

Area 7 Visit from HQ  
Monday 13<sup>th</sup> August 2018



**1. Apologies for Absence**

- Sharon Hughes – Cambridge, Rockingham Forest, Kit Hore – Keysoe.

**2. Those present.**

- Houghton and Huntingdon, North Mymms, Stevenage, Milton Keynes, Bozeat, Wittering, Aspley Guise.

**3. Updates from HQ (Rachael and Laura)**

Thank you for having us, we try and come to each area at least every other year.

- Changes to the office staff. Head of BRC is Laura. Rachael is manager of BRC and magazine head editor. Annette for marketing and can support with funding opportunities. Megan G over sees membership. Jennie is competitions coordinator and also deals with the rule book. Administrators are Meg H, new is Laura who deals with prelims, Beth is also new and assists with membership, Jess deals with competitions, training and membership. This is updated on the website so please check for further details.

Safety

- Hats – we were expecting 1384 standard to come out, still no known date for this.
- Body protectors – new standard, 2018 standard. There will be a new BETA label, most likely to be 2018 and possibly red (level 3). 2009 label will be accepted until the end of 2024.
- New equestrian safety committee which has a representative from all the industries and accusations. This meets quarterly and the aim is to look at gaps in safety and agree standardised procedures. From these meetings pony club now check vaccinations.
- Defrib machines – BRC have secured a deal with a company for these. Details to be published shortly.
- First aider rules - for around a year we have been accepting the BHS equine course to count as a qualified first aider.
- Cross country – likely that from 1<sup>st</sup> January we will follow BE rules regarding falls. This will be released with the rule updates.

Rule Updates

- Direct entry classes at DTM championships, National championships and Winter Championships. Also considering Native classes, warm up tests. BRC are looking to add to the event and allow others to see what the championships are like.
- New prelim entry website. With the old BHS bookshop entry a printout was made and taken to BRC office. This will help eliminate errors and information then goes directly into BRC.
- Arena Eventing – there may (very likely) be a reduction in the arena eventing speeds. This will come out as a rule change.
- **Question – can declaration forms be emailed? Yes just ask Meg in the office for this to be emailed to you.**
- **Question – can championship entries come via email with the entry form pre populated? Currently this is not available but suggestion will be taken back for future.**

## GDPR

- This is a work in progress for everyone; it will take some court cases to clear the grey to black and white.
- Training that has been offered for every club – there have been some issues with the logins. The training has gone out to every BHS volunteer and this is thousands of people – this volume has caused some issues but this is being addressed.
- Data sharing agreement was a document needed back to HQ. Club and HQ are responsible for their own data. We are still waiting for Northampton, Over and District, Stevenage and the area ourselves have not sent theirs back currently. This document is a requirement for affiliation and will need to be completed each year.
- If you have any queries regarding GDPR please contact head office.

## 4. Pre-sent questions

- a. From Serena Allery - Could you please add a senior prelim dressage to music?  
Judges and competitors we consulted and the feedback that it would be boring as there are so few movements at this level. This is why there is a novice points and no points to allow those competitors working more prelim level would be protected. There is not the demand at championships but could be included as an open class at our qualifier.
- b. From Kit Hore – is there a possibility of a FOH a 100+ class?  
There are a very small number of horse trials competitors at 100+ and BRC have been working hard to keep these. If there is not enough demand for this level at FOH. If there was more demand this would be looked at again.
- c. From Kit Hore - Summer SJ, does qualifier & champs have to be on grass? Could a venue with a surface be used for the champs?  
Qualifiers can be held on surfaces. See below regarding splitting DR and SJ.
- d. From Kit Hore - Why are the dressage & SJ champs on the same day ? Often a clash for the riders, more direct entry SJ classes could be offered to boost the Champs classes.  
This has been discussed before about splitting SJ and DR however people did not want to do this as it would be travelling twice which people did not like. Lincoln is one of the very few venues which can accommodate the large number of arena, parking and stables.
- e. From Judi Shaw - Horse eligibility for the 80cms SJ. At the moment it is zero pts. BS, whereas for the 90cms it is a whacking 500pts. I do think there should be a little more leeway with the 80cms, perhaps 250pts.  
The history on this is that 80cm use to be the introductory height. Also points for BS are awarded from British Novice, 90cm. Restrictions could be looked at.
- f. From Lynn Morgan - How are other Riding Clubs surviving in the current context of competition from commercial centres who are competing against RCs for entries in Unaffiliated Events and Clinics?  
From a HQ point of view small clubs have folded but on the other hand clubs have expanded. There is no clear answer to this. It was discussed that things go in cycles. Sometimes it can be information sharing, who is on the committee... HQ is looking at how they can do more for/engage grassroots (those who don't want to compete at qualifiers/championships). Keep an eye on information for grassroots riders/members.
- g. From Barry Meningen - I have been competing in the BRC horse trials qualifiers and championships for a number of years now. I believe that are of great benefit to riding

