

Minutes of the meeting held on 11th March 2008

1. Chair Eve Hall welcomed everybody to the meeting and extended a special welcome to new members:- Tracy & Becky Wood (Morecambe), Virginia Watts (Holme), Marilyn Pendlebury (Low Bentham), Angela Coultas (Morecambe), Sarah Webster (Preston) and Julie & Ashley Hallhead-McClements (Lancaster).
2. Apologies for Absence:- Karen Rayton, Jackie Millatt, Sarah Webster, Pat Hodgkinson, Chris. Evans, Rosemary Worrell & Sue Houghton.
3. Minutes of the meeting of 8th January 2008. These were proposed by Anna Twiname and seconded by Sue.
4. Matters arising other than those on the agenda:-none
5. Members were reminded that help is needed at Whittington Races on 22nd March and especially at our fundraising ride over Farleton Fell on 27th April. Please either do the ride, or turn up on the day to volunteer as marshalls or to help at base.
6. Eve thanked Lorraine for organising the members' rides last year. Jeanne Smith has taken over this role this year, so if you would be prepared to lead a ride in your area please contact her on 01524 781472 or e-mail rod511.smith@virgin.net Vicky Lowe will be leading a ride round the Settle Loop the Wednesday after Easter, and on 27th July there will be a ride from Helwith Bridge. But there are lots of free months to fill in, so please volunteer!
7. Progress re Bridleways:-
 - i) Fleagarth, Silverdale. In 1974 a DMMO (Definitive Map Modification Order) was put in to upgrade a footpath in Fleagarth Woods to a Bridleway. This has eventually proved successful, though at the moment it will be a cul-de-sac route. However, it is intended to apply to continue the route round the shoreline, even though this is not currently rideable due to erosion of the beach
 - ii) Haweswater, Silverdale. This is owned by Natural England, who are deciding whether to allow access to horses. NLBS has offered to provide a track round a section of the route.
 - iii) Cantsfield. This is an ongoing issue, the latest proposal being to provide a ford across the river, which will require diversion of the original route and hence permission of the landowner
 - iv) Another! Eve is keeping this one secret, all she'll say is that it's in the Bolton-le-Sands area and she's investigating it.
8. Future Events:-
 - i) Cumbria Bridleways Society is holding a Tack Sale on 16th March at Endmoor Village Hall
 - ii) There is a Fun Day at Newton Rigg on 25th March.
 - iii) ILPH Penny Farm at Blackpool is holding a Tack Sale on 15th March
 - iv) There will be a talk on transporting horses, also at Penny Farm, on 27th March
9. Any Other Business. Barbara Hartley, Membership Secretary, asked for members' views on whether she should circulate the more 'controversial' subject matter she receives. Discussion ensued, but it was decided Barbara should use her own judgement!

Unfortunately the advertised speaker, Jo Atkinson, was unable to attend, so instead Bridget Pickthall, who is also one of our members, stepped in and gave a very interesting presentation on her progress to date in opening the disused railway line at Hincaster as a multi-user path.

After initially walking the route and finding no major obstacles, she submitted the proposal to the Cumbria Rights of Way Improvement Plan. She has also written to MPs, Parish Councils, District & County Councillors, as well as many organisations, to drum up support, and has approached the appropriate landowners. So far, to Bridget's amazement, there have been no real stumbling blocks.

This 2.5 mile route would be a fantastic asset to our bridleway network and our sincere thanks go to Bridget for all her hard work so far.

Date of next meeting 13th May 2008 at Hest Bank Memorial Hall

Everyone welcome and please bring a friend!

To date we have no speaker but we are hoping to invite someone from Myerscough to speak about Land Management. If you wish to have confirmation nearer the date then contact Eve 01524 824205 or e-mail

Batmillhouses@aol.com

This is also the AGM and subs. for the year '08 – '09 will be due at that meeting. Thanks.

Additional Information (What a lot happening!!) Sorry if some of this is too short notice. I can only get it around by e-mail between posting of minutes.

Special Plea

Katarina brought this issue to our notice. There had first been an article in one of the national newspapers with graphic pictures of the cruelty being caused. If you feel you could help to fight these atrocities, then please send off your appeal.

Philippines Horses Encourage the Mayor of Davao City to End Horse Fighting

Horse Fighting, an illegal spectator blood sport where stallions are incited to fight one another, is widely practiced on the island of Mindanao in the southern Philippines. Fuelled by cash prizes for the owners of the winning horses and extensive gambling, horse fighting is a cruel spectacle that results in serious injuries and often death for the horses.

Please send a letter to the Mayor of Davao City, the largest city on the island of Mindanao and the economic hub of the area. Inform Mayor Duterte that as a compassionate traveler, you choose tourism destinations that are committed to treating animals humanely. Only when all horse fighting has been ended, will you consider travelling to Mindanao.

