

**Canadian Connemara Pony Society
Annual General Meeting
Saturday October 22, 2011**

Present: Susan MacDougall, Jocelyn Davies, Penny Huggons, Jennifer Brownlow, Rick Doner, Bridget Wingate, Margot Watson, Cheryl Miller, Shirley Sauve

Guest: Judy Cornelius

1. President Welcome

Bridget Wingate, our president reported that our society has made good progress in the last year. Elsie Priddy has done a good job in the membership committee and our membership has grown from 56 – 71 members (including juniors). Our Newsletter has been excellent this past year, thanks to Rick and all the input from the breeders and owners. The webpage has also been updated this past year, it looks great! Plan is to have a special feature, “Pony of the Month”.. and there seems no shortage of participants.

2. Reading of 2010 minutes

Jocelyn read the minutes. Margot proposed, Susan seconded and unanimously agreed that they be accepted as read. The president signed and returned for the record.

3. Treasurer Report – Margot read the financial statements

Report to Dec 31, 2010 – there are two different bank accounts, CLRC account had a balance of \$1022.08 and our General Account had a balance of \$2,286.11, showing a total balance at end December 31, 2010 of \$3,309.19. The directors have earmarked \$1100.00 of the closing balance which had been set aside for inspections (agreed to at the 2010 AGM).

Report to September 30, 2011 – again two different bank accounts, CLRC account had a balance of \$1,841.23 and the General Account had a balance of \$4,671.80.

Margot proposed to accept the statements as read, Rick seconded and it was unanimously agreed. From the funds raised from the Silent Auction in 2011, Margot proposed that each of the 3 Regions be given \$200 each to use for promoting the Connemara Pony breed. It was unanimously agreed to.

New Business:

Insurance – each region is responsible for any events that they put on.

Liability insurance for board members.. Jennifer is checking into this and will advise the board as soon as possible.

Amending our Constitution – board members.. We will be losing some people. Next year we will lose Rick, Bridget, Margot, Susan & Heather. Bylaw changes now are being done in a more timely manner by Ag Canada according to Ron Black, CLRC, we are now told it takes just a few months. Bridget discussed to making changes to the current bylaws. It was agreed that Bridget contact her lawyer toin regarding to wording for instituting a 4th 2- year term for board members and that the past president be an ex officio member of the board. If the by-laws are amended, this action will only be considered if new board members cannot be found. Bridget will also be sending/reconfirming the Terms of Board Members to the Board Members.

Equine Canada - Jennifer suggested that we join Equine Canada and have a society membership so that we can apply for grants.

4. Region Reports

i. Central Region– Rick Doner

Central region members have been actively showing and promoting their Connemaras again this year. New member Janet Rowe has been successfully showing her new stallion Tybil whom she purchased from Mary Flynn, Violaine Fortin has been eventing Brio with great results and the Doners took Cara to the ACPS Region 1 show and did very well there as well. Stay tuned for other region news in the January newsletter. The meeting in March was cancelled at the last minute due to lack of members able to come. Going forward, there needs to be shows planned in conjunction with the other breeds and booths at major venues. The Region will meet to discuss the options.

ii. Prairie Region – Penny Huggons

Sales of youngstock and prospects are still down and few ponies are being bred. Brian Donegan reports that he had 5 purebreds born this year by Wildwych Don Juan. He also reports that he had 2 purebred mares arrive from California this fall from Blue Oak Farms. Cricket is on lease in Manitoba. Devon Ridge held a successful show this summer with many Connemaras attending.. There were over 12 Connemaras performing at the show. Devon Ridge also had 4 purebred Connemaras born this year.

Shirley Sauve showed her pony Kimble's May Bloom at the Devon Ridge Show placing 1st in the Sport Pony class so qualified for the Stars of the West. She also showed Rills Fire & Ice in the flat class where they placed well.

Rill Farm had one filly born this year, the first foal in three years. She's by Hohnhorst Brannigan and out of Rills Kelpie.. and is possibly a blue roan! They also bred two outside mares this year and one gelding sold to Eloden Connemaras in Saskatchewan. Elsie Priddy reports having a good show season with Century Hill's Aedan Zodiac and he showed well this year at Spruce Meadows Battle of the Breeds, definitely an amabassador for our breed!

