



BCPS E-NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN 2026

BCPS OFFICE

The BCPS' move to its new home with Pedigree Livestock Services has now been completed.

Ella Coleman is the BCPS Breed Services Officer and will be happy to help with any enquiries.

Ella can be contacted via email – secretary@britishconnemaras.co.uk or by phone on 01768 870522

The office is open Monday to Friday from 9am - 5pm (excluding bank holidays)

The British Connemara Pony Society
Holme House, Dale, Ainstable, Cumbria, CA4 9RH

FORTY YEAR BADGES

If you joined the Society in or before 1985 and have been a member without a break since, you will be eligible to receive a Forty Year Badge. These badges are usually given out at the Annual General Meeting. If you think that you are eligible, please contact the Secretary.



BCPS COUNCIL NOMINATIONS

Eligibility:- Candidates must be a fully paid up members of the BCPS.

Any member of the Society can nominate another member to stand for election to the Council (providing the candidate meets the above eligibility).

Nominations must be on the Nomination form attached to this newsletter. Additional forms are available from the Secretary or may be downloaded from the BCPS website.

The form must be returned to the Office **NO LATER THAN 5pm Friday 16th October 2026.**

Applications must be made on one form with all three signatures appearing on that form.

Forms arriving after this date will not be considered.

There will be **four** vacancies on the Council.

Amy Smith is eligible for re-election.

Having served on the Council for 6 years, Kerry Wainwright and Lauren Stokeld are retiring.

Hannah Brock stands down having been co-opted for one year only.

AGM WEEKEND

*****NEW VENUE*****

**The Stratford Park Hotel, Ingon Lane,
Stratford-upon-Avon CV37 0QE**

on the weekend of 14th & 15th November 2026

The Stratford Park Hotel is approx. 5 miles off the M40, Junction 15 and dogs are welcome.

We are delighted to be welcoming Kieran O'Brien and Justine Harrison as our guest speakers on Saturday afternoon.

Dr Kieran O'Brien MA MVB PhD MRCVS

After a long stint as a lecturer at Bristol Veterinary School, Kieran has been a senior clinician in an equine practice in Devon for the last 25 years. He has been a team vet for British and Irish endurance teams. He is a regular contributor to horse magazines and has published the book Essential Horse Health. He imports young Connemara and Connemara x TB ponies from Ireland under the banner Climsland Connemara Ponies.

Justine Harrison is an equine behaviourist, welfare consultant and founder of the equine education platform Understand Horses. She has worked professionally as an equine behaviour consultant since 2007, working with horse owners and equine professionals, as well as providing welfare consultancy, advice and education for universities, equestrian organisations and animal welfare charities.

UNDERSTANDING YOUR HORSE'S BEHAVIOUR

Equine behaviourist Justine Harrison will explore some of the many factors that influence horse behaviour, including physical health, stress, fear, management and environment. She will look at how to recognise some of the more subtle signs that a horse may be struggling, including behavioural signs of pain that are frequently missed, and consider why unwanted behaviours develop. She will also look at practical ways we can adapt how we manage and interact with our horses to improve both behaviour and welfare.

Kieron will be talking to us about melanomas, a topic of great interest to all Connemara owners and breeders, and Justine is a certified equine behaviourist, and we are sure her talk will be equally fascinating.

There will be an informal dinner in the hotel restaurant in the evening.

The Annual General Meeting will be at 11 am on Sunday 15th, followed by a carvery lunch.

The Performance Award Scheme prize-giving will follow lunch on Sunday at approximately 1.30 pm.

Accommodation will be available by booking directly with the hotel and quoting "BCPS" in order to obtain a discounted rate.

The Performance Award Scheme

Prize giving will take place after lunch on Sunday 15th November 2026



INTERNATIONAL JUDGES CONFERENCE

The International Judges Conference, being held on the 17th-18th October 2026, has been well received; we have delegates from 11 countries worldwide. Spaces have now been made available to UK judges, probationary judges and NPS judges; there is an opportunity for members to attend the practical sessions, which will be in the afternoon on both days. Saturday 17th October, the afternoon will be about the Connemara pony and conformation, and Sunday will be about the Connemara pony undersaddle way of going and using marks whilst judging. The cost is £10 for members and £20 for non-members; refreshments will be provided.

The event will be held at Reaseheath College, which has good connections to Manchester, Liverpool and Birmingham Airports and Crewe train station.

Guest speakers will be Robert Parker-Jones and Henry O'Toole – neither of whom needs any introduction! Joe Burke will be giving an overview of the previous international judges conference held in Sweden two years ago.

There will also be a dinner at the Crewe Hall hotel on the Saturday evening, which is £50 per head.

Please contact Kerry either at skellornstud@hotmail.com or 07900263203 if you want any further details. It may be of interest if you fancy becoming a judge?

BCPS Clothing

To purchase clothing with the BCPS logo, please visit our webshop at Tylers Horse and Country

<https://www.tylershorseandcountry.co.uk/Catalogue/ClubTeam-Webshops/RIDING-CLUBS/BConnemara-Pony-Society>

MERIT AWARDS

The Merit Awards were launched in the Spring of 2024, and the first awards were given at last year's AGM.

