

The Mane Thing

Welsh Pony & Cob Society of Alberta August Newsletter

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Next Deadline November 15, 2009

Hello, hard to believe that I typed November 15th for the next deadline, I mean summer just started didn't it? The weather has not been kind to the farmers this year; too cold, too dry, hailed out 100% around here and of course all this is leading to hay storage. Hopefully you have all been able to get enough hay to get you through the winter and things will be back to normal next year.

The club had another very excellent show this year, lots of new exhibitors and ponies came out which made it nice. We appreciated the fact that everyone was very safety conscious this year and there was no need to use the paramedic. There are so many people to thank for helping the show run smoothly; our very organized show secretary Natalie (and if she ever quits I think I will also), her able assistant Janet Storey, Leslie Berenbaum who I asked to announce Saturday morning but she did such a good job we twisted her arm and had her announce the whole show. Sheila McLellan did a great job on the in gate and David Langford was on the out gate the whole time. Grace Langford, likely the only person who understands my trophy labeling system, not only keep the ribbons and trophies organized but worked with her new helpers Annie Aiton and her friend Ariel, both of whom are looking forward to doing it again next year. Megan Cooper packaged up bags and bags of pony crunchies for the exhibitors with a little note wishing everyone a successful show. Stonecountry Welsh organized and ran the gymkhana events. Janice Gagnon, our Steward made sure that everyone was outfitted correctly with their tack and Terry Lengwenus, our Ringmaster did his usual wonderful job. And last but not least, Gord from the Ag. Society, who moved equipment for us and looked after the ring grooming.

Our sponsors were more than generous this year and I hope that everyone took the time to send out their Thank You cards. When you go to their shops, please mention the Pony Show to them.

Also if you were awarded a ribbon from the Australian Society, please send them a Thank You at PO Box 762, Pakenham, Vic 3810, email office@wpcs.com.au

From your Show Committee, Monty, Pat & Sheila.

Show Report

The 2009 pony show was well attended with over 100 ponies competing over the 2 days. Many of the classes were very large, including the western ones which was great! Thanks to all our great show volunteers and organizers who made sure everything went very smoothly. Janice Gagnon made sure everyone knew the rules for the classes and helped out to make sure everyone was safe and having fun at the same time. We hope to have her back next year.

I know the competitors and some of the show staff struggled a bit with the new way that the hunter classes were run. Because the classes were so large and we wanted to make it better for the kids and ponies, so they didn't have to wait around for the 2 - 3 hours it would take to run the classes one at a time, we decided to run the classes the way they do at the hunter shows, in groups. This is a bit confusing but once you figure it out it is really nice as you can do your classes and put your pony away, no need to hang around. We will be running them this way next year but hope to have the show on the Sunday in the bottom big ring.

I'd like to thank everyone who came with their positive attitudes and tried to remain positive and happy during the show. I feel it definitely made for a more relaxed and fun show - just what we want!

Looking forward to seeing you in 2010. Please forward any suggestions you might have for the show - be it classes or any other ideas before October 1st. to Pat or myself so we can look at them at our wrap up show meeting.

Monty www.theponyfairy.com

Notes from Suellen and Anthony Deane

What an honour and a pleasure to be invited to judge the 2009 All Breed Pony Show at Cochrane. Our greatest surprise was the size of the program and an even greater surprise was to find that we were to judge all of it, excepting the gymkhana events! Lengthy emails went back and forth while we came to grips with terminology completely foreign to us. I remember heading one of my emails "Help!" I think I would have to describe the program as 'challenging'.

Anthony and I had never judged separately yet together in the ring before, nor had we ever seen it done, and we were pleasantly surprised how successful it was.

Having such a different way of conducting a class in Australia I found I just wasn't able to see what I wanted so my (wonderful) ring master instructed the competitors what I required and they very kindly obliged.

Where I very nearly came unstuck was in the first saddle class I judged when I learnt there were to be no individual workouts and place getters were to be called from the lineup after only working together on the ring. Having such a large number of competitors and ponies which I had never seen before made the mechanics of judging too difficult so once again my (very wonderful) ring master instructed the competitors in my 'strange Australian ways' and we called the place getters in order from the circle. My relief must have been audible.

