

## MINUTES

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

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

### 1: Apologies

Helen Pavey (Treas), Witheridge RC.

### 2: Minutes of last ALM (17-November-2025)

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

### 3: Chairman's Report

Charlotte welcomed all, thanking Brent Knoll RC for hosting and for the refreshments, commenting on a good turnout.

The winter has been challenging, weather-wise, also travelling costs have been high due to fuel prices, Charlotte said don't lose hope. The Winter Dressage and the Winter SJ Championships (both at Arena UK) were well represented, Charlotte named Clubs from Area 12 and what they had done – nine arenas in use for the Dressage.

Sponsorship/Prizes at Qualifiers – the Horse Trials has sponsors for all four classes (listed in the Schedule).

### 4: Secretary's Report

Usual contact list for clubs is being circulated around the room – any changes please just mark them on.

Following the Insurance talk and ensuing discussion, matters raised were summarised in a letter to Head Office. A good and comprehensive reply was received (circulated to Clubs), also, some of the matters were covered in the online Webinars in February. Overall, things seemed to make sense. However, there is a perception that Insurance cover has diminished over the last 20 years – if any Club has Insurance handouts from then lurking in Club archives, send scans to Peter. (Charlotte has a box of old RC paperwork: look at when at KSEC). **Action: PV**

Following the letter to James Hick, CEO of the BHS, asking for publication of BRC accounts breakdown in 'Rider' magazine, a reply had been received saying, no can do – BHS Governance is overseen by Trustees. So, a further letter has been written, for signing by all Clubs present, to be sent to the BRC office for them to pass to the Trustees. A copy will be sent to the British Equestrian Federation, of which BHS is a member.

**Action: PV**

Lindsay suggested involve other Areas.

**Action: LO**

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

Helen provided a summary for Peter to read out – Accounts at present are £2,815 current account; £10,086 deposit account.

Training events earlier in the year have left a deficit of £137 – Area 12 did not get its Training Grant this year, hence the classes were more expensive than we would have liked. Lindsay confirmed she understands the reason why we missed, and will be on the ball for next year.

Any questions, answers will be sought from Helen (there were none).

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

Lindsay thanked all Clubs who are running Qualifiers. There are no major interim rule changes.

Official Stewards – we have only one (Anna Ames) covering the south of the Area, though several north! If anyone else wishes to train to be an Official Steward, contact her.

Lindsay reminded all, that the OS's are volunteers – can Clubs have £20 available on the day to offer them, to offset their expenses etc.

For Qualifiers – first, Clubs should ensure that schedules are available for circulation at least 8 weeks before the event. Second, organisers must have someone familiar with live scoring on RidingClubResults. And last – organisers must have a documented Serious Incident Procedure available – with phone numbers, location, etc available for the OS, because if a serious incident occurred, they would be the person needed in Court, or otherwise dealing with any enquiry.

Martin Boreham is preparing a SIP template, which will be circulated.

**Action: MB**

Use of whips/batons/sticks – there is a disparity between what BRC allows, and what the major disciplines (BD, BE, BS) allow. Although BRC allows two strikes 'per incident', BS allows three strikes 'in total' – the complication being, that registered judges have to be used for official Qualifiers who are familiar with their own discipline and find it confusing to have to judge a Qualifier to a different criteria. Thus, as an Area, we will follow the (slightly stricter) rules of the appropriate discipline.

Training – we are looking for someone to take on the role, anyone interested contact her or Charlotte.

Rules for eligibility have been revised in the Handbook – hopefully clear to understand and to open-up entries a bit more. It is up to the competitors to check they are eligible – nobody likes to disqualify anybody, quite apart from the extra admin in shuffling placings.

If any major incidents happen within Clubs, accidents, claims etc, tell her – she's there to help.

## **7: Anne Butcher Award**

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

Presented to Margaret Peverley, Chairman of Mid Somerset RC for many years (even including bringing refreshments to the ALM's). Mid Somerset received the salver to take for her.

## **8: Competitions**

Past (held since last ALM):

Open Dressage, 8 Feb, KSEC (Quantock)  
Grassroots Dressage, 21 Feb, Stretcholt (ETSW)  
Arena Eventing, 15 March, Bicton (Sid & Otter Valley)

No issues with any of these (some rosettes outstanding from the Arena Eventing).

