

SUFFOLK RIDING CLUB
Draft Minutes of the Annual General Meeting
Saturday 23RD February 2019 7.00PM
Stonham Aspal Village Hall

PRESENT:

Committee: Jean Timms (JLT), Margaret Walton (MW), Joy Tydeman (JT), Sharon Jones (SJ), Rosemary Kitchin (RK) Alexis Smith (AS), Allison Snell (ASn)
Members and friends: Jenny Walton, Bob Jones, Gill Wiggins, Lucy Hancock, Mairi Berriman Mike Bloomfield, Dawn Farnish, Maggie Connick, Christine, Leah and Ashlee Banham, Larissa Mayhew, Mark Mulley, Dave Bingham, Lizzy and Sophie, Hazel Pettifor, Elspeth MacFadyen, Danielle and Brieya Whitmore, Sue Turnbull, Karen Richards, Sophie Richards, Lucy Howell, Georgia Howell, Claire Hinitt, Maddy Hall, Tracy Hall, Glen Marney and Cara Taylor.

APOLOGIES: Lindsey Puttock (LP), Cathie Woolhouse (CW), Maggie Burt, Pippa Booth, Jenny Debenham, Webster Family, Jess and Tanya Johnson.

JLT welcomed all to the meeting, introducing herself and members of the committee.

MINUTES:

The minutes of the last AGM, held 24TH February 2018 were unanimously approved for accuracy and as a true record of that meeting, duly signed and dated by JLT.

MATTERS ARISING: None

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT (JLT)

This is my chance to review how the club got on in 2018, thank the people who made it happen and think about what to do in 2019. I am going to try to make this report quicker and shorter this year.

Membership

Numbers for 2018 were running just a bit lower than 2016 and 17 and include some with new members joining during the year and the inevitable loss of a few. Thanks to those of you who actively recruit friends to join, please keep it up. N.B. There are membership forms at the back for anyone who hasn't joined for 2018.

Of our current membership fee of £20, like last year we now have to pay £12 per person to BRC and also £135 (across all members) for club insurance (public liability, not to replace vet insurance for members), plus £50 towards Area 14, who run subsidised training sessions. We do need to keep our membership numbers up. The committee want to hold the annual membership fee at £20 for 2019. Now for our major activities:

1. Annual Show

This is the club's biggest undertaking each year and is key to financially supporting other club activities. Following months of unusually hot weather the weather forecast for our 2018 show day was more of the same which badly affected attendance, both from people whose horses were unfit to others coming for one or 2 classes only instead of making it a full day out. Attendance was down but as usual we had a very wide range of classes for all ages (both horses/ponies and riders/handlers). With outgoings including the hire of the venue, first aid cover and lunch for judges and helpers we ended up roughly breaking even.

I hope everyone has a note of the date – **3rd August** – for our 2019 show. Please can all members and friends help by promoting our show to friends and acquaintances as word of mouth is just as important as posters, Horsedates and distributing schedules for encouraging people to attend and enter lots of classes.

2. Training

Thanks to Rosemary, Margaret and also to Lucy Gooderham, plus Rossie Theobald who stepped in when Lucy was injured. One change in 2018 was the number of different indoor venues, with 2 sessions at Easton Park Arabian Stud (now called Martley Hall) and the RDA Woodbridge (3 sessions) as well as our more usual venues Otley (5 sessions) and Boundary Farm (2 sessions). All were well attended and, in particular, we are looking in good shape for a successful junior team in a few years. Members were also invited to take part in various Area 14 training initiatives which were subsidised by a BRC training grant. On offer in 2018 were a cross-country clinic given by Francis Whittington, an eventing clinic with Jo Williams and a show jumping clinic with Sharon Hunt

3. Area 14 competitions

Bad weather also affected Area 14 qualifiers in 2018, but this time it was snow, ice and high winds, causing the winter dressage at Easton College, Norwich, to be cancelled twice. As in 2017 we had 10 members representing the club including new members. Congratulations to Stephanie who was placed in novice dressage. Congratulations to Julia who was placed 1st in an early class at the Novice show jumping qualifier at Wix. Thank you and well done to all our competitors who represented the club, who you will see later.

As usual a particular thank you to Sharon who continues to battle with the Area 14 rule book, which changes every year.

The standard at Area competitions is still as high as ever but we shall continue to support members (finances permitting) in 2019 and encourage all members who want to "have a go", sticking with our aim that most importantly our riders enjoy themselves. It would be great if we can get enough for full teams at most qualifiers and ask all members and friends to have a recruitment drive on our behalf!