club members as well as enormous fun. However I think I speak on behalf of many competitors when I ask if we can please have some new dressage tests for next year. They have been identical for as long as I can remember and have never been particularly challenging or well written. This is the only real complaint I hear from other competitors at what are otherwise very well run events.

This comment has been made often. It was asked what we felt about BE tests? Some comments made were that we were surprised you didn't use BE already.

- h. From Kay Graves - I have been thinking about the Prelim and Novice Riding Test sheets, and wondered if we could do away with them and just use a current annual Prelim Test, and Novice Test sheet? The judges score sheet could stay the same, and a nominated test could be chosen each year or every other year. This idea could also incorporate an Elementary Riding Test using a specific current Elementary Test, which would encourage BRC members to have a go if they compete at Elementary level. I have never liked the Prelim Riding Test as the horse and rider enter the arena in walk, which we all know is a difficult gait to ride when a horse has tension, or the rider is nervous. All BD Prelim Tests start in trot, so why start in walk for a Riding Test? The Riding Tests would have to have a chosen BD test to make it acceptable to the judges i.e. for 2019 Prelim 7 and Novice 27 and possibly an Elementary Test.

The riding test score sheet can be used with any BD test at any qualifier. It was queried that would judges judge as if it was a BD test rather than a riding test criteria – could they be misled. Committee will be consulted on this.

- i. From Rebecca Robinson - 80cm HT why or why can't people do it on baby horses if they do 110??

BRC have discussed this and voted previously and it was agreed for the current rule. It was discussed that is it fair to all when you have a rider who does all levels? All rules are carefully considered and they have tried to make it fair to all combinations while still being able to accommodate all the entries for championships. BRC are doing the best they can to accommodate as many people as they can without making lots and lots of rules. Eligibility is discussed every year and for most rules it is voted on.

- j. From Rebecca Robinson - Why is there not more recognition for true RC members who just do all RC events and no BE, BS, BD etc etc why are these members in the UK not publicised more and used to get more members to join?

Club award was introduced in the horse trials which was awarded to the highest placed horse that has not competed BE. BRC send information and competitions out to other publicists. BRC shout about it as much as they can but other organisations do not always pick it up.

- k. From Rebecca Robinson - Why is the championship helper slot for half a day when there are so many teams at the champs?

Fence judges are difficult to change as they must be briefed. Dressage judges often do not like the rider changing. Logistical it is very difficult.

- l. From Rebecca Robinson - juniors and area teams - we are really struggling to compete against the pony club on juniors. We are rarely sending teams now. Juniors are the RC future - how can we make area teams at champs?

Where there are no teams prelim entered there is the possibility of making area teams. This is being discussed at HQ. Include the voice of junior – junior area rep? Having the pony club on the advisory board will hopefully have a positive impact in the future – especially as rules are becoming combined as an industry.

