

# The Connemara Pony Society of New Zealand Incorporated

Newsletter March 2005

PRESIDENT	SECRETARY/TREASURER	REGISTRAR
Taieri Hore	Bridget Turner	Phoebe Turner
Ph 03 431 1740	Ph 03 614 3770	Ph 03 614 3770
Fax 03 431 1750	Fax 03 614 3772	Fax 03614 3772
<a href="mailto:wayne.tairi@xtra.co.nz">wayne.tairi@xtra.co.nz</a>	<a href="mailto:aturn@xtra.co.nz">aturn@xtra.co.nz</a>	<a href="mailto:aturn@xtra.co.nz">aturn@xtra.co.nz</a>

## *Jottings From Your President*

2004 has gone and 2005 is already ¼ through, it is hard to believe. I trust all your ponies are proving to be wonderful ambassadors for the breed and that your foals are growing well.

At the committee meeting in Feb we discussed several issues but the one that is the most important at present is the discussion re inspection. Mr. John Tennant, chairman of ICCPS has written an excellent article re this issue. Many countries have submitted their thoughts on this subject. Should anyone wish to read these do make contact with Bridget.

There were some ponies imported to England from Ireland and on DNA they were found to not of the breeding the purchaser was led to believe, we in NZ are not the only ones to find this on DNA confirmation. However ponies from Ireland have a very slim chance of not being pure where as we have a lot of similar 'Connemara' types that could find their way into the breed if these procedures are not kept in place therefore I believe we must maintain this DNA process through Massey to ensure breeding. Type, temperament and breeding are so important to maintain the true Connemara Pony and inspection may be the only way to ensure this happens. We will be directed by the ICCPS. At present we now have compulsory inspection for colts/stallions and optional inspection for fillies/mares.

The Canterbury Breeders Show in Feb was well supported, thank you to those who entered. Heather and Michael Ringland are working hard to ensure that Connemara pony classes are now in most shows in Canterbury, if you have opportunities do enter your ponies. As we get more entries we will have Stud Book and non Stud Book classes.

With modern facilities and more important people skilled to make programmes we can now access long pedigrees of our ponies. Phoebe is moving quickly to put all the ponies on Breedmate programme.

Some of the wording and registration times have been changed in the Stud Book rules. To those breeding do make yourself familiar with the rules.

I believe Anne Lindsay has imported a colt by the champion pony Castle Barron (out of the mare Glenormiston Rosmara). This is indeed exciting news, new blood lines so desperately needed. Thank you Anne. NZ now has Castle Baron and Spinway Comet bloodlines to look forward to breeding with our Stud Book ponies.

Please if you know of any ponies out performing do contact their owners/riders and give them the information re the Performance Competition—it's free to enter and there are points for every outing.

**The AGM will be in the South Island again this year, it was well supported from the South last year, and we would value you coming to join us from both the North and the South. Dates and venue will be out ASAP. A stud tour is in the pipeline although ponies have their winter jackets on at this time and not as handsome looking as in the summer.**

*Taieri Hore.*

PS: The ICCPS has notified that inspections are to continue--more on this as it comes to hand.

*From the Secretary's Office*

At our Secretary's suggestion, here are some extracts that you may find interesting from a meeting of the International Committee of Connemara Pony Societies held in Clifden, Ireland last year, & revised and presented in November 2004.

John Tennant (Australia), Chair, called the Technical/General Meeting of the ICCPS to order at 9:30AM in the Station House Hotel, Clifden, Co. Galway, Ireland. The following Delegates attended: Lene Nielsen (Denmark), Birgit Jorgenson (Denmark), Anne Harries (BCPS), Tuula Pyoria (Finland), Jurg Scherrer (Switzerland), Kathy Sparks (USA), Susan MacDougall (representative from Canada), Christine Mares (France), Dermot Power (Ireland), Henry O'Toole (Ireland), Padraic Heanue (Ireland), Eric Walsh (Ireland), Madeleine Beckman (Sweden), Vermund Lyngstad (Norway), and Susan Rinehart (USA), Secretariat.

Others in the room: Michael Ward (Ireland), Tom MacLochlainn (Ireland), Marynell Eyles (ACPS), Joanie Webster (ACPS), Deirdre Feely (Ireland), Ginny and Joe Winkler (ACPS), Luke Dodds (Australia), Liz Platais (ACPS), Kathy Lucas (ACPS), Susanne Lehmann (Germany), Sabine Droge (Germany), Karen Vulcanize (USA and Ireland), Bob Blackburn (UK), Ernie Somerville (Northern Ireland Breeders Group), Grete Damm Lynstad (Norway).

