



## AREA 12 AGM Minutes

8 March 2016

at St Mary's Inn, St Mary's  
Park, Stannington, Morpeth



### 1. Apologies and Attendance

**Area 12 Committee:** Lynsey Oliver – Area Rep, , Sue Maitland, Lauryn Stolk, Barbara Anderson, Jennifer Crawford, Joanne Marlor, Sophie Tunnah Michelle Clough – Regional Development Officer.

**Members:** Michelle Frizelle, Leigh-Ann Lewis, Keith McVittie, Kerry Browning, Sarah Rowell, Paul Chester, Martyn Johnson, Phillippa Curry, Charlotte Eagles, Andrew Tunnah.

**Apologies:** Chris Jopling, Denise Straughan

### 2. Chairman's Report – Lynsey Oliver

The Area Rep introduced herself and began by acknowledging that the area is lucky to have Alnwick Ford Equestrian ("AF") which has brought increased BS shows to the area and also Lane Farm Equestrian ("LFE") which runs popular Club Shows. Figures provided by LFE showed that whilst there were significant entries only a few of these were from actual 'Club' members. Increasing the uptake of club membership should be considered by the area committee and it was noted that the Teams for Schools scheme now running with BS may assist.

Kirkley Hall are also interested in running BS shows and are now offering their facilities for Academy Training, they have a full set of BS approved show jumps and the two outdoor and old indoor arena, although plans are in the pipeline for a new indoor arena in the future. Concerns were raised as to parking facilities if they were to run shows

Tilery Stables had indicated an interest in running BS shows although nothing further has come of this, it was commented on that the arenas they had were too small and they also had insufficient parking.

The Area is also fortunate to have Northumberland County Show which is again offering senior BS, enquiries had been made as to whether this could be extended to junior classes but there were concerns as to attendance of junior members and the show will run seniors only. A new CLA qualifier (for Newcomers/Foxhunter) will be running this year which will be on the schedule which will be released shortly.

Burgham Horse Trials will be running BS again this year at the end of July.

Concerns were raised as to the lack of junior shows in the area and it was confirmed that AF will be running two pony shows this summer which if well supported may be continued in the future. Members are encouraged to support all shows in the area whether as spectators or competitors.

AF shows have had reasonable attendance. The Fox/1.30 classes are slightly less well supported but novice through to newcomers have average entries. A grass arena is being put in which is likely to be ready for summer 2017 and there are also plans to extend the existing outdoor. Plans over the summer are to run either indoor or in the existing outdoor and it was confirmed the outdoor was big enough to run in.

The area did not have its own award's ball last year but plans are in place for one this year and the committee is currently looking into a date around Halloween time.

An Area 12 FB page has been set up which is linked to BS website, it has had 200 likes and reaches approximately 400+ people a day. This seems to be the best medium for sharing schedules etc with the members.

### 3. Treasurer's Report - Sue Maitland

The treasurer provided the meeting with a summary of the accounts and confirmed that £1,500 had been received back from Area 12A as agreed.

People are to be encouraged to use bank payments etc for training to avoid the need for coaches having to collect cash.

The committee is looking to do some grant fund raising to support training in the Area.

### 4. 2016 Planned Events – Show Secretary Report - Joanne Marlor

The Show Secretary confirmed the Committee intended to try and run two shows a year, a summer and winter fixture, to cater for both seniors, juniors and club.

A date had been provisionally booked with AF as the venue for 16/17<sup>th</sup> July however there have been difficulties with another show centre running that weekend in Scotland. Discussion was then had about date setting with head office and the system of the dates meetings and also the submission of late dates and the policy from HO regarding these was explained and discussed.

