



Minutes of the 54th Annual General Meeting

Friday 22nd March, 2024

Norman Jepson Inn, Bluebell Way, Preston, PR2 5PZ

Attendees: Fiona Lace – President
Dianne Wood – Chair
Janet Zaldats _ Secretary
Linda Rodgers _ Treasurer

Committee: Ade Lanigan, Liz Ross, Hilary Secker, Gaynor Parry, Rachel Smith , Ellen Eccles, Rose Dugay, Barbara Ecroyd, Alan Goodenough

Members present: Su Schofield, A Clutton, Carol Barnes, Margaret Rowley, Anna Charnley, Kim Greer, Heather Hardy, Suzanne Simpson, Becky Edge, Janet Edge, Dorothy Hames, Donna Goodwin, Caroline Dickens, Phillipa Hamilton, Sue Corsini, Anne Baker, Katie Boothby, Lucy Wilson, Wendy Snell, Emily Wallace, Karen Bargh, J. McDonald, Emma McDonald

Apologies: Received from 16 members and listed by the Secretary

Minutes from the last AGM – Proposed by A. Goodenough & Seconded by K. Boothby.

Chairman's Report – Dianne Wood

Good evening, everyone and welcome to the 54th AGM for Northern Dressage group.

The competition year again ran smoothly, competitions have been well attended with some very full days and occasionally we have had to close entries early as the days have been full. The majority of competitors are members – so hopefully that means we are doing something right! We have recently added a couple of classes to the schedule – pairs classes to enable our members to practice for the riding club qualifiers and now a pick your own advanced class.

I am delighted that whenever we appeal for help for shows that we always seem to have plenty of volunteers. Many thanks to all our committee members who have helped to run the competitions and the members who have given their time to help run the days.

The championships were a great success again. We did get a little generous with wildcards which ensured a very full day with some fabulous prizes donated by many generous sponsors. Huge thanks to all those who supported us. Can we all say a huge thank you to Ade who organised sponsorship and generous prize donations.

Training has been well supported as always with the weekend sessions at Fleetwood Hall proving to be very popular. Many thanks to our regular trainers – Fiona Lace, Phillipa Hamilton, Julie Graham and of course

Stephen Clarke. Could we also have a show of appreciation to Gaynor, Liz and Tonia who continue to work hard behind the scenes organising these sessions.

Camp was fairly quiet last year, with a few people sadly pulling out last minute. However it still covered costs and even made a small profit so not a disaster. I do still have a few spaces available this year as we are in the bigger block with capacity for 31 horses. Always a fantastic weekend. Thanks to Janet and Ade who help me with the organisation.

Membership has had a big overhaul as BRC now require all clubs to use Sport 80. This caused a little bit of angst – but will have many benefits to our members with a rolling 12-month membership and the option to auto renew. Huge thanks to Ade for the amount of work she has put in setting this up for us and to Linda for dealing with the financial side of it. I also need to extend huge thanks to Hilary and her mum for ensuring that information goes onto our fabulous new website swiftly and also to Hilary for writing 'how to' guidance for our members.

Teams yet again have had an outstanding year. Last year after the AGM we co-opted Alan Goodenough onto the committee, and he has taken over organising the jumping teams – with some considerable success. He certainly hasn't let Janet down!

Some team highlights in championship order:

Intermediate dressage team – Emma McDonald, Hilary Secker, Rebecca Dale and Sam Baker retained their national champion status.

Combined training, the team qualified for the championships and Janet, who was trying to avoid qualifying as she had a wedding to attend on champs weekend, did an outstanding job to win overall and qualify as an individual! At the champs Emma McDonald came 4th and Janet 7th.

Horse trials – at the qualifiers, a team win and another individual win for Janet at 80, and a team win for our area 100 team (with Orla McEvoy from Macclesfield making up the team)

The HT championships was incredibly wet but our 100 team came third with an individual win for Kath Pinnington.

The National Championships held at Lincoln was an incredibly busy weekend for us – We had qualified teams in all dressage sections and an 80cm show jumping team. All the dressage teams achieved a top 10 place – and our pairs, Hilary Secker and Alan Goodenough, became national Champions.

Dressage to music and introductory championships had riders in all sections again - Dawn Grundy won the overall pick a test

Hilary and Alan continued their winning streak in the pairs dressage to music with Alan also taking 4th in the novice music.

Emma Harrison was 4th in the prelim music.

We also had pairs in the introductory championships who managed an 8th place – well done Lucy Wilson and Kim Greer.

Online Christmas cracker competition a win for Imogen Haworth and 2nd place for Emily Wallace.

A few of us are still recovering from the 1st National Championships of 2024 – back at Bury Farm for another music and Introductory championships as the competition has changed seasons.

Gilly Hinnigan came 2nd at Advanced medium

Our pairs became National champions for the 3rd time in 6 months!

