

HODGEMOOR RIDING ASSOCIATION

Annual General Meeting 8 p.m. Monday 19th October 2009 Reading Room, Chalfont St Giles

MINUTES

Apologies from: Tim Taylor, Mr and Mrs Sutton, Maxine Butter, Lesley Cornthwaite

- Welcome by Chairman Marcus Bicknell.** This was short but sweet. Basically the Association was in good shape and he was pleased to see so many members had come (about 30): not bad for an AGM!
- Submission of annual accounts for approval.** Richard Hill's summary of accounts had been circulated in the newsletter and they were approved. For the current year, HRA had £5470 credit. This year's subs were at £2250. We were well on the path to being able to do repairs in 2010. But Richard emphasised that in comparison to 2007 with income from events at £2700, 2008 had been only @ £1000. This year was better with income from events already over £1000 but not much time left to run.
- Maintaining Membership levels and Communication with Liveries** Susie Bicknell

	<u>2009</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2004</u>
<i>Adults</i>	114	104	64	70	52	85
<i>Juniors</i>	11	6	12	6	9	6
<i>Family</i>	43	18	12	11	11	5
<i>Walkers</i>	2	2	2	2	2	5
<i>Cyclists</i>	5	5				

Susie said membership now was around 250, due to significant increase in family memberships from 18 to 45, assuming that these represented an average of 3. There were now 120 standing orders assuring a basic income of @ £1500 pa.

Livery yards were supporting the Association by kindly allowing fund raising events to be held on their premises. It was a bit disappointing that only Rachel Lulham and Gina Peters as yard owners/managers had come to the meeting, but having their support for events was in the long run more important!

Lucinda Young thought we should perhaps encourage more non-riders to be members, eg put signs in post office and other community centres about the association. **Nicola Hine** thought many of the dog walkers could be encouraged: perhaps a notice could be put up in carpark with info on HRA? **Rachel Lulham** said it would be good to get Seer Green residents more in favour of horse riders. Would members please note that the first house after Perkin Elmer offices did NOT like riders on the verge in front of their house. However Bucks CC had confirmed to her in writing that riders have a right to go on verges. **Jane Braithwaite** said the Parish Council Clerk Liz Bates had actually been helpful about putting the bollards up at a good distance on the verge in question. Jane felt that maybe not too many cyclists from far afield should be encouraged to come to Hodgemoor: it was a good balance at the moment.

Susie said the Association was planning to take stand at the Chalfont St Giles September show in 2010 (HRA had done so once a few years ago). This was a good way of making the Association known in the community. Jane Robb and Jane Braithwaite have kindly volunteered to help with the stand. HRA was also applying for money from this year's show (£500) which would go towards putting up a gate or bollards at the entrance to the Wickham way bridleway to deter joyriders. Should hear in November.

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4. Report on Events so far:

XC Totaliser	£ 85	
TREC	£335	
XC Totaliser	£ 20	
XC Clinic	£ 20	
Dressage to Music	£180	
BBQ	£ 90	
One Day Event	£140 (another £140 donated to Cancer Research UK)	
Catriona McGarvie Lecture	£ 60	
XC Totaliser 27 September	£ 40	TOTAL £1070
Wendover Ride 18 Oct	£100	

The chairman thanked everyone who had helped towards the success of these events.

5. Suggestions for next season's events

There was discussion of the proposal to introduce the Hodgemoor Perennial Challenge, with a proper trophy to be donated by Marcus and Susie, to be presented at our annual meeting. The association could add smaller trophies for the top three to keep. It would be multi-discipline, running from March through October, the purpose being to encourage members to take part in as many different kinds of events as possible. There could even be non-mounted categories. But the principal aim was to get yards to organise the events rather than the Association. To permit a competitor to miss one or two events, the end results would drop the competitor's 2 lowest scores. There was the suggestion that each competitor could play their "joker" once in the contest for their best discipline. Marcus would send letter to yards to invite their participation. **Ann Generlich** suggested emailing members to ask what they felt about the Challenge.

Rachel Lulham, with the cooperation of Kevin Malyon, wanted to organise a show-jumping event which would take place in one day both at Willowcourt and Highclere. It would principally be to raise money for a donkey charity that she supports with some proceeds also going to Hodgemoor. This could be part of the Perennial Challenge.

2010 would be the 10th anniversary of the Association. **Marion and Curtis Holder** have very kindly offered to organise a 10th Anniversary "Hoedown" next summer! Everyone thought this was a great idea. It might even be possible to have a mounted bit first, line dancing etc.