Rodrigo Duterte, Mayor , Davao City Investment Promotion Center , Door 10, Ramon Magsaysay Park Complex, R. Magsaysay Avenue , Davao City, Philippines www.davaocity.gov.ph/contactus.aspx

Web Site – request from Sarah Harper, our web site manager:

The NLBS website will be hosting a new feature, "Meet the NLBS".

Any members wishing to feature on the website, please forward a few details of themselves and/or horses and pictures, if possible to myself a.boylan@btinternet.com (Sorry no tel no.)

It is a way of getting to know each other and highlighting the wonderful people that are our members. You can add as many or as few details as you wish. Things that might be interesting to know are name, age group, profession, base area, horsey interests, words of wisdom, horsey item you could not live without etc - or anything you can think of!

This is your society and your website so please join in!

For Rent: 3 acres of quality grazing split into 3 paddocks, post and rail fencing. Three 12 x 12 foot stables, feed shed and hard standing area. Yealand Conyers. Contact Shirley 07716617771.

For sale: Ideal continental apex brown English leather GP saddle. Excellent condition 17 inch, narrow to medium fit. Offers around £375. Same contact as above.

Wanted - small horse box suitable for ponies --not a silly price and MUST be reliable. Tel 01524 791013.

Pony available

From Margaret Mackintosh who grazes the Exmoor ponies at Gait Barrows in the Arnside/Silverdale area:

Exmoor Ponies In Conservation offers Gait Barrows Robin.

Robin is an 11yr old, sound gelding, approx 12.2 registered PB with both Welsh Pony and Cob Society and Exmoor Pony Society. A good looking, friendly and well handled pony, who would make an excellent companion pony, or may even break to ride. He has been part of the EPIC conservation grazing team since foalhood which has familiarised him with all manner of people and dogs! He has mild sweet itch, which with management has enabled him to live out during the summer, next to the wetland on Gait Barrows NNR. However he would really benefit from a knowledgeable home where he has access to a stable. To come and see him, ring 01524 701470 or email epic@exmoorpony.org. (possibly some support given to right home).

Think Horse Signs – from Chris Peat, BHS Regional Bridleway Officer NW, ‘I noticed your Think Horse signs are being removed by the highways agency. When I asked my local authority about them they said to leave them up for 3 weeks max. then move them to another location.... I think it is better moving them as motorists stop looking at them after seeing them a couple of times.’ Thanks Chris.

EVENTS

Fri. April 11th – Fylde Coast Bridleways Society. Talk on Equine Dentistry by Paul Wardby. Elswick Equestrian Centre, Bonds Lane, Elswick, Fylde at 7.30p.m. £1 entry, refreshments & raffle.

Fri. April 18th, 7.30pm., at the Greyhound Hotel, Shap, Cumbria. Cumbria Bridleways Society Spring Social - a meal followed by an illustrated talk with Vyv Wood-Gee, who rode from Lands End to John O'Groats with her daughter, in aid of Cancer Research, averaging 25 miles a day over 8 weeks on two Fell ponies. **To book a place phone Hilary Fell on 01539 823208.**

Sunday May 4th - Beginner's dressage Competition/Young horse outing held by the Classical Riding Club at Midfield Farm, Icelandic Horse Stud Farm, Gaisgill, Near Tebay CA10

Class one Young horse/beginners test 1b

Class two Preliminary test 2a

Icelandic Horse tolt demonstration

Class three Preliminary/novice test 3a

Further details from Anne Davies 01204 412503 or 07980 919788

Saturday 27th September, 2008 - at Wellington House, Blencow, Nr Penrith; with use of the adjoining village hall which has good facilities.

Lisa Hartley writes - As you may already be aware from national news coverage, 35 horses and ponies were found dead or dying, and a further 111 in need of rescue in Buckinghamshire. Redwings Horse Sanctuary is one of the horse charities taking care of them

This has moved me to hold an event to raise money for Redwings. There will be amateur, fun and 'first-timers', horse and pony competitions for adults and youngsters alike, Redwings rosettes for all entrants and many prizes. There will be plenty to choose from and participate in as follows:-

In Hand Showing Horse and Pony.

Ridden Horse and Pony (optional canter and very small jump).

Clear round Jumping (jumps between 6" - 12").

Mini Trec (inhand and ridden).

Fancy Dress for adults and youngsters (below 14 yrs of age). There will also be Rare horse and pony breeds displays.

Informative demonstrations (horse massage, treeless saddles etc). Bring and Buy tack sale.

A variety of Trade Stands. Plus much, much more. Food and refreshments will also be available.