4. Non-riding activities

Weather again! On 15th July the Household Cavalry held their open day at Bodney Camp, near Thetford and we advertised to members hoping to have a good club group outing. The weather got hotter and hotter as the day approached and worried by the possible lack of shade and whether it would be cancelled most people decided not to go on this occasion but we were represented by the Jones family who were undeterred by the hot weather. (*Secretary note: meeting agreed to try again for 2019*)

Pudding and Quiz night At last year's AGM I asked for ideas for a social event and Tracy Hall suggested a Pudding Night which would be a good fund raiser. With increased enthusiasm following our lack of profit from our annual show we took Tracy and Maddy up on the idea and with their help a very successful Pudding and Quiz night took place on 29th September, enjoyed by all 70 attendees. Our **Annual Club meal** held at the end of November 2018 at our usual venue of the **The Swan** at Westerfield with a record number of 32 attending and enjoyed by all. Question: Shall we do it again in 2019? (*Secretary note: meeting agreed yes*)

Lastly there is one non-riding activity which we can't avoid is to help in the running one of the Area 14 qualifiers. We have agreed to provide some fence judges at the Eventer Challenge at Poplar on 24th March. We already have one volunteer (thank you Maggie Burt) but need a 2 or 3 more. Please volunteer if you can come. (*Secretary note: Lucy and Georgia Howell volunteered*)

5. Communications

Club emails, website and Facebook, should be keeping you all informed.

Firstly, we have ensured that we are keeping up with data protection legal requirements.

We have had a significant upgrade to our website in 2018 and also it has changed its name to www.suffolkridingclub.co.uk which is a lot easier to remember than the previous one. All formal documents relating the club are on the site as well as lots of photos. There is still plenty to do on the site and it will grow over time (hopefully!)

Please check your emails regularly for ones from the club as this is our most timely way of reaching everyone. We appreciate that some of you prefer Whatsapp or Facebook Messenger and it would be helpful if you could let me know so we can see if it is worthwhile us communicating to you that way. Our Facebook page is regularly updated by Alexis and the BRC Area 14 site gives information about competitions and training opportunities.

Sharon and I have worked hard this year to make online banking work for the club but with TSB having IT issues we have only got so far. However, you will see on the forms that membership fees and training can now be paid online if you prefer to pay that way.

Finally:

We do welcome feedback and ideas and all the committee have access to suffolkrc@gmail.com so please bombard us there with suggestions, offers of help and anything we have missed.

Thank you to everyone here who has supported us during 2018 and look forward to seeing you all at club activities and out and about in 2019.

TREASURERS REPORT for the year ending 31.12.18 (SJ)

A huge thank you to Pippa Booth and Jenny Walton, Pippa for providing professional advice and helping set up new accounting systems and Jenny for diligently auditing the accounts.

Please refer to the Receipts and Payments and Balance sheet for the year as previously circulated.

Our financial situation remains stable with £5936 in the bank as at 31.12.18 compared to £5777 last year.

This was despite a poor show result with a net profit of only £29. This was really disappointing as everyone worked so hard -but we cannot control the weather and the exceptional hot weather undoubtedly led to lower entries. If we had cancelled, there would already have been significant costs to pay such as first aid so we went ahead and whilst not financially great- we did provide a great show for those attending.

However, Tracy and her family came to our financial aid with the idea of a Pudding Night fundraiser. Not only did Tracy and her family take the lead in organizing the event, as you can see it produced a profit £610 - what a great night it was as well.

Training shows a small profit of £126. We only intend to break even with training but it is great to have a small profit rather than loss.

Teams cost £504, fairly static compared to last year.

Hoping it all makes sense, but any questions at any time please ask.

