AREA 7 LIAISON COMMITTEE MINUTES

Mon December 6th, 8pm via Teams

1. Apologies for Absence:
* Rachel Stevenson
1. Minutes of the Previous Meeting:
* Helen McIntosh mentioned that she had been told by BRC that download scores and e-mailed declaration forms won’t be accepted and have to be hand written- David Clarke to chase up and confirm.
1. Matters Arising: None
2. Treasurers Report:
* The area 7 bank account has grown this year thanks to the efforts of the Horse Trials team in generating a profit of £2,508.45.
A huge thank you must go to Kelly and Rebecca who pulled this successful event together under challenging timescales. To also generate such a profit is fantastic. In addition thanks to Bozeat Treasurer for her support during this event and for the club’s understanding of the delays in accessing the bank account.
* Need to pay out for the batteries (£14.88) for stopwatches David bought, as well as investing in new radio batteries £300 – Thank you Katherine for coordinating.
* The current balance in the bank account is: £9,600.90
* The accounts are separated into:
* A7 events = £8,794.92
* A7 = £805.98
* We will start the mandate change by adding Rachel Stevenson (Chair) and Katherine Short (Secretary) as Authorised Signatories.
* Thank you to Lesley for maintaining the accounts to date and making the payments. In the next week I should receive the card reader so that I can have full access to online banking. Thank you all for your patience while we worked through an un-comprehendible number of delays and issues.
	+ Vote to cover deficit of £293 for combined challenge- agreed
	+ Vote to buy a gift for pony club- a set of dressage markers (towers). About £150- £200- agreed.
1. Area Rep Report:
	* This was David’s (Clarke) last meeting as area 7 rep. Thank you for all your hard work over the years!
	* After the last area meeting, forms were sent out for area rep nominations, Katherine will be the new area rep from 1st January 2022.
	* Arena eventing and combined challenge will allow competitors to compete at consecutive heights for qualifiers from September 2022.
	* Hat change rule from 2023, details are in recent BRC news.
2. Past Events:
	* Winter dressage qualifiers at Bury Farm RC (run by MKRC), had to move from February to October due to covid. Lower entries then expected, possibly for a variety of reasons. 3 arenas ran instead of 5. It will be the second week of October at bury farm again for 2022. Kelly Belham said it ran well, scores out quickly and everyone was happy. Enjoyable event thank you.
	* Combined challenge at Home Farm, Alconbury (run by HHRC), Linda from North Mymms RC said well organised, good fun and nice venue. Clare from KRC, everyone enjoyed the day but speed was nan issue felt a bit odd as so slow would be Nice to have a few more jumps in it. Speed was raised to BRC and there will be a variety of speeds that can be used for 2022 qualifiers (full details in the recent BRC news).
	* Plastic covered wooden poles (as used in the combined challenge poster), it is unsure about whether these can be used in the future. General committee feeling was that they were as good as wooden polls (and lasted longer). David Clarke will feedback about their use to BRC and will send out details for comments for the next meeting.
	* Winter Show Jumping at Arena UK (run by HHRC), it is a great venue, easy to get to, big venue nice jumps. But is far for some people. NMRC didn’t attend as too far, MKRC had members pull out as far. As an organiser we were a bit disappointed with the venue as had to provide own PA and timing equipment when hiring in addition to £2500 hiring costs and that wasn’t mentioned on any paper work when hiring. Just to mention in case others hire it again in the future. Might be worth doing an inventory of what clubs have what equipment and see which clubs will lend for events. Unfortunately, we need big venues to run events and there is a lack of them in the area. Could possibly have charged slightly more for entries as was 2 rounds. Lots of praise for Helen McIntosh as official steward.
	* It was discussed at length about the issue of club helpers. There is nothing in the official BRC rules regards helpers for area clubs, any rules can be applied by clubs. The current area 7 guidance on helpers is, can ask for 2 individuals per team or 1 helper per 1-2 individuals. Official steward can eliminate a team if they don’t pull their weight with regards to helpers. Some flexibility on helping can be done but do need some names for some specific roles (i.e. fence judging). Helpers is also at the organisers discretion with give and take on both sides. Some clubs have now decided to pay mileage for non riding helpers.
3. Upcoming Events:
	* Sunday 3rd April for combined training at Wittering Grange. There will be 2 arenas on surface and 1 on grass. Jumping will be on the arena along with the warm up. Dressage warm up will be on grass but test on a surface. Probably £18-20 entry. Katherine Short will be the official steward.
	* Consider running winter qualifiers combined over a weekend of Show Jumping and Dressage. Some clubs are keen for this and would make good use of space and cost to hire.
	* Do a poll of members about what they would like from future qualifiers. Katherine Short will do one and send out.
	* Venues are very expensive to hire now.
	* Other BRC Areas now also run at venues where the venue does all the organising and clubs just provide an area stewards etc, might be worth considering in the future.
4. Training:
	* Only 2 clubs responded to the junior training e-mail, with only 6 juniors interested. Sadly, not able to run. Need to think of creative ideas of training or not have the grant for next year. Possibly run a first aid course, was popular before. Or we carry on junior training for next year with more advanced notice and lose the training grant for 2022 and apply again in 2023.
	* Could ask for any takers for the first aid course? Each club representative will ask their committee if anyone is interested for 2 day first aid training on 20th December .
5. AGM:
	* Open invitation to be able to attend, just need to be provided with minutes of the last AGM, agenda for current AGM and any other paperwork that is need.
	* Club positions will need to be voted in at the AGM, these include Vice Chairman, Secretary, Training and Treasurer (if anyone is interested).
	* The AGM will be held on Tuesday 1stFebruary via Zoom (or similar).
	* All AGM paperwork to be completed by end of year.
6. A.O.B.
	* BRC changing year end to 1st of January, Area 7 is currently September. Can discuss at AGM to change year end to 1st of January or stay as is.
7. Date of Next Meeting;
	* 18th January 2022 for setting future events.
	* 1st of February for AGM.
	* 5th April next committee meeting.