Spruce Meadows Battle of the Breeds was again well represented by Team Connemara.. 3 new ponies on the team and two new riders and overall a good showing!

iii. Pacific Region – Susan McDougall

Pacific Region was a bit busy this year. We held a schooling show in the spring. There were quite a few participants from the barn that it was held at, M & M Connemaras, but with all the expenses plus the insurance, the show ended up losing money. Perhaps we need to charge more for classes, or consider a different structure to minimize the costs. Many thanks to Melanie White for providing her facilities for the show.

Morganne and Bien Mallins Rory O'Sullivan travelled again this year from BC to Alberta to assist the Connemara Pony Battle of the Breeds team at Spruce Meadows. Rory has competed on the team several times and does a wonderful job. Melanie White attended to support the team, as a former owner of Rory.

We did quite a few informal trail rides as Margot Watson brought Aille Ivory (aka Honey) out of retirement and ready to a little Eventing again. This lovely mare at 24 years old ended up 2011 Horse Trials BC High Point Champs for the Pre-Entry Division. There were some Connemara pony classes held on Vancouver Island that some of our members attended. I'm glad to know that we have some venues where the Connemara is recognized. Jennifer Brownlow participated in some Eventing clinics on the Island with her Connemara mare, Zara. Margot's mare, Ballencrieff's Winter Lace had a lovely colt by Ard Celtic Art this spring, and we are excited to see him develop as he carries the blood of his grandmother, Aladdin's Winter Promise, a much beloved mare. My own mare Coastal Celtic Ceildh is now in foal to Rick and Dale Doner's young stallion, Kippure Cara. I have to wait not to May 2012 to see what we get. I'm very excited for Ceildh's first foal. We spent some time getting ready to represent the Connemara Pony at the Mane Event, a large equine fair held in Chilliwack, in conjunction with the CCPS AGM

iv. Report from IRELAND – Shirley Sauve

Shirley enthusiastically reported going to the ICCPS AGM & Connemara Clifden Show in August as well as going to visit many farms with Tom & Maire MacLoughlainn again seeing many beautiful cConnemaras and Irish countryside. See Shirley's full report on the web.

5. Committee Report

a. Membership Committee – Elsie Priddy

Elsie's report read by Bridget. She says there is a new owner in Manitoba who just bought a new filly and that the question came up on whether or not the new owner will get a free membership for one year. Response from us was that it is encouraged that the seller/breeder buy the membership for the owner for the first year but this is optional, not written in stone, somewhat more of an old tradition. Elsie suggested that this may be something we should put in our next newsletter encouraging sellers to keep up with this lovely tradition. She also suggested that we should possibly look at the option of the society providing a membership for one year.

Membership Cards can be ordered very inexpensively from VISTA and we can send them to the CLRC to send to new members.

b. Nominations - Rick Doner

Nominations for 2011 went well. We will be actively looking for new people to be on the board. So, We will put a notice in next newsletter for new nominees.

c. Inspections -Margot Watson

No inspection in 2011 Distances in ponies and inspections and costs of getting ponies to inspection sites. New Inspectors required.. Jennifer to check into Grants through Ag Canada for inspections. Possible inspections in Central Region in 2012 and also Prairie Region at same time as 2012 AGM. Rick proposes that the price should be raised to \$100 mares / stallion \$150. 2nd by Shirley, all but one in favour. Rick proposed putting another \$1900 for inspection reserve. Susan 2nd. All in favour.

d. Registration Committee - Heather Sherratt (read by Margot)

Heather reported that part of the committee's work is to ensure that all ACPS ponies coming into Canada are transferred into the CCPS. and Also, to ensure that all foals born in Canada are registered with the CCPS.

Heather also recommended said that now all transfer (new registration papers to new owners) are sent to her so that she can emboss the papers for inspected and approved ponies. The CLRC replaces papers every time the pony is transferred. This will also gives us a record of what the ponies that have been transferred ownership. Right now w We still have many ponies in Canada with ACPS papers and many of thesome owners do not realize there is a Canadian Society/registration body. Working with the Membership committee, it is hopefuld that more new owners will be able to recognize that the CCPS does existlearn about the CCPS.