Anthony and I were very pleased with the line up when the class winning ponies presented for the Championships, despite the numbers being low in many of the led classes. When it came to the led classes Supreme Championships I found my winner in Gretha Sorenson's mature Fjord stallion Bar Cy's Tucker who impressed me greatly with his breed type, presentation and manners. Anthony was extremely pleased with his Supreme Champion, Tracey Dopko's Goldhill Brandy Snap, a Section D stallion which he described as showing a great deal of pony character coupled with size and power. Double Reserve Supreme the dappled bay Section B colt, Pajon's Royal Bellringer was just a hair's breadth away from the highest accolade in the opinion of both of us and we feel he has a stellar career before him.

Anthony enjoyed judging the harness and having competed in this discipline himself he truly appreciates the effort it takes to get horse, harness and vehicles to a show.

In Australia Working Hunter Ponies and Show Hunter Ponies are judged completely differently as we follow the UK format, so these classes were not what we are used to, nevertheless we were very impressed by the ability of both riders and their mounts. It did strike us that by the conclusion of judging we had seen many of the same combinations over and over and we are sure that many competitors and their ponies slept well that night.

It was lovely to see so many children handling and riding their own animals in the ring, as in Australia we are seeing more and more professional handlers and riders in the ring, following the UK trend.

I don't think we have ever judged at a show with so many awards, rosettes and trophies – what tremendous encouragement, particularly for children. You certainly have a lot of very generous sponsors. Can I just say here how nice it would be if competitors wore their rosettes for the duration of competition, it does wonderful things for young egos and creates such a show. (Editor note: In Australia they have ribbons tied around their necks, not ribbons such as we have).

Judging at Cochrane was a wonderful experience for us, and a huge learning curve, and we hope that it was a pleasant and different experience for you. What a privilege it was to be able to come and judge your animals which we know mean so much to you. No matter where we travel in the world judging we find we have instant rapport and camaraderie with other pony lovers which unite us all.

Thank you for having us.

Hi Pat- was great to see you out at Cochrane-and the Beautiful Bellringer. My compliments are for your show staff and how great they did - I think it is called Senior Power!! Sheila was really good on the in gate. Grace and Dave were efficient and it was all done with good grace and we had a bit of time to visit-they are a really lovely pair. I'm sure there were others working just as hard. I enjoyed the judges too! So congratulate yourselves at your next meeting on a job well done.

Linda Christersen

Our Meet and Greet the Judges was a fun day with lots of activities. Gertha and Julie Sorenson brought over their Fjords so those that wanted to drive them could and some people were trying the cones. Lesley Rhys- Williams brought over Young's General Lee, a 24 year old Section A stallion and a 2 year old by Young's Country Squire for us to admire. Suellen and Anthony passed on some excellent showmanship tactics and discussed what other countries do in their halter classes.

After this we retired to the patio for visiting and the bar-b-que. Thanks Tim for bringing over your special maple syrup baked beans. Doubt that many leftovers went home with you.

Congratulations to the Enders family on the birth of their newest edition. I'm sure this is the youngest baby, at 10 days old, to ever attend a pony show. Also many thanks to Joyce for bringing her pony down to be on display at the Stampede booth.

High Point Ribbon and Certificate Awards for 2009 have been very kindly sponsored by Vanessa Quartly of "V.L.Q. Arabians and Welsh Ponies."

Stampede Report

Due to cooler weather, the attendance at this year's Stampede was down a little, but the interest in the ponies was great. It was mainly due to the wonderful pony we had in the booth for nine of the ten days. Joyce Enders let us use her Section A Welsh mare, Unicorn Peggy Miss Harmony. She was by far one of the most popular at the Horse Haven display as she would stand by the gate and let everyone who came near pat her and play with her forelock. The only time she moved away was to eat some hay. The members of the Light Horse Committee said that I should make sure that I booked her for next year. A special "Thanks" to Joyce for bringing her for the booth.

While thanking people, I would like to thank David and Grace Langford for once again coming to help in the booth. They have been coming every year for some time and the even take "Kids Day" to come! I think that David enjoys talking to all the kids. Also, repeat help in the booth was the Marston family who brought their wonderful Welsh stallion, Young's Esquire who was also a real favorite with the visitors. McCol Iles helped me with the demonstration in the Northern Lights arena. She showed everyone how children should work around ponies, how to groom and tack up. Of course, Frank Anderson, Mary and I set up the booth prior to the Stampede and Frank spent two days helping in the booth. He also participated in a driving demonstration on two occasions in the Big Top. Judy Owad also spent a day in the booth and has come to help for many years, offering to bring a pony if needed.

It is unfortunate that more Welsh people do not support the Stampede as everything there is free and good advertising for your ponies. You can get a free admission to the grounds, free parking, free coffee and snacks all day, plus a nice hot lunch. If you want you can leave your pony on the grounds overnight at no charge and bedding is supplied.

