

# HODGEMOOR RIDING ASSOCIATION

## Minutes of Annual General Meeting, 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2016

Rachael Sivyer, master saddler and physiotherapist. (<http://www.rksequinephysiotherapy.co.uk>) gave the meeting a great talk, emphasising the importance of having 6 monthly checks of our saddles. Following a question from Mr Dudko, she said that at long last there was a more scientific approach. Synthetic saddles could be as good as expensive leather ones. She said one point often forgotten when we do our own saddle checks, is just behind the stirrup leather holder: this should not be tight. A common fault is to put saddles too far forward.

1. **Welcome by Chairman.** He was pleased that there was a larger attendance than last year: 25 members had come. The 2015 AGM minutes were approved.

2. **Election of Officers and Committee.** There was a block vote to approve the re-election of the Committee. Apologies for their absence from Richard Hill, Jane Braithwaite, Geoffrey Gudgion, Miranda Thomas and Angela Stallard.

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

Jane Braithwaite  
James Burfitt  
Francesca Burfitt  
Shona Fraser

Geoff Gudgion  
Miranda Thomas  
Angela Stallard

3. **Approval of Accounts.** In the absence of the Treasurer, Marcus presented the accounts (Report attached to these minutes). He reminded the meeting that, following last year's decision, the financial year now ran from October to October, so these accounts ran from April 2015 to October 31 2016. Funds at 21 October 2016 stood at £6,617.85.

4. **Membership subscription.** There was a discussion on how to encourage all new arrivals at yards to join. Liza Faircloth (Manor Farm manager), said the website needed changes to make it clearer how new liveries could join and a simpler summary of what the Association was, and the benefits of joining. Marcus said that the website would be revised soon. **Marcus and Susie to do.**

Susie said she was a bit disappointed that having sent a personal email to all local yard managers, only 2 yards were represented at the AGM!

5. **Report on Events and funds raised : Calendar years rather than April to April**

	2016		2015		2014
TREC	£625	TREC 10 April	700	Eventers Challenge	100
Eventers Challenge	£205	Widmer Quiz 23 April	974	TREC 7 Sept	735
		Rob Waine Dressage	200	Rob Waine dressage	150
		Clever Dogs Agility	119		
		Waylands Dressage Nov	360		
	<b>TOTAL 830</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2353</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>985</b>

Susie said that she and Marcus would now themselves only organise two events a year: TREC and the Eventers Challenge. She asked the meeting if efforts should be made to organise more, and several people said Hodgemoor events were nice socially and should continue. Liza Faircloth said she would never have the time to organise an event at Manor Farm herself but would support any of her liveries that wanted to do so. Perhaps liveries at other yards could do the same? **Those present from Oldefields said they would try.**

Francesca Jones is very kindly organising a Curry/Elvis night at Miltons Restaurant in Chalfont St Giles on 26 January. The meeting agreed it was worth paying £23 to have Elvis rather than just 15 for curry alone.

Francesca also offered to help Susie organise a dressage event at some point.

6. **Suggestions for Work needed in woods and alternative use of funds.**

Susie reported that the cost last year was £40 per metre (2 metre width plus some drainage) to do 408 metres for £16,848.. With funds at just over £6000, and annual sub revenue of around £4000, the association should be in position to do more work in 2017 if really necessary. Members suggested the following locations that could do with some repair work:

- Short section between end of Ambers Trail and exit to Bottrells Lane
- Near the Rawlings corner/Waylands entrance to the woods

It was asked if repairs could be done across the Beeches and the northern Highfield trail, but Marcus explained that these trails really had too many roots to make work possible unless at huge expense.

Susie asked the meeting if, as there were no really pressing bad spots in the wood, funds could be spent on something else, for example, improving getting over over the A355 by the pub with a Pegasus crossing. Kim Dudko reminded Susie that Bucks CC had said there would have to be a fatality before they would do anything about it. Diana Bunyan said that was always the Council's response regarding speed limit and road sign requests. **Susie to chase up. BHS Oxford had just managed to get one put up.**

Pip Edmunds reminded the meeting how important it was to report any road incident via the BHS website as follows <http://www.bhs.org.uk/safety-and-accidents/report-an-incident>.

**7. Report on any plans to upgrade footpaths to bridlways and new permissive trails in Hodgemoor.**

Susie said there were no plans, although there was a vague glimmer of hope of retrying on upgrading the footpath between Narcot Lane and Twitchells Lane leading past Austens Farm.

**8. Cyclists in Hodgemoor.** A draft poster prepared by the Forestry Commission and the Association was shown to the meeting. This poster clarified the status of cyclists in the woods, confirming that they are allowed to use both the bridlways and permissive horse trails, giving them a code of conduct and encouraging them to join the Association. These posters would be put at key entrances to the woods.

In answer to questions that it was unfair that cyclists wouldn't be forced to subscribe, Marcus said that there were already 3 or 4 cyclist members and in time – as with the obligatory subscription for horseriders – it could end up being obligatory for cyclists too. He also emphasised that cyclists groups would not be officially informed so it was unlikely that the woods would be swamped with cyclists.

It was confirmed to Lisa Mayhew that cyclists were not permitted on footpaths. She was worried that as cyclists were not to go on footpaths, this would lead to more clashes with horse riders and that it would be better to have dedicated cyclist paths.

Caroline Witty said clarifying the situation would help conserve Hodgemoor, hopefully stopping cyclists from going everywhere.

Susie wanted to emphasise that this poster was to clarify the situation: cyclists were not currently a problem. She had not had one complaint this year from members, whereas last year that had been a few.

Sarah Arkobi said it was clear that cyclists had to give way to walkers and horse riders, but did walkers have to give way to horse riders too? **The BHS Access Dept had confirmed that there was no statutory right either way: commons sense and, one hopes, courtesy prevail.**

**9. Website & Facebook page.** As the meeting was running short of time, this point was not discussed but Marcus said the website was currently being updated. Nobody sadly volunteered to help with social media.

**10. Any Other Business.**

Lucinda Starling asked if it was still 101 for the police. Nadia Whiteley confirmed that another good number to put on mobiles when out riding was for reporting fly-tipping: 01296 395000 or 0845 3301856.

Ruth Beddow asked if HS2 works would be disruptive. Francesca said ventilations shafts were being prepared near Chalfont Equestrian and the access road from A 413 to the yard would be widened at some stage.

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