



AREA 12 RIDING CLUBS
LIAISON MEETING 7:30pm Thurs 18th-April-2024
RUISHTON VILLAGE HALL



MINUTES

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

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

1: Apologies

Roy Delfino-Orme, Charlotte Warman, Martin Boreham, Marian Draper (MSRC)

2: Minutes of last ALM (16-Nov-2023)

Accepted (Pr. Exeter, 2nd West Somerset), and signed by Sally.

3: Matters Arising from last ALM

There is an e-mail being sent to clubs giving information on changing status to a limited company, or incorporated organisation. There will be an information and discussion session online (24th April, and also 1st May).

Shipton issue with Area Committee members – matter was withdrawn. Sally reminded Clubs that all of us are volunteers, including the Area Committee, and if there is anything which seems ‘wrong’ ask and we will do our best to sort it.

Online membership portal – still mixed reactions! Once the membership is set up for each club, members joining has been generally, but not entirely, without problems. Lindsey told the meeting that Head Office are anxious to resolve all anomalies. If there are any issues, telephone or send an e-mail, and they will sort it.

4: Chairman’s Report

Sally welcomed everybody to the meeting, and thanked Blackdown Hills Riding Club for hosting the event, and the hot drinks and super refreshments they had organised.

Sally informed the meeting that Royal Navy Riding Club has been disbanded due to members being spread too far around the country – they are being encouraged to join with local Riding Clubs.

Entries at Qualifiers have been noticeably down.

For Qualifiers, online scoring is now being mandated. Results can be accessed directly by Head Office which eliminates errors and delays. There are regular online

training sessions available as 'events' in RidingClubResults, three sessions per month, one for setting up, one for scoring, and one for pulling off results – clubs should do homework 6 to 8 weeks before their event.

5: Secretary's Report

Very brief: Peter emphasized that we are all in this together, and he wanted to be sure that Clubs were well informed. A Contact email list is circulating around the room for updates/additions to the mailing list – at least 2 contacts per Club would help to ensure this.

Margaret Peverley (MSRC) said they had offered help at a Qualifier but hadn't heard back – this is down to the Club however, not an Area failing.

6: Treasurer's report

Helen reported around £9,000 in savings account, and £2,000 in current account, however the balances are artificially high at present due to payments for Camp having been taken which has not yet happened. Interest is now being earned on savings account and she intends to look around to try to find a better interest rate account.

Action: HP

The Combined Training qualifier (organised by Area 12), although budgeted to break even, again made a loss due to lower number of entries (125). Loss to date is £137, and 1 judge has still to submit a bill. Venue hire is £2,100 and medical £550 (needing a first aider for Dressage and paramedic for SJ arenas).

Account summary and possible area tax for the 2023 Horse Trials is still outstanding from SOVRC.

Action: HP / SOVRC

The Head Office grant for cross country medical cover has been claimed, and will be used to subsidise the 2024 Horse Trials.

The training grant was obtained – most of this has been used for the Area 12 Camp but some money is still available, apply to Helen if you are running something and can open it to all!

Reminder that Area does have timing equipment, W/T radios, Stopwatches, and a Laptop computer, available to Clubs – generally kept at KSEC.

7: Area Rep's Report

The pre-entry system for area qualifiers, which is currently online, is likely to be changed. There may be a 'competing' and 'non-competing' categories of membership for futures – Head Office are looking at alternative ways to finance the competitions. Any suggestions are welcome! Contact Lindsey.

Action: All Clubs

There will be a bit and bridle fitting session, one per Area, as an initiative from Head Office – details to be announced.

Body protectors – as announced 2 years ago, new standards have been mandatory for XC from 1st January this year. There had been some concern with supply availability, however Lindsey said that's just tough! Riders have had long enough to prepare.

Flu vaccination intervals – annual boosters remain annual. For first and second injections, and 1st booster, the intervals have changed. See online for details.

The Winter Championship format is changing for 2025: rather than Introductory, Novice and Intermediate championships, there will be a Showjumping championship, and a Dressage championship (which includes Dressage to Music and Quadrille).

There have been questions about transparency of BRC accounts: Peter is pushing for information on this. **Action: PV**

Distance to Championships has been putting people off wanting to qualify, so Lindsay is pushing for the Championships to move around the country from year to year.

There is a move to organise (unofficial) Regional Championships for 2024-25.