As I mentioned, we also have a wonderful indoor ring that is available to use to show our ponies and do any kind of demonstration. This is open from ten in the morning

until seven at night. For anyone coming down to help, you can take either a full or half day, with or without your pony.

Once again, a special "Thanks" to those who helped promote our breed at the 2009 Calgary Stampede.

Sheila McLellan

35 Consecutive Shows for the Manitoba Welsh Pony and Cob Association

A very successful show was held by the Manitoba Welsh Pony and Cob Association in Virden Agriculture Grounds July 4th & 5th 2009

It was a very special show for it was our 35th. The weather cooperated, the grounds were great and we had a record number of 44 ponies and cobs entered.

Our Judge was Lisa Shelbarger from Sheldon North Dakota. The first time we have had an American judge. Linda Drake was our ring master, Sally Dale our photographer, and Julie Hunter the announcer. With line classes, showmanship, driving, saddle, jumping, western fun classes and costume we had two full days.

At the evening meal on Saturday night, the association welcomed three members that had shown at the original show 35 years ago. Richard Murphy (our first president), from Virden, Doreen Lawlor and Donna Hunter from Kenton. Corsages were presented and a beautifully decorated cake was shared with all the exhibitors.

We always hold a Charity Raffle that is well supported by our members and exhibitors. This year we were able to send \$245.00 to the Canada Equine Foundation.

The children and their ponies are always a delight, never a complaint about weather, rules or placings, true ambassadors for the Welsh Breed.

Do you know we even have a "dog" class ?? What other pony show has dog classes?

Yes we had a fun and successful 35th show.

D. Hunter Show secretary.

Farm News

Willowbrand Welsh

Hello fellow pony/horse lovers,

As many Albertans experienced an incredibly damaging storm last night, we experienced the pain deep in our soul. This morning waking to the aftermath of this storm, felt like a hurricane. Many of our trees were snapped in half, one on our garage and the other on my car. Lots of other minor damage around the yard...but in our paddocks was our biggest casualty of all. My beautiful palomino Cob, Willowbrand Augustus was there. He experienced a broken back and damage to his front knee (swollen 3 times the size). We had to put him down immediately. I had such hope for him and his future as a potential dressage mount.

When I hugged him tonight and cried into his neck he put his head to my heart like he knew what was going to happen next. I will miss him so much.

Sherri Brandsma

Alvesta Welsh Ponies

Another busy pony season is coming to a close. We had four foals, two by *Cadlanvalley Pirate (filly and colt), a colt by *Mynach Mystical (palomino at the shows this summer) and a Section A filly by *Nerwyn Gwyn. We're as usual having a very hard time bringing ourselves to sell any of them; they're such a sweet bunch! We do think the colt by Pirate and out of Alvesta Buttons N Bows is a top stallion and show prospect though, and is for sale and reasonably priced to a good home.

Our newest import, *Llanarth Tarquin by Cwrtycadno Cymro and out of the lovely Polaris Dorcas, (who sadly passed away this past winter) is doing great. Out in the pasture with our two year old colt Alvesta Mirage and two geldings Alvesta Gwyndaf and Alvesta HyJinx he's happily growing up. Next year we will be breeding most of our mares to Tarquin to get a handle on how he produces. Therefore if anyone's been thinking of breeding to Pirate, next year is the time to do it as he'll have a rather lonely summer otherwise! Discounts to champion mares.

I've always considered the lovely imported stallion *Stockham Commander M an exceptionally typy Welsh pony, and after admiring him for years, we've had the opportunity to purchase a daughter of his. We are very pleased with Morton's China Doll and think she will be a lovely cross with our stallions; she will be bred to Alvesta Mirage in the spring. China is in foal to *Mynach Mystical for a 2010 foal, being that we are very pleased with our 2009 colt by Mystical, we're excited about this baby.

We had a great show season... though hectic! Getting nine ponies including a foal washed, ready and shown was exhausting, but we were very happy with how they all did. Thanks to all the people who helped us as we were frantically getting ponies into their classes, much appreciated! Our Section A stallion *Nerwyn Gwyn had his second show season this year with terrific results, winning Supreme Champion three times!

On a non-pony note, our oldest daughter Christine, had her second (and *final* she tells us) child, another girl! Giselle Jade Zittlaw was born on our youngest daughter Karen's birthday, July 6th. Quite a birthday present!

Please see our photo on the club web site.

