

Area 12 Area Liaison Meeting
Othery Village Hall
Thursday 18th November 2021 (following immediately after the AGM)

Present:

Committee Members: Charlotte (acting Chair), Helen, Lucy, Carol, Emma-Jane, Chris, Roy, Peter, Martin

and

Representatives from Brent Knoll, Blackdown Hills, SWDG, West Somerset, Ilfracombe, Sid and Otter, Mid Somerset, Lamberts Castle, Quantock, Taunton, Shipton, Witheridge, and ETSW

1. Apologies

Anna Ames, Royal Navy, East Mendip, Sally Ellis-Gray, Kentisbeare, Andrea Jones, Jess Webb

2. Minutes of previous meeting

Charlotte read the minutes of the previous ALM held at Ruishton Village Hall on Thursday 14th November 2019.

3. Matters arising

We need to have a catch up with Anya Hitt over her junior role (and to check she is still a junior!)

The minutes were proposed by Quantock and seconded by Lamberts Castle

4. Chairs report

As per the report Charlotte read out at AGM

5. Area reps report

Chris introduced himself as the new Area 12 rep

He has attended a BRC meeting via Zoom and can report back that from 1st January 2023 two hats are to be disbanded: PAS015 1998 and Snell 2001. Hat tag colouring will also change from this point

Membership cards will be stopped and changed to digital recognition, ALL members will need to give BRC an email address

There were concerns from the floor re elderly honorary members not on email - Chris is to look into this and talk to BRC

ALL clubs to please send an up to date committee list to BRC, Helen commented that she struggles with clubs not updating her with email addresses when sending out annual invoices for club affiliation fees.

Charlotte said again it was suggested several years ago that all clubs should have an email address for committee members of

Chair@

Secretary@

Treasurer@

The name of their club, so that when roles change the emails addresses do not need to

Taunton said that they may not have a website for much longer as they use Equo and Facebook

Websites was a big discussion point on the BRC zoom meeting that Chris attended, there are lots of training pages available on the BRC own website e.g. building a website, using Facebook etc

Training grants are great for the area, last year we used Sarah Thorne for some training at BE events

There was not a lot else to report back from the BRC meeting

Chris wants more clubs to be involved in the running of area events, as it always seems to fall to the same clubs each year, by more clubs being involved everyone should get the chance to compete

6. Treasurers Report

Helen started by saying that there had been very little activity on the accounts for 2020 due to the pandemic, no affiliation fees were collected by Area 12 last year due to Covid, this year there are still 3 clubs that have not paid their fees, as shown on the Area Affiliation Fees print out on the tables.

Interactive training was the only thing that was held during the year, in was very popular as 150 people could attend on-line but did not generate a lot of income, Area 12 paid for the cost out of the training grant

Area 12 have signed up for Eventing Scores, with an annual fee of £350, Ros Burrige (Brent Knoll) is managing it, all clubs are able to make use of it for all competitions that they run. Ros will send a spreadsheet template for uploads, it is easy to then score on the day. Ros is happy to help all clubs using it. Times etc can all be done through Eventing Scores and the results are very quick to appear on the website as you score as you go along, this alone will avoid clusters around scoreboards and scoring delays at the end of a long day!

Christ re-iterated how good this system was, he can arrange a meeting with Miranda via zoom to go through the website with everyone, the pony club are planning a 4 or 5 session training programme that people can dip in and out of as they want.

The committee have not put in any expenses although Helen is expecting some mileage expenses to follow from Chris as he travels around the area

£350 has been taken in deposits for camp in February and £500 for 2022 affiliation fees.

Helen has transferred £1568.78 to the savings account to reduce the current account balance and the savings account balance is now rounded up to £8000

One club has paid the 10% profit contribution for their competition as they made over £250 profit, Shipton said that they did not know anything about the 10% payment and felt that they did not get any help and support from Area 12. Charlotte replied that the schedule had already been done for them, also she explained that BRC create the templates, but BRC only get involved with the qualifying competitions it is up to the individual clubs running the qualifiers to do everything else as the organisers. The rest of the day is up to the organising club, area only classes are run as not all qualifying classes can be very poorly supported.

BRC have said that as many or as few qualifiers can be run on the day

All schedules are in the back of the BRC rulebook, free copies are available on the BRC website for download, together with a check list. Clubs must always go to the rule book as the first point of contact

The last 4 years of Area 12 accounts show the 10% income from clubs that run at a profit.

SWDG said that they did not received a refund for Junior dressage, Helen confirmed again that clubs should not run at a loss and explained that the 10% started as the committee used to run most of the area events and then clubs were brought in to assist but the 10% ensured that they did not ever run at a loss

The accounts were accepted and this was proposed by Lamberts Castle and seconded by Brent Knoll.

7 Training Report

Lucy explained that there was a zoom training in January attended by 150 with Russell Guire

Rally days were very popular with Caroline Moore and Colleen Knox

Grass roots training was poorly attended - Lucy said she will not be running these again!!

2022 training grant will make a big difference, this enables groups of 2 or 3 per lesson and reduced costs

The training organised for 2022 so far:

Camp - February - running at cost, being held at Wales and West

Rally days - pick and mix, flat and jumping

Charlotte added that we are still in need of area stewards as Karen and Anna have stepped down, so we now only have 3 fully trained stewards in our rather large area, area 12 is the second biggest area in the country!!