All details may be found on the website - <https://www.britishconnemaras.co.uk/breeding-owning/merit-awards-premiums/> or email the Secretary.

The closing date for applications for 2026 is 5 pm on 30th September. Applications received after this time/date will be held over until the following year.



BREED SHOW 2026

The sun shone on another glorious two-day BCPS breed show, held at Moreton Morrell in July. Entries were strong, with more than 300 ponies across 65 classes.

The in-hand section took place on the Friday, under the watchful eye of judges Helen Horsfall and Jerome Harforth.

No fewer than 15 ponies were entered in the yearling class, which was an absolute credit to our breeders. The class was won by Kirstie Harris's attractive colt Realtai Ted, with Kerry Wainwright's lovely filly Skellorn Lady Henrietta standing second. While the other youngstock classes could not match the yearlings in entry numbers, the quality was outstanding, with the judges choosing Rose and Fleur Marston's typey three-year-old filly Glencarrig Esme as champion, with Realtai Ted in reserve.

The mare and gelding classes were keenly contested, with eight geldings entered and 17 mares across three classes; it was disappointing not to see more foals, although the winner Dinarthall Music Man, by Banks Donovan and out of the stunning Glencarrig Harmony - who stood mare champion - was a real character and is one to watch for the future.

The stallion classes are usually something of a highlight and this year's were no exception. The eventual champion was Castle Kaiser, who took the six years and over class ahead of Inellan Condor, with the attractive youngster Glencarrig Faugheen reserve.

Castle Kaiser also took the NPS Silver Medal and stood reserve to Glencarrig Harmony in the breeding championship.

The same pairing were supreme and reserve supreme while the British bred honours went to Ickworth Granite with Skellorn Lady Henrietta in reserve.

The yearling filly was also reserve Tam O'Shanter champion behind the Elsworth family's prolific winner Chilham Night Sky.

Over in the large outdoor arena, numbers in the dressage classes were also good, particularly for the BCPS Dressage Finals.

Entries for Saturday's NPS ridden classes were up on last year, with a host of quality ponies competing for tickets in the Picton Novice, Intermediate, Junior and Open sections. The very novice classes for 'babies' also proved popular. However, the highlight is always the HOYS qualifier, judged this year by Karan Tett (ride) and Jerome Harforth (conformation).

Sue Deakin and Hazelrock Twist proved not only worthy but popular winners, picking up their HOYS ticket and taking the supreme ridden title.

In the working hunter ring, course builder Will had put together a testing yet inviting course for the workers, performance ponies and training stakes entries.

Classes in ring two, under judge Gina McMurray, were also popular, with sections for veteran and amateur riders as well as competition type ponies, overheight and part bred Connemaras.

New to this year was the hotly contested bake-off competition, which saw entries from all ages and abilities. Meanwhile, the Al Fresco Supper proved as popular as ever, giving friends a welcome chance to catch up away from the show ring.

Our 80th anniversary show next year is at the same venue and will feature some changes - keep your eyes peeled for the schedule in the coming months!

Kate Wobschall, show committee chair



*Supreme In Hand – Glencarrig Harmony (Glencarrig Knight/Glencarrig Scarlet). Owned by Jackie Parry
Photo credit: Still Light Photography*



*Supreme Ridden - Hazelrock Twist (Glencarrig Prince/Hazelrock Aris)
Ridden by Sue Deakin, owned by Claire & Danny Flynn
Photo credit: Still Light Photography*



*Youngstock Champion - Glencarrig Esme (Glencarrig Knight/Glencarrig Moonlight)
Owned by Fleur and Rose Marston
Photo credit: Still Light Photography*



*Tam O Shanter - Chilham Night Sky (Glencarrig Knight/Chilham Celestial)
Owned by Andrew & Mollie Elsworth
Photo credit: Still Light Photography*

Connemara Chronicle – Advertising Deadline & Article Contributions

A friendly reminder to all members that the deadline for advertising in the next issue of the Connemara Chronicle is 31st October.

We would also love to hear from members who might be interested in writing an interesting article about their Connemara ponies and activities. Whether you have a story to share about your ponies, achievements, events or experiences, we would be delighted to hear from you.

If you would like to place an advert or contribute an article, please get in touch by emailing connemaraads@gmail.com

We look forward to hearing from you and showcasing more of our wonderful Connemara ponies!

The 2026 Dressage Championships – Kindly sponsored by Dodson & Horrell.

The BCPS Dressage finals at the 2026 Breed show were well supported and saw a full day of Dressage. The qualifiers for 2027 are well underway, and any score at Intro, Prelim and Novice of 62% or over will qualify. Please send proof of scores to Gill Evans at gilleevans721@gmail.com

BCPS PERFORMANCE CLUB FINAL CALL FOR 2026 ENTRIES – ENTRIES STILL OPEN!

There's still time to submit your entries for this year's BCPS Performance Club competition. If you've been out competing this year, don't forget to send in your results and points from the 2026 season.

