



# Rearsby Lodge Riding Club

Ride Together - Train Together - Compete Together - Have Fun Together

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

WEDNESDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2023

THE VILLAGE HALL, 20 ASHBY ROAD, GADDESBY, LE7 4WF

### 1) Welcome and apologies:

Sue McGrath welcomed everyone, including Nick Staines, our president. She went on to explain that she had taken up the role of Acting Chair halfway through the year due to Anette Whitehouse having to step back with health issues. She thanked all the committee for working tirelessly to support her to keep the club running so well.

The committee members in attendance introduced themselves:

Anette Whitehouse (Chair, 1<sup>st</sup> Aider and Quadrille organiser)

Sue McGrath (Deputy Chair, currently Acting Chair, club representative for Area 16, AE show organiser and clinic organiser)

Celia Dyson (Secretary, 1<sup>st</sup> Aider, 2023 camp organiser, clinic organiser, & Horse Trials teams' manager)

Claire Atkins (Treasurer, 1<sup>st</sup> Aider, dressage shows organiser, dressage clinics organiser, and Dressage teams' manager)

Kate Hill (Website and Social Media content, 1<sup>st</sup> Aider, and show jumping & AE shows organiser)

Tracy Walker (Chair of Finance sub-committee, and show jumping shows organiser)

Jane Wood (Quadrille organiser)

Jacqui Ludlham (keeps us up to date on BRC rules, and dressage clinics organiser)

Sandy Cornwall (organisers all our social/non-riding events, 1<sup>st</sup> Aider, and 2023 camp organiser)

Lucy Roberts (joined the committee mid-term, and 2023 junior and senior camp organiser)

Hayley Horn (new to the committee, and dived into AGM organisation)

Committee member apologies were received from:

Jules Johnson (Membership Secretary, rosette ordering, and Quadrille organiser)

Julie Carrier (Health & Safety Officer, Show jumping shows organiser, and competition points and trophies)

Becca Smith (Safeguarding Officer)

## **2) Minutes of previous AGM**

The minutes of the 2022 AGM were accepted as a true record.

This was proposed by Carol Davis and seconded by Alix Knight

## **3) Matters Arising**

One query was raised at the last AGM which needed resolving. Nicki Grayson had asked about the high expenditure on team events in 2022. Claire Atkins (Treasurer) explained that for the year of 2022 the club paid all the prelim section of entry fees for both qualifiers and championships in all disciplines. This proved to be very costly for the club as so many club members wanted to take part in teams (which is to be applauded). We also provided training for the teams who had qualified for championships, again in all disciplines. RLRC had a very successful 2022 at qualifiers. Also, we had to provide volunteer stewards for all the qualifiers and championships and, as a club, we offer fuel expenses for our volunteers. As we had so many teams entered, we paid out a lot of expenses, because the number of volunteers needing to be provided depends on the number of teams entered.

Nicki was asked if this had resolved her query and she agreed it had.

## **4) Chair's Report**

Sue thanked Anette for handing over a happy, compliant, successful club with an increased membership including 40 juniors. This is a great credit to Anette's leadership.

Sue sees the committee as a big wheel with each committee member being a cog in that wheel, and each having their own job to help the club to run smoothly. The committee meets every 4 – 6 weeks, and we have a WhatsApp group where we can discuss urgent issues between meetings. We also have an excellent website, built and managed by Kate. Please take a look at the website regularly as Kate is always updating it with events and information.

During 2023 we have had:

8 dressage shows; 3 show jumping shows; and 3 arena eventing shows. There are already shows for 2024 advertised on the website.

We have also undertaken Quadrille displays wowing audiences around the country, and displays for 2024 are already in the diary.

We have held an abundance of clinics in flatwork, jumping, grids, poles and quadrille

We have introduced more unmounted social and educational events than in previous years, including a visit to Oakham Equine Vets; a talk from a vet about identifying types of lameness; motivational evenings with Dani Olding; and a visit to Saywell Equestrian Rehabilitation Centre to name a few.

We have held 2 camps: a one-day junior camp, followed by a 2-night residential senior camp in August at Aylesford Equine.

We have had lots of teams entering the Area 16 qualifiers in all disciplines. Our junior teams have done particularly well this year. Sue thanked the team managers for their hard work and support in getting the teams together. One of the hardest parts of being a team

manager is getting enough volunteers to be stewards at these shows. The number of volunteers required depends on the number of teams entered, and we do very well, as a club, with our teams. Please, therefore, consider if you could volunteer to help.

