

# EDITORIAL

**Covid-19:** Without doubt the Covid-19 pandemic has had the most devastating effect on all avenues of life and the equine show world has not been spared.

**Shows:** Fortunately it was possible for the WPCS Africa to organise a show at Villiersdorp mid March, and since then, nothing, and it is still unclear as to what the future of shows will be in South Africa in the short to medium term until, as predicted by the medical experts, a vaccine is one day developed. It may be years before that happens.

Late last year the 20<sup>th</sup> International Welsh Show was held in Sydney, Australia in the midst of the devastating bush fires which were ravishing most of that country following on the unprecedented drought which they had experienced. A report on this show is recorded on page 26 with photographs of the winners from page 29. The 21<sup>st</sup> International show will be held in Aachen, Germany from 28 to 29<sup>th</sup> August 2021.

Frank Megens was instrumental in organising a novel Virtual Hamaland 2020 International Show which was open to all Welsh Pony and Cob owners who sent in photographs for judging. Naturally this means of judging is very subjective based on one photograph. It is distressing to see what owners think of their ponies/cobs where in some cases such poor quality photographs are submitted which hardly shows off these animals to their best advantage. Competitors from South Africa did well in the harness classes and are to be congratulated. But we must remember to take this exercise with a 'pinch of salt' because nothing is quite like the real thing with physical presence.

The Royal Welsh 2020 Show, in line with all other public gatherings in the UK, was cancelled because of Covid-19 and the next Royal Welsh is now scheduled to be held from 19 to 22 July, 2021. Let's hope that the Virus would have been contained by then.

In the absence of a Royal Welsh show, I asked Dr Wynne Davies of the Ceulan Stud (page 37) to give his impressions of the Royal Welsh and William Lloyd of the Geler Stud (page 97) to give his views of the Section C of the Stud Book.

There is a feature of the 2000 Bloemfontein Show. Unfortunately, the photographers Equerry cannot find the first 5 x 35mm film negatives (yes, they were still using 35mm film in the year 2000) and hence the photographs of the Section A ponies and their championships are not available. Nevertheless, there is a wide selection of photographs in this article from page 59 because there were

232 ponies/cobs entered for the show of which 82 were Pure Bred In-Hand. The Pretoria Show for 2000 is also featured (p47).

There are also a number of photographs of earlier shows in 1980; Pretoria, Bloemfontein, Natal Royal; 1990 in Bloemfontein; 1965 in the Cape.

**Studs:** A few studs are highlighted this year, namely Bevlon (p51), Galway (p85) and Euard (p114) although the last named will hardly be known by anyone. A number of articles on studs are planned for 2021.

Over the years researching the history of the Welsh ponies and cobs in Southern Africa, I have come to know a number of fine breeders and owners currently and in years gone by. A number of these have passed on in the meantime and I am pleased that their stories were able to be told in the pages of this Journal. However, there are a number of persons who bred and/or owned ponies/cobs in the earlier years who are not willing to share their stories with us although they are keen to read past journals and the history of other breeders and their ponies/cobs. Maybe these persons realise that they have added precious little to the improvement of the breed and therefore their stories remain untold. This is a pity because I would have liked to record all the history of the Welsh breeds in Southern Africa.

**Acknowledgements:** The Hill Ponies Improvement Societies of Wales have issued regular Newsletters and have agreed that articles appearing in these may be used in the Journal subject to the normal acknowledgements, for which our thanks. The articles 'Recipe of a Welsh Mountain Pony' (p113), Ponies of the Lower Eppynt' (p137) and the article on the Criban Stud (p73) are reproduced with relevant amendments specifically in respect of their South African connections where appropriate.

I am delighted to once more feature some illustrations by Walter Pichler. Where I find an article which has a humorous slant, I ask Walter to enhance the story with his usual delightful illustration or two. Readers will find these in the articles on Criban Memories (p73), Show Business (p78), and Shandy, the Welsh Cob gelding (p96),

I trust that you will enjoy this the sixteenth issue of the Journal. For those interested in other issues, copies of most of the journals are still available, payment being a donation to the Foundation as below. Enquiries to the e-mail secretary@wpcf.co.za for further particulars.

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