the balance. The former adding weight to the horse and shafts the latter tipping the vehicle backwards and increasing the weight bearing on the under belly of the horse. Any deviation from balance will affect the horse's performance. Of course as the horse moves along over uneven terrain the balance will be altering all the time but the more severe the imbalance the greater effect. There is no excuse for the vehicle not being balanced at the start on level ground.

How do we achieve balance?

Firstly it is essential that the vehicle is the correct size for the horse. We look at the height of the shafts at the tug stops measured to the ground when the seat of the vehicle is parallel with the ground. When the seat is level in this way it will be a comfortable ride for the driver or occupants. Ideally the tugs will be at a height roughly level with half way up the shoulder, so they will dictate the ideal height of the shafts for that particular horse.

If you place the shafts into the tugs up to the tug stops and then feel the amount of weight that is placed on the shaft tips. Now do the same with the person or people who will be in the vehicle and again feel the weight. When the vehicle is unoccupied a little weight should be felt on the shaft tips, which effectively means that the horse is carrying some of the vehicles weight. However when the driver is sitting in the vehicle in the correct position the shafts should become lighter and be said to "float" in the tugs.

Ideally your vehicle should be capable of accurately being balanced. Unfortunately, many popular vehicles designed for Miniatures have no ability to alter the balance. Given the size differential between Miniature Horse and adult driver this seems hard to believe. Whereas on vehicles designed for larger horses they are often fully adjustable. The seat can be moved forwards and backwards with precision, the shafts can be altered for height and width. Also many in addition will allow for repositioning of the axle as well.

I was told by one Miniature Horse vehicle manufacturer when I asked them how I could adjust the balance their vehicle to suit my horse, as they had told me that the same vehicle would suit anything from 29 inches to 36 inches in height, to adjust the tugs on my harness up or down if balance was important to me as no adjustment could be made to the vehicle. Surely this would result in the vehicle either tipping forwards or backwards, being uncomfortable for the driver and equally if not more uncomfortable for the horse. I was further surprised that they told me that they had never been asked about balance before.

So to balance a vehicle we can move the seat forwards or backwards to either add weight to the shaft end or make the shaft end lighter. We could move the axle if possible again forward to put more weight behind the axle to lighten the shafts or the opposite to achieve a little more weight on the front. We should be able to alter the height and length of the shafts to suit a variety of different height animals if we intend to use the vehicle on different sized horses. There is a huge difference between a 31-inch horse and a 34-inch horse even though it sounds very small. All of this should be done to avoid undue weight on the animal.

Personally, I prefer a vehicle for my Miniatures that I can adjust in the same way that I have adjusted vehicles that I have driven to my larger horses. As such I prefer the Mini two-wheeler, manufactured by Bennington Carriages, as it has all of the features that I require and more. It is new to the market and is increasing in popularity both here and in America. They are a long established British manufacturer of carriages and were extremely helpful when I ordered my vehicle and can be contacted on 01400 281280 for more information.

To Summarise:

To summarise then balance means that when the driver or occupants are sitting correctly in the vehicle there is very little or no weight bearing down or upwards on the horse. It is important to rebalance the vehicle if say you normally drive alone and then decide to take a passenger. The increased weight would seriously alter the balance. A Miniature horse should not be expected to carry the weight of part of the vehicle and occupant. Neither should it have to bear with pressure on the under part of its chest if the vehicle is tipping backwards and is only stopped from doing so by the bellyband on the harness.

You can see for yourself how the imbalance of a load can affect the weight and your effectiveness in moving a heavy load. Load a wheelbarrow with a heavy weight and place that weight in different positions in the barrow. Near to the handle end and then moved forwards to the opposite end. The effect on your arms will vary from almost carrying the entire weight to having to hold the handles down to prevent the barrow tipping up. Imagine the same effect on a miniature horse and when not in balance the effect it would have on performance.

If any readers require any further advice or questions arising from this article then please give me a ring on 01353 698498 and I will be happy to help if I can.

