



Minutes of

Annual General Meeting of the New Zealand Friesian Horse Society Incorporated

Held in person and via Zoom at 6pm on Saturday 4th May 2024

Welcome from the Board Chair, Louis Weitenberg.

Present

In person: Jan and Roellie de Jong, Louis and Marianne Weitenberg, Linda Gowdy, Bronwyn Yucel, Anna Zhigareva, Gill Chambers, Simone and Philipp du Bernard-Ripa, Ashleigh Hoskin, Michelle Amery, Maria King, Neil Fremaux, Baldeep Dhillon, Vicky Samuels

On Zoom: Sarah Rolston tried but unable to join

Apologies

Yvonne Liemburg, Sandy Nogueira, Stella Hansen, Samantha McClunie

Agenda

1. Minutes of the 2023 AGM
2. The Board's Reports
 - 2.1 President's Report
 - 2.2 Treasurer's Report
 - 2.3 Registrar's Report
 - 2.4 Secretary's Report
 - 2.5 Webmaster/Promotion Officer's Report
 - 2.6 Event Officer's Report
3. Nominations and Voting for Board Members
4. General Business
5. Next Board Meeting

1. Minutes of the 2023 AGM

The minutes of the 2023 NZFHS AGM were sent out to members before the meeting.

Passed as a true and accurate record by Anna Zhigareva. Seconded by Gill Chambers.

2. The Board's Reports

2.1 President's Report

The President's report was tabled and discussed by Louis Weitenberg. The report can be viewed below.

It has been a challenging year for myself and Marianne, after deciding to move back to the Manawatu, build a home and start a new job. This has meant I have not been able to be as involved as I would have liked this year for the Society. My apologies for this.



After 10 years, I have decided to pass on the reigns to someone else, to carry on what started in 2013, when, with the help and support of the KFPS, we set up our own Society in New Zealand, rather than combined with Australia. I hope it will long continue into the future.

*I do have **some** concerns with lots of people not understanding the importance of well recorded and registered horses. The KFPS is at the forefront in regards to record keeping. We have seen the complicity of new owners wanting to record the unrecorded horses they have purchased. These horses **should** have been registered at birth.*

The KFPS once again is going through a lot of changes with the president resigning and recently the announcement of CEO Marijke Akkerman standing down as well. Nine very promising new stallions have been entered as studbook stallions this year, with more diversity taken in consideration but not always possible, if the stallion does not meet all criteria.

Membership, it is great to see it is slowly increasing with several new members.

I would like to sincerely thank my fellow board members for your time, effort and commitment. I know the society is in good hands with those who will remain in the board. Special thanks to our Vice President Baldeep Dhillon who has also been alongside me in the board since the start and now retiring. Your generosity to host some of our AGMs, with all the food and drinks supplied, is second to none. Our finances are now on Xero and you have kindly offered your accountant to oversee these to produce our Annual Report. Again thank you so much for all you have done.

It is great to see so many of you here for this weekend. Let's hope for a great year ahead with another Keuring in 2025.

2.2 Treasurer's Report

The financial report for 1st January 2023 – 31st December 2023 was tabled and discussed by Bronwyn Yucel. The report can be viewed below. The bank statement can be viewed as a separate attachment in the e-mail sent to all members with the AGM minutes.

Over the 2023 year and beyond the Board have been organising and fund raising for our biennial Keuring. With our Society running as a Non Profit Charity this involved many brainstorming board meetings. This ended in running a well run Keuring, with the Judges and Runners praising our Friesian Breeders and Owners; they were impressed with the quality of our horses.

We have continued over the last few years for our members, a discount on our yearly membership fees. We don't know how long this will continue with the yearly price increases. Our responsibility to the KFPS, is to represent them to our New Zealand Friesian Horse Owners and Breeders who wish to register their horses. We work solely to continue the registration process on behalf of the KFPS.



With NZ sitting the furthest from Holland and with an average of 30 members, this is a challenge for fund raising, but with the support of a very active, creative Board who are together for the love and care of the Friesian Breed, we manage this well.

