



HODGEMOOR

RIDING ASSOCIATION

Annual General Meeting of the Hodgemoor Riding Association, Wednesday 6th November 2024 at 7.30 p.m. at The Reading Room, High St, Chalfont Saint Giles HP8 4QH.

Before the AGM opened Marcus Bicknell welcomed Anna Martin who gave a very interesting talk on having your horse's bit fitted. It stimulated much discussion and questions from the audience. For more information see www.annamartinequine.co.uk, annamartinequine@gmail.com

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Apologies from: Georgina Wright, Dawn Fleming, Sheila Grimshaw and Dannie Barrie

- 1. Welcome and report by the Chairman, Marcus Bicknell.** He confirmed the good financial and structural health of the Association and thanked members and the community for the positive and peaceful attitude in the woods and nearby.
- 2. The Minutes of the last AGM** were adopted without comment and are available at <https://hodgemoor.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/agm2023.pdf>.
- 3. Election of Officers and Committee.** The current committee is: Marcus Bicknell (Chairman) Susie Bicknell (Secretary,) Geoff Gudgion (Treasurer), Danni Barrie, Dawn Fleming, Sheila Grimshaw , Francesca Jones, Charlotte Perry and Liza Faircloth. Marcus apologised for omitting Liza from the list of the Committee circulated with the agenda to this meeting. All stood for re-election and were re-elected unanimously as a single group
- 4. Approval of Accounts.** Geoff Gudgion reported that funds stood at a credit of £31,984.40 at the end of the financial year, 31 Oct 2024. The accounts were attached to the agenda and also available on our web site. Forestry England made improvement to the trail in the woods during the summer of 2024 and the Association owes them approx. £26,000 pending repair to the trail at the junction of the Glade and the Mount where subsidence has occurred. Income for the year is down from £6,000 to £5,700 (-5%) as only one fundraising event took place. Geoff said analysing income was sometimes difficult as subs and entry fees were often the same. Marcus suggested that in the future, event fees could differ by a £1, eg £21 instead of £20. For example, the entry fee for the December 3 quiz night was set at £3 and a separate PayPal button originated for it. Marcus asked what the Association could do with the surplus of around £6000 after the recent works had finally been paid: a charitable donation perhaps? Geoff felt

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that although donations had been made in the past to Air Ambulance and Arun Dog Rescue, income should really focus on Hodgemoor. Vicki Barras suggested funds could go towards a proper surfaced canter track in the woods: Geoff thought this would be hugely expensive.

5. Membership subscriptions. Subscriptions were stable at around 230 paying members. As proposed at the last AGM, actions have been taken to promote membership: new posters and leaflets distributed to most yards, tabards worn by committee when out in the wood, better chasing up of members by Susie. Mailchimp emailing issues resolved. Action not taken: new posters in wood. Susie said most members (approx. 180 of the 230) had either standing orders or recurring Paypal which led to a stable income and a lighter admin burden for her, and thanked those members who pay automatically each year.

6. Events:

- **Hodgemoor Trec 2024:** as the annual Trec event has had to be postponed several times and this year didn't take place at all because of the water-logged field, it was decided to still aim for Easter Monday in 2025, but if postponed once, to set a date in early September.
- **Winter Dressage Series:** Just one event in 2024 at Manor Farm in February making £320 shared between Hodgemoor and Arun Dog Rescue. Liza Faircloth suggested that she would organise a show-jumping event instead of dressage. Charlotte Perry said that was a great idea, as liveries at Widmer bemoaned that fact that they had to go so far to do any show-jumping.
- **Dressage at Windmill Farm 1st December** in the calendar thanks to Katie Faust, the new owner. Everyone was looking forward to this and enjoying the changes that have been made. Katie said there were already 15 entries. Vicki had been to a clinic there the weekend before and reported participants were very pleased, particularly with the brand-new warm-up arena. Katie said Windmill would hold regular affiliated as well as un-affiliated events.
- **Quiz Night at Pub or a Curry Night.** Francesca kindly volunteered to organise a Quiz night at the White Hart on Tuesday 3 December. Entry would cost £3, and everyone would pay for their own food and drinks. 6 per table (tables at the White Hart were quite small).

7. Report on Trail Works, August 2024: 150 m surfaced plus new culverts and grips. The meeting agreed that the maintenance work had been good.

8. Volunteering; clearing of grips (the water run-offs), cutting back branches and trimming the edges. Marcus proposed setting two dates for volunteer parties, a mid-week and a weekend to clear grips and cut low-hanging branches.

9. Collaboration with Cyclists and Walkers. There were 12 cyclist and 18 walker members, much the same as last year. Susie and Marcus would prepare small leaflet for Dannie and Francesca specifically for walkers.

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10. Cross Country Field. The jumps were slowly being dismantled but there were still enough for people to use. Susie suggested that members could use it as a canter field, even if they didn't want to jump.

11. Any Other Business.

Jane Braithwaite asked when Forestry England was going to deal with the subsidence on the junction of The Glade and The Dell. Marcus said he was in constant touch with Forestry England but they always said they had higher priorities. At least it meant the Association hadn't had to pay for the works yet!

Jane also asked what more could be done to stop people parking across entrances to the woods. Marcus agreed the signs weren't a deterrent, but naming and shaming when possible (it had worked) on social media did work.

minutesagm 6 November 2024

Signed by the Chairman
17th November 2024

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Jane Braithwaite', with a long horizontal flourish underneath.

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