Brenda Podolski

From Whiskyjack Welsh Ponies

It's been a long year for me because I have bad allergy reactions, so I have to watch what I eat and stay away from certain things, so it makes hard to go to the store.

I had to cut my herd down very small, my yearling filly and my three mares are sold to Saskatchewan this year.

I have rebred my old grey mare, so I am hoping for a black filly next year.

My two black colts are sure growing, they are very cute, Whiskyjack Black Diamond a Section A and Whiskyjack Midnight Madness a Section B.

There are some photos of them on the club web site...

Sincerely, Roxanne McCallum

Prairie Sun Welsh

Hello to Everyone !!!!

Hope you all had a wonderful summer, although it seemed a little short this year !!!!

Once again, it was so nice to see everyone at the pony shows !!!! It is super more and more ponies are being driven !!!!

Thank-you Lea and Rick for the B-B-Q it was Great as always !!!!

I do hope everyone is finding hay this fall. Around here the hay crop was half of what it usually is and finding it this fall may be a bit of a problem, and if not a problem finding it could be a problem paying for it. The price is crazy high !!!! We bought some last years Timothy for \$ 4.50 per bale and this year he is selling it for \$ 7.50 and it is gone. We have heard of guys charging very high per tonne prices. Ditches around here that have never been cut are all cut and baled now, must say the roadways look good. Anyhow, I just wish everyone good luck in finding their winter hay supply. Good thing ponies don't eat as much as the big horses do !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

If it does freeze in the next week or two, this could take the pressure off of the demand for hay and the prices could go down. Reason being, a lot of crop, if it freezes, will no longer be good for the grain quality and will be cut and baled for green feed. For the pony owners sake I kind of hope this may happen, but for the farmers sake, bad deal !!!!

Hoping all the kids are ready to go back to school !!!!! Have A Great new year !!!!

Take Care, Mary James

"V.L.Q. Arabians and Welsh Ponies."

Hi Pat: Just a short note to say thank you so much for having us at the meet and greet. Your hospitality was very much appreciated and talking with the judges was very interesting and informative. As well as the fact that they are very charming people to visit with. .Bye for now: Vanessa

News from Memory Lane Ponies

We have had a good summer and the meet and greet for the Judges was a nice day with great weather and even better company.

We have sold Full of Pizazz our paint pony as well we sold Emerald Jewel the Arabian partbred and Hot spots the Pharoh gelding son. We wish the new owners the Jonhstons and G & R Stables the best with thier new acquisitions. Memory Lane Pharoh's Hotspots is a lovely young gelding who I think will end up being 14.0hh and very athletic and pretty.

Now it is time to do some of our own training and get ready for winter. We are going top put Ebony Eyes under saddle for Annie and will eventually sell her when her pony is ready.

I hope every one had a great summer and Annie and I are thinking of next years shows already. Take Care, Tim and daughter Anastasia Aiton

Pajon Ponies

In July we were sitting right in the middle of the drought area. We saw rain in the west, saw it coming this way and then go north and south as the clouds approached our slight hill. Finally we did get 2 ¾" of rain in August so the grass is looking a little greener. Due to the shortage of feed, I sadly decided to put down my old mare Pajon's Royal Fanasty, my last GlanNant Mite daughter.

Legend of the Bow Bells, (Morton's Prestige x Pajon's Royal Cameo Ring) was sold to Judy Owad. Meanwhile Cameo Ring produced a full sister, Legend's Eternity Ring for me and Anniversary Ring a filly, Legend's Tipi Ring for Kathleen Alves.

We showed Pajon's Royal Bellringer and Pajon's Royal Scandal to several major Championships this year. Jim was Bellringer's handler and Brenda Harder and Natalie Robinson showed Pajon's Royal Scandal for us.

Sponsor List

Thanks to our many sponsors who supported the All Breed Pony Show.

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Karen Botting, Calgary
Here Come Welsh Ponies, Cochrane
Natalie & Derrick Robinson, Calgary
Stonecountry Welsh, Leduc

Show Results are posted on the web site,
www.albertawelshponyandcob.com if you are receiving this issue
via email.

Handy Hint from Mary James:

For us it is bot season, I hope you are in an area that does not have the pesky things, but if you do this may be of some help.

A friend of mine told me about a spray, you can spray it on the eggs and they die. They don't necessarily fall off right away, but they are dead and will not grow in the horses intestines. Yes you can deworm and kill the bots, but I like to get to them before they enter the pony/horse.

Anyhow, the spray is called Vetchem, it is a spray for dogs to kill fleas and ticks, but it does also kill the bot eggs.