**1. Presentation of the major strategies in response to the Data Base Project (CPBS) – Genetic Characterization of the Connemara Pony Population presented by Deirdre Feely, B. Ag. Science at the University College in Dublin.**

Dermot Power said that the CPBS is anxious to go to the overseas Society's Inspection's sites. He has asked to go to Switzerland but was told that there were not enough ponies for an Inspection. Dermot was disappointed that Germany and Austria were not attending this ICCPS Meeting.

Henry O'Toole has been overseas, this year, and has seen the type of pony. What Henry has seen in several countries where he has judged and/or inspected concerns him. He felt that the "standard", at the moment, is lowering. Some areas are "suffering". He felt that "Type is going away". The number of good ponies is diminishing at the "top" and the "bottom end" is growing. Stallions that have been registered for breeding were registered because of performance rather than Type.

Henry wondered if we had studied enough the influence of the Thoroughbred, Arab and Irish Draught? Was it damage or improvement to the breed/pony?

He felt that in the registration of the stallions that there should be a "standard". In one country he noted that there were 4 Agricultural Inspectors and 1 Connemara breeder. The ponies might have excellent movement, but they were not the Type and Conformation of the CP. He felt that "we need a blanket idea of what we want in a Stallion". He went on to say that if you looked at 20 stallions in the last 20 years, only 4-5 have had a big impact. What was the difference? Those 5 went back to a top mare. He thinks that the Connemara pony is a "mare's breed".

Susan MacDougall (Canada) asked: Why not have Type and Performance?

Henry felt that with Registration, one overlooked the other (performance over type).

John Tennant said that if a pony has good conformation, it will perform

Christine Mares said that Jimmy Jones said that if a pony was well conformed, it would perform but it needed the brain of a winner. A pony needed conformation, type and something in its head.

Eric Walsh felt that the mare was 80% important. The stallion only compliments a top class mare. The pony must have "heart".

Madeline Beckman (Sweden) said that there is some confusion to "new members". They think that Type is the same as inches of bone. But, the pony is "motor driven by a hind wheel". True type is bone – clear bone – and movement. Type and Conformation includes movement.

Tom MacLochlainn (Ireland) commented that if you look back at how the Connemara Pony was selected on the Western Seaboard, you will notice that the pony was driven by the owner as they took produce to market. Then, they were raced home! It was a matter of pride as to how the pony moved. The movement was selected over generations. We lost movement when the pony was stopped being used as a working pony. Currently, we are giving prizes for "obesity" rather than for a "performing" (working) pony. He agreed that a pony with good conformation should perform.

Dermot Power said that, starting this year, the CPBS was being stricter on Inspections. The CPBS has started Class 1, Class 2 and Class 3, etc., which is one way to attack the problem of selecting the pony and "grading" the pony. There needs to be education from Deirdre Feely's report. He would like to bring everyone together – not necessarily at the Pony Show but during Inspection time. He wants to encourage the breeders by education.

Dermot said that we saw, for the first time, the objective information in the Comparison Study done by Deirdre Feely. He wants to use this information in the breeding program. He wants breeders to look at their mare(s) for their deficiencies and match with a stallion to overcome them. This is an ongoing discussion.

Tom is afraid to focus on only one aspect. "Handsome is and Handsome does". He would like to make the focus on NO inbreeding but feels that this might cause the loss of type. We are the

guardians of a breed that has been handed down to us. We need to ensure genetic diversity. Production of the pony is, usually, driven by the show circuit. The winners in the shows are, usually, unfit and obese. And, Connemara is the worse place for this! In Germany, stallions are performing or can perform.

John said that the genetic background report has prompted discussion. The center of the discussion leads to bone, type, etc. He wants to know: What directives will go to owners and breeders? Will documentation be available?

Dermot said that the Feely report synopsis was published in the An Capaillin, in the spring. In the autumn, he would like to have an educational tour. He would like to have a talk about the overview of the Connemara Pony. He would like to have education so the Irish bred Connemaras do not continue with their inbreeding problem. He noted that Finland, recently, brought in a new stallion to help with their inbreeding problem.

Dermot Power said that every inspected mare's owner should know her deficiencies as well as asking for the marks and seeing the deficiencies of the stallion. He wants a genetic program on a computer in the CPBS office that could give possible matings.

Anne Harries said that Height is a major issue. The CP seems to be getting larger and larger. She had been asked by the Council of the British CPS to ask if the height of colts at Inspection could be made lower than 148cm.

