

# HODGEMOOR RIDING ASSOCIATION

## Agenda Annual General Meeting, 8 November 2022 at 19.00

### 1. Welcome by Chairman and minutes of last AGM

You can look at the minutes of the last AGM (which today's meeting will adopt if you agree) at in <https://hodgemoor.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/agm2021.pdf>. If you have questions, please let us know in writing in advance (<mailto:chairman@hodgemoor.org.uk>).

### 2. Election of Officers and Committee

The current Committee is:

Marcus Bicknell (Chairman)	Shona Fraser *	Claire James
Susie Bicknell (Secretary)	Geoff Gudgion (Treasurer)	Francesca Jones (Social)
Dawn Fleming	Kirsti Hummel (Cyclists)	Charlotte Perry

Shona Fraser \* is standing down because of family and work commitments. We are happy to accept nominations before or during the AGM for election to the committee. The existing committee and officers will be elected as in the past by a single group vote unless any member proposes otherwise.

3. **Approval of Accounts.** Funds at year end (October) currently stand at around £23,000. The year-end was 31 October so we might not have the formal annual accounts in time. If they are available we will make them available on the night. The Treasurer's Report for last year can be found 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).

#### **Income for the Association since 2000.**

Members might be interested to know that over 22 years we have generated income of £235,000 (grants, membership fees, fund-raisers), spent essentially on improvements to the trails in Hodgemoor Woods.

4. **Membership subscriptions.** We have 363 members today including 13 cyclist members (2 joined this year) and 13 walkers (4 joined this year). There were 39 new horse-rider members many of whom join for an occasional hack in Hodgemoor. Many thanks to Charlotte Gilham who in May made a £300 donation: she said "I'm somewhat shamefully emailing about a very delayed payment! She said she never paid for years and wanted to make up for it!"

### 5. Report on Events.

**Winter Dressage Series.** The 7 events held between December 2021 and April 2022 at Waylands, Manor Farm, Austens, Oldefields, Grove Farm, Highclere and Widmer were popular with competitors and raised just over £2000. Many thanks to the yard owners and managers for their cooperation. Riders who might never have thought to compete in dressage came and had a go!

Shall we have another series?? Points to consider:

- Have less than 7? Maybe just one a month from December to March or April?
- Would yards be prepared to take on more organisation of their event?
- Should we have a league again?
- Just hacking again or open to all, e.g. at Waylands which has parking?
- 2 yards have volunteered already.

**TREC 18<sup>th</sup> April Easter Monday** at Homefarm Orchard. Event raised £510. Shall we do another in 2023?

**Hodgemoor 21<sup>st</sup> Anniversary Hog Roast.** Many thanks to Francesca Jones for making this a huge success. This event was always intended to be a celebration rather than a fund-raiser, but raised £183 nonetheless. Should we hold a similar event more regularly?

### 6. Report on Badger Works and Wickham Way Bridleway Repairs.

After 4 years preparing the necessary licenses with Bucks Council (with thanks to Phill Fox from Bucks CC) and other groups, the Bridleway approaching the Spring Link is now hopefully safe for horse-riders. No cost to the Association for the main part, but a £200 cost to fill the big holes in the Wickham bridleway nearer St Giles as the Bucks CC contractors were on site.

## 7. Trail Repairs in the near future

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 this time because of new regs imposing on us a contractor which was more expensive than our regular one. You can 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 now has £23,000 funds available with which we could rebuild 250 metres if the rate were still £90/metre, and if Forestry England do not contribute. Forestry England would prefer to wait till 2024 and do more meterage as each batch of work on the trails is disruptive to the woods as a whole and to other users.
- With that in mind, the Chairman and Secretary propose next works in 2024, for economies of scale.

## 8. Road Safety and Speed Limit Review

- Diana Bunyan and Sheila Grimshaw have been working on getting a reduction from 40 to 30 or even 20 MPH down Twitchells Lane and round the double bend on Chalfont Road..
- Marcus undertook a 4 camera traffic census at Austen's entrance around 17h15 on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> October.
  - There were **280 cars per hour of which 40 vehicles came from the north and 240 from the south**. This would indicate that the bulk of the early rush hour traffic is coming off the M40 motorway at Beaconsfield and using Twitchells as a rabbit run not just to CSG but also to Amersham and beyond.
  - There were **no heavy goods vehicles**; nothing bigger than half a dozen Transit-size vans.
  - In my 20 minutes I did not see any vehicle travelling more than 40mph nor any vehicle being driven erratically or dangerously but the camera evidence is that normal driving at 40 mph on this corner is extremely dangerous to walkers, cyclists and horse-riders.
  - About 90% of cars, when there was no oncoming traffic, had a wheel on or over the white line in the middle of the road. In this condition, the driver would have to take sudden avoiding action if there were an oncoming vehicle. All 4 cameras show that cars would not be able to see, and stop safely, if there were a hidden obstacle round the corner.
  - Many cars were black, silver or grey. Colours which make them difficult to see. Being seen on roads is a big issue. In low light conditions, especially under or near trees, a horse and rider, even wearing hi-vis, is almost invisible to the motorist. I urge horse-riders to wear flashing cycle lights front and rear at all times of the day to increase the chance of being seen by a vehicle which might otherwise hit them.
- Importance of incident reporting via BHS app Horse I or on their website <https://www.bhs.org.uk/go-riding/report-an-incident/>
- Importance of acknowledging courteous drivers

## 9. Road Signage.

Thanks to Des Payne from the BHS Safety Department and June Lovett, Road Safety Officer at Bucks CC, 5 large "Pass slow and Wide" signs have been installed on Twitchells Lane and New Barn Lane.

**10. Collaboration with cyclists.** Thanks to Kirsti Hummel who had succeeded in having an article "Passing Horses Safely" included in the May edition of "Breeze Notes", Cycling UK's on-line newsletter. Possible brochure and revision of Code of Conduct notices in wood were suggested at the last AGM but not carried out. Any volunteers?

## 11. Volunteer Parties.

- Thanks to the handful of members who volunteered to help clear up after Storm Eunice.
- MB clearance of metal stake in Stratton Chase permissive trail
- SB cutting back of brambles on Seer Green loop

## 12. Any Other Business.

Susie Bicknell, Secretary  
Marcus Bicknell, Chairman  
5th November 2022

**Trail audit, Marcus and Susie, 17th October 2020:**

(Map at [http://hodgemoor.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/map-of-hodgemoor-wood\\_orig.pdf](http://hodgemoor.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/map-of-hodgemoor-wood_orig.pdf))

The Glade: Under the oak at the top (junction with The Mount) there is some soft earth but no deep mud. The roots of two oaks are getting difficult to pass safely except at walk. The work to rectify that would be very difficult and we might have to take advice. On the steep part of the Glade curving downhill away from the Mount and towards Widmer Corner, there are no problems to report. Nor are there any on the straight section at the bottom. There is one loose earth patch over the culvert at the bottom of the steep bit but not really muddy.

At the junction of the Glade with the Dell there are 3 metres of mud but it is at the bottom of the hill so collect water naturally. There are raised sides which enable horses to pass without issues. Consider this for work in a couple of years.

On the Yellow Brick Road there are some new muddy patches forming half way up, further up than the work done in 2019.

Please report other problem areas to Susie at [susie@hodgemoor.org.uk](mailto:susie@hodgemoor.org.uk)