



ICCPS NEWSLETTER Spring 2023

February 2023

Dear Member Societies,

Representing Ireland as the new Chairman of the ICCPS Executive Board, I am delighted to be able to be part of your community for the coming year and thank the representatives of the countries on the Board for the trust they have put in me. Thank you also to the Board for the work done for our daughter societies, and not least to former Chairman, Sweden, Madeleine Beckman, who has so ably led the ICCPS for the past six years. I will endeavour to continue Madeleine's good work together, I hope, with the support of the Executive Board. I am delighted that Madeleine continues her link with the International Committee as Secretary; reports of the August ICCPS Technical Meeting, ICCPS AGM and Executive Board Meeting are included below. I am indebted to Fiona Grimes, CPBS Ireland, who has taken on the role of Treasurer.

The year 2023 is the Centenary Year of the Connemara Pony Breeders' Society, a prestigious body with whom we have all had a part to play in the years since the seeds were sown in 1923. I am sure you will join me in congratulating them on reaching this milestone 100th year. There are plans afoot to celebrate this auspicious occasion, starting with the Spring weekend 23rd to 26th March and in August the Centenary Connemara Pony Festival which reverts to the third week of the month (15th to 18th August). Details for the Spring weekend are attached. Hopefully many of you will be able to travel to Clifden to support the mother society, and I look forward to meeting you there.

To help the CPBS make plans for numbers it would be very helpful if you might indicate soonest to Madeleine possible names travelling from your home countries to Clifden for either March or August, **including family members and friends.**

Work is afoot to reestablish the ICCPS website page and we are indebted to Bob Plummer from Australia who strives to make this happen. We hope to have news shortly.

Madeleine has very kindly completed a most informative review of the last 100 years as well as accounts of activities of the ICCPS in the past year. An appraisal of the effects of the new European legislation on the Breeding Programmes makes interesting reading. It is extremely important that we all should play our part and protect the integrity of the Connemara pony herd throughout the world. It is extremely important that we continue the work of the CPBS by endorsing their breeding programme through action and also continue to be vigilant regarding the eradicating of HWS. This, as well as a revisit to the ICCPS Strategic Plan 2018 should be our focus for the coming year. Enjoy the read!

Phyllis Jones, Ireland

Centenary Review

Seventy-five mares and 6 stallions passed the very first inspections to enter Volume I of the Connemara Pony Stud Book in April 1924. About 100 years later approximately 3,200 pure bred Connemara pony foals were registered annually throughout the world. The 2021

International Committee of Connemara Pony Societies (ICCPS) statistics indicate that about 1,000 fillies and nearly 60 colts were inspected and entered as Class 1 ponies in approved Stud Books worldwide (Table 1). But the Connemara Pony is still a small breed with a closed stud book. Most of the herds outside Ireland are diminutive and dependent on international breeding co-operation between stud books.

TABLE 1: Passports issued, Classification Reports (Class 1 Colts and Fillies) 2017 and 2021 and Imported Transfers 2021 for Connemara pony societies worldwide¹

Country ²	Passports issued 2021	Passports issued 2017	Class 1 Colts 2021	Class 1 Colts 2017	Class 1 fillies 2021	Class 1 Fillies 2017	Imported ponies (transfers) 2021
AU	0	0	1	0	6	4	0
AT	8	2	0	1	1	7	82
BE	28	24	1	0	3	7	..
CA	..	..	0	..	0	..	..
CH	..	3	..	1	..	0	..
DE	122	100	..	3	83	49	28
DK	31	14	1	..	12	9	18
FI	20	30	0	1	16	8	12
FR	413	369	10	11	53	107	69
GB	92	155	4	3	134	62	777
IE	2335	1594	27	10	547	314	9
NL	16	13	0	1	10	1	18
NO	4	..	2	..	0	..	..
NZ	..	..	0	..	0	..	3
SE	71	47	3	1	28	5	405
US	45	40	3	1	24	11	30
ZA	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

¹ Based on Society Reports. Excluding the Belgian Connemara Pony Association and Czech Republic Breeding Programme; year of joining 2022; the symbol .. denotes no data returned

² AU Austria, AT Australia, BE Belgium, CA Canada, CH Switzerland, DE Germany, DK Denmark, FI Finland, FR France, GB Great Britain, IE Ireland, NL Netherlands, NO Norway, NZ New Zealand, SE Sweden, US United States, ZA South Africa

