


THE COMMONERS' NEWSLETTER

Produced by  NEW FOREST YOUNG COMMONERS COMMITTEE

The Latest Beaulieu Road Triumphs

The latest Beaulieu Road Pony sale was extremely well attended, with 4 pre-sale foal shows judged by Mr P Armitage. There were some fantastic foals entered with 12 being Forest bred. Jonathan Gerrelli's filly Crabbswood Surprise (only filly to be entered) won overall champion foal, with Sally Fears Tilebarn Saviour Jack reserve champion and champion forest bred (pictured). Sophie Roberts put forward her gelding Eaglehurst Golden Wonder who won his class, gained best foal bred by a Young Commoner and reserve forest bred champion (pictured). Well done to all!



Don't forget: 30th Nov FOAL NOTIFICATION DEADLINE.

Due to new Equine ID Regulations all foals must be registered with the NFPB&CS by above date.

PSSM ... A few good to know facts

- Polysaccharide Storage Myopathy (PSSM1) is a hereditary condition that can cause a genetic form of tying-up, muscle damage and inability to move. Not all horses show symptoms.
- Type 1 PSSM has been found in more than 20 breeds of horses world-wide, not just New Forest Ponies.
 - All the licenced NF stallions are now tested clear.
- Mares must test negative/free from PSSM before they can be fully accepted as graded. As this is a requirement, it was agreed that the charge for the PSSM test would be subsidised and that the mare owner will only have to pay £15. A hair sample is taken on the day and the 'graded' status is only approved once the 'clear' test result has been received.
- Normal test fee, if done through NFPB&CS, is £25. Lab fee if done direct is £30. It is very easy to do, just need a good few hair samples plus follicles in a zip lock bag to be sent off.
 - PSSM has still only been identified in the **2 bloodlines**. It has been identified in **Manor Boy of Howen**, Blackwell Jonathan, Blackwell Flashman, Blackwell Romany, **Crabbswood Zanussi**, Furzey Lodge Zennica, Rushmoor Huntley.
- It is 100% safe to breed from the negatives - because this condition cannot skip a generation; so clear x clear will guarantee clear.



The Drifts 2018

Once again we have come to the end of a drift season, and early August at Durhill seems so far away now!

As every year we have had good days and some not so good, but that has always happened. People often don't realise that conducting a drift is quite different to 'colt hunting', where you go out to catch a specific animal and can concentrate just on that one and stick to it. When the Agisters run a drift, there is so much more to take into account, and in some cases circumstances dictate that catching the ponies takes second place to other things. This is not how it should be from a stock management point of view, but we operate in a unique place and unfortunately have to take note of how our actions impact on the wider public. This issue has become more and more a problem for us over the years, and can be so frustrating. Sometimes what may be the best way to catch ponies in a particular place is something we just can't do because of health and safety concerns. This is why on drift days please give the Agisters, particularly the Agister whose drift it is, a bit of forgiveness if they are a bit short tempered, because it is such a stressful time. You're trying to do the best thing to catch the ponies, not have any incidents, avoid the public, workout what ponies are what, and all the time everyone is on at you! So if we sometimes shout and swear, and lose our temper, cut us some slack!

Overall they've gone quite well this year and mostly the weathers been ok, although we all remember Beaulieu Aerodrome and how wet we got at Pilley. It was interesting to see there the ones who stuck it to the end to help out!

Having a good, successful drift is so important from a stock management point of view, and so we do appreciate the help we get. One thing commoners can do to help is of course turn up at Drifts where you have ponies, but if you can't make it, at least let the Agister know what to do with your ponies.

Of course we can always do better, but we do need your help to make sure the drift is successful, so to all our 'regular' helpers a big thanks from the Agisters.

Jonathan Gerrelli - Head Agister



*5 weeks and 4 days until
race day....!*

Can you identify where these pictures were taken?



New Forest Hounds 2018/19

Thank you for the opportunity to let you all know how the New Forest Hounds are going this year. We have had a very busy season so far, with over 100 riders out at our Opening Meet, held at the Royal Oak, Fritham, and amongst the riders were a good number of Commoners and Young Commoners, which was lovely to see. Our trail laying team worked very hard on the day to give us some good trail hunting and we covered 29 miles over the day, with the last trail covering 5 miles as hounds ran.

We meet on a Tuesday and Saturday at 10:45, under 16yrs is £20, 16yrs to 21yrs is £30 and Commoners are £40. Good value for a full day of sport, food and drink at the meet!

We have our Point to Point at Larkhill on the 18th March, with a full day of racing, plus our own Charity Race. This is open to NFH supporters, on their own horse/pony, why not come out with the Hounds and see how you qualify.

We host social event most months, which are open to all, why not check out our website for all the details, there is also our secretary's email address to contact if you would like to join us any day you would like.

Carol Lovell

The new CDA website is live! You can find it at www.realnewforest.org. There is a dedicated page for the Young Commoners group, found in the "About the CDA" area, but we need your ideas on what to put there, complementing the popular Facebook page. The website also includes a blog, and proposals for interesting blog articles will also be very welcome, alongside your thoughts for developing the website. We want it to become the main source of reliable information on commoning.



Thank you to Lyndsey and everyone else involved in creating a fantastic Commoners exhibition, thank you for all of your hard work and dedication. From the Young Commoners Committee.

Photo answers: 1. Lymington High Street, 2. Blackfield Common, 3. Cadnam, 4. Kings House (Now Queens House), 5. Alum Green, 6. Blackwell Common, 7. Boltens Bench, 8. Lyndhurst Community Centre, 9. Swan Green.

Pictures courtesy of Carole Cooper, Audrey Scott – Hopkins, Louise England and Daisy Slocombe.