



# THE EXMOOR PONY SOCIETY

**PATRON: The Baroness Mallalieu KC**

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## **Committee Meeting held on Zoom at 10am on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2026**

### **Trustees present:**

- Dr Sue Baker - SB
- Geoff Bryant - GB
- Dr Debbie Davy - DD
- Mark Drummond - MDR
- Megan Gillon - MG
- Janet James - JJ
- Sheralee Matravers - SM
- Lloyd Parry - LP
- Stephanie Poulter - SP
- Dr Christian Scharch - CS
- David Wallace - DW

### **Others present:**

- Jay Gee (Secretary) – JG

### **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies had been received from Dr Michael Dewhurst MRCVS and Ian Graham.

### **Declaration of Interest/Confirmation of Confidentiality**

*It was proposed by JJ, seconded by SB and unanimously agreed that confidentiality with respect to the discussions at the meeting would be maintained.*

### **Approval of the Minutes of the Meetings held on 11<sup>th</sup> Nov 2025 and 18<sup>th</sup> Dec 2025**

*It was proposed by SP, seconded by LP and unanimously agreed that the minutes of the meetings held on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2025 and Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2025 were a true and accurate record of the meetings.*

### **Conflicts of Interest**

Trustees considered whether those amongst them who are also breeders (GB, DD, SM, LP, SP, CS, and DW) should abstain from discussion and/or voting on matters affecting fees related to breeding

activities. Given the number of trustees affected and the potential impact on quoracy, these trustees would be allowed to participate fully in both discussion and voting.

### **Foal Registration Fee 2026**

*It was proposed by CS, seconded by SB and agreed that the foal registration fee for 2026 foals would be increased to £69 for members and £138 for non-members.*

- *For: 10*
- *Against: 1*
- *Abstentions: 0*

### **2027 Membership Subscriptions**

The structure of AGM votes was confirmed to be separated into 5 proposals to avoid an “all or nothing” outcome:

- full and life membership fees
- one and two vote family membership fees
- supporter membership fee
- student membership fee
- junior membership fee

*It was proposed by MD, seconded by CS and unanimously agreed that a proposal would be put to the 2026 AGM to amend the membership fees for the 2027 membership year as follows:*

| <b>Membership Type</b>                      | <b>One-Off Joining/Rejoining Fee(*)</b> | <b>Annual Subscription</b> |
|---------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| <i>Life Member</i>                          | <i>£1125</i>                            | <i>N/A</i>                 |
| <i>Full Membership</i>                      | <i>£5*</i>                              | <i>£45</i>                 |
| <i>Family Membership 1 Vote</i>             | <i>£5*</i>                              | <i>£65</i>                 |
| <i>Family Membership 2 Votes</i>            | <i>£5*</i>                              | <i>£90</i>                 |
| <i>Supporter Membership</i>                 | <i>£5*</i>                              | <i>£35</i>                 |
| <i>Student (U25 in full-time education)</i> | <i>N/A</i>                              | <i>£25</i>                 |

| <b>Membership Type</b>         | <b>One-Off Joining/Rejoining Fee(*)</b> | <b>Annual Subscription</b>                                          |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <i>Junior (U18) Membership</i> | N/A                                     | <i>£20 for first Junior member, additional siblings at £10 each</i> |

\*This fee is waived for members who sign up to a direct debit when Joining/re-joining

## **Social Media**

*It was proposed by CS, seconded by SB and unanimously agreed that MG would be given the role of 'admin' on the EPS Facebook page.*

## **Payment of Expenses Arising from the Work of Friends of Exmoor Ponies Limited**

DD had discussed the payment of 'Friends' expenses with Dan Stone. He was happy with how these are currently dealt with in the EPS' accounting system, so the EPS could continue to pay these expenses directly to suppliers and volunteers.

It was considered beneficial to set up a new nominal in Xero for these expenses. Where an expense needed to be shared between the EPS and 'Friends', it was agreed this would be allocated proportionally in Xero.

## **Sole Trader**

It was clarified that any discussion or paperwork referring to Esteo, STO, Sole Trader or Steve Lodge referred to the same entity.

*It was proposed by SP, seconded by SB, and unanimously agreed that the number of hours paid to Sole Trader should be reduced from 7.5 to 4 hours per month.*

## **Marion Williams Bursary Applications**

Shows would give out their own Marion Williams Bursary Rosettes this year.

## **Travel Expenses for Judges at EPS Shows**

Trustees noted that there was no upper limit on mileage claims for those invited to judge at EPS shows. It was agreed that a cap should be introduced to ensure costs were reasonable while still covering judges' travel. After discussion, trustees agreed on a standard maximum of £250 per show for mileage. It was also agreed that, in exceptional circumstances, trustees could consider applications exceeding this cap.

The contribution to accommodation expenses would remain the same.

### **Probationer Judges Scheme**

It was recognised that clearer guidance for all probationers and judges was required to avoid future ambiguity: it was suggested that participants would not be permitted to probation under the same judge more than once and would not be permitted to probation under one of their own sponsors. However, trustees acknowledged that exceptions might be necessary for participants undertaking the scheme from outside the UK.

### **Remote Inspection via Zoom**

Trustees received feedback on the recent Zoom-based inspection of a colt overseas. Comments from the inspectors and owner confirmed that the process worked smoothly and efficiently. Inspectors found the format effective, particularly the ability to give real-time direction on camera angles and areas of focus.

It was noted that a remote inspection does not allow for a physical examination of the setting of the teeth, although alignment could be observed. Despite these limitations, trustees agreed the process was a significant improvement on earlier photo-based methods used during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Trustees agreed that, while remote inspections should not be used routinely, they represent a useful option in exceptional circumstances, particularly where only one inspector is available within a reasonable travelling distance of an inspection location.

### **Gelded Sire**

Some foals had been sired by a colt which has since been gelded. The colt has undergone a veterinary examination and parentage verification but has not yet undergone an EPS stallion inspection. The trustees discussed whether this was required under Society rules for the foals to be eligible for registration.

According to the Rules, eligibility depended on the age of the colt at the time of covering and whether it had previously failed an EPS stallion inspection.