Area News

Jill Robinson: Area 2 Rep Tel 01642 534544 Email: mhcg2@aol.com

Hi everyone

You will have seen from the show dates that our usual area show, the Spring show has now moved to Arena UK. Hope that doesn't put you off, it's about a 2 1/4 hour drive and really easy to get to and a super venue. Our area show will now be the Summer Show at Preston Park, August Bank holiday Monday. Dates for local shows are starting to come in, they will also be published in the Riding Club and Pony Club dates in the Darlington & Stockton Times. So I think our first local show will be Vicky Papes at Richmond. If you know of any others shows who may want to host our classes please get back to me or Tracy Squire our show co coordinator. Keep warm everyone - looking forward to some better weather and starting to clip some horses.

Anne Deakin Area 2B Rep

My name is Anne Deakin and I have been involved in the horse world most of my life. I have mainly been into Working Hunter Ponies, Show Hunter Ponies and Show Jumping. For about 10 years I was Assistant District Commissioner for Haydock Park Pony Club. I first became interested in Minis when I lived in Oklahoma, USA, where I lived for 5 1/2 years.

My husband and I attended numerous shows and horse auctions held at the State Fairground, which included World championships for Morgan Horses, Reining, American Quarter horse and miniature horses. The World Miniature Horse show used to be held in Oklahoma before moving to Texas 6 years ago. When we returned to the UK, I set about trying to find a miniature horse to own. I bought my first two within a month of returning to the UK. I think Mini's are addictive and now I have four!!! I show mine with the help of my daughter, who is a BHSII riding instructor and my husband. We bred our first foal last year, which you can read about in the newsletter. This was an amazing experience and one I hope, we don't have on a regular basis!!! Anyway, I am going to try to hold some events for mini's in our area. Please let me know if you have any ideas.

Jane Parker. Area 3 Rep 01530 223594 Mob: 0777 3295 742 pp@conundrum.fsworld.co.uk

I am sitting here at coffee time, looking out onto a "spring" day, the sun is shining, the birds are singing and the flowers are leaping up, the temp is 11 degrees! It is January for goodness sake!! It's all wrong....I wish we were having a "proper" winter with cold wintry days and some bite to the weather. The horses that are up in the yard but not clipped have decided that it is time to throw off their winter woolies and moult....its too early I tell'em, but its not going to stop!

So now is the time to start to think about the 2007 show season, where we will go, who we will take. The Area 3 Qualifier will once again be held at Low Farm, Easton Maudit, Northants, a super indoor venue, with a great surface for driving as well as showing, lots of parking space and easy to find, so do mark us down, we will be having loads of classes and hopefully plenty of sponsorship. Date is Saturday 5th May. Something to think about if you want a great weekend of showing is that Leicester county show is holding its MHCGB classes on Sunday 6th May....so those of you who can stay over or live near enough have a terrific opportunity for a wonderful weekend of Miniature showing, chatting, and generally getting together!!

Any news of good show wins or anything at all you would like to tell the miniature world from the Midland area, do let me know and I can put it in these notes.

Pat Englund Area 5 Rep. 01205 871970. marieabeel@msn.com

I hope everyone had a good Christmas and New Year and I wish you all a Successful showing season. I sincerely hope none of you suffered too much from the gales etc. Of January 17th to 21st. I know one or two people in this region suffered some damage but luckily no horses were involved.

I helped organised a charity show on 23rd Dec. at Sheepgate Equestrian Centre, for a local children's charity. Entrants were a bit thin on the Ground but as it worked out there were just enough as the children had to leave at a certain time, and considering the days before it was extremely cold and foggy, the day of the show was very cold but the fog had cleared.

Many local people and businesses had donated things for the raffle and for presents for the children and we raised something like £250 for the home plus a load of donated goodies. They were all very happy if not a bit cold. Young Ebony Joseph won the in-hand to music with Pat 2nd with Barnley Tom Tit. she was also reserve champion fancy dress with pat as champion. Pat also was 1st in the driven to music with Tom Tit. Sheilagh was 4th in the in-hand and 3rd in the driven to music. They all did a fantastic job at short notice.

Bridget Barlow's husband John stepped in to be Father Christmas and made an excellent job of it, he was ideal and the children loved him. A great deal of thanks must go to him. Bridget must also be thanked for her help in a frenetic atmosphere as it was quick changes all round. I did have another helper by the name of Lucy who also had a hard time of it in difficult circumstances. Sadly she was one of the people who did suffer damage from the storms. The roof of her stables was totally destroyed with the horse and donkey inside. Luckily neither were hurt or too traumatized.

