



## **EQUESTRIAN TRAINING SOUTH WEST AGM (2)**

**Date:** 20th February 2019

**Location:** The Lamb at Weare

**Attendees:** Claire Vallis (CV), Margot Pool (MP), Sarah Barnes (SBN), Lucy Counsell LC), Jane Brazier (JB), Pip Page (PP), Abby Woodliffe (AW), Julie Milkins (JM), Roy Delfino-Orme (RDO), Christine Edwards (CE), Mike Edwards (ME), Tom Tylee (TT), Sarah Barden (SBD), Amy Barontini (AB), Carolyn Goodyer (CG), Courtney Heard (CH), Esther Bryan (EB), Charlotte Warman (CW).

---

### **Minutes from AGM**

**Chair's report:** Claire Vallis (CV)

- CV reported on some key events in the club's first full year of affiliation with the BRC. The club is fortunate to have enjoyed huge growth over this period. This has enabled us to participate in lots of Area 12 qualifiers, from which some 7 teams or individuals have attended Championships. Forthcoming Championships for 2019 include the 70cm team going to Aston le Walls for the arena eventing championship in early March. We may also have 2 individuals who have qualified to go to the Intermediate Winter Dressage Championships in late April, although whether they are able to attend is TBC as yet. The club also entered a team in the Blenheim Eventers Challenge (90cm class). We were thrilled that ETSW finished 5<sup>th</sup> out of 35 odd teams, in a very hot competition. We will seek to enter another team in 2019. There are 90 and 100 cm options but under the rules we are only able to enter one of these.

**CONFIDENTIAL**

- The club ran just under 150 training events last year, generating some 2000 odd entries into the club bank account, all managed and monitored by the team, especially Margot Pool and Sarah Barnes.
- Changes to the club constitution/rules for 2019:
  - Membership fee has been increased to £30. This is to reflect the market (i.e. fees levied by other Riding Clubs in Area 12) and to enable us to invest in teams – subsidising prelim entries and on occasion to subsidise training to ensure that it runs where we are slightly under the required booking numbers.
  - The cancellation policy has been changed to reduce the no refund notice period to 1 day only.
  - The committee has sadly needed to decline 3 membership applications this year on the basis of monies owed to the club and still outstanding.
  - The club now requires members who are participating in xc / arena xc activities to wear medical armbands.
  - The club will close its membership on 31 October each year to ensure that those joining get value for money.
- There is now an Area 12 Training Grant for grassroots training. Discussions are ongoing amongst the committee as to whether this is something we will apply for and to identify an appropriate training event for it. Watch this space.
- H&H Club of the Year - The club was proud to have been nominated for the Horse and Hound Club of the Year award in 2018. Although ETSW did not win, we were in very strong company, including the Armed Forces Riding Club and a charitable club formed to seek to broaden access to riding as a sport. We were extremely proud to have been nominated at such an early stage in our existence and our thanks go to those who took the time to nominate us.
- Olympia Trip – this excursion was a success and very popular. It will be repeated in 2019, but this year we will hire a coach with an onboard loo and drinks system.

- Pilates for riders course – although a popular idea on paper, this was the one initiative, taken by the club, which did not really work out. 14 people signed up for pilates and paid for it, but only 4 attended regularly, which was a shame. We do not propose to organise another course.
- Bookings – Changes to the club's booking system were necessitated as a result of facebook updates making our previous approach unworkable. Bookings are now set out in a spreadsheet which is protected and saved on Google docs. By holding the document in a secure environment off facebook we are better able to track and record bookings.

**Treasurer's Report:** Margot Pool (MP)

- Copies of the club's first full year of accounts were provided to the attendees. The accounts, which have been signed off by Steve Urch, show that the club is currently in a healthy financial position. The club now also has a stock of merchandise and rosettes for the future. Camp, the 2018 winter dressage event and Olympia trip all made money for the club. Having this modest financial buffer will help the club to grow and to assist us in supporting members in their participation in Area competitions. MP finished her report by explaining that we have put a box at the back of the room in case members wish to make suggestions to help the club develop and grow in future.

**Membership Report:** Sarah Barnes

- We finished last year with a membership of 326 – 42 juniors.
- 226 people have joined in 2019 so far.

**Area 12:** Roy Delfino-Orme (RDO)

- Next month the club will be sending a team and an individual to Aston le Walls for the arena eventing championships. We have 2 individuals who have qualified for the Winter intermediate dressage championships.

- RDO made several pleas to all club competitors: 1) please do read the eligibility criteria for the events you wish to enter to be sure that you are able to do so within the rules. 2) Please make sure your flu inoculations are up to date, especially seeing as so many venues require boosters to have been given within 6 months of the competition date in question. 3) Please identify if your entry is as a senior or a junior – this really helps to speed things up for RDO when he is putting entries and teams together. 4) Please note that refunds for the recently cancelled Area SJ competition are being processed so please be patient as they are on the way!

**Club Member of the Year 2019**

- RDO was named as the inaugural ETSW Club Member of the Year Award Winner for 2019. This award is manifested through the Julia Papadopoulos Memorial Trophy, sourced by CV in memory of our good friend Julia, who was one of the original ETSW committee members and who sadly passed away in a riding accident. Her family are aware of the trophy and are very touched. Julia's mother sent a message of congratulations to Roy which CV read out at the meeting. The message reinforced the importance of being an organ donor as Julia's organs have helped 5 people since she passed away.
- RDO was the overwhelming winner of the award this year. Nominated because of his selflessness, his ever smiling persona, his excellent management and people skills in running the club's participants in Area 12 competitions, and all this on top of being an avid competitor himself!

**Merchandise:** Chris Edwards (CE)

- CE has brought some samples of ETSW merchandise with her tonight for any interested parties. The club does not ordinarily hold a huge stock of ETSW products however, CE is putting in a group order this week, so members can save the cost of P&P if they order now. Baseball caps have sold out and will need to be restocked.

**Election of the Committee**

- Chair – Claire Vallis (nominated by SBD seconded by JM)
- Vice Chair – Lucy Counsell (nominated by CV seconded by RDO)
- Treasurer – Margot Pool (nominated by JM seconded by EB)
- Secretary – Sarah Barden (nominated by SBN seconded by LC)

- Membership – Sarah Barnes (nominated by TT seconded by SBD)
- Training – Julie Milkins (nominated by EB seconded by CE)
- Safeguarding – Esther Bryans (nominated by CW seconded by SBN)
- Merchandising – Chris Edwards (nominated by RDO seconded by PP)
- Area 12 Rep – Roy Delfino-Orme (nominated by CW seconded by LC)

### **Training / Competitions**

- Training: 'Keep on keeping on', is the motto as regards training. We are learning the rhythms of the training year and will be adjusting our instructor bookings accordingly e.g. August and December appear to be quiet months for various reasons. We intend to keep booking training on different days, because we recognise that people work a range of days and hours so we would like to accommodate this, to the fullest extent possible.
- Competitions: It is not really worthwhile for the club to be organising a large number of competitions as fund raisers, given that when we have tried to do so, the proposed events were not terribly well publicised and low entries forced cancellation. However we are organising a second Camp for this year. Camp will, as always, be available and suitable for all levels of rider, with jumps starting at 70cm and below. Camp in May is fully booked, July has one or two spaces as yet.
- FOTH qualifiers for 2019 will now take place at Aldon on grass before the end of March 2019 (so get your studs in competitors!)
- Quest teams – thanks to SBN for running this very popular initiative for the benefit of ETSW members.

### **End of Meeting**