



British Riding Clubs Area 7

Area 7 Committee Meeting

19/08/2019

Biggleswade Fire Station

Attendees:

David Clarke **(DC)** – Area Rep
Becky Rayner **(BR)** – Stevenage
Tracey Rayner **(TR)** – Stevenage
Kelly Bellham **(KB)** – Bozeat
Helen McIntosh **(HM)** - Wittering
Sarah Godfrey **(SG)** – Aspley Guise
Kit Hore **(KHo)** – Keysoe
Mark Irwing **(MI)** – Area Vice Chair
Lesley Irwing **(LI)** – Area Treasurer
Sharron Hughes **(SH)** – Cambridge
Sophie McKinnon-Wood **(SMW)** – Rockingham
Beth Pacey **(BP)** – Rockingham
Rosemary Batten **(RsB)** – Area Secretary
Barbara Ward **(BW)** – North Mymms
Linda Pateman **(LP)** – North Mymms
Rebecca Robinson **(RR)** – Houghton & Huntingdon
Jo Meningen **(JM)** – Houghton & Huntingdon
Fiona Ishchak **(FI)** – Shillington
Poppy Read **(PR)** – Aspley Guise
Lauren Lanik **(LL)** – Shillington
Steph Staples **(SS)** - Shillington

Apologies:

Roger Batten
Milton Keynes
Celia Whicher **(CW)** – Area Chair
Sophie Robbins **(SR)** – Keysoe
Kyrsten Halley **(KHa)** – Houghton & Huntingdon



Previous Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed as a true and correct record of the meeting

Matters Arising

- 1.1 **KB** to inform clubs that need to pay area affiliation fee that they need to pay before they will be allowed to compete at the summer Dressage - **Done**
 - 1.2 **LI** to confirm once those fees have been paid - **Done**
 - 1.3 **LH** Confirm with Committee if Aspley Guise and Milton Keynes are going to run the Winter Dressage. Confirm a date with Keysoe if yes. - **Done**
 - 1.4 **DC** confirm gillet sizes with Junior Reps and feedback to **SR** – **Sizes known just need to decide on design**
 - 1.5 **SR** once sizes provided purchase gilletts – **Not possible till 1.4 completed**
 - 1.6 **MI** Purchase area Marquee. – **In process**
 - 1.7 **DC** to send **MI** the address for **JM** - **Done**
 - 1.8 **HM** Purchase Area 7 Banner. – **HM has 2 quotes that vastly differ. To follow up on the causes behind this difference before a decision is taken**
 - 1.9 **KB** Check with Blenheim if area teams allowed and if yes liaise with clubs to plan this. – **This was agreed by Blenheim but then they allowed 100 individuals which scuppered the plan**
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Treasurers report

A full balance sheet will be attached

LI updated the meeting on the area finances

- 1 The final DTM subsidy totalled £665.97
 - 20 people were subsidised through this.
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Area Rep Report

DC provided an update

- 2 No advisory meeting since last area meeting so no major updates from HQ
- 3 As a result of the announcement detailed previously regarding change of format to show jumping qualifiers HQ have announced that next year there will be a 70cm winter show jumping championship too. Due to the late notice areas have been offered to opt for a ballot instead of a qualifier. Some discussion ensued about this and it was agreed that Area 7 would attempt to run a qualifier alongside the current winter show jumping with a caveat that if there are too many entries we may split and postpone part of it.
- 4 The area has been well represented at championships this year and has had some very good success stories



Club Updates

- 1 **North Mymms** said their member numbers are low (approx. 40) and they would like more but they are struggling to generate interest. There was some discussion about use of Facebook to help promote the club. Other Clubs have had great success by posting regular updates with little stories and pictures not just out and out promotion. Other than that, the club has had a good year.
- 2 **Shillington** said they have been struggling to get volunteers. This turned out to be a common theme across all clubs and a lengthy discussion took place about this. Suggestions to solve this included refusing to accept entries unless help provided. **SMW** said a couple of years ago RFRC offered a “no help” membership at a significantly more expensive cost to normal membership and a handful of people took it. It was agreed the area would put out something reminding people of the importance of volunteering **KB** said she was happy to do this. Shillington also stated their usually full clinics have been a bit quiet of late and they think this is because people have a bit less spare money. The membership holds steady (approx. 50)
- 3 **Aspley Guise** said their membership was up this year and that they have a dressage competition on 29th September and Show Jumping on 8th September both at Wing.
- 4 **Cambridge** said they have a Ceilidh on 16th November at Bluntisham
- 5 **Keysoe** said that in addition to the volunteer issues previously discussed they also have an issue getting committee members to do things. Keysoe are also running open classes at the FOTH. A question was asked as to whether helpers from the qualifier would be expected to help with the open classes. It was agreed they would as it is only because of the open classes that the qualifier was viable and that in effect the open classes subsidised the qualifier classes.
- 6 **Bozeat** said that they are running regular Show Jumping and Dressage competitions. They have also recently run some Pilates sessions and that these will recommence soon.
- 7 **Stevenage** said that they had cancelled some training recently. They run Dressage on 1st Sunday and Show Jumping on the 3rd Sunday of each month through the winter at chessfield.
- 8 **Wittering** said that they have struggled with getting competitors but that they have a lot of training on. They have Arena Eventing on 21st September & Show Jumping on 6th October.
- 9 **Houghton & Huntingdon** have struggled getting payment from members. All other clubs said they operate a no payment no entry policy. A lot of the clubs use my riding life or similar, to ensure this. Houghton have a Mix and Match ODE on 29th September where a competitor can pick how much of a one-day event they wish to do. They also have dressage on 3rd November 12th January & 15th March, and a ball on 15th November.

