

## MINUTES

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

Plus representatives from: Blackdown Hills, Brent Knoll, East Mendip, ETSW, Exeter, Kentisbeare, Lamberts Castle, Mid Somerset, Quantock, Shipton, Sid & Otter Valley, South Molton, West Dorset, West Somerset, Witheridge – and Poldens & Bridgwater Riding Club (unaffiliated guest Club).

### 1: Apologies

North Devon RC; Taunton & District RC; Roy Delfino-Orme; Martin Boreham.

### 2: Minutes of last ALM (14-November-2024)

Accepted (Pr. Mid Somerset, 2<sup>nd</sup> ETSW), and signed by Sally.

### 3: Matters Arising from last ALM

Endurance GB – unfortunately, John Hudson the key contact at Endurance GB is currently unavailable and the hoped-for liaison has not materialised. Martin Boreham is anxious to push Endurance Riding within Riding Clubs still, and if you have members who are interested, just get in contact with him (email on Area 12 Website).

With regard to competitors arriving at competitions not knowing the ropes, and Clubs being asked to back up their members, West Dorset pointed out that online entering is possible for anyone to do, and as a Committee they just don't know what their members are doing? Answer – cover in Club Newsletters, AGM's, Mailshots – and Clubs have sanctions available if any member brings their Club into disrepute.

### 4: Chairman's Report

Sally welcomed everybody to the meeting. She thanked Quantock Riding Club for hosting it and for the refreshments.

Sally thanked all clubs who had run competitions this winter and also KSEC (helped by Mid Somerset RC) for the Intermediate Dressage. She has visited a few clubs.

Sally reminded everybody that for RidingClubResults online scoring, there are training sessions they run frequently online free - you just have to book in.

Sally reiterated that in November she would not be standing for re-election. She was hoping to be abroad in 2026 but wanted to give plenty of time for anyone to come forward.

## 5: Secretary's Report

Peter thanked all clubs who had let them know they were coming tonight as it helps with refreshments. There is a contact list for clubs being circulated around the room – any changes please just mark them on. He was pleased to see that all Clubs had at least two email addresses. Any extra members who want Minutes and Area Updates circulated to them, just add them to the sheet.

No news on a Head Office breakdown of accounts, BRC as a department of the BHS.

## 6: Treasurer's report

Blacktown Mendip Riding Club (not present, no apologies), were named and shamed as, despite being chased, they have not paid their Area affiliation fee, so they are disallowed from competing at qualifiers until this is settled – this is an instruction to any Club hosting qualifiers for the time being.

As reported last November, free banking has come to an end and the first charge has been received (£4.25). Helen is aiming to accept that for the time being.

Principal expenses are £300 paid to Mendip Plains for the timing equipment repair which went on the blink on our event. Website has cost us £300 for hosting plus £30 for a tweak to the format.

Money in: Shipton £94 for the summer showjumping; Lambert's Castle £73 for dressage; Sid & Otter Valley £106 from the arena eventing; Sid & Otter Valley £40 for the 2023 Horse Trials. There will not be any profit from the 2025 Horse Trials because Pontispool are running it on our behalf.

Our application for a training grant has been declined because we do not have a training officer. The last real person officially to do it was Lucy Counsell. Basically, it is somebody to coordinate events, which could be ridden or dismounted, open to all Area 12 members. It needs a programme of events for Head Office to look favourably on an application. To anyone interested in taking on the role – shout!

## 7: Area Rep's Report

Lindsay said that the (unofficial) Hartpury Winter Regional championships event is ongoing, but needs a concerted effort to pull together. **Action: LO**

Online Head Office webinars have been very useful, clubs are encouraged to book in and take part, recent subjects include risk assessments and insurance. She drew attention to exclusions on insurance and asked for any experiences in the room.

