

• 826

- **EQUINE STUDBOOKS ASSOCIATION**
- **Representing Horse and Pony Studbooks of the UK**

# What is the 826 Equine Studbooks Association?

The 826 Equine Studbooks Association (usually referred to as the 826 ESA) is:

- The official organisation representing the interests and issues of the DEFRA-approved UK equine studbook PIOs
- The 826 is the three letter country code at the start of all unique equine life numbers (UELNs) on all equine passports issued in the UK
- Studbook passport issuing organisations (PIOs) are those approved by DEFRA to include verified zootechnical breeding information (pedigrees) in the passports they issue

# What is its history and current role?

The 826 ESA:

- Was formed to represent this industry group when the BHS Horse and Pony Breeds Committee ceased after the BHS reorganised its committee structure in 2017
- It now has a membership of 40 out of 50 of the studbooks / breed societies PIOs approved by DEFRA
- It works closely with DEFRA, the British Horse Foundation, NEWC, the Central Prefix Register and, of course, the British Horse Council to ensure that studbook PIOs are able to function to their maximum ability

# Why are we unlikely ever to have heard of you?

This is because:

- The 826 ESA is a member-based organisation with no direct interface with members of the public
- All issues relating the 826 ESA areas of interest are either generated by DEFRA or by 826 ESA studbook members themselves
- Any specific issues relating to individuals (e.g. disputes about origins of passports and updates) are initiated through the PIO concerned and then passed upwards to the 826 ESA if the studbooks concerned cannot resolve it between themselves
- Member studbooks range in size from the very largest (Weatherbys) to the smallest (Caspians) and all have equal access to the committee

# Who are involved in running the 826 ESA?

- Those involved – who are all unpaid volunteers – are
  - 40 Member studbooks
  - Non-member studbooks are usually those based in the devolved nations although there are members based in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland as well
- A committee elected every three years comprised of:
  - A Chair (Celia Clarke, WBSUK), Vice-Chair (Natalie Meredith, AHS) and Vice-Chair (Jane Murray) NPS
  - Five further representatives of 826 ESA member studbooks
  - Three specialist consultants (covering biosecurity, welfare and EU legislation and procedures)

# Regular meetings and information gathering / spreading

- The 826 ESA
  - Holds regular general members meetings by Zoom every 6 months which cover recent updates from DEFRA on matters affecting studbook PIOs including Equine ID, zootechnics and border controls and other information on welfare and biosecurity issues
  - It disseminates information to its members and others on its mailing lists about the above between the Zoom meeting dates
  - Provides guidance on procedures to member studbooks when requested
  - Attends meetings such as the National Equine Forum to pass on and receive relevant information as necessary

# What issues are of current concern?

At the moment these are:

- The possible need for our members to restructure their studbooks and registration procedures in the light of DEFRA's review of the pedigrees of part-bred equines in the zootechnical section of the equine passport
- The on-going problem of non-enforcement of the passport legislation due to lack of interest by Trading Standards
- The large number of equines in Amber status with the CED following incomplete registration of change of ownership by the studbooks
- The negative effect of border control arrangements on trade of the import and export of live equines and their breeding products

# Finding out more about the 826 ESA

To find out more:

- Contact Celia Clarke on 07721 34077 or [celia.clarke@outlook.com](mailto:celia.clarke@outlook.com)
- Ask to be invited to attend one of its regular 6-monthly Zoom meeting as an observer; Over 90 people usually attend these meetings – including many non breed society / PIO members representing different sectors of the UK equine breeding industry
- Ask one of the breed societies you are a member of what its involvement with the 826 ESA is.



Thank you to the British Horse Council for giving us the opportunity to introduce ourselves to you and to let us inform you about our current work and the issues that affect us.

The Officers, Committee and Members of the 826 Equine Studbooks  
Association

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