

## **Scottish Dressage Group**

**Annual General Meeting Wednesday 6 December 2017**

**7:30pm The Stable Bar, 50 Mortonhall Gate, Frogston Road East, Edinburgh  
EH16 6TJ**

### **DRAFT MINUTES**

**Present:** Hazel Hunter, Martha Green, Claire Scott, Kayreen Jones, Wendy Renton, Joan Lauder, Lynda Addis, Jenny Baird, Joyce Hume, CM Finlayson Kerry Nelson, Melissa Cudmore, Robert Stephen, Sheila Rodgers.

**Apologies:** Alys Watson, Claire Fraser, Carol Wood, Jacky Chalmers, Julie Ross, Claire Haddon, Natalie Wylupek Ros Kirkman.

**Minutes of last year's AGM:** Approved: Claire Scott, Seconded: Sheila Rodgers.

**Chairperson's Report:** A warm welcome to everyone. Thank you for attending our AGM tonight. It pleases me to report SDG has had another successful year. Competitions were well supported throughout the year and regularly oversubscribed resulting in waiting lists for non-members.

SDG have again had both teams and individuals representing our club at BRC qualifiers the past year in March and November, which is tremendous. The priority for SDG is for members, while representing their club, to enjoy the experience. Should we do well, then that is an added bonus which we welcome. Our thanks are once again due to our committee member Claire Scott for making this possible. Thanks also to our committee member Martha Green who was our Chef D'Equipe at the recent BRC Area Qualifiers at SNEC. Martha also helped Edinburgh & District in the final preparations including the important task of laying all the arenas.

Please remember SDG have access to a range of clothing which our logo can be embroidered on to with Dakota Equestrian. Contact should be made direct with Dakota to obtain these garments. Our thanks to Kayreen Jones for making this possible.

20x60 training days have been organised the past year and thanks must go to committee member Kayreen Jones for making this possible. Thanks also to our member Joan Lauder who volunteered to help anyone wanting help at some of these sessions.

We have also started using Horse Monkey for our event entries and hopefully we will soon be using this technology for accepting annual subscription payments too. Thank you to our committee members, Carol Wood, Claire Scott, Julie Ross and Sheila Rodgers, who have all put in considerable work to make this possible. The result of this change will see a huge improvement in how we do things in the future.

Due to BRC regulations, we now require having a qualified first aider in attendance at our events. A fee will be asked for in addition to the entry fee to contribute towards these costs. We are still looking for suitably qualified first aiders for our March and April competitions next year. If you are appropriately qualified and can attend, even for part of the day, please let us know.

Our membership is now in the region of 60, which is most encouraging, especially when there are several other riding clubs also in the Lothians. Our thanks to Sheila Rodgers for managing the administration of our membership and liaising with BRC keeping our records accurate and up to date.

Despite the increase in our membership, committee member numbers remain well below what is needed. I ask members to please consider joining the committee. It is imperative that this situation is rectified very soon and essential to the survival of our club. No previous experience is necessary as tasks can be shared and committee members support each other when required. No one is on their own.

The existing committee really do need more help as they are seriously overstretched. The committee should be made up of 14 members. Presently it is 8, and has been for some time. We are also now looking for someone to take on the role of Treasurer from Carol Wood who has recently resigned from this role resulting in our committee being made up of 7 members. Our sincere thanks to Carol for all the work she has done, and still does do for SDG. It is very much appreciated.

The committee too have horses and try to compete at our competitions. Presently sometimes this doesn't happen due to lack of volunteers coming forward. I am not sure all our members are aware of this happening and it is important they do know.

For more information about joining, or just helping/supporting the committee on a regular basis, please come and speak to a committee member. They are a really nice, friendly bunch!

To those of you who have volunteered during the past year; thank you. Without you our competitions simply would not take place. To those of you who have not yet volunteered, please do so. It is a condition of your membership. It is so much nicer for everyone involved when people contact us offering help instead of the committee having to chase people up for help, which is most time consuming. Even one hour's help can make a huge difference.

May I take this opportunity to thank my fellow committee members who do an amazing job. I as Chair, and as a member, am very grateful indeed for everything they do for our club. They are all volunteers and all lead busy lives. They are Treasurer, Carol Wood, Membership Secretary, Sheila Rodgers, Claire Scott, Wendy Renton, Kayreen Jones, Julie Ross, Martha Green, and myself, your Chair, Hazel Hunter.

