



AREA 12 RIDING CLUBS
LIAISON MEETING 8:15pm Thurs 14th-November-2024
RUISHTON VILLAGE HALL, SOMERSET



MINUTES

Present: Sally Ellis-Gray (Chair), Peter Vaughan (Sec), Helen Pavey (Treas), Lindsay Opperman (Area Rep), Carolyn Price (Website), Roy Delfino-Orme, Anna Ames, Martin Boreham, Adele Pitcher, Joanne Pitman

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

1: Apologies

Charlotte Warman; South Molton (next day).

2: Minutes of last ALM (18-April-2024)

Accepted (Pr. Quantock, 2nd ETSW), and signed by Sally.

3: Chairman's Report

Sally welcomed everybody to the meeting, and thanked East Mendip Riding Club for hosting the event, and providing the refreshments.

Entries at Qualifiers have again been noticeably down, and the weather has impacted on Qualifiers with the Combined Challenge having to move from grass to an arena; and Horse Trials needing to be rescheduled from Mendip Plains to Moreton (thanks to efforts by Emma-Jane Williams and Lindsay Opperman).

Sally urged Clubs to please read their Handbooks, so as not to be taken by surprise by competition formats.

4: Secretary's Report

Peter emphasized that we are all in this together, 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.

He emphasized that delegates present, and those on the contact list, are the Area Committee's eyes and ears for what happens at Club member level.

Peter also informed the meeting that he was urging for an article in '*Rider*' magazine giving a breakdown of income and expenses, how our Affiliation capitation fees are spent, whether Competitions make a profit or loss, etc – as was publicised 10 years ago. Head Office is pushing back with resistance.

5: Treasurer's report

The Combined Training qualifier (organised by Area 12), although budgeted to break even, again made a loss (£137) due to lower number of entries. Helen emphasized that this is an expensive competition to run, with SJ as well as Dressage arenas, with warm-ups, plus judges and paramedic.

Helen announced she is raising the 'tax-free' limit to £350 profit before a 10% Area Tax kicks in – hoping to make it encouraging for Clubs to run Qualifiers; she reminded everyone that Area 12 will reimburse any Qualifiers that run at a loss.

6: Area Rep's Report

Lindsay reported several rule changes for 2025:

Horse Trials – all heights will be mixed teams and individuals (juniors and seniors scored together) and all heights will be 2-day format at Championships.

Intermediate Dressage – will similarly be mixed Junior/Senior.

SJ at 90cm and upwards – will be mixed.

Dressage will have a ride-off for the top places.

Eliminations – instead of being eliminated in a team, 'eliminated' will be replaced by penalty points (250 points HT, CC, CT; 100 points SJ; 50 points Dressage) so that teams can finish with a score.

There will be no Riding Test or Style Jumping for 2025.

It will be permissible to represent two Riding Clubs in the same season.

Area 12 has 3 new Official Stewards (Martin Boreham, Joanna Pitman, Adele Pitcher).

Clubs are asked to complete the Qualifier paperwork pack and send off ASAP after receiving the pre-entry numbers from Head Office.

Clubs are asked to back up their members, after one lady competitor arrived, not knowing the ropes – however it was not clear whether the relevant Club even knew the person concerned had entered, she might have done it entirely herself?

Horses can be downgraded – 20 BD points; 15 BS; 12 BE per year.

Finally! There is planned to be a Winter Regional Competition festival at Bicton, for riders who do not want to go to the Championships, combined Area 9 (Gloucester, Avon, Wilts); Area 12 (us); Area 17 (Hampshire, Dorset, IOW); Area 19 (West Devon, Cornwall). Dates are April 18-20. To qualify, riders and teams will have to have

competed at a Winter or Summer Qualifier (but not gone to the official Championship). Details are being worked out – there will be no Pairs classes. **Action: LO**

7: Website

Carolyn reminded everyone that the website 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**

8: Competitions

Past

Combined Challenge, Mendip Plains – ETSW had to move from grass to all-weather surface arena.

Horse Trials, Moreton – Taunton had to move and reschedule from Mendip Plains due to weather. There were a few things left to be desired for Moreton as a venue...

Dressage & Riding test, Chard – went well but SWDG having run several years didn't want to run for 2025.

SJ and Style Jumping, KSEC – Shipton, no comments.

Dressage to Music, Bicton Collage – Witheridge said it went well, but scoring was entered onto RidingClubResults late in day due to no wi-fi and dodgy signal. One entrant had problems with music CD being recorded onto a CD-RW rather than CD-R, may be a venue problem? Memory stick may become a

Introductory Dressage, Coxleigh Barton – South Molton organised, no issues.

Novice Dressage, KSEC – Lamberts Castle, they used a new facility in RidingClubResults to add up scores and really liked it!

Futures

Brent Knoll announced they would like to change the venue of the Winter SJ Qualifier, to Badgworth Arena (indoor). May impact on who the OS is it. **Action: Area Cttee**

Combined Training – as the Combined Championships is now a Summer event, Taunton are running it, at Stockland Lovell, with other 'open' classes to make it viable for them.

Horse Trials Qualifier – no Club has stepped up to run, and Taunton don't want to run it again. Helen Pavey has been in discussions with Pontispool, who are prepared to add a RC class with the relevant dressage test to an ODE next year (which will be qualifying entries only), noting that an Official Steward and a few others will have to be present. Likely to be added on to a Cotswold Cup qualifier – Pony Club layout etc is not compatible with RC. Watch this space. **Action: HP**

Summer Dressage – no takers yet, although the 2025 Rulebook is not yet out with details of what tests, classes, etc. Riding Test will be dropped.

Combined Challenge – no takers, however Lindsay has started discussions with Area 19 who are running at Southcott. **Action: LO**

The calendar is currently like this:

AREA 12 QUALIFIER DATES				
Qualifier	Date	Hosted By	Venue	OS
Intermediate Dressage	02-Feb-25	Kings Sedgemoor	KSEC	Lindsay Opperman
Winter SJ	16-Feb-25	Brent Knoll	Badgworth Arena	TBC
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	16-Mar-25	SOVRC	Bicton Arena	Chris Beer & Roy Delfino-Orme
Arena Eventing Champs	30 May/1 Jun-25	British Riding Clubs	Aston-le-Walls	----N/A----
Horse Trials				
Dressage (including Pairs)	05-Jul-25		Chard	
Show Jumping		SOVRC	Bicton	
Horse Trials Champs	2/3 Aug-25 (TBC)	British Riding Clubs	Swalcliffe (TBC)	----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	27/28 Sept-25	British Riding Clubs		----N/A----

9: AOB

SWDG are recommending to their members that they change status to an Incorporated Body, which will be voted on at their AGM.

Taunton are possibly running an open (to other RC's) training day before the CT qualifier (it will include XC practice) and will be publicised.

Are Riding Clubs likely to put restrictions on spurs? Currently the Rulebook is clear, there are no known changes being considered.

10: Next Meeting

Thursday April 16th, Quantock RC offered to host at Othery Village Hall. Helen confirmed reasonable expenses (£150 max) would be reimbursed. **Action: QRC**

The meeting finished at 9:35pm

Approved (Chairman)