To our Members, thank you for your continued support to us for your Friesians, we appreciate you. To my fellow Board Members, thank you for your support and continued uplifting meetings bringing respect and inspiration to every meeting. We are only a small Society, but our Friesians have us internationally acknowledged. Thank you everyone.

Extra notes and observations from the Treasurer:

- Airfares costs are very high for Keuring
 - o Improve feasibility of covering these costs with sponsorship and fundraisers
 - o Should be paying a smaller portion of the cost than paying currently, need to discuss further with Australia
 - o KFPS not wishing to be involved in these negotiations, but we will continue the conversation with the Australian society
- Not selling many polo shirts – need a push on these (new form being created)
- We don't make much profit for savings – only from fundraising and a bit from membership fees (most goes back to the KFPS)
- A lot of volunteering from board members (time and money)
- Will need to ask for more help/sponsorship during Keuring years especially

2.3 Registrar's Report

The Registrar's Report for 1st January 2023 – 31st December 2023 was tabled and discussed by Louis Weitenberg. The report can be viewed below.

12	x	Transfers processed with KFPS
3	x	Breedings processed
		1 Jelle with Breeding Permit
		1 Wylster with Breeding Licence
		1 Floris with Breeding Permit
1	x	Foal Born by Wylster
3	x	Birth Notifications
		1 Nane 492 (breeding licence)
		2 Floris (breeding permit)
1	x	Death reported

After the Keuring, 14 Studbook papers went to the KFPS to be upgraded.

Members were informed on how to access the new Equus Website from the KFPS.

The breeding permits of Jelle and Floris were renewed after the Keuring.

Ninthe van de Boerestreek was awarded the Sport Predicate.

Some concern about the low number of foals born. It could mean that newborn foals are not registered, which can lead to enormous frustration when these animals are sold to people, who do not get told what the consequences of that are, leading to frustration and a lot of

extra expense to the new owner. The board has therefore sent out information to members to promote the correct registration process for all animals.

In general, the process of communication with the KFPS is quick, however some concern has been expressed by the board, that the timeframe to get work completed and received back from the KFPS is too long.

This is my last time as a board member after 10 years. My sincere thanks to the current outgoing and remaining board members. It has been a pleasure to be working with you all, keep up the hard work but don't forget to enjoy your Friesian Pearls.

Extra notes and observations from the Registrar:

- English translation of myKFPS is behind Dutch version, but getting better.
- Concern about low number of foals born last year, but some born this year so not in this report
- So much paperwork getting lost in transit. Can we do more with e-mailing/scanning documents?

2.4 Secretary's Report

The Secretary's Report was tabled and discussed by Anna Zhigareva. The report can be viewed below.

It has been a pleasure to continue as the NZFHS Secretary this year. I have enjoyed continuing to work with our Board Members and getting to know our long-term and new members.

In my role this year, I have attended our monthly Board Meetings, and contributed with ideas and discussion points on the society's work, as well as taking minutes. I have corresponded closely with the KFPS office to stay well-informed of news and to ensure new members were receiving myKFPS login information. Throughout the year, I have kept members updated with NZFHS news via our mailing list, spent some time updating our database, responded to members' questions, and checked in to make sure members knew how to access the newly re-done myKFPS portal, which is hugely useful.

I took some time out of my travels in July 2023 to visit Hynstedagen in Garijp, Friesland, where I watched a Keuring as well as a beautiful carriage show, met with inspectors Sabien Zwaga and Jan Hellinx, and was invited by Alice Booij (Phryso) to give a short interview about Friesian Horses in New Zealand. I also received our NZ Friesians' updated papers (post-Keuring) and took these back to NZ.

