

# HODGEMOOR RIDING ASSOCIATION

## Minutes of Annual General Meeting 2 December 2013

Kayleigh Barker from Chiltern Equine Clinic gave a great talk with slides on First Aid for key issues such as profuse bleeding, colic, choke and eye injuries. She also gave all attendees a plasticised one pager to put up in yards with what to do in an emergency. Tessa Bayliss won a First Aid kit donated by Chiltern Equine because her sheet had the lucky number on it.

1. **Welcome.** The Chairman, Marcus Bicknell, welcomed everyone and thanked Kayleigh for her presentation. The 2012 AGM minutes were approved.

2. **Approval of Accounts.** As the Secretary had forgotten to photocopy his report, our Treasurer Richard Hill outlined the basic facts. Until the end of the financial year April 5 2013, funds stood at nearly £2000. In the current year, funds were about £6500. With the increased subscription rates (see below) coming in April 2014, the Association should have enough funds to carry out further repairs costing £8000 to £9000 next summer. Richard's report is on the website.

3. **Membership subscription.** Marcus outlined the increase in subscriptions that would take place in April 2014.

1: raise subs in April 2014 by £5 for adults, family and yards, £2.50 for juniors

2: to ask members with existing £10 or £15 standing orders or recurring annual PayPal to upgrade to the new subscription levels. Richard and Susie said they would make it as easy as possible for members to do this, and above all, encourage members with standing orders to change to automatic Paypal annual renewal.

3: To offer a discount for the payment of 5 years' membership in advance, i.e. £80 instead of £100.

**Val Janes** asked if a new "visitor" category could be introduced for someone such as herself who had not been able to ride in the Woods now for 2 or 3 years but still wanted to be a member. **It was agreed that the Committee would create a new category for 2014.**

### CURRENT SUBSCRIPTION FEES

2012-2013	PayPal annual or Standing Order	cash, cheque or PayPal one off
Adult	£15	£20
Family or yard	£25	£30
Junior	£7.50	£10

### PROPOSED SUBSCRIPTION FEES

From 2014 to 2018 at least	PayPal annual <sup>1</sup> or SO <sup>2</sup>	cash, cheque or PayPal one off
Adult	£20 (or £80 for 5 years paid in advance)	£25
Family or yard <sup>3</sup>	£30	£35
Junior	£10	£15

<sup>1</sup> To qualify for the lower rate the member must take out the automatically-recurring annual PayPal option

<sup>2</sup> Standing order from the member's bank

<sup>3</sup> Yard membership covers one owner/manager and 3 employees

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

Susie said it was clear looking at the funds raised in 2012 and 2013 that Francesca and James Burfitt from Widmer Farm had raised well over £2000 for the Association with their inspirational ideas. She gave them a trophy as a token of the Association's gratitude. Susie also thanked Jenien and Rik Cunningham who had raised a magnificent £460 with their dressage and Top Score Jumping event in June at Grove Farm.

Susie said it was also clear comparing 2012 with 8 events and 2013 with 4 events that it was less labour intensive and just as profitable to concentrate on a few events that raised a lot of money.

A few members said they would like to see more rides organised over to Penn and other areas even if these did not raise much money. **Marcus and Susie would organise a ride, even before Christmas, particularly now that 2 working parties had cleared the route through Witheridge Wood.**

2012		2013	
.Dressage Waylands 26 Feb	£180	Grove Dressage	£460
.XC 15 March	£90	TREC	£360
.TREC 7 April	£200	Curry Night	£1193
.Chenies Ride 28 May	£60	Widmer Dressage	£50
.Widmer Raffle & event 26 May	£1012		
.Louise Spate Dressage Clinic April	£30		
.Sacha Hamilton Dressage Demo	£140		
.Sacha Hamilton Dressage Event	£240		
<b>Total</b>	<b>£1952</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£2063</b>

**Anne Pearson** proposed holding an autumn event at the Sugar Loaf in Little Chalfont (which offered free food, a private area and a disco for nothing as long as a minimum of 40 people came.) She was holding her livery Christmas party there in a few days time. **It was agreed to pursue this idea.**

**Francesca Burfitt** suggested holding a summer barn dance event with Chalfont St Giles PPA in the Swerlings Barn. **It was agreed to pursue this idea too:** the Association could manage two big social events a year.

