

Area 7 Riding Club Meeting Minutes
Monday 26th October 2020 – Virtual Meeting via zoom



1. Apologies for Absence

- Cambridge, Shillington

2. Those present

- Representative from each of the following clubs: North Mymms, Aspley Guise, Stevenage, Bozeat, Rockingham, Milton Keynes, Keysoe, Rockingham Forest, Houghton and Huntingdon, Aspley Guise
- Mark Irwing – Vice-Chair
- David Clark – Official Steward
- Lesley Irwing – Treasurer
- Rachael Stevenson – minutes secretary
- Representatives from head office

3. Head office update

- Past few years head office have been to meetings across the country and are now continuing virtually.
- Update:
 - Tricky year in riding clubs and pleased to have been able to run arena eventing champs 2020 (highest entry numbers) then the crisis hit.
 - BHS furloughed around 50 people and BRC members were helping out across BHS.
 - Photo competition, pilates, book and film recommendations, help videos and updated guidance with continuous government guidance and changes. The last took up a large amount of times. Data sheets and risk assessments completed to support clubs once events could continue.
 - Meetings with BEF have continued weekly to ensure as an industry there was a coordinated response – all disciplines were aligned.
 - All staff back from furlough from 1st November and back towards a new norm.
 - Email came out this week regarding membership fee increases. Initially there was not due to be an increase in fees especially due to two months of nothing. BRC as a large organisation have a huge buying power. Insurance was part of a three year contract and it will be going up from 20-40% for next year. This is supposedly across all insurances and this is due to COVID, BREXIT and the weather which is increasing claims. BRC have gone for a 30% increase to then be able to notify clubs as early as possible of the potential increase to give a guide of price increase. Approx. £1 per head, smaller clubs (under 80 members) £145 to £182 and bigger clubs (above 80 members) £160 to £208. Negotiations are on-going and describe as 'hard'. There is not a pool of money at BRC for this increase in insurance to be absorbed. The insurance for individuals is for them to compete/train/take part... and clubs to run events. Riding clubs has not made a profit, recently breaking even or making a loss, all the support structure comes

from BHS and a small profit is expected to be paid back for the support structure BHS offer.

- Every contractor not on a fixed agreement will be going up to cover costs from this year which BRC will be able absorb.
- Championships fees will go up next year in line with inflation – approx. 50p per head.
- Rule changes:
 - Sorted as early as possible this year.
 - Document on BRC website which will be incorporated into new rule book, due to be sent out around December.
 - Festival of Horse Challenge – progressively made a loss, this competition cannot continue in the format it currently is. It is not viable for the future. To start this will just become a combined training championship. Based on feedback and lots of disappointed members. BRC are planning on running a direct entry competition for 2021 more like an arena challenge as this will reduce costs by not running a full cross country course. This is planned to be run by the water complex at Aston to incorporate this as part of the course. Area 7 had high entries but other areas had very few and in some classes none.
- General questions:
 - Indoor SJ qualifier – open 80cm, great idea however in the winter as indoor qualifier we are short of time, could it be an idea for the summer SJ? This will be taken back as an idea.
 - Christmas Cracker Virtual Dressage – could there be a class for very young members, possibly a lead rein class? Would they be able to not be members to encourage more juniors to join in the future.
 - Numbers to qualify at arena eventing – currently only the winners qualify? This varies and depends on the competition. Are there any thoughts to change this as it is only in its second year? As the event is run in March before the clocks change there is limited time which reduces the numbers that can qualify. There have been ideas to extend to a three day competition to potentially fit more competitors and more heights. Each year the numbers to qualify are assessed to ensure maximum numbers at championships. The wild card has been introduced and has been positively received.
 - Can we run as a team to enable team members to support each other but also follow the COVID arrive, compete and leave aspect? Yes for indoor events as all teams can compete under the same conditions (weather). Dispensation has been given to run as a team for this year due to the current climate. (if something enable you to run an event/work best for you – please just ask/email head office as 99% of the time this will be approved.

4. Treasurers Report

- 2019/2020 has been a quiet year – see reports sent by treasurer
- Income only £1000 training grants – as it has not been spent we do not have grounds to claim for next year currently
- Overall on the year – fairly substantial deficit £1865

- Current balance carried forward £714.70
- Cash £7747.81
- Books are currently being audited for this year and last years

5. Area Rep Report

- David asked for any questions following Head Office update.
- It was asked what clubs were going to do with regards to the price increase for member's fee to head office? Some clubs shared they would be increasing prices by £3/£4 as they could not afford to absorb the cost, others are absorbing the costs. Some clubs have already reduced their fee for current club members for 2021 as there was not much for members for 2020.

6. Past Events

- Dressage to Music – ran well, took quite a bit of planning to run as COVID secure as possible. Judge happy to do all writing and scoring. Helpers were kept to a bare minimum and there were not just used as club had to send helpers – more efficient ways of running events with reduced helpers for future. Live scoring worked well and competitors did not have to wait for results. Trained taking photos of test sheets and only 2/3 had to be retaken as they were blurry. Rosettes were given to team managers on the day. From a competitors point of view one of the sheets could not be read as it was taken too far away. Music submissions were all made electronically and this has been taken forward to head office and for championships next year they will only be accepted electronically beforehand.
- DTM championship – overall went well, ran smoothly under the current conditions. Well done to everyone who competed.
- Arena eventing – no negative feedback. Ran well from those who attended. It would be nice if team members could watch each other, see question above in head office questions. It was felt more course walks could have been useful to avoid riders having to be on site for longer than ideal. It also ran well for Area 14 on the Saturday.

7. Future Events

- Winter SJ 16/1/2020 Keysoe – discussion possibility of ideas for running more quickly due to the addition of extra classes, one round is being proposed and very likely to be agreed by head office. Concerns raised around cost if the competition is reduced to one round. Also the communication of it being a single round to club team managers to then inform members. Each club rep was asked for their views on the pricing for a single round – **action: clubs to gauge feelings from members for an off line discussion.** Please can all team mangers let Rebecca (HHDRC) know their prelim entries once made – closing date is over Christmas and head office will possibly not be open during the festive period to send these to the organiser.
- Winter Dressage 13/2/2020 Keysoe – need to speak to judges regarding writers.
- Combined training - TBC
- Horse Trials 17/4/2020 Keysoe – felt for 2022 we would like to look for another venue away from Keysoe.

- Summer Dressage – HHDRC would like to run alongside Milton show.

8. AGM

- Needs to be held at our next meeting.

9. Chair role

- It currently does not appear Celia will be coming back as chair.
- Discussed the idea of doing something to thank Celia for her many years as Area 7 chair.
- A meeting to be set up for nominations for key roles in area.

10. Any Other Business

- All team managers to inform their members that although times are given the class may run earlier or later and competitors need to be ready in their order. Please remind members for dressage the time is the time you are due up the centre line.
- Constitution to be finalised once new chair in position.
- Passports – everyone sent their passports but some were being chased 11pm the night before. Suggested a date is set for passports to be with Helen by.
- Use of Keysoe RC has kindly been offered as an office space when running events at Keysoe.
- Refunds for events that didn't take place – North Mymms believe they have not had an refund they were owed for Winter championship (head office) and Bozeat. All refunds from Bozeat – please email the club and this will be rearranged.
- Area website is no working again. Some of the content has been removed.

11. Date of next meeting

AGM – Monday 30th November 2020 (zoom)