

# HODGEMOOR RIDING ASSOCIATION

## Minutes of the Annual General Meeting, 22 November 2021 at 19.30

**Apologies for Absence:** Phil Bartlett, Di Bovey, Sara Lowe, Shona Fraser, Claire James and Georgina Wright, Kirsti Hummel

**1. Welcome by the Chairman and Approval of the Minutes of the last AGM.** As a change from having a speaker, the meeting welcomed four artists with their work on display: Diana Bunyan, Philip Bunyan, Linda Tuttle and Susie Bicknell. After a zoom agm last year, it was nice to see 26 attendees who had turned out on a cold November evening. The minutes of the last AGM (available on <https://hodgemoor.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/agm2020.pdf>. were adopted.

### 2. Election of Officers and Committee

The current Committee is:

Marcus Bicknell (Chairman)  
Susie Bicknell (Secretary)  
Dawn Fleming (H&E)  
Shona Fraser  
Geoff Gudgion (Treasurer)  
Claire James  
Francesca Jones (Social)  
Charlotte Perry

Kirsti Hummel, with responsibility for communication between riders and cyclists, was voted onto the Committee in her absence and the rest of the existing Committee elected in one group.

It was noted that Dawn Fleming had taken on an overview of Health & Safety issues for the association, and Francesca Jones for our social events.

**3. Approval of Accounts.** The Treasurer said that last year's report was at [https://hodgemoor.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/treasurer\\_report\\_2020.pdf](https://hodgemoor.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/treasurer_report_2020.pdf) and this year's at [https://hodgemoor.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/treasurer\\_report\\_2021.pdf](https://hodgemoor.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/treasurer_report_2021.pdf). Funds at year-end (Oct) stood at £14,811.81. He said there was little to report with nothing spent and little additional income apart from subscriptions. We have 325 members at 18<sup>th</sup> November 2021 providing subscription income of about £5,000 p.a. We now have 18 cyclist members of which 8 joined this year, and 8 walkers.

**4. Health & Safety,** Dawn Fleming updated the meeting on the Safeguarding and related provisions at our events and was preparing the Risk Assessments that had to be sent to the British Horse Society, now necessary before each event for their 3<sup>rd</sup> Party liability insurance.

**5. Collaboration with cyclists.** Marcus said Kirsti Hummel would be promoting collaboration with cyclists via British Cycling UK and other cycling groups. He showed her ideas for better communication with cyclists. It was decided a new Code of Conduct should be displayed in the wood, as current one was too long. Note also the BHS leaflet for cyclists and riders which could be seen at [http://hodgemoor.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/cyclists\\_and\\_horseriders\\_leaflet\\_2018.pdf](http://hodgemoor.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/cyclists_and_horseriders_leaflet_2018.pdf) Riders please note that the revised riding code mentions cyclists and is at [http://hodgemoor.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/members\\_riding\\_code.pdf](http://hodgemoor.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/members_riding_code.pdf). Chris Rucker said there was not really much incentive for cyclists to join: Marcus presumed those that joined were grateful to have less muddy trails and, therefore, were contributing to upkeep.

**6. Report on Events.** Grove Farm kindly organised a fund-raising Trec in August 2021 which was very well organised and enjoyed by all. (The amount raised has not been confirmed yet). The Christmas Dressage 2020 at Waylands was cancelled the night before as lockdown was re-imposed.

### Future Events...

**Winter Dressage Series:** <https://hodgemoor.org.uk/hodgemoor-winter-dressage/>

Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> December at Waylands (Fancy dress awards)

Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> December at Manor Farm (Christmas fancy dress awards)

Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> December, Bank Holiday, at Austens Farm.

Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> March at Oldefields

Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> March at Grove Farm

Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> March at Highclere

Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> April at Widmer

The Chairman was very grateful to the yards for collaborating to do this series, the first that the Association had tried.