Jocelyn proposed that List of Transfers of ponies bought/sold be published on our Website. Good idea to inform members also that CLRC requires pictures of each side of the pony for new transfers. Penny seconded and it was unanimously agreed.

e. CLRC – Ron Black (Bridget Wingate read)

Jocelyn says that the CLRC is sending bulk mail to her..., much of which is not required. It was suggested that we need to should request CLRC to send out a specific list of forms that we need. Also, it would be great if we could get the membership list in excel format electronically for mail out, e;mail addresses etc. Jocelyn will prepare a list of forms she feels are required and present it to the board.

f. Achievement Awards – Doris Jacobi (read by Shirley Sauve)

Shirley read the 2010 report from Doris.. tThere were 15 owners/riders that submitted Show results from throughout Canada. 5 competed in Dressage, 4 in hand, 2 in Jumper, 2 in Driving, 1 in Combined Driving, 3 in Horse Trials, 2 in English Pleasure, 1 in TREC. Doris has concerns that there are many Connemaras whose riders and owners do not participate in the program and she would like to see some of these ponies somehow showcased.

g. Foundation Broodmare Award

Abbeyleix Bluebird is the 2011award recipient of this award. She was owned by Louise Jolicoeur of Maplehurst stud Farm in Quebec. Heather Sherratt nominated the mare. She had five foals, only one of which was born in Canada, Maplehurst Michael MacDaire. She and died quite young due to an allergic reaction. She was shown in Ireland before being imexported into the USA and then to Canada to Maplehurst stud.Farm.

h. Webpage Report – Penny Huggons

Penny report that the webpage is working well. Updates are being done in a timely manner. We have started doing the “Feature Pony” on the Home Page and our first pony was Jewel (Devon Ridge Precious Gem) with Karter Duke. This feature will now go to the Archives and the next pony will be Century Hill’s new stallion, Kipure Cara. Penny encourages all to send in their good photos for the “Gallery” to keep the webpage fresh and interesting. Classified Ads are for 3months

We had discussed at one time to have a bulletin board /interactive type of page for the younger members, but with Facebook and such out there, there are probably better venues to do this. Penny encourages people to send her news and pics etc. for the webpage to keep it interesting. Jocelyn volunteered to set up a Facebook page for the Canadian Connemara Pony Society with a link to the CCPS webpage and all agreed that was a good idea.

H. Breeders List and Stallion Directory - Bridget Wingate

Breeders List up to 15.00 and stallion will be 45.00 but those donating stud fees to stallion auction will be free. Bridget proposed and Penny 2nd. U.unanimously agreed...

I. Promotion/ Advertising/

a) Stallion Auction – we will have a stud fee auction in 2012. Susan MacDougall will again organize this. If you have a stallion and would like to donate a stud fee to the society, please contact Susan MacDougall via e;mail susanmac@uniserve.com

b) We currently have Jackets, saddle pads, sweaters and shirts with our logo. We have made \$220 in profit so far. Items can be flexible as we have a very good supplier that allows us to order on an as is basis.

c) Book – Moycullen Ponymen – Tom MacLoughlann. Tom’s new book is out and he’s has offered to sell it directly to the CCPS for \$15 Euro. Shipping is expensive though.. so the next person to go to Ireland to pick up 6 books.

J. Newsletter - Rick Doner

Cost currently \$8.40 per mail out. It consists of 3 – 4 double sided 11 x 14” coloured pages. price... We need to see about some alternative pricing – quotes for printing. Jocelyn and Rick will look into some quotes.

Rick Doner proposes that we amalgamate two newsletters into one annual publication which is a hard copy and would be mailed to each member, except those who do not want a hard copy. All interim news on website and facebook page. This change will be a trial for 2012. Business Card sponsorship \$10.00. Need to look into other sponsorships.. Jennifer Brownlow seconded and all were in favour. Note that 2016 will be 10 year anniversary of CCPS and plans are for a “ Special Edition Newsletter “” publication. Next Annual Newsletter January - Spruce Meadows, Stallion Feature, Brood Mare Award.

L. Arbitration – Bridget Wingate

No problems reported 2011

6. Election of Board of Governors

Central Region - Scott Longmire was nominated and no further nominations from the floor, Elected by Acclamation is Scott Longmire.

Prairie Region – Elsie Priddy nominated, no other nomination from the floor. Elsie Priddy was Elected by Acclamation.

Pacific Region – Jennifer Brownlow nominated and no other nominations from the floor. Jennifer Brownlow was Elected by Acclamation.

7. Appointment of Nominating Committee 2012

Scott Longmire was suggested to chair the Nominating Committee

8. AGM 2012

Next year it will be the Prairie Region's turn to host the AGM. It was determined that it will be in Calgary, AB, next year either September 8 or 9, 2012 during the Masters Tournament at Spruce Meadows.

Penny moved to adjourned the meeting. It was seconded by Margot Watson. Meeting closed at 3:39.