The first daughter Connemara pony societies were established in Great Britain (1947) and the USA (1956). In 2022 the ICCPS consisted of delegates representing 20 Connemara pony breeding member stud books in 18 countries (incl. Ireland). The first International Conference for Connemara Pony Societies was arranged by the CPBS in Connemara in 1970 with a total of 200 guests and delegates. The following year an International Round Table Meeting was held the day after Clifden Show where delegates from the overseas societies met with members of the CPBS Council. The International Round Table Meetings (RTM) remained as a forum for the exchange of views for almost 20 years. A number of the problems of that time appear to be solved today, like registration of Blue-Eyed Creams, percentage of alien blood and identification of ponies. But some of the discussed items in 1972 are still burning questions: such as the increasing height of ponies and the breeding of ponies out of type and light of bone.

During the 80s the international meetings adopted a more informal format until the ICCPS was officially founded in Clifden on 15th August, 1990. At an international meeting held at the Abbeyglenn Hotel delegates from eleven countries agreed on the first set of International Rules for Connemara Pony Societies. The document was the result of an ongoing process to harmonize the rules and regulations that governed each individual Connemara pony society and stud book, in order to comply with the EU Directive on Trade. A pony entered in a Stud

Book of an Approved Society could from then on be entered in another Approved Stud Book without further inspection. The level of the ICCPS membership, approved or affiliated, depended on the societies' ability to fulfil the conditions of the International Rules. In 1999 the ICCPS constitution of today was adopted by the member societies. This constitution regulates the structure and the work of the ICCPS but leaves out breed standard, stud book and inspection principles.

The ICCPS's main work now is a focus on co-operation between societies, to share information and to advise/cooperate with the CPBS regarding breeding programmes and stud book rules. The ICCPS Strategic Plan formed 2018 will be up dated as a working document for the future. An international data base for stud books and training programmes for inspectors and judges are other important issues, but could probably not be realized without external funding and sponsorship.

TABLE 2: Foundation year of Parent Society and ICCPS Daughter Breed Societies (EU - blue), Breed Bodies (non EU - brown)

Country ¹	Year of Society's Foundation
Austria	1971
Australia	1961
Belgium CPS	1977
Belgium CPA	2022
Canada	2006
Czech Republic	2022
Denmark DKCPS	1964
Denmark DCPS	2011
Finland	1984
France	1969
Great Britain ²	1947
Ireland ³	1923
Netherlands	1967
New Zealand	1984
Norway	1982
Sweden	1965
United States	1956

¹ Germany (EU), Switzerland (EU Single Market), and

South Africa: no data returned

² Great Britain (United Kingdom) left the EU in December 2021

³ Ireland for the purposes of the Breeding Programme includes the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland (UK)

EU Legislation and effects on ICCPS Breeding Programmes

According to the "Animal Breeding Regulations" (EU 2016/1012), the Connemara Pony Breeders' Society (CPBS) Stud Book in Ireland is recognized as the breeding book of origin of the breed; the CPBS is what we call the Parent Society. All other EU Connemara Pony Stud Books are classified as filial breeding books, "Daughter Societies", and have to incorporate the principles established by the CPBS into their breeding programmes. The non-EU stud books (breed bodies) also have to comply with the CPBS Breeding programme principles to enable non-EU bred ponies to enter an EU Connemara Pony Stud Book. The approval and control of the breeding books are carried out by the Competent Authority (CA) in each country. If a compliance problem occurs in a filial breeding book this will be a matter between the CA of the country of the actual Daughter Society and the Irish CA. Hence the CPBS and the ICCPS though no longer the official parts of approval processes, may support and advise a new or existing member society where possible.

In 2022 the new CPBS Breeding Programme was established with special options for daughter societies. This makes it possible for all daughter societies to achieve the breeding goals for the Connemara pony by using their own national horse breeding and inspection systems. The small number of registered and inspected ponies and the varying size of the breeding countries indicates that a flexible set of rules is essential. The cost and criteria of inspections need to be kept at an optimal level, otherwise pure bred, good ponies and bloodlines will be lost for future breeding around the world.

ICCPS Technical Meeting, Clifden August 2022

After two years of pandemic and digital meetings the ICCPS welcomed delegates to a Technical Meeting in Clifden on Thursday 11th August, 2022. The President of the CPBS, Mr Dave Sheedy, opened the meeting and the CPBS Technical Delegate Denise Norton was Acting Chairperson for the ICCPS. CPBS Chair of the International Committee, Phyllis Jones, gave a presentation on the new CPBS Breeding Programme and an overview of Daughter Societies' inspection processes. There followed a relaxed and informal discussion with questions and answers regarding the breeding programme, inspections, HWSD, education and the database. A number of societies argued that the Universal Equine Life Number (UELN) should be visible on the CPBS database, as this number is used to identify a pony in the studbook worldwide. A summary of topics and answers to questions raised at the meeting has since been circulated to all ICCPS Members.

