

HODGEMOOR RIDING ASSOCIATION

Annual General Meeting
7.30 p.m. Monday 12th December 2011
Reading Room, Chalfont St Giles

Minutes

1. **Welcome by Chairman.** Marcus Bicknell welcomed the 35 people who had come and also the 2 members, Diana Bunyan and Georgina Wright, who had bought along examples of their work. Another member, Tace Moody, was there with examples from her Remarque Embroidery business, and Pete Garner=Glowski of Southbank Photography. The 2010 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. Currently funds stand at @ £4000. The accounts were approved.

3. **Membership levels and Communication with Liveries.** Membership levels were stable, with 160 standing orders, a quarter of which were family memberships. There are only 30 cash/cheque memberships. Susie estimated about 250 members including family members. Various suggestions were made to improve membership levels:

Jane Robb: notices in wood with subscription rates

Francesca Burfitt: notices with work achieved. This might also encourage walkers and cyclists to join.

MB/SB to check with Forestry Commission about putting up additional notices.

Pay Pal: Marcus had introduced PayPal on the Hodgemoor web site www.hodgemoor.org.uk with which members and donors can make payments to the association. This should encourage sub payment and event entry fees payment. Marcus to check on making it Hodgemoor rather than via him. It was agreed to raise sub fees, probably to £12.50 for a standing order payment, from 2012 or 2013 as decided by the committee. Susie wished all yard managers would automatically ask any new liveries to become members.

4. **Report on Events and funds raised:**

. Dressage Waylands 27 Feb	£315
. Dressage Waylands 27 March	£315
. TREC 9 April	£235
. Pony and Pims	£100
. Hoedown	£704
. Half-Term Fun	£60
. XC 6 Nov	£105
. Penn Ride 12 Nov	£70

Hodgemoor challenge. Marcus said the 2011 points and present rankings would be carried over into 2012 as there were rather few events this year. This is mostly because two events were

cancelled in 2011 for lack of entries. Several member suggested getting our programme established and communicated early.

Hodgemoor Hoedown. Support for the 2011 event had been disappointing with income down by over £300. It was decided not to have one in 2012, but maybe in 2013 if someone would volunteer to run it.

Susie said a choice had to be made: either more help and support had to be given to events (which currently provided much the same income as subs each year) or less events would be held,. As a result there would be less overall income, and therefore repairs to trails would be carried out every 4 years instead of every 2 years.

Susie said what would be really helpful was for members of the Association to take upon themselves the full organisation of one event rather than Marcus and Susie doing all of them. The following events were kindly volunteered:

BBQ, perhaps on midsummer night. Widmer. Francesca and James Burfitt kindly offered to organise this replacement Hoedown event. James suggested an auction at the same time. Marcus said a new name had to be found for Mulcern's Drive so James suggested a new name as an auction item (although the target price is £2000, the amount Aescwood raised back in 2002 for which they got naming rights... Amber's Trail). James hoped other members would offer other auction items.

Dressage: Widmer. James and Francesca would organise.

Dressage: Waylands. Angela Stallard and Jane Braithwaite would organise. These winter indoor dressage events were very popular and raised a lot of funds.

Combined Dressage and Show-jumping. Highclere. Zoe Garner Glowski Sophie Godwin and Kevin Malyon to organise.

Le Trec. It was agreed to have one and even perhaps two Le Trec events. There were very few Le Trec events in this area so could prove even popular if well advertised, and non-members attracted. Ann Pearson was certain Chess Bridleways Association members would be interested in coming. However, many more volunteers would be needed to help Marcus and Susie if these TREC events went ahead.

Other events suggested:

Demo dressage by eg Sue Edwards or Louise Spate, clinics and clear rounds. However, no concrete offers to organise these from members were made.

Publicising events.

Several members (Monique Millington, Val Janes) said events were poorly publicised and much longer notice should be given. The website should give updated event info all the time as with Riding Club events.

Francesca volunteered to give the website a make-over and keep it updated with event info in particular.

Anna Pugh volunteered to do the same to the Hodgemoor Facebook page so that it would be used more by members. Geoff Gudgion agreed to coordinate the dates and get them published as early as possible.

5. Surface of Susie's Loop: Susie said an additional £2000 on top of the original £5544 had now been spent trying to improve the soggy surface and it was still very bad for about 50 metres. Was it worth spending yet more money? A few members said they didn't use the Loop as it was too bad. James offered to get his company to suggest a solution.

6. Sponsorship. Tace Moody from Remarque Embroidery and Mick Andrews offered either to sponsor or find sponsorship for events.