This year there will be another area show at Sheepgate Equestrian Centre, on sat. 28th. July. I hope it will be as successful as last year. More details will follow at a later date. Plans for next Xmas will be implemented far earlier as this year was too much of a rush.

Thanks to Simon for the last newsletter which was superbly done at Extremely short notice and we look forward to the next newsletter with Anticipation. Thank you Simon from all at Area 5.



WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS



MMA BRADSHAW	ESSEX
MANDA BREAKNELL	RUTLAND
ALEX BODY	NORTHUMBERLAND
NITA R CHANEY	HERTS
EWEN FOX	HERTS
VENDY GOOD	EAST SUSSEX
TVIENNE HOGG	NORTHUMBERLAND
DIANA HUMPHRIES	WORCS
AURIE HUTLEY	LINCS
ACKIE KING	DERBYSHIRE
AT KING	CORNWALL
CHARLOTTE LEONARD	WALES
EOAN MARTLEW	STOCKPORT
ADISON MARTLEW	STOCKPORT
KATRIONA MILROY	ESSEX
ANE PEED	NORWICH
MRS D SEARLE	LEICS
MISS S SEARLE	LEICS
MISS D SEARLE	LEICS
SALLY-ANNE SKELLERN	MANCHESTER
KATE SPILLETT	KENT
NICK VALENTINE	HEREFORDSHIRE
KAREN YOUNG	KENT
JUDITH MOORE	HERTS

IF YOU'RE NOT IN IT, YOU CAN'T WIN IT!

Miniature Horse Club Great Britain really wants to offer "Something for everyone" and give everything back to its members. We listen to our members and are open to new suggestions and ideas.

We were the FIRST Miniature Horse Society in the UK to offer AMHA Sanctioned Shows. The FIRST in 2003 to introduce The High Point Award Scheme giving you the opportunities to win prestigious titles for your horses based on multiple showing opportunities, then in 2005 the FIRST to bring our members the Gelding Incentive Programme. A chance to win a cash prize for your gelding. More recently in 2006 we held British Bred Classes as requested by you our members and another FIRST (and a great success) Area Shows. Now moving onwards and upwards, NEW for 2007 the Futurity Scheme please see article on page 9 (an application form is enclosed) also NEW for 2007 Area High Points awards.

High Point Awards, what are they? A chance to win not only a prestigious title for your horse but a really superb rosette, probably the best rosette offered in the UK to date and an annual trophy. Let me explain, we sometimes take for granted that all members know what we are talking about but with lots of new members and 'new to minis' members and also those of you who have read the blurb but never really got involved, I will just refresh your memory and give you our latest updates on these prestigious titles.

Firstly, a card needs to be purchased in order to enter your horse into the scheme. The cost of the card is a nominal £5. All placings 1st—6th are recorded on your card, so it is also a good way of keeping track of your horses progress. If you are placed in halter, (draft, refined or open) those points are taken for your horses age, there is an award for the highest placed age and sex horse. (up to 4 years and over).

If you are placed in a breed class ie AMHA or partbred, Falabella or partbred, or British bred, these and halter classes points count toward the award for your breed.

Colour, all your placings in colour count towards the colour awards, of which there are four chances to win. Similarly performance, all points won in performance count for the performance award.

NEW for 2007 is the Area award, this award is based in your address. The horse with the highest total points in each area will become Area High Point Champion of 2007.

This is an excellent scheme to win a prestigious title for your horse and you can win multiple awards.

Don't forget your points card, Points Cards on sale only until May 31st 2007.

The Gelding Incentive Programme, much has been written on gelding male Miniature Horses, not all males need to be kept entire, for whatever reason. You could be on a livery yard that do not allow stallions, you find a stallion a complete pain to deal with or you just want a nice easy friend to enjoy. Colts are not always gelded as they are 'not good enough', which is a popular misconception. A breeding stallion is a serious horse to own, he needs careful management and generally speaking professional handling, if you are not using your stallion, give him a life. Let him enjoy himself without his hormones raging. I've heard it said that a gelding can't compete in the ring with a stallion. Granted he won't have the added edge a stallion will have. But with good training and good conditioning a gelding with good confirmation will beat a poorly made and badly behaved stallion everyday of the week.