5. There was some discussion on how to encourage livery yards to make all new liveries who use the woods become members. Francesca had prepared a leaflet for members to see for distribution to all yards to give to all new clients and to put up as a poster. It made clear all the advantages of joining the Association plus all that had been achieved over the years.

**Inske Allso** would sent a note to Marcus explaining how yards could include the Hodgemoor sub in their livery fees without a tax penalty.

**Val Janes** asked how often membership checks were done in the wood: maybe there should be more.

6. **Work in woods:** Marcus said that trails damaged following the Forestry Commission's cull of conifers had been finished, and the Association was spending about £300 to £500 on drainage channels mainly along the Mount and one big one on Susie's Loop. The contractor, William Smith, would be asked for estimates, alongside our old contractor, for any work in 2014 as he seemed very good.

7. **Repairs.** As it looked as if there would be enough funds to do work in 2014, Marcus asked members present for any opinions on priorities. **James Burfitt** suggested certain patches in the Old Bridleway on the west side of the wood, and Susie the steep slope on Susie's Loop. Any other suggestions welcomed. We would also ask the Forestry Commission about a new trail, maybe through the huge glade just created from the recent felling just south of Susie's Loop.
8. Website & Facebook page. **Aleesha Adams would send Marcus details on how to link Facebook to the Hodgemoor website so that non-Facebook users could see Facebook posts.** The Hodgemoor fb page was used a lot, and it would be good to include non-fb users and get better use of the website.
9. **Narcot Lane Cycle Path.** Marcus said he was in contact with Bucks CC about getting notices to make it clearer to horseriders that they are legally not allowed on this path. He pointed out that for most of the route there is a wide verge that horseriders can perfectly legally use.
10. **Courtesy from horse riders . Lisa Mayhew** had asked that riders be courteous and aware of drivers. Horseriders may certainly suffer from unaware and unsympathetic drivers, but if they themselves do not thank drivers, or make an attempt to get out of the way if there is a long trail of cars behind them, then next time the said drivers are behind horses, they may well be even more unsympathetic.
11. **Donation of rustic jumps from Georgina Blair.** These jumps were now in the cross country field and would be used on 22 Dec in an Eventers Challenge. Many thanks to Georgina and Janet Blair and the Fell Society.
12. **Any Other Business.** Diana Bunyan was in contact with the Council about repairing the huge pothole just on the double bend opposite the Highclere and Willow Court Stables yards, which made cars serve out even more dangerously than usual.
13. **Election of Officers and Committee.** The following were re-elected. Any additional volunteers, particularly yard owner/managers would be welcome.

Current Committee:

Marcus Bicknell (Chairman)  
 Susie Bicknell (Secretary)  
 Richard Hill (Treasurer)  
 Jane Braithwaite

Diana Bunyan  
 James Burfitt  
 Francesca Burfitt  
 Geoff Gudgion

Kevin Malyon  
 Anne Pearson  
 Angela Stallard

Marcus also thanked the members who had brightened up the AGM by taking stalls:

Linda Tuttle with her pictures, Sarah Kane with USANA skin care and supplements, Gill Garside with "How Can I do that?" technique, Geoff Gudgion signing copies of his book "Saxon Bane", Sarah Witty and her "Young Enterprise Company" and its Christmas things of all kinds, Lynn Kirby introducing her view on Neuro-Linguistic Programming, and Aleesha Adams and her new company [www.sourcemyhorse.co.uk](http://www.sourcemyhorse.co.uk)

Susie Bicknell, Secretary  
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