

GRADING REGISTER

Due to a disagreement within Breed Committee over the rules of entry in to the Grading Register at C, I have taken it upon myself to do substantial further reading on the topic. I have now gone back through the records and can confirm the following in relation to the percentage of Pure Cleveland Bay blood that is mandatory to enter the Grading Register at C:

Year 2000

The rules listed on the website are taken from the Millennium Stud Book. They state that to be considered for entry to the Grading Register at C....

- The mare must be accepted by the Breed Committee as having more than 50 % pure Cleveland blood (the usual figure is 75 %); and the animal should normally have been entered in the Society's Part Bred Register.

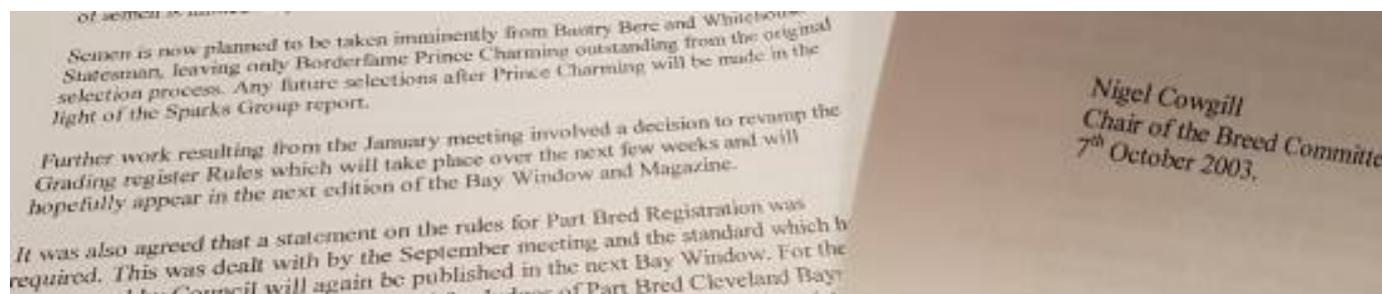
Also

- The mare must have a traceable ancestry.

Plus be vetted and pass.

Year 2003

For reference of time this is when there was a change in the "mismarking" rules that were applied for entry into the Stud Book due to EU legislation. It meant that all Pure horses HAD to be accounted for in the Stud Book, irrespective of mismarking. As you can see from the copy of the Breed Committee Report from 7 October 2003 below, Nigel Cowgill stated that further work was being undertaken to revamp the Grading Register Rules and those rules would be appearing in the next edition of the Bay Window, and in the Magazine.



Year 2004

As indicated above, the new agreed rules were published in the 2004 Magazine and in the Bay Window this year.

7. The Grade Register will continue to operate but only for upgrading horses being introduced to the breed starting at Grade C with at least 75% Cleveland blood and not as before for mis marked mares..

The above is from the Bay Window, and is part of a Breed Committee Report. The report, which had the above insert as part of its content, was then confirmed as being accepted by Council, as per below and was also reported in the Bay Window.

The proposal was accepted almost unanimously by Council with only one vote against and one abstention.

This is a very important change in the rules and I set out below the full decision

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All horses on the Grade Register should be reviewed by a sub group of the Breed Committee as to their purity of Cleveland blood.

All horses on the Grade Register deemed to be of pure Cleveland blood will be transferred to the Pure Stud Book subject to Breed Committee and Council approval.

Passports will be amended or new passports issued subject to the markings comments below.

In future all horses, male and female, out of registered pure mares by licensed pure stallions will be registered in the full Stud Book subject to the markings comments below.

All Pure passports will include a section headed: "Breed Committee's Comments On Colour Markings at Time of Registration".

This section will note whether the colour is entirely acceptable or whether there are mismarkings according to the Breed's standards.

Colour markings comments will also be repeated in both the Stud Book and the magazine.

Existing Breed standards on colour will remain in force.

The Grade Register will continue to operate but only for upgrading horses being introduced to the Breed starting at Grade 'C' with at least 75% Cleveland Bay blood.

Grade 'D' will remain as the register for the male progeny of Grade Register mares by licensed pure stallions.

You will see from the copy on the left, that the review of the Grading Register rules, as promised in 2003, also appeared in the Magazine in 2004.

Highlighted in yellow is the rule that was approved, and gives the minimum requirement to enter at Grade C in the Grading Register, and that is 75% Pure Cleveland Bay blood.

This rule was therefore now in place and formed a part of the rules of entry to the Grading Register.