Following a review of each daughter society's breeding programme the CPBS circulated a document in October with information on areas which ought to find common ground and must be brought into line with the parent breeding programme. Among the areas mentioned were: classifications of ponies must reflect that CPBS is a breed society and not a performance society; the studbook is a closed studbook; HWSD testing is a prerequisite for registration unless both parents are proven N/N for the gene; the classification/grading system for colts and geldings must be from age 3 years old; and it is not permissible to bring a pony for a subsequent inspection to another pony jurisdiction within the calendar year. This rule in the CPBS Breeding Programme has subsequently been amended in January 2023 as follows: **Ponies may be presented for reclassification at a later date. Reapplication for inspection is required. No colt or stallion shall be presented in Ireland or another jurisdiction within the same calendar year of previous inspection.**

CPBS HWSD Results for 2022

Year	Total tested	N/N		N/HWSD		HWSD/HWSD	
2022*	3513*	2995	85.25%	504	14.35%	14	0.40%

*In addition to this number for 2022, a further 14 ponies were awaiting an HWSD result, and 6 ponies were imported to Ireland *with no HWSD result*. (30th January, 2023)

ICCPS Annual General Meeting

The 2022 ICCPS AGM was held by Zoom teleconferencing on October 9th with delegates from 10 member societies and a number of observers on line. The Czech Stud Book (CACP) is now approved by the Czech Authorities and the Czech Connemara Pony Society gave a short presentation. The meeting also welcomed the second approved Belgian Stud Book, the Belgium Connemara Pony Association, as a new member.

After the pandemic the ICCPS now could return to the proper rotation of members of the Executive Board (EB). Sweden and Belgium were due to retire and Finland and France were

elected as new EB members. The EB 2022-23 consists of delegates from Australia, Finland, France, Great Britain, Ireland and Norway. At the subsequent EB meeting Phyllis Jones, Ireland, was appointed new Chairman of the EB. According to ICCPS Constitution and for practical reasons the EB has decided to outsource the roles of Secretary and Treasurer to Madeleine Beckman, Sweden, and Fiona Grimes, Ireland, respectively.

The Michael O'Malley Award 2023



Frederiksminde 2003 - Gunner Andersen and the stallion Hazy Dawn (Photo: Beckman)

Gunner Harder Andersen and his wife Anne founded the Frederiksminde Stud in 1984 with their first homebred foal: *Frederiksminde Christina* out of *Ditlevhøjs Camilla* (d.s. *Roy Ruadh*) sired by *Earl of Doon*. Gunner was soon determined to breed selectively for the beautiful typical Connemara pony. In 1987 the Frederiksminde Stud purchased the two-year-old *Hazy Dawn* from Johnny Lee in Ireland. This was the beginning of his goal oriented and structured Connemara pony breeding programme, where he found, that the combination of *Marble* mares with the stallion *Hazy Dawn* produced progeny most true to the desired type.

The Feely Report of 2000 showed that the inbreeding coefficient of the herd was clearly rising to an unsafe level. At this time the breeders in Ireland and elsewhere had become overly reliant on the Blue and Red Line stallions. The use of several Green Line Stallions including *Frederiksminde Hazy Match* and *Hazy Merlin* in Ireland and *Hazy Move On* in Germany has been an invaluable tool keeping the balance between blood lines.

The Frederiksminde Stud ended their breeding of Connemara ponies following the death of *Hazy Dawn* in 2018, but Gunner's dedicated work as a breeder will continue in numerous pedigrees worldwide.



The Worldwide Connemara Pony Community



United States



Belgium



Belgian CPA



Netherlands



Great Britain



Germany



Germany



German Studbook



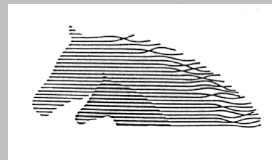
Swiss Studbook



Sweden



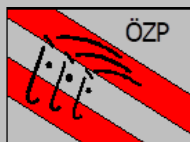
France



Ireland



Canada



Austrian Studbook



Denmark DCPS



Denmark DKCPS



Australia



Czech Republic



South Africa (no logo)



Finland



ICCPS



Norwegian Pony Studbook

