

HODGEMOOR RIDING ASSOCIATION

Annual General Meeting 7.30 p.m. Monday 22th November 2010 Reading Room, Chalfont St Giles

Minutes

Apologies from Jane Braithwaite and Tim Taylor

1. Welcome by Chairman. Marcus welcomed everyone to what was going to be more of a party than an AGM, celebrating 10 years of success with the first time trophies for the Hodgemoor Challenge and 10-year membership awards. In his comments he expressed pride in what has been achieved in the woods, what a great resource they are for all users, how the membership model is praised in high places, and how much this success owes to the cooperation of all the members. There were @ 40 members present, pretty good. The 2009 AGM minutes were approved.

2. Richard Hill, Treasurer, reported on current funds and the accounts. The accounts and his report are at the end of these minutes. The accounts were approved.

3. Membership levels and Communication with Liveries . Membership levels were stable with standing order members much more numerous and than cash/cheque members. Richard pointed out that numbers were down,. Susie Bicknell said she had done the first chasing-up in 2 years just recently and hoped this would bring in more. At next renewal in April 2011 a big effort would be made to go round liveries and get owner/managers to give HRA their livery list and perhaps chase them up themselves.

4. Report on Events and funds raised:

. Dressage Waylands 31 Jan	£270
. Dressage Waylands 3 March	£345
. XC 25 April	£60
. Dressage to Music 23 May	£195
. TREC 14 June	£225
. Hoedown	£1130
. XC 28 August	£45
. XC 24 October	£30

Susie said the outstanding event of the year had been the Hoedown which had both been a huge success and raised a huge amount of money. This was thanks to Marian Holder who had suggested it at the AGM last year and then had actually gone ahead and done it! Hopefully, there will be another in 2011: a few people have rashly volunteered to help next time.

Susie thanked the yards who had helped organise events to raise funds this year: Waylands, Austens, Willowcourt Stables and Widmer Farm and other yards who had allowed their own events to be in the Hodgemoor Challenge (Grove Farm and Windmill).

5. New loop in wood: Susie reported that 154 metres had been surfaced for £5544. As the works had been done so late, and the new surface needs time to stabilise, the trail may not open till early spring. It was agreed to call it "Susie's Loop" (Marian Holder's suggestion "Susie's Loopy" was not formally retained but may be correct!)

6. New Speed limits. New 30 mph and 40 mph speed limits had come into force in May. However, a recent near miss along Twitchell's Lane shows that drivers don't really pay much attention. Diana Bunyan said that sadly Transport Departments only really took radical action once a really serious or fatal accident had happened. Members were reminded of numbers to call: Police No 0845 8 505 505 and the local PC Mark Neill 07973446504 There was also a new website www.horseaccidents.org.uk where incidents could be logged.

7. Footpath upgrades: Susie reported no progress in getting new bridleways. Angela Stallard and Susie would re-open the Jordans to Seer Green footpath upgrade question. It had already been turned down twice, but it seemed such an obvious thing to do that it was worth having another go.

8. Election of Officers and Committee

Geoff Gudgeon was proposed and elected on to the committee. The existing members and officers were voted in. Marcus would confirm with Tim Taylor that he would probably resign as he is moving out of the area.

Current Committee: Marcus Bicknell (Chairman), Susie Bicknell (Secretary), Richard Hill (Treasurer)
Jane Braithwaite, Diana Bunyan, Geoff Gudgeon, Marian Holder, Angela Stallard, Tim Taylor

9. Any Other Business. Sally Fryett asked if the bridleway gate could be made easier to open at Bottom

Lane. Susie would contact Bucks CC. Sally also asked who to report fallen down trees or other obstacles to. Marcus said to him and to the Forestry Commission 07801839847 (Jo Mason) or main office 01296 62582. Rebecca Stephenson asked if other members were having problems with the new cycle path in Narcot Lane. Susie and Marcus agreed it was very difficult but it was against the law for horse riders to go on it. Susie had asked Bucks CC to mow and/or flatten the verge to make that easier to ride on. Lesley Cornthwaite said there was one man who showed no respect to horseriders and even complained when they were just crossing over the track to access the route to Grove Farm.

Sue Hill-Venning asked if the Forestry Commission would dedicate one trail at least just for horse riders so riders could have a good canter without fear of coming across, eg, a family with a pram. Susie said this was unlikely but could ask. Francesca Burfitt said she was working on a farmer for a gallop.

Francesca wished cyclists and walkers could get more involved in the Association. Nadia (Francesca's mother) thought making the Association the source of maps for walkers would be one way. Sarah Kane suggested using the Chalfont St Giles email newsletter and Janet Blair using noticeboards in the villages and in the wood.

10. Ten Year Awards. Susie awarded trophies saying "Hodgemoor: 2000-2010 Thank you!" to the following members who had subscribed without a break for 10 years: Tessa Bayliss, Karen Collett, Vicky Gregory, Richard Hill, Sue Hill-Venning, Angela Le Maistre, Gina Peters, Ailsa Wood. Susie gave 2 special awards: to Georgina Blair who over the years has done so much for the Association, organising and helping at events, setting up great Treasure Hunts, and doing speedy dressage scoring and another to Marian Holder for her organisation of the Hoedown.