Lindsey would like each club to nominate a liaison person (not necessarily a committee member) to liaise with her – possibly setting up an online WhatsApp group. **Action: All Clubs**

8: Website

Carolyn reported that the new website is up and running. It exists mainly as a repository of information, contact details, Qualifier dates and schedules, etc. Anything which needs to go on it, email Lindsay and she will sort it. **Action: All**

9: Competitions

Past

The Arena Eventing qualifier was postponed from November due to bad weather at Bicton, and held in March.

Dressage to Music – went well but there were difficulties with online scoring.

Novice/Intermediate SJ, and Intermediate Dressage – no comments to raise.

Combined Training (organised by Area 12 Committee) took place, but due to low entries again made a loss. However, as the Combined Championships is now a Summer event, Taunton offered to run, at Stockland Lovell for 2025, with other 'open' classes to make it viable.

Futures

The Combined Challenge and the Horse Trials Qualifiers are imminent (May and June) at Mendip Plains – a new venue for us.

The Arena Eventing Championships for 2025 are again at the beginning of June. We will have to look for another date for our Horse Trials qualifier as we will not be given a dispensation again to hold a Qualifier on the same date as a Final.

The calendar is currently like this:

AREA 12 QUALIFIER DATES				
Qualifier	Date	Hosted By	Venue	OS
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 / Lindsay Opperman
Dressage (including Pairs) + Riding Test	06-Jul-24	SWDG	Chard	Lindsay Opperman
Show Jumping / Style Jumping	21-Jul-24	Shipton (EM will help)	KSEC	Lindsay Opperman
Horse Trials Champs	2/4 August-24	British Riding Clubs	Swalcliffe	----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	09-Nov-24	Witheridge / N Devon	Bicton College	
Introductory Dressage		South Molton	Coxleigh Barton	
Novice Dressage		Lamberts Castle	KSEC	
Intermediate Dressage		ETSW		
Winter SJ	16-Feb-25 (TBC)	Brent Knoll	KSEC	
Winter Showjumping Champs	5/6 April-25	British Riding Clubs	Arena UK	----N/A----
Winter Dressage Champs (with DTM and Quadrille)	25-27 April-25	British Riding Clubs	Arena UK	----N/A----
Arena Eventing	March-25 (TBD)	SOVRC		
Arena Eventing Champs	30 May/1 Jun-25 (TBC)	British Riding Clubs	Aston-le-Walls	----N/A----
Horse Trials				
Dressage (including Pairs) + Riding Test		SWDG		
Show Jumping / Style Jumping		SOVRC	Bicton	
Horse Trials Champs	TBD	British Riding Clubs		----N/A----
Combined Challenge				
Combined Training	08-Jun-25	Taunton	Stockland Lovell	
National Champs	30/31 August-25	British Riding Clubs	Lincoln	----N/A----
Combined Champs	Oct-25 (TBD)	British Riding Clubs		----N/A----

10: Area 12 Camp

Next week, 26-28 April at Stockland Lovell – everything OK, a few places are still available. There will be a session on emergency removal of shoes, if anyone wants to attend, contact Helen!

11: Anne Butcher award

In memory of Anne Butcher – of Taunton & District RC – to be awarded to the person(s) who have been of material service to Riding Clubs throughout the year.

Canvassing Clubs 8 nominations were received, this was then shortlisted to 3 by voting within the Area Committee; of these 3, voting slips were provided for Clubs to choose (1 vote per Club).

Counting votes: the winner – Emma-Jane Williams, for her work within TDRC, Area Committee, and assistance with Clubs mastering RidingClubResults live scores.

(Trophy not available to be presented: to be collected).

12: AOB

Lamberts Castle – BRC have announced Dressage tests for Summer and next Winter, but BD are revising them all – will test and score sheets be available? Answer: Yes, BRC have sufficient stocks.

SOVRC – if anyone is at Badminton horse Trials, contact Cheryl Beer if they wish to join in a course walk.

SWDG – With numbers being down, some riders are qualifying almost by default with mediocre scores (<60% dressage), is that a true representation of the Area or should there be a minimum standard? Answer – that is how it works, however if SWDG want to raise with Head Office, Lindsay will support. (Noted that 24 faults in SJ already incurs elimination).

Wetheridge – how do Clubs deal with emergency contact numbers in case of accident? Answer – ask riders to bring a card with details, give to instructors when having a lesson, etc.

13: Next Meeting

Ideally a Thursday, mid to late November, East Mendip RC offered to host. Helen confirmed reasonable expenses (£150 max) would be reimbursed. **Action: EMRC**

The meeting finished at 9:25pm

Approved (Chairman)