Year 2006

The 2006 Stud Book also gave details to Members of the changes to the Grading Register process and refers to the 2004 Magazine as above. Excerpts are below:

For ease of reference I have set out below the rule change on mismarking that was first published in the 2004 CBHS Magazine and which it should be noted details changes to the Grading Register process.

It further lists the new rule for entry into the Grading Register at C.

6. The Grade Register will continue to operate but only for upgrading horses being introduced to the breed starting at Grade C with at least 75% Cleveland Bay blood.
7. Grade D will remain the register for the male progeny of Grade Register mares by licensed pure stallions.

Year 2011

You will I am sure recall the Grading Register proposals that included "The Improver" that caused such a rift within the Society. These proposals were based on changing the rules that were already in place. There is a paragraph within the proposals which acknowledges the current rule:

Council were reminded that the Grading Register regulations were already in existence and that the following major changes were being proposed: treating colts and fillies the same; reducing the cross by one generation so that animals entered the

Full Stud Book (FSB) with 93.75% pure blood; the % of pure blood would determine which Band an animal was placed in; horses would be inspected at Grade C level (this was agreed at the meeting); tighter requirements and screening for entrants to GR; new stallion license category to be created viz: GR Stallion; introduction of an Improver category in the GR; horses would need a minimum inspection score of 100/130 to enter the FSB (the score currently required of Premium Stallions).

There was lengthy discussion on the proposal during which the following points were made:

- This is a long programme of change and will take a minimum of 15 years from an initial 50% cross to enter the FSB. Under the old system it takes 18 years.
- Introducing new genes will be of benefit to the breed but these will be diluted with each generation. Only 6.25% of the original non-CB bloodline will enter the FSB so what is the point of watering down? One GR horse will not make a difference but a number would. The GR horses that have entered have made some difference to the breed, for example 8 male and 8 female Yorkshire Coach Horses entered into the FSB. They did not all breed on but had some effect on the horse.
- We only produced 11 fillies in 2010 and if these low numbers continue then we are in danger of a genetic 'bottle neck' over the next six years. How can we introduce GR animals into such a small population without them making a huge impact?
- GR horses entering the FSB only impact on the population if they are actually bred with.
- Look at the current level of inbreeding and incestuous breeding that has been practised in the past – there is a danger of having unviable mares. We have had 4 QA stallions on the last 4 years and two of those are now for 'private use' only. Of the current premium stallions, three will be over 18 years old this year.
- Currently if you had a 50% CB filly, you would be challenged to find enough unrelated stallions to enable upgrading to the FSB.
- Some experts say that you should not do grading up at all. Others say that

As you will see from reading it, the grading up process was proposed to be reduced by one generation. The proposals wanted there to be 93.75% pure when entering the Full Stud Book, Grade A would have been 87.5%, Grade B 75% and Grade C 50%.

This also therefore confirms that the Grading Register Rules that were in place in 2011 were “at least 75% pure entering at Grade C”. That would mean 87.5% at Grade B, 93.75% into Grade A, and 96.875% going in to the Full Stud Book.

In conclusion, it is very clear that the rules that are on the website from the Millennium Stud Book are misleading as they are not the current rules, and in fact, they are, in relation to this issue giving the wrong information to all.

I am very grateful to Sandra for disagreeing with the rest of Breed Committee on the Grading Register rules and insisting that the 75% rule that others on the Committee thought was in place was not correct. She stated to us that the rules had been in place since 1997. On reflection I can see how this misunderstanding of the process and rules could occur, as nobody has, over the years, updated and published the correct rules to reflect what had been agreed at Council, and had also been passed on to the Membership via the Minutes, Magazine, and Stud Book when they were amended.

Sandra further stated that *“there is also no requirement to know the breeding of the non-CB part. This may well need to be changed but this is not in the current rules.”* This statement is also of concern to myself and the rest of Breed Committee as I would want to know what is meant by “the mare must have traceable ancestry” if it does not mean you need to know the breeding of the mare. I am of the opinion that no decision can be made without knowing what the non-CB part of the breeding is of a mare.

I therefore would request that it is now minuted that the Grading Register rules posted on the website will be updated (as below), as will the Grading Register Application form to reflect the rules currently in place, as agreed by Council in 2004.

This Council today is not changing the rules in any way, but ensuring the correct information is available to all and that the rules are applied accordingly, and fully complied with.

The rule below

- The mare must be accepted by the Breed Committee as having at least 75% pure Cleveland Bay blood.

WILL REPLACE

- The mare must be accepted by the Breed Committee as having more than 50% pure Cleveland blood (the usual figure is 75%); and the animal should normally have been entered in the Society’s Part Bred Register.