



**AREA 12 RIDING CLUBS**  
**LIAISON MEETING 7:45pm Thurs 16th-Nov-2023**  
**CHARD EQUESTRIAN**



**MINUTES**

Present: Sally Ellis-Gray (Chair), Peter Vaughan (Sec), Helen Pavey (Treas), Carolyn Price (Website), Emma-Jane Williams, Charlotte Warman, Anna Ames, Lindsay Opperman

Plus representatives from: Blackdown Hills, Brent Knoll, East Mendip, ETSW, Exeter, Kentisbeare, Lamberts Castle, North Devon, Quantock, Shipton, South Molton, SWDG, Taunton, West Somerset

**1: Apologies**

Mid Somerset, Sid & Otter Valley, Witheridge, Chris Beer, Lucy Counsell, Roy Delfino-Orme.

**2: Minutes of last ALM (16-April-2023)**

Accepted (Pr. Quantock, 2<sup>nd</sup> East Mendip), and signed by Sally.

**3: Matters Arising from the ALM**

Kentisbeare asked if any Clubs had changed status? Lamberts Castle said yes, they are now Lamberts Castle Riding Club Ltd, but still operate the same way. Annual accounts now need to be formally prepared. If the club made a profit, they could now be taxed, so they aim to break even (membership 89, turnover less than £10,000). Much of the work to become a limited company had been done by themselves, as although Head Office recommended this, they could not give any assistance.

**4: Chairman's Report**

Sally said that Chris Beer's term of office was now at an end, and he had decided not to stand for reappointment. Lindsay Opperman is willing to take on the role, formalities to be completed by Head Office.

Body protector standards will change as of January 1<sup>st</sup> (Aqua label), and will be mandatory for XC competitions after that date.

**5: Secretary's Report**

Peter apologised to 10 Clubs for the tone of an email sent in May. Chris Beer had been asked to chase Affiliation fees which had not been paid, he forwarded this to Peter, who sent out a mildly chiding email to the relevant clubs. In fact, the club were not in arrears with nearly 3 weeks to go, and indignant Treasurers, operating good cashflow management, had arranged to pay a couple of days before the due date.

**6: Treasurer's report**

Costs of an Area 12 camp this year exceeded income, 12 horses at £30 each bringing in £360, but the camp expenses were £880. Helen did note that in previous years, Lucy Counsell had always managed to run the camp at a slight profit, the overspend this year therefore was really already "Lucy's money." The training grant this year may have to be chased (£1,000), which has always been granted.

The combined training qualifier lost £117, it was budgeted to break even, but an extra arena was mistakenly booked at Chard which put it in the red. Costs will be watched next year.

The Horse Trials qualifier income from SOVRC is not known yet, but we may not gain any Area 10% tax, due to entries being down (not helped by the event needing to be rescheduled).

## **7: Website**

Carolyn reported that the current website is old, insecure, and crucially has very limited access for alterations. Accordingly, a new website has been developed, it is basic, but with all the information, and will go live in a few weeks. The old website will have a note on it to point to the new. **Action: CP**

## **8: Online Memberships System from Head Office**

The new (compulsory) online membership system, using Sport 80 data and Stripe for collection of money, is supposed to go live this month, however, little information has been forthcoming. Reps from Kentisbeare, plus Anna and Helen have attended a zoom meeting to try to find out more.

Comments from the floor:

It is happening at a manic time of year for memberships.

It is happening without consultation with Clubs, it feels like Head Office is dictating the affair.

Club autonomy is being eroded.

The stripe fee of £3 per member is excessive, especially as Clubs have set their membership fees for the forthcoming year.

SWDG likes to give annual trophies, categories such as type of horse, homebred, veteran, etc can't be entered as was done with their paper membership forms.

Many club constitutions have membership year running a different times, which could be invalidated.

In response to a question - no clubs are yet in favour.

Lindsey offered to collect objections, and asked Clubs to contact her by email. She want to collate and send to Head Office.

**Action: Clubs / LO**

## **9: Competitions**

### Past

Horse trials, Pontispool – SOVRC had to reschedule due to weather, resulting in a loss of entries (Sid & Otter Valley RC not present to report further).

