



**AREA 12 RIDING CLUBS**  
**LIAISON MEETING 7:55pm Mon 17th-November-2025**  
**CLYST ST MARY VILLAGE HALL, S DEVON**



**MINUTES**

Present: Charlotte Warman (Chair), Peter Vaughan (Sec), Lindsay Opperman (Area Rep), Carolyn Price (Website), Sally Ellis-Gray, Anna Ames

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

**1: Apologies**

Helen Pavey (Treas), Roy Delfino-Orme, Martin Boreham, Joanne Pitman, Blackdown Mendip RC, Mid Somerset RC.

**2: Minutes of last ALM (16-April-2025)**

Accepted (Pr. Quantock, 2<sup>nd</sup> ETSW), and signed by Charlotte.

**3: Chairman's Report**

Charlotte introduced herself, thanked Sally for her time as Area 12 Chairman. She welcomed Poldens & Bridgwater Riding Club. Observed that the last couple of years have been stable overall membership with a strong presence at Championships in all disciplines.

There seems to have been more participation in Qualifiers since the introduction of the Competition Pass, however it is early days and unravelling scores is a learning curve.

We could do with at least one more Official Steward so that OS's can work in pairs – anyone wanting to do the training and be available for a couple of Qualifiers a year, contact Lindsay.

Sponsorship/Prizes at Qualifiers – the Horse Trials is probably the most deserving Qualifier with the high entry cost. Appeal is for a target £100 per class, for prizes (not money!). Witheridge asked about Area rosettes – these are being run-down due to logistics, storage, getting them out – and some organisers like to have their own. Brent Knoll suggested Area 12 sashes.

**4: Secretary's Report**

There is a contact list for clubs being circulated around the room – any changes please just mark them on. Any extra members who want Minutes and Area Updates circulated to them, just add them to the sheet – there is no limitation.

A letter has been written to James Hick, CEO of the BHS, asking for a release on the gagging order imposed on the BRC office, so that once again they can publish an accounts breakdown in 'Rider' magazine as was done in 2015 (copy provided), highlighting that Clubs and Areas share annual accounts at their AGMs. While not wanting to lead a mutiny, if no joy this could be escalated to the British Equestrian Federation, of which BHS is a member. **Action: PV**

## **5: Treasurer's report**

Covered in the AGM (Helen not present). Appeal for Clubs in arrears for their Area fees (40p per head) as per the Accounts sheet presented, to chivvy their Treasurers.

## **6: Area Rep's Report**

Lindsay said that the (unofficial) Summer Regional championships event was well attended (run in 1 day at Hartpury, because spreading over 2 days would have been too expensive). It has traditionally taken teams from NQ sections at Qualifiers – people who haven't wanted to go as far as Lincoln – but this might be revised with the Competition Pass system.

Rule changes (will appear in the 2026 Rulebook which is being prepared):

Discreet use of voice at Dressage is allowed with immediate effect.

Dressage – horses will be able to compete in more than one team on the day.

SJ – After a technical elimination (missing a fence etc) – the rider will be allowed to continue and finish the round, or ride the second round if a 2-round competition.

Horse Trials: BE are restricting their dressage tests to BE-only events. So Qualifiers etc may use any test of the appropriate standard.

The format of the Combined Challenge for 2026 may change – it is under review and being debated.

There is an email being sent to members about a low-level SJ Championship, which can be qualified for at Club level.

## **7: Insurance**

Charlotte introduced Naomi Parker-Jones, who has 20 years experience with NFU Mutual, as Guest Speaker.

Naomi stressed that the Liability Insurance is for people and organisations if they are legally liable for damage or injury (usually negligence, lack of duty of care). If liability is established, then the insurance will pick up the (generally big) bill. The BRC insurance includes Employers Liability which includes appointed volunteers.

The period of liability is 3 years from the incident to initiate a claim, however if the claimant is a child, then the 3 years starts on their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday.

If a claim is initiated, facts are gathered, interviews held, then typically it all goes quiet for some months.

Naomi has studied the BRC Insurance, and observes that it is not year-round insurance, like BHS members' insurance, but applies only at (or setting-up for) BRC events. It covers all activities except those specifically excluded, but is a 'policy of last resort' and other insurance, landowners' liability etc, is expected to be in place.

