

NORTH LANCs BRIDLEWAYS SOCIETY

Minutes of the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING held on 13th May 2008

1. Eve Hall, Chairperson, welcomed members to the meeting.
2. Apologies for Absence:- Sue Clowes, Barbara Hartley, Lesley Owen, Celia Dixon, Janet Bebbington, Kath Richardson, Sarah Webster, Pauline McCartney, Helen Wain.
3. Minutes of the last AGM 8th May 2007. These were proposed by Lynne Hodgson and seconded by Sue Hargreaves as a true and accurate record.
4. Matters Arising:- none
5. Chairperson & Secretary's Report-
NLBS has again had a busy year, membership has increased and lots of potential routes have been considered. Thank you to all officers in the society for all their voluntary work.. Eve & Vicky also thanked everyone who has supported the successful fundraising events, including the tack sale, Whittington Point-to-Point and the Farleton Fell ride.
NLBS has produced 2 newsletters, a number of monthly rides and a 10-year 'do', and has been in consultation with numerous agencies regarding access for horses. Eve finished by wishing NLBS a successful year with lots of work and lots of fun.
6. Treasurer's Report – Lynne Hodgson circulated the accounts. The society has £1,230 in the current account and £6,290 in the deposit account.
7. Membership Secretary's Report – Barbara Hartley was unable to attend but sent word that NLBS currently has 325 members and urged everyone to renew their subs so that membership will continue to grow. She thanked everyone for such great support.
8. Election of Officers:- the following members were elected.
Chairperson – Eve Hall (proposer Vicky Lowe, seconder Lynne Hodgson)
Secretary - Vicky Lowe (proposer Sue Hargreaves, seconder Lynne Hodgson) – helped by Kaye Edwards.
Treasurer – Lynne Hodgson (proposer Sue Hargreaves, seconder Sheila Kissack)
Membership Secretary – Barbara Hartley (proposer Beverley Hodgson, seconder Liz Davidson)
Minutes Secretary – Sue Clowes (proposer Sharon Cash, seconder Anna Twiname)
Grants Secretary – Lesley Owen
Newsletter Secretary – Sheena Robertson
Rides Co-ordinator – Jeanne Smith
Website Administrator – Sarah Harper
9. Any Other Business:- none

Minutes of the ORDINARY MEETING held on 13th May 2008

1. Eve Hall, Chairperson, welcomed the following new members to NLBS:- June Pye (Ulverston), Lucie Clayton (Hambleton), Jackie Calvert (Huncoat), Vicki Ronksley (Out Rawcliffe).
2. Apologies for Absence:- as above
3. Minutes of meeting of 11th March 2008. These were proposed by Anna Twiname and seconded by Sharon Cash.
4. Matters arising:- none
5. Farleton Fell ride:- Eve thanked everybody who helped, including gate people & site helpers, and especially Chris Bell for organising the entries. The event made over £1,000 for NLBS funds, and letters were received praising the ride atmosphere. Also a big thank you to the person who donated the chocolate cake – the plate is still awaiting collection from Eve!
6. Whittington Races:- Thank you to all members who manned the gates. The weather was poor but £500 was raised for NLBS.
7. Any Other Business:-
 - i) A list was circulated for ideas for speakers for future meetings
 - ii) Leaflets and members' holiday photos of the Mary Townley Loop were available to look at.
 - iii) Barbara Hartley has written an article for 'Native Pony' magazine about her 2 Fell ponies.
 - iv) We need volunteers to lead the monthly rides – please contact Jeanne with details
 - v) All articles and other contributions for the newsletter will be welcomed. Please email them to sheena@creativemarketingsolutions.co.uk

- vi) Members Janis Ashworth, Jeanne Smith and Shirley Richardson are riding part of the Pennine Bridleway next week in aid of the Ray of Hope Appeal. Please sponsor and support them.
- vii) The next major NLBS fundraising event will be the Whittington Charity Ride on 14th September 2008. Details are available on NLBS website & the accompanying Newsletter.
- viii) Our researcher has completed a project on 3 lost bridleways. 1 has already been resolved, the other 2 are ongoing.
- ix) BHS is holding an Access conference on 21st September at Penrith. Any member wishing to attend can have their costs met by NLBS.
- x) Sharon Cash entertained members by describing the Settle Loop ride back in April led by Vicky Lowe. This turned out to be quite exciting, as there was thick snow underhoof.
- xi) The proposed Coastal Access will not include horses, even though it is supposed to be multi-user. A petition only counts as one letter, so individual letters to the government are needed.
- xii) Members discussed the extensive works going on at Greenlands Farm, Tewitfield, and how this may affect the existing bridleway. Nobody was clear about the proposals.

Myerscough College provided speakers for the evening, to talk about field/pasture management. This was very informative, including an account of conservation grazing, where native ponies graze small areas to re-introduce native plant species and get rid of problem plants caused by overgrazing. There was a lot of discussion on weed control such as ragwort and also buttercups, which are prolific this year. It was pointed out that clover is high in protein, and therefore could be a laminitis problem.

There was plenty of opportunity for questions & answers, and horse manure was very popular (!) with varied views on what to do with it. This was certainly a subject of great interest to all our members, and could have continued for several hours longer.

Date of next meeting 8th July 2008 at 7.30pm at Hest Bank Memorial Hall

Everyone welcome and please bring a friend!

The speakers will be members Janis Ashworth, Jeanne Smith and Shirley Richardson, who will entertain us with an account of their recent sponsored ride on the Pennine Bridleway.

Subscriptions for 2008 – 2009 (May) are now due. Please see the Newsletter for details. Many of you have paid in advance & for those who did not join until after Christmas then your subs. carry through until 2009. If you are not sure if you owe anything then either check by looking at your most recent receipt, by e-mail Batmillhouses@aol.com or wait until the next minutes when I will send out reminders to those still to pay. Please **do renew**. It is still only £5 per single/couple/family & we **must** maintain our membership numbers. Thanks again to everyone for such great support. **Please keep it up!!**