SUFFOLK RIDING CLUB

Receipts and Payments year ending 31.12.18

Income	2018	2017
Membership	760.00	800.00
Training	2449.00	1890.00
AGM	54.00	39.00
Show	1098.12	1625.75
Teams	63.00	0.00
Social	748.30	92.00
Christmas meal	487.50	85.00
	<u>5659.92</u>	<u>4531.75</u>
Interest earned in year	2.08	0.51
Total income	5662.00	4532.26
Less expenses		
British Riding Clubs subs	785.00	702.50
Training	2323.33	1812.50
AGM	82.02	91.32
Show	1069.77	1077.89
Teams	567.50	548.00
Caravan Reps & Renewals	0.00	7.49
Social	138.00	150.00
Donation - RDA	50.00	whw 100.00
Web hosting	0.00	36.00
Christmas meal	487.50	85.00
	<u>5503.12</u>	<u>4610.70</u>
	<u>158.88</u>	<u>-78.44</u>

**SUFFOLK RIDING CLUB
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DEC 2018**

Assets	2018	2017
Bank current ac	3260.54	3103.74
Bank deposit ac	2676.19	2674.11
	5936.73	5777.85
Less Liabilities	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Net assets	<u>5936.73</u>	<u>5777.85</u>

Reserves			
Opening balance	1.1.18	5777.85	5856.29
Net surplus/deficit		<u>158.88</u>	<u>-78.44</u>
Closing balance	31.12.18	<u>5936.73</u>	<u>5777.85</u>

Signed by Sharon Jones Dated 21.2.19

Treasurer

I have studied the records supplied to me and consider that these accounts have been drawn up correctly in accordance with the information, and there are no matters to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed J Walton Dated 21.2.19

ELECTION OF COMMITTEE:

JLT explained that according to the BRC rules every year 1/3rd of the longest in office members of the Committee stand down, this year being JLT, ASn and LP. Those standing down were prepared to stand again if required. Unanimously agreed. An invitation was made for anyone else who wanted to become a Committee Member, with no-one forthcoming.

ELECTION OF AUDITOR:

JLT thanked Jenny Walton (JW) for auditing the accounts for 2018 and asked if she would be prepared to stand again in 2019, JW agreed. Unanimously approved

TEAMS:

SJ reported that the club would support all those, however experienced who wanted to compete. AREA 14 and qualifier competitions were explained. It would be great to see more, including junior members competing, with the understanding that anyone competing needed to be competent and safe to do so.

TRAINING:

RK reported that lots of members attended and enjoyed training. 2018 had seen different venues visited. Unfortunately, the February 2019 training had to be cancelled due to the equine flu outbreak. The next training session was planned for 17th March 2019.

Discussion included if horses attending training would now need to have a minimum of six months vaccination cover? It was noted that as individuals and a club, we would not want to be responsible for a horse becoming sick, but also hoped that BRC/Insurance procedures would be available in time for the March training to clarify any requirements. Members would be advised accordingly. It was also noted some venues may stipulate the need to a minimum of six months vaccination cover.

THE WAY FORWARD – WHAT DO YOU WANT:

Show: suggestions included qualifier classes. It was noted that the annual show was intended to be a family show, rather than for more professional/competitive riders, but thought one or two qualifier classes would encourage more competitors and still provide members with the opportunity to compete for the members rosette in these classes.

Pudding Night: Tracy volunteered to help -unanimously agreed and welcomed. The possibility of a speaker for the evening was noted on a non-equine subject.

Elephant Race Night: suggested and supported.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None

Meeting closed at 7.55pm.

TALK by Claire Hinitt, Yard Manager, RDO (Woodbridge and District).

PRESENTATION OF TROPHIES 2018

Claire Hinitt presented the rosettes and trophies, assisted by JLT and MW.

Presentation of Points competition

Juniors	1st	Leah Banham	Paddy
	2nd	Ashlee Banham	Diddy
Seniors	1st	Elspeth MacFadyen	Oatfield Charlie
	2nd	Glen Marney	Moss
	3 rd	Maggie Connick	Lucy Lockett
	4th	Gill Wiggins	Basil
	5th	Sophia Richards	Darcy
	6 th	Karen Richards	Darcy

Presentation of All Rounder Trophies

Juniors	1st	Leah Banham	Paddy
	2 nd	Ashlee Banham	Diddy
	3 rd	Ashlee Banham	Dolly
Seniors	1st	Elspeth MacFadyen	Oatfield Charlie
	2 nd	Maggie Connick	Lucy Lockett
	3rd	Gill Wiggins	Basil
	4th	Karen Richards	Darcy
	4th	Sophia Richards	Buddy
	4th	Glen Marney	Moss

Everyone who had ridden for SRC in any Team event was also presented with a Team Members special Rosette: Karen, Glen, Julia, Elspeth, Stephanie, Gill, Sarah, Claire, Maggie, Sophia

A presentation of photographs taken at events held in the last 12 months was shown. Thanks to Bob Jones and photographers.