We really want to promote gelding to our members. Be fair to your horse, you have to deal with him 365 days of the year, how many shows do you plan to do?

This year's gelding incentive, we will be holding gelding only classes in which the entry fees from the class become the prize fund. We would love a sponsor for this class if anyone is interested? but at the moment we will be offering cash prizes, all be it not in great amounts. Please support our gelding class.

If anyone has any queries at all please contact me or any of the committee, we can give you friendly help and advice you may need on the above classes and schemes. We are here to help.

Do You Know Your Horses Vital Signs?

The following are normal parameters for Miniature Horses at rest and may increase in response to exercise, excitement or hot weather.

Adult Horses

Heart Rate: 34-44 Beats Per Minute

Respiratory Rate: 10-18 Breaths Per Minute

Temperature: 99-101 deg F (37.2—38.3 deg C)

Neonatal Foals

Heart Rate: 80-120 beats Per Minute

Respiratory Rate: 30-40 Breaths Per Minute

Temperature: 99-101.8 Deg F (37.2—38.8 Deg C)

It is an excellent idea to randomly take your horses temperature and keep a log of this. Illness can then be quickly spotted

Letters, News And Views

Dear MHCGB,

I am just writing to say thank you for the new news letter. As you know I wrote to the club with regards to the news letter and the format that it was presented. Unfortunately I was not at the AGM due to been on holiday. I was informed that my letter was read out to the meeting and that other members agreed the news letter could do with some tweaking to make it more reader friendly. I was delighted to see that my comments were taken on board and acted upon. Thanks to Simon Hall and Wendy Leas who put the news letter together, I'm sure all members agree that the last news letter was great. My comments were mainly to do with the way that the results were set out. I am pleased to say that I was able to read and understand the results in the last issue. I hope that the club carries on taking on board members comments and the club continues to go from strength to strength. Here's to another successful year for the MHCGB!!!

Laura Bias

Just when I thought I had retired, they have managed to drag me out of the wheelchair just part time, to help with the shows, which is why I am appealing to all of you.

We are trying to get more shows for you; this is not an easy job as most shows have a very busy time table and not enough room. Judges, Stewards and helpers are few and far between, and then of course there is the cost, all the paperwork—I think that's more than enough to worry about for now. but bare in mind these are all unpaid with the exception of expenses (something to think about when we are a little quick to complain about whatever aspect of the organisation or show we did not find quite up to scratch.)

As you may already know we have recently lost Moreton in the Marsh Show due to lack of entries, this is a great shame but sadly this will happen time and time again to most of our hosted shows if they are not supported.

I am writing to shows all the time, the most frequent answer being "sorry but the time table is too tight" and we need to remember that, we are asking for ideally five or possibly three classes! However to date we have managed to get two new shows.

CUMBOOTS SHOW June 17th (date to be confirmed) is going to host three classes and a championship as qualifiers, but have lots of classes that minis would be eligible for. They also do very good bacon sandwiches and Home Baking! We have secured some sponsorship for this year to see how it goes and maybe we can have it as a regular show, possibly our own ring and even more classes!

DUNCOMBE PARK COUNTRY FAIR May 28th is a long standing country show held in the picturesque village of Helmsley, 20 miles from the A1 between Thirsk and Pickering on the A170 .They are hosting three classes and a championship and I believe a rather nice rose bowl. The show also has colour classes and driving classes to which your horses may be eligible. Wouldn't it be great if we could have a mini do well in all three!

They also have a dog show, Gymkhana, Bar, Trade Stands so this could be a great day out for all.

And on that note I appeal to all members out there, the club is run for everyone but we need your support. Please make the effort to go that bit further, even if you have already qualified, remember it all adds to your points. Take that extra horse and extra helpers with you and have a good day out, meeting up with your friends old and new, having a drink and a chat. But most of all having fun. You could even go home with a rosette!