Introductory Championships -Lucy Wilson and Wendy Noy came 7th and 8th respectively

Alan improved by 2 placings to come 2nd in the novice and I achieved my goal of improving my 9th place from 2021 to a 6th in the prelim music.

Overall NDG had a rather successful year!

Finally, I would like you to join me in saying a massive thank you to all of our committee members who work incredibly hard to enable the smooth running of the club. Thank You!

Treasurer's Report and appointment of accountant – Linda Rodgers

I'm delighted to report that the club remains in a strong financial position, despite an overall loss for the past year of £1400. Today, overall, the club has over £26,000 in cash in the bank.

From the accounts you can see that our competitions made a surplus of £1410. Training continues to do well with a surplus of £378.00. The very well organised annual camp held at Somerford also contributed over £1000.00

Undoubtedly, our main expense for last year was supporting our excellent teams and individual members who achieved some great results in area and national competitions. I think that whilst we may be called Northern Dressage Group, we have some pretty good jumpers and eventers amongst our members and so we are looking forward to our continued success this year.

Over the last year....

We purchased a couple of new trophies which will be used at our superb championship show which is so excellently organised by Ade.

We counted all the pounds in the yellow Air Ambulance tins which we have at shows where we take the £1 contribution for test reading, and as a result donated £175 to the Air Ambulance charity.

Halfway through the year our website received a complete overhaul and a rewrite. This had the benefit of being a lot easier to administer, edit and to add content by members of the committee. There were the initial hosting and domain name registration fees. The website was superbly designed and actioned by Loulie Secker who is Hilary's mother and Loulie sits on the NLG committee. We are extremely grateful to Loulie as she carried out this excellent work free of charge.

The past year has brought some changes in how British Riding Club's administer memberships. Previously our membership year ran from January to December. The club took all the membership fees and then paid BRC their insurance invoice once a year (the premium for last year was £3900).

BRC have now moved to a rolling 12-month membership which means that no matter when you join the club you will benefit from a full years membership. BRC through a company called Sport 80 now carry out the financial administration of memberships and the club is then paid the outstanding balance. This means that we won't get a big bill each year for insurance premiums. The overall result of this change financially to the club is that it will seem like the membership income has reduced however it also means that we won't have the corresponding large insurance bill each year. So, in reality it all evens out!

As you know helpers are paid a £10 helpers fee for any half day of help, they provide at competitions so anyone can recoup some of their membership money by volunteering. Without helpers we would not be able to run our competitions. So, a big thank you to those who have helped over the past year. Competition entry fees have had to be increased from June by £1.00 and this is to offset the cost of running competitions going forward. As I mentioned earlier competitions made a surplus of £1400 however this figure on its own does not include rosettes or sheets which certainly do add up (each rosette costs £2.08 and each judges sheet is 25p) so as an average this adds around £100 to the cost of a competition day. For next year's figures the actual cost of rosettes and sheets will be factored into each competition and this will give us a very accurate picture of competition costs.

Arena hires are increasingly expensive and unfortunately, we are no longer in a position to run competitions at Aintree as they have increased their hire cost so much (to £1500 per day) that we would now lose hundreds of pounds by running a competition at Aintree. Just as a general guide running our typical competition at Crow Wood, the hire for the day is around £5-600 and for Myerscough when we are using both indoor schools and the outdoor it is around £900 - £1000. The loss of Aintree is a real shame as it was one of my favourite venues!

So finally, in conclusion, the club is continuing to thrive, if anyone has any questions about the accounts or aspects of the club's finance please don't hesitate to ask.

In conclusion, I would like to propose that CCW Accountants continue as our Accountants for the forthcoming year, and I also propose the 2023 accounts for approval. – All agreed

Election of Committee

Nominations and re-election of committee members. Janet said no new nominations had been received. Jane Ferguson stepped down from the committee last year. For re-election by rotation Rachel Smith, Ellen Eccles. Co-opted on to the Committee during 2023 was Alan Goodenough who was proposed as a full Committee member by J. Zaldats and seconded by A. Lanigan. All the above were agreed by the members present.

Presentation of Awards and Trophies

Points winners

Intro & Prelim A	Wendy Snell	Prelim B	Debbie Halliwell
PFSM	Carol Barnes	Novice A	Vanessa Clutton
Novice B	Emma McDonald	NFSM	Mary Abrams
Elementary & EFSM	Sam Baker	Medium	Gilly Hinnegan
Med/ Adv Med FSM	Dawn Grundy	Adv Medium	Dawn Grundy
Overall points winner – Sam Baker			

Annual awards

Rider of the year	Alan Goodenough	Horse of the Year	Corky (JZ)
Team members of the year	Heather Hardy	Star Member	Suzanne Simpson
Chairmans Award	Ade Lanigan		

AOB – Nil

Meeting closed at 21.00