

Dates for your diary:

AGM on Zoom 30.11.2020

If you want to join this meeting  
please email

**Hazel.England0@  
gmail.com**

An invite will be issued to you

# Annual General Review

## Wessex Riding Club

**Welcome** to this rather different opening to what is a pre-ambled to our AGM for Wessex Riding Club. We had a great meeting last year, rounded off with supper being delivered and I was so hoping to do a repeat of this but unfortunately COVID-19 has put pay to that and many of our dreams and hopes this year. **But** and I have to emphasize this, even with all the difficulties that we have been presented with, we have done our very best to deliver something to our members in such challenging times. Our best endeavors are now focused on what can we do in 2021 and we want you to join us for the ride, so to speak! It may be virtual, it may be different but together we will get through this. This brief newsletter is a round up of what has gone on this year and more importantly what we want to do for 2021. The newsletter is accompanied by the minutes from the last AGM; Finance accounts report and a response form which we need returned by 27<sup>th</sup> November 2020. We are holding a ZOOM AGM Meeting which you are all invited to join.

### Report from the Chair

As I sit and write this, I am amazed to think back on what we have actually managed to do in such a dreadful year. We have had a lot of support from members with feedback on the various events that we have managed to run. When I look back to those early days of 2020, with a visit to Pinkham's Vets at Wilton in the RDA arena, I can only smile because it was a great evening with demos and a talk and so many of you made it. We had such plans for others! A 'Talk and Chat' at Grovely was well attended and Sam the Head Girl gave us an insight into her first

years' experience in the Eventing World, then Covid-19 struck and we had to sit at home. But again, we did manage to pull off some training sessions with Emily and Ride Coach Ride events and capped this off. We had a very successful series of Day Camps – albeit limited in numbers who could take part and run under thoroughly controlled and socially distanced rules. I wanted to take this opportunity to thank three individuals from the committee who contributed so much time and effort to getting this stuff off the ground, so a round of applause please for Hazel, Ali and Lorna THANK YOU SO MUCH XXXX.

Big shout out to say thank you to Kate, her videos were much appreciated and a great start to lateral thinking as the lockdown bit in March. We had plans to roll out TREK but again Covid-19 put pay to that - but it's a temporary blip! Do you recall Amanda Bartons talk on Endurance riding the previous year, maybe something to think about going onwards?

I managed to get a newsletter out each month and frankly your support on this has kept me going because people have come up with items that they felt were important and that made it easier to construct. I hope they brought some comfort and enjoyment. Obviously, it's not quite the same as a 'Talk and Chat' or an event but we had to do what we could in difficult times. Again, I must mention Hazel and her relentless efforts to promote the club and its 'activity' on Facebook because we have acquired a great following. Let's hope we can maintain that and add to the membership for 2021. This brings me round to a couple of things that need to be promoted.

I want to begin with the membership and importance we place on that. This year we have lost about 20% of the membership, mainly due to the cessation of competitions through the summer months when we would normally pick up about 12 / 14 members who liked what they saw when they came to Wilton RDA for dressage competitions, and subsequently joined our happy band of brothers. As we close this year down we have just 42 members and I encourage you to rejoin this forthcoming year so that we can carry the club forward. BRC have advised us that they have had to increase the clubs fees for 2021 due to higher insurance costs. We as a committee have made the decision not to pass these increases on to you as we want to provide value to our members and this is not the time to increase the charges. Besides we raised the fees last year, so 2021 fees will remain at £25.00.

I also wanted to highlight the Pleasure Riding Scheme run by Caroline. I suspect that those hours in a saddle have kept some of you sane, they have been a godsend to me and I only joined in September. I have the current participating membership which I wanted to publish to just trigger some interest and pay homage to those who really have gone for it!

There are 14 members in this scheme – the cost is £10.00 per year, renewable on the joining anniversary, so effectively a rolling year.

#### **Top of the Tree - November 2020.**

Nancy Buchanan on <b>ED</b> with	1,300hrs
Richard James on <b>ARCHIE</b>	1,100
Rachael Seager-Smith on <b>SAVANNAH</b>	900
Janice James on <b>FERDI</b>	500
Jo Pay on <b>ROSIE</b>	500
Caroline Carroll on <b>JIGSAW</b>	400
Penni Scott on <b>THUNDER</b>	150
Hazel England on <b>BISCUIT</b>	100

Past the 50 hours benchmark with one rosette in hand are – Jola Alloway on **LADY**, Kate Morton on **JDTT** and Helen Green on **NYTON MASTER THYME**.

Its work in progress for the newbies to the scheme; Jill Coldwell on **DUCHESS**, Sally Newman on **MOLLY MALONE** and me with **Dr MONTY**!

We all need to look after our mental health in difficult times and what can be easier but more rewarding than an hour or so out with our horse. That said I know there are members of this club that don't have their own horse and so we wanted to consider some other means of engagement and encouragement. This is where you come in? If you are a member without a horse then can you let me know, by email to [janetbower@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:janetbower@tiscali.co.uk) what riding or associated activity do you undertake to keep that link alive. The committee wish to come up with a plan, so your feedback on this is vital. As I write, with lockdown in place Riding Schools are shut; their owners are struggling with school horses out on grass and costs rising as the winter progresses. So let's hope the New Year brings in relief for all.