Tracy Squire

If anyone has any shows they would like me to approach do contact me at squire14@btinternet.com

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MHCGB ARE PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE PATRICK FROM NATURAL EXPRESSIONS
WILL BE IN ATTENDANCE AT OUR SPRING SHOW. PLEASE ENSURE YOU LEAVE
YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS AT SECRETARY'S TABLE AND GET ADVANCE NOTIFICATION
OF PHOTOS TAKEN BEING LIVE ON HIS WEBSITE.

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Letters, News And Views

THE committee of THE LINDA SHANKS MEMORIAL SHOW would like to thank the members of The Miniature Horse Club Of Great Britain who attended their show at Penshaw.

Despite torrential rain that continued throughout the day the show raised over £3,500.00 for The Queen Elizabeth Hospital Ovarian Cancer Trust.

Sadly the results with the exception of the Championship were destroyed by the rain. We congratulate Mrs G Jones who was Champion with "SupremeDream Luckys Royal Celebration" and also took the Reserve with "NCF Mystical My Key T".

We will continue to support The Miniature Horse Club Of Great Britain in 2007 by again hosting your classes and hope we will have the support of your members and a dry day!!

The date for our 2007 show is 12th August held once again at Penshaw.

FOR SALE AND WANTED

WANTED

DRIVING BRIDLE

Please contact Joan tel. Tel 01723 870517

FOR SALE

Ladies Mears Keepers Tweed Jacket in excellent condition size 40" £80.00 ono

Ladies Navy Show Jacket by showscene a beautiful jacket in immaculate condition size 36—38" £110.00 ono

Please contact Laura tel. 0191 4142646

Large Horse In Hand Show Bridle. Cob Size Brand New, English Leather with Brass fittings. Bought from Derby House Saddlery cost £80 will accept £60 ono

6ft 3in Weatherbetta Taka Combo Heavyweight Turnout Rug. Used dozen times very warm rug. Proff Cleaned and reproofed Very Good Condition £70 ono

Please contact Janice tel 0191 5362763 (after 7pm)

It is FREE for members to advertise your for sale and wanted items!

EDITORS NOTE

May I take this opportunity to personally thank all the members who have contributed to the articles published in this edition of the News Letter. A big thank you to Philip Matthews-Brown who's articles I find very informative. Apart from the actual showing aspect of the Miniature Horse the rest I know very little About (keep them coming Philip) If any members New or Old would like to relay the experiences or share with Any tips, methods or photos (foals, shows or fun times) with us we are always interested in you our members, then:

Please E-mail to Simon.hall3@btinternet.com



SPRING SHOW NEWS



MHCGB are delighted that Bennington carriages will be in attendance at our Spring Show at Arena UK on 21st April. If you are interested in driving then please take the time to visit their stand and get some expert advice.



For those exhibitors who require overnight stabling A stabling request form is enclosed. The cost is £18 per stable per night cheques payable to ARENA UK. these MUST be returned asap to Janice Goudie and NOT sent directly to Arena Uk. Please note NO MORE THAN 3 HORSES PER STABLE are permitted.

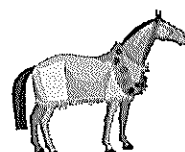


As agreed at our AGM there will be a £1 showing levy per Horse which needs to be paid to our Show Manager Catherine when you collect your numbers. This is to cover the cost of employing a "Poo Picker" for the duration of the show.



Points Cards will be available on the day at £5 per card per Horse.

GOOD LUCK TO ALL EXHIBITORS, WE HOPE YOU HAVE AN ENJOYABLE DAY.