Futures:

Hartpury (unofficial) Regional championships will be chosen from the 'open' sections of the SJ and Dressage Qualifiers – for people who don't want to go to Lincoln. Otherwise it gets too complicated with declinations and pass-downs.

Showjumping is in 5 days time – 127 entries currently.

Horse Trials – whips in dressage will not be allowed (in line with Cotswold Cup classes) but callers will be.

Dressage – scoring, times etc will be on Equipe (including dressage sheets!)

Taunton RC is hoping to do a training camp before the Combined Training qualifier – will be publicised.

As the Arena Eventing has been at Bicton several years running, Taunton will take it on for 2026/27 and run it at Pontispool.

Dressage to Music – both North Devon and Sid & Otter offered to run – given to North Devon as SOVRC have already organised a couple of Qualifiers. Venue Mullacott (near Ilfracombe) or Bicton College.

The calendar is currently like this:

| AREA 12 QUALIFIER DATES                |                |                      |                                               |                                                 |
|----------------------------------------|----------------|----------------------|-----------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| Qualifier                              | Date           | Hosted By            | Venue                                         | OS                                              |
| SJ                                     | 02-May-26      | Sid & Otter Valley   | Chard                                         | Martin Boreham                                  |
| Horse Trials                           | 16/17 May-26   | Pontispool           | Pontispool                                    | Sally Ellis-Gray, Martin Boreham, Joanna Pitman |
| Arena Eventing Champs                  | 29-31 May-26   | British Riding Clubs | Aston-le-Walls                                | ----N/A----                                     |
| Combined Challenge                     | 21-Jun-26      | Witheridge           | Downe Farm                                    | Anna Ames                                       |
| Dressage (including Pairs)             | 04-Jul-26      | Chard Equestrian     | Chard Equestrian                              | Lindsay Opperman                                |
| Combined Training                      | 12-Jul-26      | Taunton              | Stockland Lovell                              | Sally Ellis-Gray                                |
| Horse Trials Champs                    | 1/2 Aug-26     | British Riding Clubs | Swalcliffe                                    | ----N/A----                                     |
| South-West Regional Champs             | 29-Aug-26      | Syndicate of Areas   | Hartpury                                      | ----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                                          | Charlotte Warman                                |
| Winter SJ                              | 21-Nov-26      | Quantock             | KSEC                                          | Martin Boreham, Charlotte Warman                |
| Dressage to Music                      | Need date ASAP | North Devon          | Mullacott Equestrian Centre or Bicton College |                                                 |
| Open Dressage                          | 07-Feb-27      | Quantock             | KSEC                                          |                                                 |
| Grass Roots Dressage (including Pairs) |                | ETSW                 | Stretcholt                                    |                                                 |
| Arena Eventing                         |                | Taunton              | Pontispool                                    |                                                 |

## 9: AOB

West Dorset RC are running a raffle, with major prize 2 tickets Lakeside XC Day at Badminton – in aid of Club funds. Carolyn Price selling tickets.

Jo Treweek, Chairman of Kentisbeare, is setting to ride John O'Groats to Lands End, sponsored, in aid of Alzheimer's Disease and dementia – can we publicise on Area 12 Facebook page?

**Action: PV**

Martin Boreham reported that Endurance GB is still wanting to reach out to Riding Clubs. Caroline Ingram at EGB is prepared to co-ordinate teams from Riding Clubs if interested members contact her (rides up to 30km), and will also assist with preparations and vetting. Email will be circulated

**Action: MB**

Also, a fun ride around Thomas Hardy country (near Bridport, Dorset) is set for 19<sup>th</sup> September – 6 or 12 mile options.

From history – Alison Brown, former Chairman of Area 12, has just died – several will remember her.

## 10: Next Meeting

For November, both Taunton (near Taunton) and Kentisbeare (near Cullompton) clubs offered to host it. As this meeting is way North, decision given to Kentisbeare to host South (with Taunton hopefully hosting the April 2027 North). Expenses to £150 will be met by Area 12. Date needs to be compatible with Helen Pavey's work shift pattern

**Action: KRC**

The meeting finished at 9:25pm

Approved ..... (Chairman)