The intention had been to run Cat 2 Seniors on Sat 16<sup>th</sup> July and Club on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> July, no junior date was set as this weekend clashed with a pony premier show. **THE RDO confirmed that she would revisit the point with HO as direct talks with the show centre had not been successful.**

On the subject of junior shows the best junior schedule to run was the one offered by JM Equestrian at her shows. **SM confirmed that she would be happy to send information relating to AF junior shows out and confirmed she would discuss with MJ so as to help promote this with her contacts within pony club etc.**

It was suggested that some non-members may be put off by not understanding about tickets, which classes to jump in etc. **The RDO will prepare and send to SM a guide that can be circulated with the info about AF to try and encourage non-members to come and support the shows.**

On the subject of tickets to ride it was suggested coaches within the area should be provided with tickets to hand out to people they are training, **The RDO confirmed this could be possible and it was suggested these should be stamped with AF to encourage people to use them at that venue.**

5. Regional Development Officer presentation – Michelle Clough

The RDO confirmed the Northern Region is comprised of 10 areas in which there are 76 venues. Every area has a development plan for the year and suggestions, to be made to the committee, for anything that could be included in the plan are welcomed

There are several successful academies including Durham and South Cumbria and several areas have just launched new ones including Cheshire and Yorkshire.

Club membership is most popular in the northern region and figures from HO indicate that whilst members join as club members there is a high transition from that to full national membership. Club members have the benefit of a final at the National Showjumping Championships at Stoneleigh although it was observed by some members that this was too expensive and lacked any atmosphere.

BS operates several initiatives to increase and broaden what is available to members including the Schools Teams, discounts on membership available to both pony club and riding club members, tickets to ride, R of R league, Haddon training scheme and the NAF 5 star awards.

Level 2 and 3 assessments of new coaches are about to start and there are some planned in the Northern Region later in 2016. **SM asked MC to send details of these to her.**

Concerns were raised in relation to completion/pass rate of Level 2 training and it was noted there is believed to be a significant no. of people who have taken the course then never done the assessment. Coaches at all levels need to be identified and supported by the Area and not just HO and attention therefore needs to be given to those people who are slipping through the net.

**AT suggested a mentoring programme, supported by funding and SM agreed that people need encouragement once they are qualified. It was decided this would be put in the Area's development plan for the year.**

A successful official's conference and assessments had been held at Harrogate Riding Centre last year and there is now a pathway for officials. Conference dates are being booked in for 2016 at AF and Aintree. **It was decided a separate mentoring day for Northern officials would be put in the Area development plan.**

If members interested in being officials want to spend a day shadowing/observing they are welcome to contact AFE to see if this can be arranged at a show there.

All members can contact the RDO by phone, email, FB and as many coaching dates, show dates etc are shared on the 'British Showjumping – Northern' FB page.

An interesting para jumping day was held at Bishop Burton last year but there is a lack of shows for para riders to compete at although there has been good junior uptake of membership amongst para riders.

The show dates meetings take place twice a year in March and September and all scheduling is now done online.

There will be a training camp running at Aintree this year this is in May for seniors and July for juniors, coaches are currently tbc dependant on uptake.

#### 6. Training – Barbara Anderson

The Area 12 academy is now up and running and has 25-30 regular members although not many of these are juniors. The training is for competitors from grassroots level through to those competing in national classes.

The committee is keen to look at funding for new coaches and it was noted that elite coaches are needed for both riders and coaches alike and that training should be available for both amateur and elite riders.

It was suggested that a refresher day for people who have let the training slip would be useful as well as ongoing assistance and support for existing coaches. **SM indicated with the assistance of AT funding for this could be sought – this will be taken away from the meeting and looked into.**

**The committee will give consideration to the use of external coaches** and it was noted that it may be useful to have these attend more than once to allow members to take full advantage of them. It was noted that a balance between the cost and regularity of training should be considered.

#### 7. AOB

Membership numbers for the Area were provided as 184 seniors and 47 juniors although the senior figure is likely to include officials and non-jumping members

Plans for the SJ at Burgham International in July 2016 were discussed by the organiser MJ. On Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> July 2016 there will be a Category 3 1.40 A4 class in the main ring, the classes in the SJ ring will be starting at Newcomers and going up to 1.30 geared towards the 1.40 class. The SJ ring will then have national schools classes in the afternoon. On Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> July 2016 there will be a Cat 2 schedule in the SJ ring and in the main ring there will be a 1.10 class which will require qualification from a 1.05 qualifier class several of which will be held around the region. The wording of this is currently being finalised by BS and will published soon. MJ confirmed the SJ was being run in-house this year.