11. Hodgemoor Challenge Trophies Presentations

Marcus presented awards for the inaugural year of the Hodgemoor Challenge. He explained how it was designed to encourage multi-discipline talents and this year there had been 14 rounds, including dressage, show jumping cross country and Le Trec with 88 riders. Sponsors were Southbank Photographic, Chalfont Saddlery, Aescwood Riding School, Barton Reynolds Motors and Pristine Paddocks who between them provided vouchers worth £900. 2010 champion was Pip Edmunds on Irish Mist with Chris Edmunds 2nd and Sarah Kane 3rd. Junior Champion was Charlie Hertell on Misbrooks Kangaroo, with Marie Chatterton 2nd and Sarah Witty 3rd. The Special Achievement trophy was awarded to 10 year old Charlie Swerling for coming first in his first-ever dressage event.

12. Presentation to Marcus and Susie

Richard Hill presented Marcus and Susie with beautiful leather name-plated halters to thank them for all they have done for Hodgemoor in the last 10 years. They were very grateful!

APPENDIX: TREASURER'S REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

To help you find your way around the mysterious numbers on your copy of the accounts here's a few pointers. Our financial year runs from 6th April to 5th April, so the £6856.53 you see on the bottom of the accounts was what we had in the bank on 5th April 2010, and it doesn't include any the income since then – about £3,500. Members who have taken out standing orders – about 130 of you, thanks, it makes our planning so much easier! – will know that these are paid in mid-April, so we get quite a bit of income at the beginning of our year. With new members, our subscription income has been steadily increasing (£1,060 in 2006/7, £1,740 in 2007/8, £2,210 in 2008/9 and £2,520 in 2009/10). The current year will be a bit less at about £2,200, probably a result of some members moving away from the area and some new liveries not yet having taken up membership. So please try to persuade any non-members you know to "join up".

Our income from events has increased from £1,000 last year to £1,700 this and, once again, dressage seems to be the most popular. And the Hodgemoor Hoedown raised just over £1,100.

Here's our last two years' income from events so you can see how things have changed:

2008/9		2009/10	
June 1 Cross Country	£55.00	TREC	£335.00
Dressage/Show Jumping	£158.00	Cross Country Totaliser	£145.00
Oldefields Dressage	£290.00	Cross Country Clinic	£20.00

Hallowe'en	£40.00	Dressage to Music	£180.00
Sue Edwards demo	£48.00	Grove 1 day Event	£280.00
"Livery crawl" 28/12/08	£30.00	Horse Therapy lecture	£60.00
Xmas Dressage	£340.00	Wendover Woods ride	£90.00
Wendover Woods ride 28/03/09	£50.00	Dressage January 2010	£285.00
		Dressage March 2010	£345.00

TOTAL 2008	<u>£1,011.00</u>	<u>£1740.00</u>
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The question you'll be asking is *what do we do with your money?* Well, we do have some running costs like room hire, refreshments for the AGM, newsletters and the website, but we're doing our best to minimise them. Most of your money goes in improving the riding trails in and around Hdgemoor under our agreement with the Forestry Commission. Next time you're cantering along one of those trails, just think *£100 a stride* – that's what it costs to lay and maintain them. We didn't spend anything on this in 2008/9 but we have just spent about £6,000 on the new trail (although we haven't yet had the bill!) and will be doing some more when the weather improves.

Richard Hill, Hon Treasurer

HODGEMOOR RIDING ASSOCIATION

YEAR TO 5 APRIL 2010 YEAR TO 5 APRIL 2009

ACCOUNTS YEAR ENDING 5TH APRIL 2010

INCOME

Brought Forward Acct No 90054410	£1,609.72	£ 2,907.36
Brought Forward Acct No 60152145	£611.90	£ 4,083.82
Opening balance	£2,221.62	£ 6,991.18
Subscriptions	£2,525.00	£ 2,210.00
Donations	£520.00	£ 200.00
Events	£1,740.00	£ 1,011.00
XC Rental	£200.00	£ 240.00
Grants	£0.00	£ -
Fund Raising	£233.00	£ 226.00
Interest received	£0.28	£ 28.08
Other	£95.00	£ 625.00
Income for year to date	£5,313.28	£ 4,540.08

EXPENDITURE

Office costs	£165.25	£ 547.60
Insurances	£0.00	£ -
Trail maintenance	£0.00	£ 8,342.89
Event costs	£178.78	£ 237.91
Interest paid	£0.00	£ -
Subscriptions	£35.00	£ -
Sundry	£299.34	£ 181.24
Expenditure for year to date	-£678.37	-£ 9,309.64

Carried Forward	£6,856.53	£ 2,221.62
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Community Account Acct No 90054410	£6,244.35	£1,609.72
Business Premium Account Acct No 60152145	£612.18	£611.90

	£6,856.53	£2,221.62
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Chairman Treasurer
Date

Hodgemoor Riding Association

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