**Membership Secretary's Report:** Considerable work involved due to technicalities with BRC and also Horse Monkey trying to get the latter ready for taking subscriptions as well as competition entries. Big benefit here is accurate record of email address. Previously this was hand written when sent and not always clear.

Membership presently 60, was 63 this time last year. Expected to return to last year's figure of around 80. Presently no juniors however Sheila going to speak to Pony Club people to put us on their radar. Robert Stephen enquired as the number of males in our club. Not many.

BRC changed the membership number system which resulted in considerable work for Sheila. Thanks to much work done by Sheila, everything now sorted. BRC staff are salaried. Sheila is a volunteer!

**Treasurer's Report:** Note received from Carol Wood to Chair. To September 2017. The accounts have once again been subject to an independent review by the accountants Gillespie Tax. Main points to note: Very small loss made over the last year of nearly £30. Therefore bank balance continues to be healthy with just over £4600 in the current and interest account.

Income and Expenditure: Subscription income-Appears much higher than the previous year due to the 2017 subscriptions all being banked in this financial year (previously renewals had been banked when received so would have crept into the previous year and not the year that they related to along with an increase in membership numbers-so around 80 members in this year.

Competitions(income): Again income higher than the 2016 year, mostly due to the cancellations that we had in 2016 (weather issues) and also a good number of non-members entering this year.

Training and Coaching income- this is the horse pilates demo that we held in October last year.

BRC fees- are based on the membership numbers and usually play catch up with our actual membership numbers as they are based on the calendar year for membership so we might see these increase slightly in the 2018 accounts.

AGM room hire – just the little bit of food that we decided to offer last year.

Competitions (expenditure)-this is made up of arena hire, judges travel and of late a fee for our first aider on site cover. Although we charge our members £2 each for a contribution to the first aid hire, in most cases this has fallen short of the actual cost for the day. Going forward we are looking at first aid training for our members so this might help keep the costs down in future.

Misc-Mostly incidental costs such as tea/coffee which we gain a little income for. Chairperson's phone calls etc.

**Subscriptions and Entry Fees**-Subscription fee to remain at £20. Robert Stephen raised that recent deficits could not be maintained and after discussion raising competition entry fees was considered sufficient to rectify this.

Entry fees to increase for members to £11 plus £2 first aid and non-members £15 plus £2 for first aider fee per competition (not per class). Increased entry fees will apply from the March competition onwards.

Joan Lauder enquired what % of subscription goes to BRC. It is a flat fee of £12.

**Competitions Report, Teams/Individuals Report, Training Days 20x60 Arena Report:** Competitions-possibility of changing the format *ie* starting with more advanced classes. Non-members didn't get a place at summer competitions. Getting volunteers-various suggestions were discussed of rewarding existing volunteers, who turn up time and time again, including priority in getting a competition place if competition oversubscribed, or even an entry discount. Although the committee will keep an open mind to ways to encourage volunteering it was considered sad that this was necessary when it is a condition of membership, and it is the member's own club they would be supporting. Also offering a discount not a preferred option as entry fees being

increased to cover costs, so any discounts affect income. Looking at getting a volunteer co-ordinator who would plan ahead and book members in advance. Possibly charge more to non-volunteering competitors was suggested. Again not a preferred option.

First Aider: pay once per rider and not per class. Planned training course did not get numbers to make it worthwhile. Jenny Baird had said she was interested but received no response. PVG check also required. Christine Finlayson indicated she would do first aid course. The committee will look at this again.

**Teams Report from Claire Scott**-Claire Scott been doing teams for 2 years now. First year was a lot of learning but Claire says it is getting easier, but still time consuming. However, due to feedback from members taking part, is very worthwhile. Last year we had Joan Lauder, Rachel Jackson, Sorrel Feather all qualify. This year our team in March were 3<sup>rd</sup>, individuals were also placed, and this was with some members never having done this before. All enjoyed the experience. FYI: SDG pay preliminary entries ie half total entry. Refreshments/lunch was subsidised by SDG for competitors, and SDG volunteers, last month at SNEC in an effort to help with expenses.