We have put a few more members through the First Aid at Work qualification so we can provide our own First Aiders at club shows. We still need to have a paramedic at fixed fence shows (AE) but we can now support all our other shows, which saves a great deal of money. In 2024, we will have a junior and senior camp; and we are looking at having a side saddle taster session. We have put questionnaires on the tables and ask that you fill them in with what you would like to see the club do in 2024.

The report was proposed by Celia Dyson and seconded by Anette Whitehouse as an accurate record.

## **5) Treasurer's Report**

Membership we had 218 members, with 40 Juniors, 171 Seniors, 3 Honorary & 4 Social. In 2022 we paid BRC £20 per member, this is now increasing to £24 per member for 2024. Due to the BRC increasing the affiliation fee and running of shows i.e. venue hire, judges fees etc, the committee have decided we need to increase the membership fees in 2024 to the following: £38 for seniors, £28 juniors, £25 for social members and £78 for family membership.

Showjumping Shows made a healthy profit this year of £1549.

Dressage – has made a profit of £750 – we still have not been invoiced for the October dressage at Pickering Grange which should be about £400. Dressage shows have struggled this year with only 38 entries in October. Judges now can charge up to £1.50 per rider and they also include any withdrawn competitors in their charges.

Aylesford is £75 per hour for both arenas – this cost also includes them clearing the jumps off their SJ arena. Pickering Grange is £80 per hour for both arenas.

Arena Eventing made a good profit of £1038.

Quadrille Training has been successful again this year and the club gave them £1000 towards their stabling fees when they went to Hartpury.

Training/Clinics –have been successful making a profit of £899. Due mainly to having some non-members come to our clinics and paying an extra £5 per lesson.

Team Fees are made up of 2 parts: Prelim fee which is paid direct to BRC for admin costs etc and the area fee which goes to the area to run the qualifier. When we enter teams and individuals to BRC we cannot get the fee back if someone withdraws.

This year members have paid the prelim fee and the area fee. The Club has been very successful and had numerous teams and individuals going to Championships throughout the year and as in previous years the Club has paid the Championship fee so this is why we have expenditure of £1995.

We are very lucky we have so many great equestrian venues in our area but obviously this comes at a price and I know Arena UK have almost doubled their hire costs this year.

With Equine Affairs, every transaction not entered through My Riding Life whether cash, cheque or BACS adds an additional booking fee of £1.50.

Affiliation Fees & Insurance is another payment to BRC and Area 16.

Travel Expenses are mainly from either Team Managers or helpers and volunteers attending qualifiers and championships. We have to send volunteers to help at all qualifiers & championships. The more teams we enter, the more volunteers we need to provide.

First Aid Training – We paid for another 4 Members to be first aid trained.

Misc Expenses – Refreshments for show stewards etc

Gifts – usually wine or flowers for trainers etc

Bank Balance as at 6<sup>th</sup> December 2023 - £10,042.87.

The report was proposed by Carol Davis and seconded by Jacqui Ludlam as an accurate record.

#### **Appointment of the Auditor for 2024:**

Claire asked if she could appoint Emily Hedger to be the Auditor of our accounts again for 2024.

This was proposed by Liz Atkins and seconded by Tracy Walker

#### **6) Election of Committee Members**

Due to the resignation from the committee during the year of Sharon Brengosz, Sharon Roscoe, Jess Gray and Celia Dyson we now have vacancies on the committee. Lucy Roberts and Hayley Horn were co-opted onto the committee mid-term; and Claire Lowbridge and Kirsty Berry have come forward to join the committee as of today. This means we will still have one vacancy on our committee for 2024.

It was agreed unanimously at this AGM that these new committee members could be voted onto the committee on block, rather than individually, so their election was proposed by Carol Davis and seconded by Anette Whitehouse.

#### **7) AOB**

MEMBERSHIP PORTAL – Claire Atkins explained the new registration system:

Every member should have received an email from BRC and Sport 80 regarding your membership.

All membership will now be done through the Sport 80 website and there is a link from our website. You will need to set up your own account using your email address.

As from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2024, Membership will be rolling, so if you join on say 1<sup>st</sup> March 2024 your membership will expiry on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2025 not as before on the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024.

The BRC affiliation fee per member is £24 and this will go straight to BRC and the club will get the remainder of the membership fee you are charged by RLRC minus ½ the transaction fee paid to Sport 80 (currently you will pay 75p)

You have been generated a membership reference number which will now be your BRC membership every year going forward.

Kirsty Berry offered to help anyone struggling, as her husband's polo club already uses the system. She said it is very straight forward to use.

This was the only AOB so the meeting closed at 8.15pm