While unfortunately I wasn't able to organise a large group ride up in the Auckland area this spring and summer (our September ride had to be postponed), I continued with two community engagement projects I started in 2022. I once again organised 'Friesian Secret Santa', in which members and non-members participated, trading gifts all throughout the country. I would like to continue this lovely tradition if others are keen to continue participating in this festive gift exchange. I also organised this year's NZFHS calendar, for



which many members submitted their favourite photos. The top ones were selected by an independent judge, NLS Photography, and these made it into the print version. This calendar initiative raised a total of \$208.75 (after expenses), and proceeds from the sales will go towards the 2025 Keuring. Thank you to everyone who put in an order!

2.5 Webmaster/Promotion Officer's Report

The Webmaster/Promotion Officer's Report was tabled and discussed by Linda Gowdy. The report can be viewed below.

Wow, I can't believe I've already been part of the board for a year. It's been an exciting year with lots of learning on my part and hopefully a lot of on-going exciting information for our members both on the Facebook Page and the Official NZFHS web page.

Here are some things done this year as Webmaster:

- *Got onto the Facebook updates and getting info on there quickly when I first became Webmaster. Over the year I have become more comfortable working the back end of the NZ Friesian Horse Society website and adding more details as I go.*
- *Working hard at getting up to date and interesting information for our members on a regular basis*
- *Trying to get more member updates on what they are doing with their horses on the FB Page and Web Page.*
- *Tried to get members to do a Bio, with one response, hopefully these new initiatives will be responded to with more interest in the future by members.*
- *Updated website with new forms, membership details and fees and other information on the web page. Anna did a lot of the updates which I then added onto website and Facebook.*
- *Communications with Yvonne (admin of an NZ Friesian lovers FB group) regarding being able to add NZ Friesian Horse Society information about memberships and what needs to happen when Selling and Buying a Friesian Horse to bring awareness to those people that may not be on our FB page or use the NZ Friesian Horse Society Web Page (eg. new owners).*

For next year I would like to:

- *Work on getting more members to let us know what they are doing, so I can add to website and FB*
- *Promote the Friesian Keuring to get as many people to come as possible using the FB page and Web Site.*
- *Continue on getting more interesting information onto our pages for members, so that members keep coming back to our FB and Website for their information fix and hopefully show possible new members that the FB and Web Page are active and a good source of information for them.*
- *Try and set up a folder for interesting articles for people to reference back to.*



I'm looking forward to getting more news and information to our members as Webmaster for the coming year.

Extra notes and observations from the Webmaster/Promotion Officer:

- Been adding files and info that is interested but gets lost on FB sometimes
 - o Wanting to create one location to access certain information
- Seems to be the same people we're sharing about – everyone, please send us your photos and stories!
- Silent auction idea. Please try to involve your friends and family. And we can have prizes from non-horsey backgrounds.
- Now that done role for a year, know when things come up, so will promote earlier so everyone has more time to organise themselves.

2.6 Event Officer's Report

The Event Officer's Report was tabled and discussed by Gill Chambers. The report can be viewed below.

What a great year for our black beauties, but we're wanting to do more for our members.

The Keuring in 2023 was a great event. We loved the inspectors and their input as to the progress with the breeding, with people now looking at what progeny they are wanting to go forward with for their specific sport. I found it very informative.

We tried to arrange regional activities, and well done to Anna with a response from the Auckland area in treks in the district, though it had to be postponed. Hopefully in the future we can organise more activities with working equitation and the ongoing endurance, which Neil has excelled in, with numerous wins over the year.

Equifest 2023 was disappointing (especially with management) – there was not enough space to accommodate our horses and slow communication, so we were unable to participate. I have therefore contacted the 2024 Equifest team very early so that we can display our fantastic breed to the rest of New Zealand.

With our weekend get-together on the 4th-5th May, I feel each year this activity will grow and grow. I am intent on making this an annual event for our members to become a friendly family on a regular basis.

I am happy to stay on in this role for the 2024-25 period and look forward to input from our members to incorporate the activities they feel are of benefit, for all to enjoy.

Extra notes and observations from the Event Officer:

- Good ideas for 2025 Keuring
- Talking to Dutch Embassy, will be approaching for sponsorship
- Working on securing grants; will be applying in December
- Can't go for grants for airfares, which makes it challenging



- Know non-registered Friesian horse owners – they aren't members at the moment, but may be interested in donating money towards the Keuring
- KFPS doing well by getting all horses registered. Jodi Hartstone trying to get the rest of NZ onto the same level of registrations.