**20x60 Training Day:** First one early in the year was very successful. The October one was cancelled due to bad weather and conflicting with another riding club training day in the Lothians. Our thanks to Kayreen Jones for organising both. Kayreen offered to do more of these including an opportunity to do judge writing training, scorer training etc should there be sufficient interest. Our member Joan Lauder kindly offered her help again with training in any area of the day. Joan also judges for SDG at our competitions and represented SDG at Area Medium finals finishing 8<sup>th</sup>. Our committee member Wendy Renton also kindly offered to assist with these training days. There will also be a social side to this with coffee and cake!

### **Re election of committee members:**

Hazel Hunter and Sheila Rodgers were due to stand down as the two longest serving members of the existing small committee. Both were re-elected by many in the audience. For record purposes; proposed by Robert Stephen and seconded by Joan Lauder. The other members of the committee have agreed to stand for another year. The committee have a brain-storming evening planned for January in an effort to find a way to recruit more members on to

the committee in order for the club to continue. That is how serious this is. As mentioned earlier, we are looking for someone to replace Carol Wood who has recently resigned as Treasurer.

## **AOB**

Joan Lauder has kindly agreed to investigate the possibility of SDG hosting a training day with **Centaur Biomechanics**. Members will be advised of progress/information in due course.

Joan Lauder has also kindly agreed to investigate **dressage pole work**. Two names which were mentioned were Patrick Print BHSI and Emma Gibson. Again costs etc will be advised to members in due course.

Claire Scott has kindly agreed to investigate the possibility/costs of getting Harry Payne to hold a **test and training day**. Sheila Rodgers is also going to approach Les Smith to check out the possibility/costs as another option. Again information to members will follow in due course.

Joyce Hume requested limiting the **number of horses in warm up arena/indoor school** at Cousland on competition day after a recent incident which thankfully no horse or rider were injured. (It should be noted an apology was given, and accepted, immediately after this incident). It was asked if competitors new the rules of riding in a warm up area and there was doubt all did. Suggestions received included to put a rules notice up in the school and/or to send something out with future schedules and/or members newsletter. Up until this incident, courtesy and respect for fellow competitors had always been shown, which resulted in acceptable behaviour shown by all. It was also suggested the first aider on duty should be positioned in the indoor school to both "police" the area as well as respond to any request for a first aider. Joyce also offered to be arena steward at next competition which is in February.

**Location of AGM** to be investigated for next year as, although ideal, unfortunately due to there being no door in the room we were using, from time to time, the noise from the public bar was excessive. The room the committee use at The Stair Arms on the A68 near Pathhead was suggested as a possible alternative.

**Presentation of Trophies as follows:**

## **Winter 2016/2017**

**Intro R** Sam Montgomery Gordon – Bella

**Intro O** Natalie Wylupek – Piper

**Prelim R** Lynda Addis- Burnfoot Dante/Kerry Nelson-Ringo/Claire Hadden-Skye (Joint winners: small trophy each with usual trophy being shared 4 months each over 12 month period).

**Prelim O** Hazel Hunter-Roger Wilco

**Novice**-Elaine Napier-Ryan/Julie Ross-Blue Surprise (Joint winners small trophy each with usual trophy being shared 6 months each. Julie Ross collected main trophy and small trophy 9.12.17).

**Elementary**-Claire Fraser-Murphy Two

**Medium**-Carol Wood-Zamaro

**Advanced Medium**-Joan Lauder-Udolin

**Total points**-Claire Fraser-Murphy Two

## **Summer 2017**

**Intro R**-Laura Kerr-KC

**Intro O**-Christine Finlayson-Katie

**Prelim R**-Kerry Nelson-Ringo/Christine Finlayson-Katie (Joint winners small trophy each with usual trophy being shared 6 months each)

**Prelim O**- Hazel Hunter-Roger Wilco

**Novice**-Sorrell Feather-Hooray Henry

**Elementary**-Claire Scott-Vinny Star

**Medium**-Claire Scott-Lord Granite

**Advanced Medium**-Joan Lauder-Udolin

**Volunteer of the Year**-Ros Kirkman

**Overall Winner of Intro Points** -Sam Montgomery Gordon-Bella

**Special Achievements Award** – Claire Fraser-Murphy Two