The committee itself is up for re-election and we are looking for new members to join having lost two of the original set due to personal reasons. The committee as it stands is as follows;

Chair	Janet Bower
Treasurer	Hazel England
Secretary	Shelley Bracey
Dressage Sec.	Ali Clarke
Pleasure R S	Caroline Carroll
Activities Sec.	Lorna Roger & Catherine Faulkner

At the ZOOM AGM we will be re-electing those who are prepared to stand for the forthcoming year but we need new members too. The response form has an area for you to nominate a name ( yourself, if you would like to help) or another member to join the committee or simply add some suggestions or comments. These forms need to come back before the meeting so they can be scanned to Hazel or myself or submitted by posting it to me at Janet Bower 8 Pauls's Dene Crescent, Salisbury, SP1 3QU.

The deadline for this submission will be 27<sup>th</sup> November 2020.

### Report from the Treasurer

Below is the financial report from our Treasurer, the 2020 Accounts are attached with this newsletter

An appraisal of the account:

We started the year in January 2020 with **£4,047.01** in the account. We generated an income of **£3574.10** and spent **£3625.27**- resulting in a small loss of **£51.22** (*including an un-banked cheque of £28.80*)

WRC income has been produced from the following activities:

- A) Membership
- B) 3x Dressage events in the form of Ride Coach Ride
- C) 2 Training sessions
- D) Sadly, only one Talk and Chat
- E) 3 x Day Camps

A) The membership fees generated **£1,050.00**, but from this **£890** has been paid to the BRC for the insurance and affiliation fees. ***The current subscription fee is £25 but it is noted that the BRC fees are increasing from 1<sup>st</sup> December 2020 the cost is estimated at £16 cost per head for each member. The committee has voted to NOT increase subscription fees for 2021.***

B) The dressage events in the form of Ride Coach Ride this year have resulted in a boost to our accounts with an overall profit of **£432** over just 3 events.

C) The 2 training sessions with Emily Harris covered the cost of instructor and RDA hire.

D) The one Talk and Chat evenings with Sam from Grovely covered its costs. The other was a free invitation to the Pinkhams equine evening at their Wilton centre, donations were encouraged to support RDA.

E) Our 3 day camps covered the costs and made a tiny profit of **£17**.

We continue to work closely with the Riding for the Disabled at Wilton and it is important to note that our use of their facilities is helping to support and generate income for the upkeep of the Centre. This year our 3 dressage events, 2 training sessions and 3 Day Camps meant that there was a payment in total the RDA of **£605** in hire fees.

We have also donated £100 for sponsorship of four RDA ponies.

The club has assets valued at approximately £350. The balance on 21<sup>st</sup> November 2020 is **£4024.59**

### Best wishes

**Hazel**

### Report from the Dressage Secretary

Well, what a year! I want to say a very big thank you to everyone who has supported our events during these difficult and worrying times.

I chose Ride Coach Ride instead of our usual competition to give everyone the chance to get out and enjoy themselves without the added pressure of having to complete. I hope for those of you who took part the events were instructive and fun and that you got something from spending time with our Judge / Coach. It was lovely to see so many of you and your four-legged friends.

Many thanks to our judges Andrea Taylor and Eve Blatchford for giving up their time and for imparting their knowledge to encourage everyone to keep trying and learning more. To my helpers Chris, Hazel and the Committee members, the organization this year has been challenging but it would not have been possible without their help and support. I must also mention the ladies of RDA who help prepare the arena for us to use.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions I took on the position of Scribe. It gave me an opportunity to improve my skills and to learn things from the judge's perspective. I hope you were able to read my writing, it was certainly difficult to fit everything in for two tests!

Although we have come to the end of our normal season, please keep an eye on our website, there will be news as soon as we have something to share, we are looking at new plans and different things for the future.

Keep safe, well and healthy and we look forward to seeing you in 2021.

All my best wishes **Ali**

I hope that this has stimulated you to get involved and take part in the ZOOM meeting. If so please drop Hazel an email and she will arrange an invite. If you need help let her know and someone will call you to talk through the process.

We usually raise funds from Raffles at Christmas but this year it's different so every member will be allocated a raffle ticket number and as way of an encouragement and the Response forms have a Bonus added. Every one received from members will be allocated an extra Raffle Number for the draw. This will take place live on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2020. The prize is an early Christmas Hamper voucher from **Forking Out**. You get to choose what you would like from their selection on offer and second prize is a voucher for £25.00 against the cost of any event we run next year.

Already pencilled in our diary are the Dressage dates for the year with thoughts for Training and Day Camp activities at RDA starting at the end of March 2021.

We are uncertain about the trips to shows but let's see how life turns out! Windsor was sadly cancelled along with Horse of the Year and all the other eventing date. 2021 has a lot of promise and we as a committee are determined to offer strong reasons to remain members of the club and encourage new ones!

We need to add to our committee numbers so if you feel like stepping forward you would win a lot of hearts and our gratitude, as there are lots of tasks that need to be done to keep us active and on top of the game.

Just to wrap up this part of the process, please try and join us on 30<sup>th</sup> November. If you can't, look out for the Christmas newsletter which I hope will wing its way to you just before the Holiday. If you are at a loose end and wondering what to do to while away an hour or so there are a range of circles on this Newsletter. We need a Logo design as we thought it was about time we had a new one. So any budding artists, doodles or just simple genius is very welcome to give it a shot and come up with suggestions to pave the way for a new 2021 Wessex Riding Club logo!

Doodles, designs and art work need to be sent to me, by email or post. My only tip is keep it simple and not too many colours, as the final winner needs to be easy to

print and copy for items such as rosettes, caps and sweatshirts. Oh yes! We are planning for next year and want to make a bit of a splash!

Best wishes to you all and stay safe.

**Janet**

And the WRC Committee Email [janetbower@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:janetbower@tiscali.co.uk)