SHOW RULES 2007

1. Horses must be entered in the correct class, observing the correct age.
2. Category A Miniature Horses must not exceed 34" in height at maturity, measured from the last hairs of the mane at the base of the neck.
3. Category B Horses exceed 34" and not exceed 38" at maturity.
4. Handlers must be suitably turned out. Hats, gloves, boots and jackets are required. Training shoes are optional for performance classes.
5. The judges decision is final.
6. Exhibitors are required to withdraw from a class if the judge has an interest in his or her exhibit. For the purposes of this rule, a judge has an interest in an exhibit if he/she has bred, owned, trained or has a financial interest in it.
7. Any horse acting in an unruly manner will be excused from the ring by the judge or steward for safety reasons.
8. The names of exhibits will not be made known to the judge until after the class. Exhibitors will be issued with a number for each horse that must be displayed whilst that horse is in the ring.
9. Cruelty, abuse or inhumane treatment of any horse will not be tolerated by show management and the offender will be barred for the duration of the show.
10. Conduct by an exhibitor, trainer or owner deemed unsportsman like, abusive or detrimental will not be tolerated the MHCGB, including but not limited to, threatening, abusive or intimidating conduct (physical, verbal or written) toward any show official or fellow exhibitor. Any person guilty of such conduct should be reported immediately to the show management. The management will suspend the offender for the duration of the show. Any person accused of unseemly behaviour may appeal his/her case to the council of the association which will render a decision. If found guilty such a person may be banned from further participation in Club events and a decision will be published in the official publication of the Club.
11. Exhibitors are requested not to converse with the judge unless initiated by the judge.
12. Late arrivals will not be admitted to the ring once the gate has closed or the class has commenced.
13. a. Objections must be made in writing with a £50 cash fee to the show committee no later than one hour after the alleged incident. The fee will be returned to the protester in the event the protest is sustained. If the protest is not sustained the fee shall be forfeited.
14. Any protests shall be adjudicated by a protest committee of three show officials not involved with the incident/dispute.
15. The show protest committee shall meet promptly and adjudicate the issue, make effective its decision upon the parties in interest and report its determination to all parties. A show protest committee may disqualify a competitor and or his/her entries for the duration of the show.
16. Any member/exhibitor issuing a dishonoured cheque, or failing to pay any obligation owed to the MHCGB or an MHCGB approved show shall be withdrawn all member privileges and shall be barred from further MHCGB events until the debt is discharged in full. All debts to the MHCGB shall be paid within 15 days. Any suspensions/denial of privileges shall terminate upon full payment of the obligation due.

PRESENTATION FOR SHOWING.

The permissible methods for showing are:

- a. Freshly clipped
- b. Clipped with new coat established

So long as the horse is neat, healthy and well presented.

Manes and tails are natural & unplaited (with the exception of performance classes). Pulling or shortening of the mane is permissible). A bridle path may be clipped into the mane to enhance the outline of the horse. Tails are to be trimmed clear of the ground.

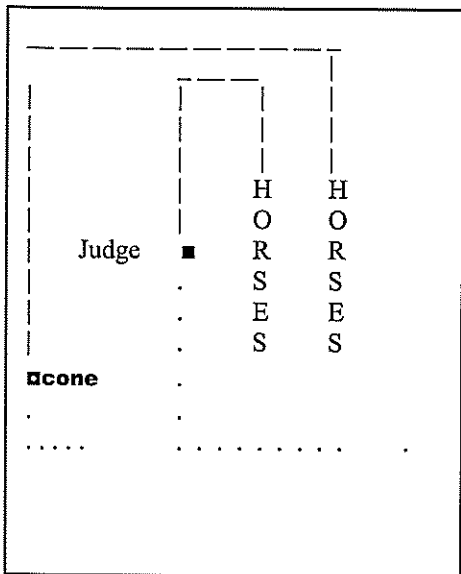
Alteration of the natural colour of the horse is not allowed, however, subtle use of makeup to enhance a natural colour is allowed.

Horses are to be shown not stretched, which means all four feet are flat on the ground and at least one front and one rear cannon bone remain perpendicular to the ground. Stretched horses to be penalised after the initial warning by the judge in each class. It is permissible to hand set the horse.

General preparation and presentation is at the discretion of the owner, but the MHCGB wishes to promote the horse as being shown at its best visual and health advantage to portray the breed as one of beauty, intelligence and gentleness. NOTE: 'circus' or 'cute' type presentation is not relevant in any class other than the costume/fancy dress class

2006 amendment The MHCGB showing style.