- m. From Rebecca Robinson - What other opportunities are there for RC's competitions to be at big shows. Osberton has now dropped RC team SJ and there won't be the team dressage at HH International next year. It's so nice as a RC member to brush shoulders with the folk we aspire to be like.  
**Bolesworth new to this year, Staffordshire County, Rockingham. We do need to be careful that safety and standards are the same. We have to be careful with our name and reputation – these events are not ours but have our name.**
- n. From Rebecca Robinson - If you have one team in a SJ competition qualifier and the members are all from the same club. Why do these members all have to jump two rounds when it's about the team not the individuals.  
**The official steward has the final decision regarding decisions.**
- o. From Rebecca Robinson - Why can't we have teams at all classes at the champs area 7 should be at everything. So many qualifiers now clash with BE, BD, BS it is getting really hard to get free dates.  
**Suggested to speak to other area organisations.**
- p. From Rebecca Robinson - The new direct classes....veteran rider. This has been really popular with our club until I asked our old dears for their age and they WD. Feedback from these ladies who meet for coffee mornings and a chat. We LOVE the veteran idea but please can you have age brackets i.e 55-65 etc etc we are in our 70's and we do not wish to give our age. Secondly it's called novice and elementary. Please can you just call it prelim (you do a prelim class in the novice) and novice or not call it so intimidating big classes. We would love just to give it a go but we can't canter!!  
**Age is asked for to verify their age. The age information is also taken for the special/extra awards. HQ asked for a suggestion of what they could ask for. HQ have said to put 50+, 60+ for this year if needed.**
- q. From Rebecca Robinson - HT why can't the 80cm have a championship test like the rest of the qualifying classes??  
**Tests for horse trials are being looked into.**
- r. From Rebecca Robinson - Will you bring back any showing - Working Hunter seems to be more commonly asked about again.  
**First showing question HQ have had in three years so there is currently not the demand. We do the showing register.**
- s. From Rebecca Robinson - I am starting to get concerned about the cost RC competitions are costing members. These are unaffiliated at the end of the day. Some members in our area have to pay the prelim fee plus the entry. For DTM for example that was £40 before the music licence etc had to be paid for etc et. With these costs this is more than an affiliated competition. I believe this may be why competitive numbers are down dramatically this year. Is there anything RC can do or suggest to help us with this economic climate and Brexit to help keep costs down as much as possible. Places like Keysoe charge so much for a qualifier (hire of venue and jumps) that the entries need to be so high and I believe this is alienating. Any advice greatly received.  
**Affiliated and unaffiliated event have the same hire costs and expenditure. For DTM, BD/venues would get better deals for music licence's as they are bigger. Also they can spread their costs throughout the year. BRC would love to find a way of reducing the**

cost however a fair alternative has not been found. The economic climate cannot be predicted and all areas of the industry are going up.

- t. From Mark Irwing - Please confirm that the ICO have indicated that a shared Cloud storage password is sufficient to protect a membership list?  
Every membership excel sent to head office must be password protected. Due to the large number of clubs and documents BRC are using the cloud password as your password to protect documents. Mark is querying is this is secure enough, possibly not, however in context we need to be seen to be starting to do the right things and it may not be perfect first time. Some clubs up until recently still send a hand written list! In time we will need to improve this however we have to do the best we can now. You can use your own other password but you must let Megan Gibbs know via a phone call.
- u. From Mark Irwing – historical membership records, is there any guidance for keeping this.  
ICO are very clear about this – no. Only current members you could justify keeping this information. Should you have a complaint we cannot find a reason to justify why member’s information should be kept longer than four years. For trophies if you need to contact them you may need to keep this information. Accident forms should be kept for 7 years or 7 years after the person become 18.

## 5. Open floor

- 90cm horse trials, placed 100cm in the previous year ruling.  
All rules/eligibility are looked at every year and made as far as possible. Most are voted on.
- Cost of tests on grass? Why are these £20?  
This is more an area discussion.
- Passport checks – could we come up with a sticker or something so you don’t have to be checked again?  
Some areas have data bases which we have. Due to the changes in dates it is difficult to maintain.
- Why is quadrille no longer at Olympia?  
Olympia no longer wanted BRC quadrille as they could make their money with their own classes rather than the quadrille. There were also very few people watching at Olympia. Every other big show was approached and Bury Farm Gala evening had a good atmosphere and audience.
- DTM prelim fees?  
BRC have to pay a music licence of around £10,000. This cost is split between those who do the qualifiers rather than all members.

## 6. Area business

- David wanted to say well done to all those for their fabulous results at the horse trials. We won an area trophy! Please see Facebook for full area results.
- Show jumping qualifier – Rockingham Forest to be supported in running any future qualifiers.
- Summer dressage qualifier 7<sup>th</sup> July 2028, Home Farm, Alconbury.

DONM. Monday 8<sup>th</sup> October. Biggleswade Fire Station.

AGM. TBC

Other dates going forward TBC. Please bring Diaries.