

CONNEMARA PONY BREEDERS SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA INC.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 1999/2000

It is my belief that this year has been one of consolidation, conciliation in some areas and attention to the objectives that Committee set for this term of office. The first major hurdle that was safely negotiated was the transfer of the Stud Book to computer form. Those members who were looking for the updated version have now received their copies and Bob Plummer is on working to transferring the printed version to Disc. The delay here is that Bob is heavily involved in negotiating his way through the labyrinth of GST problems for the Businesses which he handles, and he therefor hasn't had the time recently to devote to the Disc as he thought he would have.

The Inspection package has been reworked and many of the suggestions which you, the members, brought forward have been included. The Document is now, we believe, an easier system on which to work. Having said that, if the Inspection system is to be of value for the future of the pony, then it must always be subject to changes, and any Committee of the future must have the Objectives of the Society strongly in mind, be aware of the changing attitudes to the Pony internationally and of course, listen to the thoughts of the Mother Country and be aware of its Policies and attitudes.

Regulations were reviewed during the Year and varied, and again, on behalf of the Committee, I make a similar comment to that in the forgoing paragraph that this Document must also be subject to changes which are consistent with the objectives of the Society and married in with the need to ensure that the Australian Pony maintains an acceptable standard world wide.

I am concerned however with several aspects of the changes to regulation 18. Regulation 18 (c) was changed back to its original concept after the Ballarat meeting, (and rightly so in my opinion), but members must look at this Regulation in its entirety and be aware that it deals with a specific problem namely the accidental mating of two REGISTERED PONIES the mating which is NOT recorded on the Stallion return. The object of the regulation has always been to preserve progeny where accident occur, and, the Committee HAS A DISCRETIONARY RIGHT to act and determine to accept or not depending on the circumstances of the mating.

What the regulation does not allow for and was never intended to condone is the mating of ponies which are not registered, or in the case of a Stallion, one which has not at the time of conception been inspected. This type of mating is contrary to the regulations and objectives and Committee has no power to adjudicate where this action is shown to have occurred.

Other items such as the Merit award system, Stud Directory and Information booklet etc are now ready to be finalised at Brisbane and put into effect. I am not sure in my own mind that we didn't bite off a little too much pie in seeking to have a 30 year book available for next year and I await with interest the discussion on this project at Brisbane.

I was pleased with the General meeting held at Ballarat in April, and to be able to discuss with members some areas of grievances, make alterations where it was seen appropriate so to do, and take aboard other matters for further consideration. The Insurance situation is one which will be finalised at Brisbane and I am confident that this matter can be resolved in a way to suit all members.

Whilst writing of grievances etc. I would ask any member who has a problem, comment, query or information to offer to please put the matter on paper and send it to the Committee through the Secretary so that we all as a Committee can hear of your concern etc, discuss it as a Committee, make comment, reply, reconsider, etc to the benefit of ALL members. In this way the full Committee can be seen to be making Comment, and, where Policy is effected, that policy, and where change to policy is required, that change can be officially recorded. More importantly the communication receives the OFFICIAL Committee reply.

On the matter of Policy, it is my intention, at Brisbane, to ask the Committee to implement a Policy Statement format. Each policy decision made, varied etc will be recorded in a Policy Statement

Schedule, be available for reference by members and can be used by all to determine the official, up to date attitude on many matters. This document will be an adjunct to the regulations and will be used to support and determine change to Regulations as seen fit. In the long term, It will be a lasting statement of the Society attitude as to how the Administration should work and the correct direction for members to take in a wide range of matters.

With the Stud Book now in print again, I have, in past Newsletters asked members to read through its contents, look for errors etc and NOTIFY THE SECRETARY IF YOU FIND SOMETHING AMISS. I point out to you as members, as I do to the Committee, that it is your Society, and unless you constructively let the Committee know of discrepancies, I don't believe that you can ask or expect Committee to be responsible for every small detail. I firmly believe that, at the present time, there are many ponies in the Stud Book which should have "decd" alongside of there name, that there are some Stallions in the list which are no longer working, or have been castrated etc. Unless you tell the Secretary, have the changes made, we can never expect to have an up to date document.

Similarly, with the Newsletter, your contributions are very welcome, definitely needed and are read with interest by fellow members. Some have answered this call, thank you the articles have been great, but please don't stop - variety is the spice of life is the saying ! It certainly is so with the Newsletter.

I must make note of the number of losses suffered by some of our members in the past year. The loss of Stallions, mares and foals is a great disappointment, financial loss and in many cases the loss of a virtual family members. Those of us who have been fortunate to gain in this area should recognise our luck, feel sympathy for those who have suffered a loss and recognise that we each can feel this loss at any time.

Internationally, the CPBSA is well placed and its views, comments and actions are sought after, and in some instances used in the making of new procedures, varying rules and as mediatory material. Anne Bush, Sue Clark and I were able to influence a number of decisions made in Clifden this year, particularly in allowing the CPBS to attend to its internal problems without interference from other Societies, who felt they had a right so to do. We were given a deep, knowledgeable briefing of the problems within the CPBS and this afforded us the opportunity to act as mediators, subtly suggest differing paths to pursue and also to strongly insist in certain changes. The CPBSA has submitted 51/2 pages of variations to the ICCPS rules sub committee which is reviewing the CPBS rules for ICCPS Countries. Rules 1.3,1.4,1.5,1.6,1.7,2.1bcd, 2.2,3.1iii, 3.2ii, 3.2 iii, 3.4,4.2,5.2, 6.3, 6.4, 9.5, have all been targeted. This sub committee will draw together the varying changes required by the International Societies and will be presented to the CPBS later in 2001 for discussion, negotiation and action.. Australia was again voted onto the Executive Board of the ICCPS and therefore our influence will be strong to ensure a fair deal for all Societies, and not just those affected by the E.C.

Given the objectives set by the Current Committee for its term of Office I am of the opinion they it is on target to ensure that the objectives are met. I thank those members who have offered constructive comment throughout the year, those who have taken the trouble to support the Newsletter and those who have given there support both verbally and in writing to the Committee in the tasks they have set out to finalise.

I cannot resist the following:

Give us Lord a bit of sun, a bit of work and a bit of fun,
Give us in all the struggle and splutter our daily bread and a bit of butter,
Give us health out keep to make and a bit to spare for others sake,
Give us too a bit of song and a tale and a book to help us along,
Give us lord a chance to be our goodly best, brave, wise and free,
Our goodly best for ourselves and others till all men learn to live as brothers.
(An Irish quote)