Horses are to enter the ring, individually in catalogue order, at a walk clockwise on a loose lead to a designated point marked by a cone approximately 20 feet from the gate and then proceed at a trot past the judge/s. Judging will begin at the cone. Line up horses head to tail along the ringside, teeth and testicles are checked for correctness. The judge then re takes his/her position in the centre of the ring. From line-up, competitors walk to judge and trot past, back to the end of line, to assess straightness of movement. Horse are then posed nose to tail approx. 15 feet from the edge of the ring and with sufficient distance between to allow judges to assess horses from all sides. Horses are assessed individually in the nose to tail line up. (See diagram). The final line up is then called in and Rosettes are awarded.



..... Walk

—— Trot

Judges are asked to discourage exhibitors from sitting, squatting, kneeling in front of horses (with the exception of showing weanlings). If after a warning is given, exhibitors may be penalised

The horses are judged on:-

1. TYPE the horse must possess horse like qualities in a smaller size and proportion. Pony-like traits are not desirable in the modern miniature horse.
2. CONFORMATION. Consider the correctness of structure and conformation. Identify any faults and weaknesses.
3. QUALITY which includes the harmony and balance of body parts, the refinement and density of bone in the legs and the smoothness of muscling.
4. WAY OF GOING Perhaps meriting a higher consideration. Not just the quality of movement but the technical correctness of the stride, articulation of the joints, elevation and impulsion.
5. PRESENCE.

CHAMPIONSHIPS.

The first and second places from the applicable classes are called to the championship.

First placed horses form the front line, second placed horses stand behind the winner of their class. Horses are asked to walk/trot out at the discretion of the judge. The horses are posed for the judge to reassess. Champion and Reserve champion are selected.

SPECIALITY HALTER CLASS – COLOUR CLASSES.

These classes are judged on 80% colour, 20% conformation.

Horses are walked into the arena, then asked to turn and walk in the opposite direction. Horses are then lined nose to tail in rows allowing space for the judge to pass between each horse to assess. The horses are trotted at the discretion of the judge.

The following classes are available:-

Broken Colour ie, pinto, appaloosa, pintaloosa.

Solid Colour ie, any other colour

Spotted ie; appaloosa, pintaloosa

Broken colour ie; pinto, piebald, skewbald

Solid ie; bay, chestnut, grey, black, brown.

Any other colour ie; silvers, palamino, buckskin, grulla, roan etc.

DRIVING CLASSES.

Horses are to be serviceably sound and must be three years old or older.

Drivers should strive to present an appropriate turnout that conforms to the class entered. Suggested attire:- Gentlemen, hat, jacket, tie, trousers, gloves & ladies tailored suit, skirt and blouse or evening dress (where appropriate) hat and gloves.

Whips must be carried at all times, failure will result in disqualification.

Headers are acceptable.

SINGLE PLEASURE DRIVING.

The horse should give the appearance of a pleasurable drive. It should also show animation and brilliance of movement.

Horses are to enter the ring counter clockwise at a collected trot. Gait requirements - Walk, Collected Trot and working trot on both reins. The horses are required to stand quietly and to rein back.

This class is judged on Performance, manners, way of going, conformation, appropriateness, Condition and fit of vehicle and harness, Neatness of attire.

IN THIS ORDER

COUNTRY PLEASURE DRIVING.

Country pleasure is judged on attitude, manners, performance, quality and conformation IN THAT ORDER.

Horses must be on the bridle, with a relaxed neck carriage, high action must be penalised, it is imperative that a horse give the distinct appearance of being a pleasure to drive.

Gait requirements – walk, pleasure trot and working trot on both reins. Stand quietly and rein back readily.

HORSES MAY ENTER EITHER COUNTRY PLEASURE OR SINGLE PLEASURE.

CONES DRIVING.

Horses complete a timed coned course incurring time penalties of 2 seconds when losing balls from the cones.

A judge may dismiss from the ring any unsafe horse, vehicle or equipment.

JUMPING CLASS.

Horses must be aged 3 years or over.

Classes will be judged with 4 faults for a knockdown and 3 faults for a refusal. Jump offs occur for ties of first place only, each horse shall re jump a raised course until the horse with the lesser faults is declared the winner.

OBSTACLE CLASS.

Horses must be aged 2 years or over.

An obstacle course will be constructed and can be viewed by competitors and judges. The class is judged on performance and way of going with the emphasis on manners throughout the course. Entries will be evaluated on responsiveness and willingness, plus general attitude.