### **Riding Out with Hodgemoor**

3 ride-Outs have so far taken place, a short one round Hodgemoor, a 20 km one across to Penn and Coleshill and a third at Kensham Farm took place on 21<sup>st</sup> November with 9 riders. If you want to be added to the WhatsApp Riding Out with Hodgemoor group, please contact [chairman@hodgemoor.org.uk](mailto:chairman@hodgemoor.org.uk) The Chairman said he would be grateful for any help in organising future ride-outs.

**TREC 18<sup>th</sup> April Easter Monday** would be held at Homefarm Orchard. Ann Maisel, a Trec expert, has offered to help.

### **Hodgemoor Riding Association's 21st Birthday Party 9 July**

Francesca reported her progress on this: Flexmore Farm seemed the best choice so far on either 2 or 9 July. The Association would underwrite the event, aiming for £20 a person, members only with only one guest, but opening this up depending on ticket sales. Hoping for 200. A survey by Francesca at the meeting confirmed that a dance band rather than a country dance band would be preferred. The meeting liked her idea of a band she knew of who would donate their payment to cancer research.

**Combined Training (Show-jumping and Cross Country).** Francesca and Charlotte would pursue this idea at Widmer in May.

### **6. Trail Repairs and Relationship with Forestry England:**

- 370 metres of trail repairs were done in October 2019 at a total cost was for £29,800 to which the Association contributed £15,300, about half. FE agreed to pay half that time because of new regs imposing on us a contractor which was more expensive than our regular one. Members could see a map at [http://hodgemoor.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/hodgemoor\\_trail\\_works\\_2019\\_map.pdf](http://hodgemoor.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/hodgemoor_trail_works_2019_map.pdf)
- With income of about 5,000 p.a., the Association would by 2023, have £20,000 (£15,000 present funds plus one years income) with which we could rebuild 250 metres if the rate is still £80/metre (if Forestry England do not contribute). Forestry England would prefer to wait and do more trail length as the works are disruptive for a couple of month.
- With that in mind, the Chairman and Secretary propose next works in 2023 or 24, for economies of scale.
- Meeting with Rob Bell, Forestry England Beat Manager for the Chilterns, on 25 November. *Following this meeting after the AGM, Rob Bell had said that outline plans for repairs in 2023 should go to FE engineers asap: FE would not contribute to the next repairs. Rob had helpful suggestions for volunteers groups that could help in the woods (Chiltern Society, The Conservation Volunteers and a Offenders rehabilitation group).*

### **7. Badger and Rabbit holes on Wickham Way at the Spring Link.**

Bucks CC had hoped to install metre deep vertical fences either side of the bridleway before the deadline for badger works on 30 November. The Association assumed works would not go ahead now till next year. Last year, the meeting had agreed that the Association would contribute to costs.

### **8. Horse Signage**

- a) Signage was erected at the end of 2020 on Chalfont Rd, Seer Green, and Narcot Lane, Chalfont St Giles at our instigation by Bucks CC with agreement of the Parish Councils. These inform horse-riders of the law, i.e. to go on the grass verges and not on the footways.
- b) Bucks CC did not help us with signage on Stratton Chase, a private permissive trail in the centre of Chalfont St Giles, so signage had not been installed. However, after consultation with the owners, and as they have confirmed by email their permission for horse-riders to ride there as long as they didn't canter and slow for pedestrians, the Chairman proposed to leave this "un-signed".
- c) Twitchells Lane (St Giles to Jordans past Austens Farm). With thanks to Sheila Grimshaw and helpers, four "Please Slow Down" for horse-riders signs had been installed independently from Bucks CC.
- d) Shona Fraser and members at Oldefields were assessing what they can do improve signage on Chalfont Road, Seer Green to warn cars of riders on the blind bends and to get them to slow

9.. **Any Other Business.** Dawn Fleming suggested setting volunteer clearing parties well in advance. Inske Allso said she had come to one because she knew the date well in advance. Francesca suggested making them more of a social occasion: retiring to the pub afterwards, for example. The meeting thought this was an excellent idea!