Riding test/Style jumping, KSEC – Taunton reported it wasn't supported well. It was run as a separate Qualifier to allow members to enter more events, rather than overwork their horses with all the jumping (SJ and Style) on the same day etc, but the event made a loss. In response to a question from Kentisbeare, clarifying Style jumping, Emma said that it was all described in the Handbook, 5 copies sent to every club, though Peter gave a very brief description of Riding Test and Style jumping (canter a figure of 8 with change of leg through trot, then ride a course of jumps, with marks given on balance, presentation, etc, and a school sheet presented at the end; Riding Test is a dressage test, with collective marks given only, emphasis given to the rider rather than the combination).

Dressage, Chard – SWDG organised and it went well, although the weather was diabolical with heavy rain!

Show jumping, KSEC – went well, though Shipton said there was some argy-bargy in the judges' box with unnamed Area committee members, which was not appreciated. To be investigated.

**Action: SE-G**

Introductory dressage, Coxleigh – two qualifiers took place (May and October) due to it changing from summer-season to winter-season competition for 2024. RidingClubResults was used for scoring, South Molton RC commented that although time-consuming to set up, with thanks to Emma-Jane, it was easy to use for scoring. One scoring error occurred but was resolved.

Novice Dressage, KSEC – went well, the day ran like clockwork, Emma-Jane again helped with the scoring.

### Futures

Clubs are strongly urged to use RidingClubResults online scoring system, Head Office can then access the results directly. If using Equo for entries, they can then be easily ported to RidingClubResults.

Team Managers must indicate in the 'notes' for riders, whether they are Qualifying entries (classes will henceforth be split as Qualifying and Open), also which team they are part of, if applicable.

Lamberts Castle and South Molton are happy to run Novice Dressage and Introductory Dressage respectively, assuming KSEC and Coxleigh can provide dates.

No date exists as yet for Arena Eventing, rescheduled from middle of November due to weather – with SOVRC.

The calendar looks like this:

AREA 12 QUALIFIER DATES				
Qualifier	Date	Hosted By	Venue	OS
Dressage to Music	27-Jan-24	Witheridge / N Devon	Bicton College	Sally Ellis-Gray
Intermediate Dressage	03-Feb-24	ETSW	KSEC	Charlotte Warman / Roy Delfino-Orme
SJ (Novice & Intermediate)	18-Feb-24	Quantock	KSEC	Lindsay Opperman / Roy Delfino-Orme
DTM / Quadrille / Intro Champs	8/10 March-24	British Riding Clubs	Bury Farm	----N/A----
Arena Eventing	TBC (Rescheduled)	Sid & Otter Valley		
Combined Training	24-Mar-24	Area 12	Chard	Anna Ames
Novice Winter Champs	6/7 April-24	British Riding Clubs	Arena UK	----N/A----
Intermediate Winter Champs	27/28 April-24	British Riding Clubs	Arena UK	----N/A----
Combined Challenge	05-May-24	ETSW	Mendip Plains	Charlotte Warman / Lindsay Opperman
Arena Eventing Champs	30-May/2-Jun-24	British Riding Clubs	Aston-le-Walls	----N/A----
Horse Trials	02-Jun-24	Taunton/Quantock	Mendip Plains	Sally Ellis-Gray / Roy Delfino-Orme / Chris Beer
Dressage (including Pairs) + Riding Test	06-Jul-24	SWDG	Chard	
Show Jumping / Style Jumping	21-Jul-24	Shipton (EM will help)	KSEC	
Horse Trials Champs	TBA August-24	British Riding Clubs	TBA	----N/A----
National Champs	31-Aug/1-Sept-24	British Riding Clubs	Lincoln	----N/A----
Combined Champs	5/6 Oct-24	British Riding Clubs	Aston-le-Walls	----N/A----
Dressage to Music				
Introductory Dressage		South Molton	Coxleigh Barton	
DTM / Quadrille / Intro Champs	March-2025?	British Riding Clubs		----N/A----
Novice Dressage		Lamberts Castle	KSEC	
Intermediate Dressage				
SJ (Novice & Intermediate)				
Novice Winter Champs	April-2025?	British Riding Clubs		----N/A----
Intermediate Winter Champs	April-2025?	British Riding Clubs		----N/A----

## 10: Next Meeting

March or April, Blackdown Hills offered to host, they suggested Ruishton Village Hall. Helen confirmed reasonable expenses would be reimbursed. **Action: BHRC**

The meeting finished at 9:05pm

Approved ..... (Chairman)