Regarding venue insurance, which the BRC policy expects landowners to hold, West Dorset had wanted to run a mechanical horse session in a private yard (which was insured by NFU) but after checking with NFU, they applied an exclusion for the day, on account of the fact that unknown people would be visiting.

Planning consent also applies – if a one-off activity is taking place which is outside the land's agreed use, land insurance may be void.

Pleasure Rides should not have any issues – just consider who might be liable if there is an incident.

Lindsay asked if any clubs had claimed on the insurance? No, although Witheridge thought there might have been a claim against them, from a member who had a fall, visited A & E on advice from WRC committee present. Some months after the event, Witheridge had a request from Head Office to send in risk assessment and other details for that event. They did, and although heard nothing further, suspected there may have been a claim attempt.

Best advice is, check data sheets DS5, DS40, and if still not clear contact Head Office prior to the event. If there are difficulties, as the insurance is supposed to be a robust comprehensive cover for anything a club is likely to do, contact Lindsay.

Lindsay finished by reminding all that the Qualifiers, like their own Clubs' committees, are run by volunteers, so don't leave any queries until the last minute because the persons may be unavailable to answer at short notice. Ask in plenty of time!

## **8: Ann 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.

Presented to Kate Lyons of ETSW who has been at most Qualifiers, always helpful, always smiling, always busy.

## **9: Competitions**

### Past

Intermediate Dressage  
Novice and Intermediate SJ  
Arena Eventing

No issues, other than hiccups with scoring for the SJ.

### Futures

Combined Challenge – it had been hoped to combine with Area 19 at Southcott but this is a no-no. However Witheridge were nearing a firm proposal, with Downe farm as a venue. On the Cloud, data sheet DS74 gives details of how to run (though Charlotte Warman pointed out that the BRC Handbook is first port of call. Data Sheets can be 'left behind' with updates). **Action: WRC**

Introductory Dressage – South Molton were happy to run it, but ETSW also offered themselves – Sally suggested ETSW run it to move it around the Area a bit.

The calendar is currently like this:

AREA 12 QUALIFIER DATES				
Qualifier	Date	Hosted By	Venue	OS
Show Jumping	20-Apr-25	SOVRC	Bicton Arena	Lindsay Opperman & Anna Ames
Winter Dressage Champs (with DTM and Quadrille)	25-27 April-25	British Riding Clubs	Arena UK	---N/A---
Arena Eventing Champs	30 May/1 Jun-25	British Riding Clubs	Aston-le-Walls	---N/A---
Horse Trials	17/18-May-25	Pontispool	Pontispool	Sally Ellis-Gray, Lindsay Opperman, Roy Defino-Orme, & Martin Boreham
Combined Training	08-Jun-25	Taunton	Stockland Lovell	Sally Ellis-Gray & Lindsay Opperman
Combined Challenge		Witheridge (TBC)	Downe Farm (TBC)	
Dressage (including Pairs)	05-Jul-25	West Dorset	Chard	Lindsay Opperman
Horse Trials Champs	2/3 Aug-25	British Riding Clubs	Swalcliffe	---N/A---
National Champs	30/31 August-25	British Riding Clubs	Lincoln	---N/A---
Combined Champs	27/28 Sept-25	British Riding Clubs	Aston-le-Walls	---N/A---
Introductory Dressage (including Pairs)		ETSW		
Novice Dressage	02-Nov-25	Lamberts Castle	KSEC	Charlotte Warman
Dressage to Music		Witheridge		
Intermediate Dressage	08-Feb-26	Quantock		
Winter SJ		Quantock		
Arena Eventing		Sid & Otter Valley		

## 10: AOB

East Mendip RC are holding a couple of First Aid evenings, 31-May and 27-July, open to all – publicise on Facebook page if possible.

## 11: Next Meeting

For November (including AGM), Sid & Otter Valley RC offered to host it, find a private room with sufficient tables and chairs – and refreshments!

**Action: SOVRC**

The meeting finished at 8:50pm

Approved ..... (Chairman)