Maximum time per obstacle 60 seconds, horses are then asked to advance to the next obstacle

A score sheet system is advised to give a possible mark out of 10 for each obstacle.

LIBERTY.

Liberty is demonstrating the natural beauty of the horse. Horse are to be judged on style, grace, animation, gaits, presence, music and suitability, ease of catching.

Judging begins when the halter is removed. Time of liberty is 1 ½ minutes, time to catch, 1 ½ minutes. (If not caught until after the 1 ½ minutes the horse is disqualified)

One exhibitor (wearing the number) and one handler allowed in the ring. Horses to be caught by the exhibitor only. Touching of the horse during 1 ½ minutes at liberty will count for disqualification.

The following assessment can be made. Style and grace 30 points, animation and presence 30 points, gaits 30 points, music and suitability 10 points, catch 10 points.

PROGENY CLASSES

Horses enter the ring and are lined up nose to tail in groups. The judge, at his discretion, may ask to see horses movement.

Produce of dam.

To be judged with emphasis on the reproductive likeness, uniformity, quality of breed characteristics and confirmation. The minimum of two offspring and a maximum of 4 per entry. Any sex of offspring may be shown. One number is issued per group of horses.

Get of sire.

This class will be judged with emphasis on the reproductive likeness, uniformity, quality of breed characteristics and confirmation. The minimum of two progeny and a maximum of 4 per entry. Any sex may be shown. One number is issued per group of horses.

Two/three horses by one owner.

Any two/three horses owned by the same owner. Judged on quality of conformation and breed characteristics.

Horse by same breeder.

Judged on quality of conformation and breed characteristics.

Pairs.

Judged on likeness of both horses.



***** STOP PRESS *****NEW AREA REP *****

Hi every one looks like you all have me back again, I will do my best to keep all Welsh members up to date with what is happening, if there are any new members please get in touch with me & perhaps we can meet up & chat about our Minis Don't forget we have our Welsh Area MHCGB show to be held at Cothi Bridge July 15/16 & I believe Minis are on the 16th, it is a qualifying area points award show, so hope to see you all there.

Jill Duke www.dukesstud.com



Thank You



The Miniature Horse Club Of Great Britain would like to extend their Thanks to the following who have sponsored at our forthcoming Spring Show.

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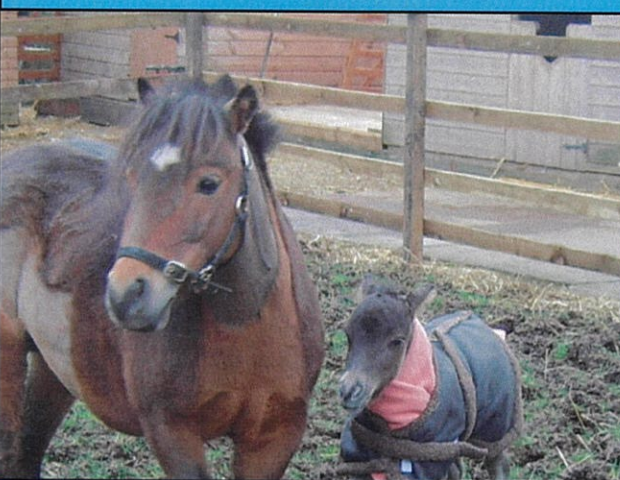
We value your support and hope you can join us at Arena UK.

If any of our members would like to Sponsor please fill in the enclosed sponsorship form and return ASAP, Or if you know of someone who may be interested please pass our form on to them. We appreciate your contribution.

Members Photo Gallery



Many thanks to Pat Englund Area Rep for sending us these photos from Sheepgate Christmas show in aid of a local childrens charity. Many thanks to Sheilagh, Ebony, John And Bridget Barlow And Of course Pat For supporting this.



Left photo:
Mascot Miniatures
new foal
Right photo:
Junior member
Libby Hall aged 7,
and Baby Rocco





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Our thanks to Wendy Edgar, Eileen Yaxley, Audrey Scott-Hopkins, and Tanya Larrigan
For the use of their horses.

Also pictured are our own Conudrum Petite Etoile, Geum of Southfield Gate, and Breeze
Look out for breeze's story on new website.