Some comments from the floor:

West Dorset had run a mechanical horse session in a private yard (which was insured by NFU) but after contacting NFU to check, and answering lengthy questions, they applied an exclusion for the day, on account of the fact that unknown people would be visiting.

Witheridge had taken out a Landowners Liability policy of their own, to cover use of a field which the owner made available free of charge but did not want to be involved in paperwork or hassle.

Lamberts Castle (which is a Limited Company) has 3 members of their committee as directors and has taken out Directors Liability Insurance to cover them.

Peter observed that with West Dorset unsure if their event was covered by BRC; Witheridge needing to take out Landowners Liability for their events; and Lamberts Castle needing to take out Directors Liability Insurance, he was having difficulty reconciling this with Head Office assertion that the BRC policy is robust and comprehensive, designed to cover Riding Clubs for their foreseeable needs. To be followed up. **Action: PV**

## 8: Competitions

### Past (held since last ALM):

SJ, 20 April (Sid & Otter, Bicton)  
Horse trials, 17 May (Area 12 / Pontispool)  
Combined Training, 8 June (Taunton, Stockland Lovell)  
Dressage, 5 July (West Dorset, Chard)  
Combined Challenge, 13 July (Witheridge, Downe Farm)  
Intermediate Dressage, 2 November (Lamberts Castle, KSEC)  
Dressage to Music, 9 November (Witheridge / North Devon, Bicton College)  
Showjumping, 16 Nov (Quantock, KSEC)

No issues. Online scoring – RidingClubResults – is working with people getting to grips with it. All ran, none were postponed, all except the Horse Trials were organised by Clubs.

### Futures:

Lamberts Castle offered to run the Winter Intermediate Dressage again - agreed.

Quantock similarly with Winter SJ.

Witheridge had been happy to run the Combined Challenge, though depends on the forthcoming rule/format revision – they may want to offload the DTM if North Devon can take it on.

The calendar is currently like this:

AREA 12 QUALIFIER DATES				
Qualifier	Date	Hosted By	Venue	OS
Open (née Intermediate) Dressage	08-Feb-26	Quantock	KSEC	Joanne Pitman
Grass roots (née Introductory) Dressage (including Pairs)	21-Feb-26	ETSW	Stretcholt	Adele Pitcher
Arena Eventing	15-Mar-26	Sid & Otter Valley	Bicton	Lindsay Opperman
Winter Showjumping Champs	28/29 March-26	British Riding Clubs	Arena UK	---N/A---
Winter Dressage Champs (with DTM and Quadrille)	24-26 April-26	British Riding Clubs	Arena UK	---N/A---
SJ		Sid & Otter Valley		
Horse Trials	16/17 May-26	Pontispool	Pontispool	
Arena Eventing Champs	29-31 May-26	British Riding Clubs	Aston-le-Walls	---N/A---
Dressage (including Pairs)	04-Jul-26	Chard Equestrian		
Combined Challenge		Witheridge	Downe Farm (TBC)	
Combined Training		Taunton	Stockland Lovell	
Horse Trials Champs	1/2 Aug-26	British Riding Clubs	Swalcliffe	---N/A---
National Champs	5/6 Sept-26	British Riding Clubs	Lincoln	---N/A---
Combined Champs	26/27 Sept-26	British Riding Clubs	Aston-le-Walls	---N/A---
Intermediate Dressage	01-Nov-26	Lamberts Castle	KSEC	
SJ (Novice & Intermediate)		Quantock		

## 9: AOB

Renewals – if there are any difficulties with Sport:80, speak with Emily Palmer at Head Office (02476 840518).

Anne Butcher Award – for next ALM – this award is for a person who has greatly helped the horse rider in Area 12 (doesn't have to be a rider, or a Club member). Clubs invited to send in a nomination with brief details of why. **Action: Clubs**

## 10: Next Meeting

For April, Brent Knoll offered to host it, find a private room with sufficient tables and chairs – and refreshments! They have a venue in mind, close to J22 of the M5. Expenses to £150 will be met by Area 12. Date needs to be compatible with Helen Pavey's work shift pattern **Action: BK**

The meeting finished at 9:40pm

Approved ..... (Chairman)