Past Events

- 1 Dressage (07/07/2019) – It was felt that the layout last year worked better. Other than that, it was a well-run event. It was raised that at this event Shillington had not provided a dressage writer at the last minute. This isn't the 1st occurrence of this and it also happened at the Show Jumping qualifier 2 weeks



later. It was noted that Shillington have had a change of team manager in that time and that this would not have helped the situation. After some discussion **DC** informed Shillington that if this happens again he would eliminate them. **DC** stated that this would have to be done to be fair on the other clubs particularly 2 clubs who have had this happen to them before (RFRC and NMRC). **BW** questioned when this was an accurate statement **MI** confirmed he had liaised with **DC** when this had happened a number of years ago.

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- 2 Show Jumping (21/07/19) – **KB** provided a report from the event. Within that report she noted there had been a tricky judge but that the judge was not her 1st choice. **DC** said that we could list the judge as not being desirable to use again it would be unwise to totally ban the use of the judge as if we need her another time when we can't find a judge then we might have to cancel an event. **KB** also noted a lot of litter had been left on site after the event and that she spent an hour clearing it up afterwards. The area thanked Kelly for this effort and the other effort she put in to get the day going. Again, it was noted that Shillington had a helper not turn up.

 - 3 HT Champs (02/08/19 - 04/08/19) - It was noted the champs had been relatively successful and that clubs had helped each other out.

 - 4 DTM (11/08/19) – The area thanked Kit for a well-run event. **RsB** provided an update on the day and had no real issues with the organisation. **DC** raised that a judge who also happens to be a BRC steward and an area rep for a neighbouring area had contacted him post the qualifier to raise a couple of issue surrounding implementation of a spurs rule and an issue with the Novice Pairs class that was eventually resolved on the day but perhaps could have been handled differently. The judge had also feedback on the day that judging some of the pairs ad been difficult due to them being too identical. It was also asked that **DC** raise at the next advisory meeting that the novice DTM test now has medium canter in which raises it a level could the 0 points be made a prelim.

Future events

Winter 2020 Qualifiers

- 1 FOTH Challenge – 15th September @ Keysoe – Organised by Keysoe Riding Club – Kit requested for more fence judges if possible

- 2 Arena Eventing – 20th October @ Keysoe – Organised by Cambridge Riding Club – on the night entry prices were TBC but post meeting **SH** confirmed they would be the same as the previous year.

- 3 Winter Show Jumping – 18th January @ Keysoe – Organised by Houghton and Huntingdon Riding Club – discussion took place around the addition of the 70cm earlier in the evening. Schedule still to release with this added.

- 4 FOTH Combined Training – TBC - @ Wittering Grange – Organised by Wittering Academy

- 5 Winter Dressage – 15th February – @ Keysoe. Organised by Aspley Guise & Milton Keynes.

2020 Championships

- 6 Arena Eventing – 13th-15th March @ Aston Le Walls

- 7 Novice Winter Champs - 4th-5th April @ Arena UK

- 8 Intermediate Winter Champs – 24th-26th April @ Bury Farm

- 9 FOTH – 30th-31st May @ Aston Le Walls

- 10 Horse Trials – TBC 7th-9th August @ TBC Swalcliffe

- 11 National Champs – 5th-6th September @ Lincoln



12 DTM – TBC @ TBC

13 Quadrille Final – TBC @ TBC

Training

1 Not discussed due to time constraints

Summer Social

1 It was noted this was now unlikely to happen but that all clubs could purchase tickets for the HHRC ball on 15th November.

AOB

- 1 **DC** stated that he intended to run a junior forum the day before the FOTH qualifier at Keysoe for all junior members. On the night full details were still TBC but post meeting they were confirmed 14:00-15:00 @ Keysoe with a coursewalk provided afterwards for those juniors who attend. From this it is hoped we might perhaps form a Junior committee.
- 2 **RsB** said that due to a number of reasons including her laptop not working for long periods of time she was going to step down as Area Secretary. She will still for now remain an OS and will help where she can– The area thanked her for all her hard work over the years.

Action List

- 1 **ALL Clubs** that have qualifiers to confirm dates and provide schedules ASAP
- 2 Carried over as not discussed **All** feedback to area your club's position on the area "slush" fund if we no longer run anything to keep it topped up.
- 3 **DC** confirm gillet sizes with Junior Reps and feedback to **SR**
- 4 **SR** once sizes provided purchase gilletts
- 5 **MI** Purchase area Marquee.
- 6 **HM** Purchase Area 7 Banner.

Date of Next Meeting – 18th August 2019 @ Biggleswade Fire Station – Please note this will be the AGM where Officers are elected for the Area 7 Committee.