There is a stewards training weekend held at Stoneleigh early in 2022

Martin has started his training and is shadowing current stewards

Lindsey Opperman has kindly stepped forward to do the training and is already a great asset to the area as a BS and BD steward

Roy has put his name forward to become a steward

Chris is going to speak to BRC to try and get extra training. Charlotte wants to do a refreshers course a year early to get up to date with the rules

If anyone would like to step forward then 2022 will be for shadowing and the weekend training for 2023, you will come away with a huge pool of knowledge that can then be used in your own clubs

8 Area Competitions

Winter competitions are all sorted, apologies for the tight schedule for the end of the year with 3 qualifiers in 3 weeks, but they all needed fitting in!!

Combined Training- ETSW will be running this at Pontispool on 19th March 2022

Dressage to Music - Charlotte is happy to incorporate this into her BD DTM that she holds in May - just need to look at the bank holiday dates due to the Queen's Platinum Jubilee

Horse Trials - Sid and Otter are to hold this at Pontispool on 4th June 2022

Summer Dressage - junior and senior - SWDG - dates and venue TBC

Riding test and style SJ - Taunton - dates and venue TBC

Summer SJ - Shipton - 31st July 2022 venue TBC

Arena Eventing - Witheridge - Autumn 2022 - date and venue TBC

Winter SJ - Quantock - date and venue TBC

Winter Novice Dressage - date and venue TBC

Winter Intermediate Dressage - East Mendip - date and venue TBC

It was suggested that a quick zoom meeting should be held after Christmas to discuss dates, if you have a date sorted before this time, please let Lucy know and she will keep a list, maybe a google docs document that can be shared, please leave at least 2 weeks between each qualifier.

9 Any other business

WEBSITE

2 years ago it was minuted that we have no-one to run the website and therefore it is not being updates, this is still the case 2 years later!!

Charlotte has spoken to Lollipop and they have quoted £2000 - £3000 for a new website, to run and host by them. This was considered too much money

It was felt that club schedules will not need to be uploaded onto this Area website as social media can be used for this

Emma-Jane stated that a lot of the issues with the website not being kept up to date was because no clubs sent content through to her to upload. ALL documents that need to be uploaded are to be sent as a PDF so that they can be uploaded quickly by the touch of a button.

Helen has spoken to someone who has a degree in social wizardry to design a straight forward sight and is awaiting a price. All that is needed is Dates, links, contacts and possibly a diary

Helen offered to run it as long as all documents are sent as a PDF

Chris said it may be best to pay someone to run the website as they are then being paid for a specific job role.

SWDG felt it was best to be run in house so that it was known information

It was felt that only schedules for area qualifiers need to be on the website and a link to the entries page/pre entries website

Ros offered to help Helen

SWDG commented that they spent £1800 on a new website with an auto generated diary, takes payments and links from Facebook

Wix is a good platform

Roy suggested that it needed to be someone dedicated to the role

Mid Somerset are concerned that a lot of their members are not on Facebook and worry that they will miss out on events/training if they are not posted on the website, the emails that Anna sends with updates etc have been very helpful

Clubs to go back to their members and ask if anyone is willing to take it on. Chris said again it would be a paid role.

PRE ENTRIES

Wetheridge are concerned with the rising costs of pre entries, stating it is cheaper to jump at the Royal International than at our local qualifier. When asked, BRC said that the costs were due to sheets and rosettes (that are sponsored). There were also concerns that the Championships are not cheap to enter either.

Charlotte has spoken to Jenny Pallet at BRC asking for a breakdown of £11 pre entry
Helen said the costs are going up again for 2022, saying that she feels it pays for the stewards training weekend. Sally and Chris will be taking this issue up with BRC.

BRC are looking at including this charge within the membership fee in future.

Helen feels that BRC run the championships miles away from Stoneleigh, BRC are then paying for their staff to move to the championship site for the duration on the competition. Chris is going to bring it up at the next BRC zoom meeting. Stoneleigh needs to be used more. Lincoln appears to be booked 3 years in advance.

All BRC competitions have to be of an affiliated standard, with costs involved when competing at BS/BD/BE affiliated competitions one pays the same entry fee but receives prize money. However, BRC membership is cheap compared to other affiliated membership and that may be why we pay more in pre entries.

It was felt across the floor that BRC should be more affordable for us all.

The championships that were moved last year cost some clubs a lot of money and it was felt that there should have been an insurance refund in place by BRC.

Chris has a new BRC leaflet to attract new members, handed out copies.

Margaret said that the new treasurer of Mid Somerset had worked out that membership per person costs the club £29.40 And in regards to fees for championships - all BRC staff are on holiday for the week of the championships - how is this funded????

MEMBERSHIP

West Somerset asked why the membership could not be on a 12 month rolling membership, so that if you join in October you are a member for the next 12 months.

When BRC have been asked in the past they said that members were not covered by insurance if it expired over 12 months, it is thought that there are issues over the administration of a 12 month rolling membership.

All members are to pay the full fee as BRC want affiliation fees in full.

ANN BUTCHER MEMORIAL AWARD

This award is for the Area 12 volunteer of the year presented in memory of Ann. This year's winner is Daphne Pemberton, from Sid and Otter.

Daphne helps at all events, has never missed an area meeting, is a huge help at Sid and Otter events and all this at aged 87 years old.

Any nominations for the 2022 award to be sent to Charlotte, ideally looking for people who go above and beyond for Area 12.

Next ALM meeting

Provisionally booked at Ruishton Hall on 24th March 2022, but Helen will also look into the availability of Othry Village Hall and this will be confirmed as soon as possible.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9.35pm. Helen asked for everyone to help pack away the tables and chairs and thanked Margaret and Marion for the refreshments.