Val Janes and Nicola Hine thought dog events might be a possibility also.

Lucinda Young suggested a horse boot sale, and she will explore possibility of a Monty Roberts technique demo via contacts she has.

Jane Braithwaite was still keen to organise a quiz but had found it difficult to find a suitable place to have it. **Inske Allso** who worked for a pub chain would ask whether it could take place in an Amersham pub. Plan to have it a Friday evening in February.

6. Report on riding by members only on Hodgemoor Wood Permissive Riding Trails

Susie said there had only been one wood check so far since obligatory membership came in April 2008, but there must be others. Even if only 5 or 6 riders were asked in one check, the word would get round that a check had been done.

7. Suggestions for next year's repairs.

Members at the meeting felt the western bridleway was the trail that most needed work. This was really BuckCCs job but perhaps the Association and they could share cost. Susie said Bucks CC was hopefully going to repair the awful patch in the Wickham Way bridleway that led up through fields to Hodgemoor before this winter set in.

Marion Holder asked if the Beeches trail could be worked on, but Marcus said this section was so peaty that it would be virtually impossible to do properly. The same applied to Highfield (the little used trail at north end running by black and white sheep field) which had so many surface roots. **Angela Stallard** suggested changing trail to the one that ran south of it. Susie said she had suggested this before to the Forestry commission who weren't keen but she would ask again at meeting with them next Wednesday..

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Rachel Lulham asked if name boards could be put on trails: could be useful in emergency to identify where rider was. Marcus and Susie would ask at meeting next Wednesday.

The meeting felt that drainage channels were desirable as they prolonged the life of the trails. They should, however, not be too big.

Susie reported there was a new Forest Ranger Mike Danks 07778025142 who had been coming to meeting but couldn't at last minute.

8. Bridleway upgrades

Susie reported disappointing outcome to attempt upgrade of footpath from Jordans up past Manor Farm to Seer Green. As had happened in 2004, Jordans Residents Association had refused, even though Jane Woods (new Strategic Rights of Way person at Bucks CC) had made very reasonable offer to do parallel bridleway to footpath. HRA had supported Jordans just recently to oppose a planning application along existing bridleway on Wilton Lane, so their lack of support for us is disappointing. So no progress at all has been made this year on creating new bridleways. No landowner wants horses across their land unfortunately.

9. Area 10 Speed Reduction

With the help of Diana Bunyan, HRA had submitted 40 page report with video on reducing speed limit along Chalfont and Newbarn Lanes to Seer Green and also down Twitchells Lane to Jordans. Initial reaction from Bucks CC is that they were most impressed by our report and that speed limit likely to be reduced to 40 at least. Should know by end of the year. Thanks to all that sent in letters that were included in report.

9. Election of Officers and Committee)

Current Committee: Marcus Bicknell (Chairman), Susie Bicknell (Secretary), Jane Braithwaite, Diana Bunyan, Richard Hill (Treasurer), Angela Stallard. All members were voted back on.

Audrey Holbrook, Terry Holbrook were confirmed as Honorary committee members.

Susie had hoped for volunteers to organise events even if not on Committee but there weren't any.

10. Any Other Business.

Ragwort. Marcus wanted to remind members of the danger of ragwort. **Rachel Lulham** wanted to know if legal action could be taken against landowners who allowed ragwort. **Janet Blair** answered "Yes". Following meeting both Janet and Richard Hill sent documents confirming that under the 1959 Weeds Act, DEFRA can take action against offending landowner. Lucinda Young said action should be taken against the Osbournes in Welders Lane!

Cycle Track Narcot Lane. **Jane Braithwaite** had received letter from Chiltern DC about a proposed cycle track along Narcot Lane. She would ask if horse riders could use this track also.

www.rethinkthehorsetax.org. **Gina Peters** requested members to go on this website to object to proposed new tax on horse ownership.

Susie suggested a new category for the £5 walkers membership: for people who had moved away but still wanted to receive the emails and perhaps ride very occasionally in Hodgemoor. This was agreed. **Val Janes and Judith Burke** who had moved away said they were happy to continue paying the full membership but parking was a problem. Susie and Marcus were happy for people to park in their drive. **Angela Stallard** would ask Lana Craker at Waylands who had the best parking facilities locally if she would allow parking, as long as notice was given and possibly with payment.

The meeting was closed.

The usual raffle raised £82 for Hodgemoor. Thanks!

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