3. Nominations and Voting

Nominations stand as following:

- Gill Chambers for *Chair/President* (happy to continue Event Officer tasks)
- Anna Zhigareva for *Vice President* (happy to continue Secretary tasks)
- Bronwyn Yucel for *Treasurer*
- Marianne Weitenberg for *Registrar*
- Simone du Bernard for *Ordinary Board Member*

Applications were sent out to all members prior to the AGM. Vote options: proxy, online, in-person, by e-mail to Secretary in advance. The Webmaster/Promotion Officer does not need to be re-elected as was elected at last year's AGM, and all roles are two-year roles.

Karen Eivers (not member, but attendant of Friesian Weekend) chosen to count the votes and destroy the papers.

Congratulations to our newly elected officers:

Chair/President – ***Gill Chambers***

Vice President – ***Anna Zhigareva***

Treasurer – ***Bronwyn Yucel***

Registrar – ***Marianne Weitenberg***

Ordinary Board Member – ***Simone du Bernard***

4. General Business

- Michelle raised a point regarding KFPS changing use of stallions to reduce kinship
 - o Danger of having stallions only doing, for example, 100 serves – won't these go to the best mares in Europe and we will never see doses from them?
 - o Gill contributed that this is being looked at by the KFPS
- Michelle raised a point that we need to have more NZ representation on KFPS meetings.
 - o This can be challenging due to the time difference, but a greater effort should be made. The Board was in agreeance.
- Marianne raised a point regarding sending all board reports prior to AGM
 - o Will members not come if read these early?
 - o Members raised points about liking to read the reports in advance.
 - o Anna raised a point that it's useful to read these in advance as then can come to the AGM prepared with ideas and contributions.
 - o It is agreed to continue sending out reports in advance of the AGM.

- Ashleigh raised a point regarding simple solutions to lower certain Keuring costs; for example, having members pay for entry numbers (labels on bridles) themselves.
 - o Alternatively, the society buys these cheap, and members have to pay a deposit for them, then get the money back upon returning the numbers. That way we don't have to keep buying new labels each time.
- Michelle raised a point regarding high cost of bringing horses down for Keurings in Taupo
 - o Indeed, for South Island members, it is cheaper to have inspectors fly down to them than to bring horses up.
 - o Anna contributed that from her discussions with the judges that came in 2023, they would be happy to inspect in Auckland (would need to enquire regarding other locations), and would rather go to several sites if it means the horses are well rested and relaxed.
 - o Louis suggested why not make the fun get-together weekends longer to include things like Keurings and AGMs (like we did this weekend, but possibly longer for a Keuring).
 - Something for the Board to think about and get members' opinions on over the next few months
 - o Gill contributed that the NEC had to be pre-booked for the 2025 Keuring in case it would be held here, so we didn't miss out, as it gets booked out far in advance. We could still probably organise others Keurings around the country to suit member concentrations, eg. Auckland, Palmerston North, South Island.
 - Would need to assess costs and feasibility. Eg. Researched into booking Manfield and it was ~3000NZD per day, whereas the NEC is a tenth of the price.
- Gill asked if we would like to keep having yearly gatherings at the NEC
 - o General accord - it's been lovely to catch up with everyone and have a fun weekend together with our horses
 - o Michelle contributed that the Keuring is the most important event members get out of their memberships. While having social gatherings is fun, priority should be given to organising Keurings and making sure they work for members in terms of location, as members struggle to come/do not wish to come if it costs them lots
 - Anna contributed that we have been looking at other locations, independent arenas, etc., and will continue to research these.
- Maria suggested Cookie Fundraising. She will send information through to Gill.

5. Next Board Meeting

The NZFHS Board will next meet on Wednesday 12th June, at 7.30pm, via Zoom.

Meeting ended at 7.30pm.