

Area 7 Annual General Meeting Minutes
Monday 30th November 2020



1. Apologies for Absence

- Cambridge, Shillington (Fiona)

2. Clubs present

- Milton Keynes, North Mymms, Houghton and Huntingdon, Keysoe, Rockingham Forest, Wittering, Stevenage, Aspley Guise, Bozeat
- David Clark (area rep)
- Mark Irwing (vice-chair)
- Lesley Irwing (treasurer)

3. Report from the Chair

- Mark started the meeting by introducing those present to ensure everyone knew each other.
- Lesley spoke to Celia and her friend Tanya today. She hoped to remain as chair but her friend has said this is not possible as she does not drive and her health currently does not allow. David was asked where we stood with this and confirmed as an area we have to elect the chair role each year. Short discussion to make her an honorary role.
- Mark gave a very brief report about events being arranged for the future and that this year has been heavily affected. Some winter events were run, however COVID and weather prevented some. The summer was greatly effected due to COVID but the DTM and arena eventing ran. Other winter qualifiers are booked for 2021. Mark was looking forward to a vaccine being found and meeting again face to face in future.

4. Report from Treasurer

- Our funds are reducing each year and this needs discussion at future area meetings.
- Accounts have been audited and feedback given today, to be adopted unaudited for 2019 and 2020. There is a DTM training query for 2019.
- RS asked what the £825 expenditure in June was for. It was confirmed this was 50% of the hire of Keysoe for the cancelled dressage.

5. Area Rep Report

- There have been two events run post COVID and there have been things we can learn and adapt for future. The use of virtual meetings has been useful in bringing us altogether to save time and expenses for everyone as we are so spread out. David is looking forward to a new chair being appointed and the area going from strength to strength.

6. Setting of Area Liaison Fees

- This was waived this year due to COVID.

- David commented this may need further discussion as the area has supported clubs with lost funds due to cancelled events (COVID but also high winds and flooding in early 2020). We need to consider the fees in case of future cancellations. Attendees were asked for comments.
 - Mark commented we as an area are financially sound at this time due to a successful horse trials a few years ago (around £3500 was raised). Marks personal view was we would need to out the fees high or run an event that makes a profit. Club affiliation fee has previously been to cover the cost of running meetings.
 - Jo felt we should keep it as it is. There have been times when multiple clubs have asked for support when an event has made a loss. We do not know what the future holds and the £40 is not a large amount for a club. If the area end up with a large surplus in a few years' time it could be used to subsidise future events. **Action: Mark/Lesley to send invoice to all clubs (until hand over to Katy completed) . David suggested each club be asked to share their details for key roles.**

7. Election of Officers

| Role | Current | Proposed | First and Seconded |
|-------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Chair | Celia Wicher | Rachael Stevenson | Nicola Marston Rebecca Rayner |
| Vice Chair | Mark Irwing | Mark Irwing | Laura Wray Barbra Ward |
| Secretary | Kelly Bellham | Katherine Short | Kelly Bellham Rachael Stevenson |
| Minutes Secretary | Rachael Stevenson | To be incorporated in secretary role | |
| Treasurer | Lesley Irwing | Katy Evans | Kelly Bellham Kit Hore |
| Training Officer | Kit Hore | Kit Hore | Kelly Bellham Jemma Hayley |
| Welfare Officer | Rachael Stevenson Kelly Bellham | Rachael Stevenson Kelly Bellham | N/A |
| Web Master | Kelly Bellham | | Nicola Marston Rachael Stevenson |

Notes around elections

- Mark Irwing and Rachael Stevenson both put themselves forward for the role of chair. Both gave a brief speech on why they would like to stand and then David collated a private chat of their votes. Jo suggested whoever did not get the role defaulted to vice chair. 10 votes in favour for Rachael and three for Mark.
- Lesley Irwing and Katy Evans both put themselves forward for the treasurer role. Vote for Katy 9 in favour, 4 Lesley.
- Agreed both Kelly and Rachael to continue as welfare officer. Agreed we can never have enough!

8. Any Other Business

- David asked for any questions regarding rules and changes to get in contact.
- Dates for area events are not correct. 16th Jan novice and intermediate and 13th Feb novice and intermediate. **Action: Kelly took action in the meeting to check the calendar dates.**
- Discussed the possibility for remote dressage if we are in a lockdown. It was voted in favour for a remote competition should we not be able to go ahead.
- Rachael Stevenson thanked Houghton and Huntingdon for the changes made to the SJ schedule following the last meeting around reducing the entry fee for only one round.
- Katy Evans happy to assist with live scoring in January.
- Helen asked for all passwords and vac dates to be sent in as early as possible. Check the schedules as there are cut off dates, usually a week before. Do not forget the 6 months and 21 day rule. **Action: Kelly to send a reminder email.**
- Barbara Ward queried the use of the training grants, as a small club they do not feel they get any value from the grant. Query was asked did every club benefit. Last year it was used for DTM training and first aid which was open to every club. This year it was agreed junior committee would use this for something open to all members of every club – as this was not spent we are not able to apply for the grant this year. We cannot have another grant until we can show we have spent the grant for 2020. Kit worked out the DTM and first aid training using route planner to ensure the location was central. **Action: David to speak to head office requiring possibility of also obtaining the grant for 2021 as we have plans for the 2020 grant.**
- Mark Irwing thanked Celia for the many years as chair. It was agreed we need to recognise her contribution. It was suggested to send her flowers and chocolates nearer Christmas. Agreed to spend around £50. **Action: Lesley and Mark to arrange.**

9. Date of meetings 2020

Monday 1st February 2021 7:30pm (zoom meeting)