Tom MacL. said that 8 years ago, he raised the issue of height. At that time, the "small" pony was 13.3-14 hands with plenty of bone and substance and strength. He preferred to not use the word "small". We need to keep an eye on the CP because in 20 years he is afraid that they will be too tall. Do we regard a CP that is 15 hands "true to type"? There are still a lot of CPs under 14 hands but not many as popular as MacDara at 13.3, Rebel Wind, Coosheen Finn, etc. He does not think that we can turn the clock back, but he hopes that every country is ensuring that they have mares around 13.3 hands. Is an animal that is 15 hands a Connemara?

John T. asked: What is your Society's idea on Height and maintenance of Height?

Eric Walsh said that the International Rules state 148 cms. – after that the CP becomes a cob or galloway. He is no longer a pony.

Christine said that in the case of the CP, if it has the pedigree of a CP and registration of a CP, then, it is a CP. No longer can we say it is not a CP, if it is over 148cms.

Eric Walsh said that in regards to the colt Inspection at 2 years of age, if the colt is at 148 cms, then, he has broken no rule – at this point in time. You cannot foretell. You cannot turn a colt down because you look into the future. CPs "level off" at 4, 5 and 6 years of age. He felt that an animal that is stunted as a foal will be stunted for life. He had no problem with height as there have been "big" and "small" CPs. He said: if you have a big mare, then, use a smaller stallion and hope for the best. He felt that there was not much we could do about height. He felt we could not "condemn a pony for a sin, down the road". In an answer to a query as to whether it would be possible to have stallions re-measured at 5 or 6 years of age, Eric Walsh said that "it would be impossible to take the book away".

Dermot said that this discussion was tied to EU Rules that would be discussed, later, in the meeting.

Birgit did not agree with Eric Walsh. In Denmark, they have a major problem because the CPs are becoming "horses". They have a special registration for mares over height.

Christine Mares said come to France and see the same problem. It makes the breeders angry and then the breeders take out their anger on the Inspectors – even on holiday! Now, the French Society has invited Inspectors from Ireland. Hopefully, this will make it easier at Inspection time.

Vermund Lynstad said Norway approved colts at 3 but they must come back at 5. If the results are not good, then, the CP is removed.

#### **Re: Ponies exported from Ireland with incorrect papers**

Anne Harries had a good meeting, yesterday, with the Irish delegates about this problem. In early 2003, a gelding, imported into the jurisdiction of the British CPS, was parentage tested and found to not be a match to his papers and 9 results are still awaited. As a result, a broader parentage testing was conducted on 142 ponies – 11 did not match their papers. The BCPS received a letter from the CPBS protesting that the BCPS questioned the integrity of the Irish breeders. The BCPS complaint was never with the Irish breeders, but rather the dealers. The British CPS has, now, decided that parentage testing will not be conducted on geldings as they do not affect the Stud Book (i.e. non-breeding). The BCPS has invoked a new ruling that if the CPBS office follows the International Rules of the movement of ponies between countries and notifies the BCPS when a pony is exported from Ireland, then, there will be no parentage test. Anne said that the two Societies will work together to try to iron out the problem.

Eric Walsh said that there would be microchipping of CPs in Ireland in January 2005.

Madeline Beckman said that there have been 6 ponies in Sweden with incorrect papers, this year. Sweden welcomes microchipping.

Dermot said that we will go forward with cooperation.

## From the Registrars Desk

Transfers as follows –

<b>Name of Pony:</b>	<b>Reg#</b>	<b>Transfer to:</b>	<b>Transfer from:</b>
Glenardon Loughmore	PM160	Julie Hall, Invercargill	Rebecca Drummond, Oamaru
Tallyho Blue Masquerade	PM149	Linette Vink, Oamaru	Sharyn Greer, Oxford
Escondido Indiana Gold	PM142	M Woodward, Nelson	Dee Needham, Nelson
Bunratty Court Jester	G62	C Girdlestone, Waikanae	S Anderson, Leeston
Martray Sorcha	PM131	L Morrow, Alfriston	Jennifer Stewart, Matumahoe
Emerald Star	PM166	R & W Clark, Waitoki	I & M Reid, Drury
Timaunga Abbeyfeale	PM129	Sharyn Greer, Oxford	A & B Turner, Cannington
Ridgeway Kilmaddee	PM156	K McCabe, Invercargill	Taieri Hore, Kurow
Scarlett of Ridgeway	PM153	K Hore	Taieri Hore, Kurow
Knockrah Flesk	G61	Emma Kay, Waiuku	B & S McGrath, Tuakau
Sheemore All Gold	PM113	Massey University	B & S McGrath, Tuakau
Knockrah Moonshadow	F042	Kohatu Partnership Palmerston North	B & S McGrath, Tuakau
Timaunga Skylark	M63	Jackie Jackson, Timaru	A & B Turner, Cannington
Escondido Ridgeway Silver & Gold	RM86	Hardcastle Family, Nelson	Bev Ansell, Nelson
Canningvale Bonnie Sue	M30	Kohatu Partnership Palmerston North	P Turner, Cannington
Tallyho Maybelline	PM148	Katie Meredith, Kaiapoi	Sharyn Greer, Oxford
Timaunga Tango	G50	V & S Henderson, Aparima	C & H James, Dunedin
Scarteen Doulus	G39	Erica Gee, Manawatu	Megan Smythe, Fielding
Aquila Ka Lee	PM170	Sharyn Greer, Oxford	Heather Ringland, Chch
Lonsdale Gentle Breeze	M49	Sharyn Greer, Oxford	Winnie Tatham, Te Kuiti
Tallyho Tulip	PM147	Ellen Walker, Kaiapoi	Sharyn Greer, Oxford