7. Footpath upgrades: Susie reported no progress in getting new bridleways.

8. Election of Officers and Committee

Marian Holder and Tim Taylor had resigned. The following members were proposed and elected: Francesca Burfitt, Kevin Malyon and Anne Pearson. They would join the Current Committee:

Marcus Bicknell (Chairman), Susie Bicknell (Secretary), Richard Hill (Treasurer)
Jane Braithwaite, Diana Bunyan, Geoff Gudgion, Angela Stallard,

Any Other Business.

Canter Trail. Some members had asked if one trail could have a softer surface to make a permanent canter trail. Nice as this would be, it was agreed that the cost and maintenance would probably make this difficult.

Parking in front of entrances. Rachel Lulham and others asked if notices could be put up to try and prevent people parking cars in front of or very close to wood entrances. Marcus and Susie to ask Forestry Commission.

Link to Car Park. Maxine Butter who could not attend the AGM sent the following request: that Amber's Trail be extended to the car park so that the narrowest section of Bottrells Lane could be avoided.

Police Number now 101. Members were reminded that the number had changed and encouraged to keep calling whenever motorcyclists were seen in the woods. The police are more likely to come the more calls they get. Jane Braithwaite said she had called so often the police had offered her counselling!!

APPENDIX: TREASURER'S REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

HODGEMOOR RIDING ASSOCIATION

TREASURER'S REPORT

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 £5,667.18 you see on the bottom of the accounts was what we had in the bank on 5th April 2011, and it doesn't include any of the income since then – about £3,990 – nor this year's expenditure of £5,800 most of which is attributed to trail repairs. About 160 members now pay by standing order (up from 130 last year) - thank you!. These are mostly paid in mid-April, so we get quite a bit of income at the beginning of our year. Our subscription income has levelled out at about £2,200 per annum so there are about as many members leaving (mostly moving away from the area) as there are new members joining – not an unreasonable situation since most yards have a fairly constant number of liveries. As usual, the message is So please try to persuade any non-members you know to "join up".

Our income from events has increased from £1,700 in 2009/10 to £2,700 in 2010/11 including just over £1,000 from the Hoedown. Once again, dressage seems to be the most popular. Here's our last two years' income from events so you can see how things have changed:

2009/10		2010/11	
TREC	£335.00	TREC	£210.00
Cross Country Totaliser	£145.00	Cross Country Totaliser	£170.00
Cross Country Clinic	£20.00	Dressage Oct 2010	£195.00
Dressage to Music	£180.00	Dressage August 2010	£254.00
Grove 1 day Event	£280.00	Dressage February 2011	£515.00
Horse Therapy lecture	£60.00	Dressage March 2011	£315.00
Wendover Woods ride	£90.00	Hoedown	£1060.00
Dressage January 2010	£285.00		
Dressage March 2010	£345.00		
TOTAL 2009/10	£1740.00	TOTAL 2010/11	£2719.00

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 Hodgemoor under our agreement with the Forestry Commission. In 2010/11 we spent £5,800 on the new Susie's Loop.

Looking ahead from April 2011, the current year's income has been about £3,000 including about £800 from the Hoedown but we have already spent over £1,000 to complete Susie's Loop and other repairs leaving us a current balance of around £4,000.

We hope that you think it's all worthwhile but remember, as I've said before, it costs about £100 per canter stride to lay and maintain trails in Hodgemoor.

Richard Hill, Hon Treasurer
December 2011

HODGEMOOR RIDING ASSOCIATION

ACCOUNTS YEAR ENDING 5TH APRIL 2011

			YEAR TO 5 APRIL 2011	YEAR TO 5 APRIL 2010
INCOME				
Brought Forward	Acct No	90054410	£6,244.35	£1,609.72
Brought Forward	Acct No	60152145	£612.18	£611.90
Opening balance			£6,856.53	£2,221.62
Subscriptions			£2,125.00	£2,525.00
Donations			£0.00	£520.00
Events			£1,749.50	£1,740.00
XC Rental			£220.00	£200.00
Grants			£0.00	£0.00
Fund Raising			£1,877.19	£233.00
Interest received			£0.28	£0.28
Other			£455.25	£95.00
Income for year to date			£6,427.22	£5,313.28
EXPENDITURE				
Office costs			£49.90	£165.25
Insurances			£0.00	£0.00
Trail maintenance			£5,744.00	£0.00
Event costs			£938.72	£178.78
Interest paid			£0.00	£0.00
Subscriptions			£35.00	£35.00
Sundry			£848.95	£299.34
Expenditure for year to date			-£7,616.57	-£678.37
Carried Forward			£5,667.18	£6,856.53
Community Account	Acct No	90054410	£5,054.72	£6,244.35
Business Premium Account	Acct No	60152145	£612.46	£612.18
			£5,667.18	£6,856.53

Chairman

Treasurer 

Date