There are some fantastic prizes to be won, including embroidered saddle pads from Dodson & Horrell and baseball caps from Devoucoux. The Performance Club celebrates the versatility and success of Connemara ponies and their riders across all levels of competition. Entries are still being taken – make sure your 2026 results count!

Importing a pony from Ireland?

If you are buying a pony from the Republic of Ireland please check its sire and dam's registration status. We are receiving a number of passports where the sire and/or dam are still on foal registration numbers (S3/M3/Class 3). This could impact on whether your pony can gain adult status in its own right. If you are unsure please email the Office for advice.

DUPLICATE CPBS PASSPORTS

The BCPS are now required to issue duplicate CPBS passports for pure-bred Connemara ponies, originally registered in Ireland, but now resident in the Great Britain, the Isle of Man and the Channel Isles, where the original passport has been lost.

The Society is required to follow the CPBS requirements for issuing these duplicate passports.

Please be aware that all CPBS Duplicate Passport applications must be verified by DNA, microchip and marking chart which will extend the timeline of application to 8 - 10 weeks due to the length of time Weatherbys Scientific Laboratory takes to process the DNA - unfortunately there is nothing the BCPS can do to speed this up.

Full details of how to apply for a duplicate Irish Passport are contained in the Application Form: 'Issue of a Duplicate CPBS Passport' available as a download from the website.

<https://www.britishconnemaras.co.uk/.../CPBS Duplicate...>

Note: Owners are reminded that all equine passports contain a lot of important information, which will be required in the event of the document being lost or stolen.

A quick snapshot of the critical pages - breeding, markings, microchip number, UELN number, health records etc. - stored on a mobile phone could save much time and expense in such an event.

PART BRED REGISTRATIONS

Following a meeting with DEFRA on 28th August 2025, we were advised that our Rules of Registration for purebred ponies are fully compliant with DEFRA guidelines, based on current EU/UK legislation. In fact, we were the first Breed Society to have no remedial measures applied, securing our status as a Passport Issuing Organisation (PIO) for purebred Connemaras. However, following that meeting and lengthy discussions, the British Connemara Pony Society Council took the unanimous decision to cease registering and overstepping part-bred Connemara passports. This decision was not taken lightly, but in all the circumstances, and in order to maintain compliance with current legislation, it was considered the only way forward.

The BCPS advises breeders of part-bred Connemaras to register their ponies with one of the following PIOs:

Sports Pony (GB):

<https://www.sportpony.org.uk/>

Sports Horse Breeding of Great Britain:

<https://www.sporthorsegb.co.uk/>

The National Pony Society:

<https://www.nationalponysociety.com/>

All of these organisations can provide passports with the pedigree displayed in Section V of the passport.

Part-bred Connemara ponies will continue to be included in the BCPS Breed Show, PAS, Dressage, Eventing and other activities. Discussions are underway to determine the best way to identify and include ponies registered with other PIOs from 2025 onwards.

****We are continuing our discussions with DEFRA and remain hopeful that we will have some positive news to share over the next couple of months. We will keep members updated as soon as further information becomes available. ****

Regional News

South East

17th October at Felbridge EC: worker and flat/in hand clinic with Oli Burchell. Details and booking information will be available on Facebook shortly.

Further clinics to be announced soon, so please watch our Facebook page for info.

Wales and borders

W&B have now finished the filly inspections for 2026. We have held inspections in N.Wales, S W Wales and mid-Wales (2) and although there were few applications this year, we have inspected some lovely ponies.

Details for next year's inspection venues will be posted on the BCPS website as usual.

North West

Northern Connemara Show will be held on Sunday 09 May 2027 @ Myerscough Equestrian Centre, Nr Preston PR3 0RY.

We will also be holding Unaffiliated flat-ridden classes for small and large breed M & M's, excluding Connemaras, and all M & M's can enter our training stakes and working hunter pony classes.

Please see our Facebook page for all updates and information for the show.

South West

Our area show was a great success this year, held in the wonderful setting of Poltimore Park, Exeter.

Next year's show will be at the same venue, Sunday 27 June. We have Conor McCormack from the Dungalire Stud in Ireland coming over to judge, and looking forward to welcoming him to the South West.

We were also invited to run a ring this year at Dunster Country Fair, a beautiful setting beneath Dunster Castle. We had some lovely ponies forward and have been invited back next year.

Glencarrig Dolphin made a special trip to the show to parade for us, as he only lives up the road. You certainly won't find a Connemara stallion with a better performance record.

South West Area Up-and-coming events

We have one more filly inspection coming up at the end of Nov /beg Dec to be held at Tivoli Stud, Somerset.

We. Will be holding another in the early part of next year in South Devon.

One-day emergency first aid at work course, Friday 6 November, Coombe Farm, Chittlehampton EX37 9RD.

£125 per person; please contact southwestconnemaras@gmail.com if you would like to attend.

Wessex Region

Wessex area has had a good season, with 2 Filly Inspections and a successful show.

Next year's show will be on the 6th June at New Park, Brockenhurst, New Forest.

Scotland

Scotland's annual show date for 2027 is the 27th June 2027 at Champfleurie Stables, Bathgate. They will be running a filly inspection on the same day.