Please enter or just come along and enjoy the day. For entry forms, apply to bring a trade stand or if you would like to give a demonstration or sponsor a class, give a donation, or if you have anything we can sell for the charity on the tack stand please call Lisa on 017684 83018 or email hartleyshome@aol.com or write enclosing a SAE to Lisa Hartley, Wellington House, Blencow, Penrith, Cumbria CA11 0DB for further details.

RIDES Organised by other individuals/groups etc.

April 13th in aid of Silloth Lifeboat. Venue - Silloth Docks, 15km and 30 Km route all along the sand. Start time is between 9.30 and 10.30. No late starts due to the tide times. There will be a small raffle. The entry is £15.00" Contact Heather Park (member) 65 Syke Road, Wigton, Cumbria CA7 9NG or tel. 016973 43209

April 13th - Caldew riding club pleasure ride. Entry £10 donated to Air Ambulance. From Mockerin Tarn Lamplugh near Keswick between 10.00 & 11.00a.m. 1 mile roadwork, remainder bridleways, in total c.10 miles with all gates manned. Takes in breath taking views of Buttermere and Crummock water. Plenty of parking. For more information contact Garry Clark 01768 898024 after 6.30p.m.

April 19th. Sat. – The Mayor's Charities Ride (St. John's Hospice, 1st Responders & Animal Care) 20mile Pleasure Ride, Lancaster Auction Mart, 9.30 onwards. £15. Contact Mrs. Helen Helme, Lane Side Farm, Ellel, Lancaster LA2 0QQ or tel. 01524 751075

Sunday 20th. April – EGB, West Yorks. Social Ride at Eldwick, near Bingley, - 18miles & 12 miles. E-mail juliemartin140@tiscali.co.uk or tel. Jenny Vesey 01274 556143

Sat., May 10th - Cardinal Allen High School, Fleetwood - Charity Ride , mostly along the beach. Contact The P.T.A., Cardinal Allen High School, Melbourne Ave. Fleetwood, Lancs FY7 8AY or tel 01253 872659. Please enclose a large SAE with sufficient postage & mark the envelope with 'horse ride'.

Sat. June 28th. – EGB Lancs Group – Dolphinhholme Pleasure Ride, 20 mile & 7 mile, 9.30 onwards. £12 EGB members, others £15. Contact Mrs. Helen Helme, Lane Side Farm, Ellel, Lancaster LA2 0QQ or tel. 01524 751075

Sat. Sept.20th - the RDA Sponsored Ride from Holker Hall . Details can be obtained by contacting info@furnessrda.org.uk or tel. June Chapman 01229 716479

NLBS RIDES

Our major fund-raising effort -

Sunday 27th April - Pleasure Ride at Farleton Fell, near Carnforth

15 scenic miles over bridleways and quiet lanes. Entry £15 Enquiries to Chris Bell on 01524 822925 or E-mail-: cb.13@btinternet.com or download the entry form from the web site www.nlbs.org.uk

Social Rides

Jeanne Smith has volunteered to organise our 'ride' programme. Thanks Jeanne. We have also had some volunteers to lead rides but we do need more. These rides are very informal & the leader decides how many riders he/she is happy to take, maybe 4, maybe 12, whatever is safe & manageable for the leader. The idea began when we thought how good it would be to ride in each other's area & so it only needs to be a ride which you enjoy often & probably will be 2 – 3 hours in length. Please remember, it is the leader who decides when, where, how long & how many. We also have ride guidelines, for leaders & participants. For a copy, or to volunteer a ride, contact Jeanne on rod511.smith@virgin.net or tel. 01524 781632

Please consider volunteering. We would like to offer a ride each month if possible.

Rides already organised

Saturday 19th July Witherslack

Lynn Hodgson ride leader phone 015395 52293 to book a place (Max 10 riders)
A two hour ride covering about 12 miles in mainly walk and trot, not a fast ride!
There is parking for trailers outside a pub (sounds promising!)

Sunday 27th July Helwith Bridge near Clapham and Austwick,

Kathryn Richardson Ride leader, Phone 015242 51488 or 07740105322 to book a place (Max 10 riders)
Scenic ride on mainly bridleways, tracks and quiet lanes (some are quite stony)
walk and trot some opportunities for a controlled canter!
Free parking at Helwith Bridge in large car park with good turning area 10.00 am start.

Well, hope that is not too much for you all to read & take in! What a lot is going on in the area & thanks to everyone who keeps feeding in the information. Also, hope you feel you are getting your money's worth – for £5 each year!! Please tell your friends. There are still many horsey people in the North Lancs. area who have not yet joined us – we are quietly heading for 400 members – can you help to attain that number?

Sorry I cannot be at the next meeting but still bring your subs. – I am sure I will find a volunteer to help collect & issue receipts.....won't I?? Have a good meeting & see you through the summer! Enjoy the riding!

Barbara