## Canterbury Pony Breeders Show 2005

Results of Connemara Pony Classes (Judge: Warren Newick, Loburn).

**Best Connemara Gelding:**

Aquila Tyrone

**Best Turnout of Pony &**

1<sup>st</sup> Heather Ringland & Aquila Tyrone

**Handler:**

2<sup>nd</sup> Sarah Garrett-Burke & Tallyho Merlin

3<sup>rd</sup> Virginia Saunders & Scarlett of

Ridgeway

**Pure or Partbred Mare or Filly, Any Age**

1<sup>st</sup> Scarlett of Ridgeway

2<sup>nd</sup> Ellie May

3<sup>rd</sup> Ridgeway Callie

**Pure or Partbred Gelding Any Age**

1<sup>st</sup> Aquila Tyrone

2<sup>nd</sup> Ridgeway Inish

3<sup>rd</sup> Tallyho Merlin

**Best Paced Connemara**

1<sup>st</sup> Aquila Tyrone

2<sup>nd</sup> Tallyho Merlin

3<sup>rd</sup> Ridgeway Callie

**Champion Connemara Reserve**

Scarlett of Ridgeway

Ellie May



From left  
Sinead Saunders with Ridgeway Callie  
Padraig Saunders with Ridgeway Inish

*News from the Far South*



**Four ponies at a Southland PC Gymkhana Jan 2005**

The above ponies are (from left to right) Taihoa Puff n Stuff (Kimberleigh McCabe), Sir Kinflicks (Kelly Henderson), Timaunga Tango (Abby Henderson) & Taihoa Cloudy (Fiona Comer).

Puff and Kimberleigh had only been together a few days at this gymkhana and are looking very promising. At home they have jumped up to 1.0m, but they are building up experience and consistency at lower heights at competitions for now. Kelly and Kinflicks are having a lot of fun and have combined well. Abby and Tango will take a while for the combination to gel, so Abby and Kelly's older sister, Kate, are working together to compete and school him. Cloudy is having her first outings at long last and getting plenty of variety of experiences. Having only ridden sporadically over the last 15 years I'm having a lot of fun with her while my daughter Lori rides McCabe's pony, Connie (not a Connemara) who is in her mid 20's.

*Fiona Comer*

***Connemara Classes at Royal Show (Waikato)***

This year's Royal show is in the Waikato (Hamilton) on 28th-30th October 2005 and there will be Connemara classes. Let's hope there will be plenty of entries! Any member who would like to put their name forward as a steward please contact Jim Keyte, Box 4034, Hamilton East. He hopes to send schedules to all NI breeders.

***Stallion Inspections***

Congratulations to the Hodge Family and Keltic O'Se (Glenormiston Jasper (Aus) S10 x Leitrim Ardan (M44). Keltic O'Se has passed his stallion inspection and is now a Stud Book Stallion.

### *Family Photo*



This photo taken December 2004, shows 3 generations of Connemara ponies. From left Canningvale Bonnie Sue (Chiltern Sun silk x Canningvale Bonnie Jean), Timaunga Chuckles (Barwidgee Erriff x Canningvale Bonnie Sue) & Timaunga Firefly (Glenormiston Jasper x Timaunga Chuckles). Thanks to the Turner Family for this photo.

### *In Conclusion*

Many thanks to all who sent in photos and or articles for this newsletter. ( Please note that I now have a new email address – [fj.sim.greer@xtra.co.nz](mailto:fj.sim.greer@xtra.co.nz) .) It certainly makes it easier for me and no doubt more interesting for you as readers. The revised Stud Book Rules are attached to this newsletter for you to read as you sit curled up in front of the fire on one of the long winter nights that no doubt will soon be upon us.

Enjoy your ponies!

***Sharyn Greer (Editor)***