

NORTH LANCASHIRE BRIDLEWAYS SOCIETY

Minutes of the general meeting held on 11 November 2014

1. **Welcome and new members:** Eve welcomed everyone to the meeting, particularly to Mark Weston, BHS Director of Access, Safety and Welfare who joined the meeting after driving all the way from Cardiff. Membership currently stands at 221.
2. **Apologies:** Liz Davison Kay Edwards, Julie Sico, Leslie Owen, Pauline McCarthy.
3. **Minutes of Last Meeting** were confirmed as a true and accurate record, see below.
4. **Matters Arising:** Concerning item 11 (iii) BHS Access fighting fund. The donation was mentioned by Eve, discussed by the meeting and then the donation was proposed by Julie Sico and seconded by Beverly Hodgson. All agreed.
5. **Books to borrow and return:-** Please ensure if you take a book that it is signed for and then returned at the next meeting
6. **Tack Sale – Sunday 12 October:** This raised over £600 in total The figures are as follows:

Income	Tables sold	£280
	Catering	£176
	Door takings	£227
	Total	£683
Outgoings	Hire of room	£75
Net profit		£608

Thanks to Hilary for organizing it, the helpers on Saturday evening, the ladies in the kitchen and selling food, all who gave sandwiches and cakes, helpers who cleared up afterwards and stall holders and customers who supported the sale. Hilary Durie, who has organized it for 13 years, is giving up. We will be sending her a letter of thanks and a gift voucher. Chris Bell has agreed to do it for next year (Sunday 18th Oct 2015). Any volunteers to get involved in the organization for future years – please see Eve.

7. **Bibs:-** our bibs are now famous thanks to the internet! A bridleway group in Essex have enquired about our numbered bibs. We have given them the details. Bowland Trec Group have borrowed them and donated £100.
8. **AONB meeting: attended.** The AONB committee have agreed to look into 2 permissive bridleways where the stewardship scheme has run out.
9. **Bridleway research:** In order to do some research, Ailsa Gibson has agreed to look into local routes, user evidence and apply for modification orders. NLBS would like to pay her for her time and expenses. This suggestion was warmly received by the meeting and a proposal to go ahead with this was made by Diane Richmond and seconded by Ann Rigby. Liz Davison and Denise Woodcock have agreed to help her. Anyone else willing to help or provide details of routes which might be worth investigating is asked to get in touch.

Other bridleway business:-We have sent letters objecting to the wind turbine proposed near to the route of the Mary Towneley loop and also in support of the Multi Use path proposed by Dynamo for the Heysham Moss Link. Both of these letters were read out.

We are members of the Cumbria Horsecatch scheme.

Cumbria Bridleway Society are following our example in using local contractors to help improve bridleways. Eve read out a section of their newsletter to this effect.

10. **Stamps** – Please save your stamps and bring them to the next meeting. They will be sent to Bransby Home of Rest for Horses.
11. **Christmas Meal** – This will be held towards the end of January. Date to be confirmed. Please bring your money to the meeting in January. If anyone would like to suggest an alternative venue to The Smithy Inn at Holme, please get in touch with Eve.
12. **Raffle prizes:-** please bring a raffle prize to future meetings if possible.
13. **Horsecatch:-** Members are asked to be vigilant. There have been several yards broken into and tack/equipment stolen. Incidents have occurred at Bolton le Sands, Aldcliffe Lane, Lancaster and in Overton/Middleton. We will try and obtain posters and cards which the police are giving out.

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14. AOB

- (i) .2 confirmed cases of strangles have occurred in Middleton. It was thought that there was a further case in Morecambe.
- (ii) Think Horse signs are available. These need to be put up on private land.
- (iii) .Ailsa Gibson reported that there is a bridleway in Bolton le Sands where the bushes need pruning. It is hoped that the local Parish Lengthsman may be able to help.

The meeting was then followed by a presentation to Mark Weston, Director of Access, Safety and Welfare from the British Horse Society of a cheque for £1000 towards the BHS access fighting fund. Eve explained that the money had been raised by the combined efforts of NLBS members in such ways as subscriptions, collecting entrance fees at Whittington Races, Annual Fund Raising Ride where many of our members help, for example, on gates and crossings and our annual tack sale including refreshments. She stressed that this money is donated towards the BHS Access Fighting Fund and that we would like to know how the money is used in getting bridleways opened. Mark said he was delighted to accept the cheque on behalf of the BHS. He had been very interested to read the leaflet which had been prepared about the achievements and activities of such a thriving bridleways society and that he would report back on how the funds had been used. Photos were taken by Debra Batchelor. Eve thanked Mark and Debra for coming to our meeting.

There followed a fascinating and very well received presentation by Jo Birkbeck about her work with a variety of horses. Members were most interested to hear of Jo's experiences and insights into how she has helped many horses during her career

Next meeting: Tuesday, 13 January 2015

Speaker: Peter Busted, fell breeder and well known judge

Hest Bank Memorial Hall, LA2 6JB

Please come along and bring a friend