



Bourne Valley Riding Club

Affiliated to the British Horse Society

Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday 17th January 2024

at The Lion, Clanville

Present: **Lindsay Hills** **Chairman**
 Louise Makepeace **Secretary**
 24 club members

Item 1: Welcome

The chairman opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and thanking them for attending.

Item 2: Apologies for Absence

Apologies were given by Janet Burnett, Gill Young, Rachel Lambert, Leah Burgin, Zandra Letts and Jon Mowles.

Item 3: Minutes of 2023 AGM

Lindsay reviewed minutes of previous AGM.

Sue Baker proposed and Elizabeth Peerless seconded the adoption of the minutes.

Item 4: Matters arising from minutes.

No matters were arising from the previous minutes.

Item 5: Chairman's report

It was a positive start to year. The AGM followed a very successful Quiz. Elections for were made for vacant posts. Hayley Elam was co-opted to join the committee which gave was a full contingent – first time in a long time. The inexperienced but enthusiastic Committee team were keen & willing to learn. Hamish Mathews was appointed to Co-Chair, giving a path for me to hand over. Challenging describes every year & this was no exception. We embarked on the year with great optimism and set out to make it a great year.

Competitions:

In general, competition entries were down; often too many entries to cancel but not enough to run a decent competition. It was rewarding when we did proceed.

We were slow off the mark and couldn't book Wilton RDA until March, so the Dressage ran later than usual. Tedworth Equestrian Centre was not available until April which was a jam-packed month for us. This was also the time when they started their own fortnightly competitions.

We squeezed in a lovely, friendly, enjoyable show jumping competition at Amport, in mid-April

Dressage moved from April to May. As there was no uptake on the Novice day, the event was reduced to a one day show, which was well received.

Horse Trials ran on the May bank holiday weekend, which was not ideal, especially as the Cotswold Cup event at Barbury Castle was on the same day. However, the bonus was that we had more entries than anticipated for the 60-70cm class which we ran for the first time.

Combined Training ran at the lovely Redenham field. It was a very hot day, so entries were low but, despite fears, the ground was good. It was a short day for all competitors and volunteers. Similar story for the dressage, again at Redenham in July. We cancelled the September show due to zero entries.

Hunter Trial entries were exceptional. There was a last-minute rush with over 100 entries having to be turned away, which was a shame. Numbers need to be limited to ensure a smooth-running day. It was tricky - there were many entries but it was difficult to get fence judges. We got there in the end.

As usual, many messages of thanks for such a wonderful, well organised event were received.

Teams:

We had a presence in most Teams events except summer dressage which was disappointing. It was a hot summer with hard ground and many competition venues were remote, but there were some great performances throughout the year.

There was a fiasco at Arena Eventing Championships (Aston le Walls) due to snow. 80cm & 90cm teams set out to compete but classes were delayed or cancelled with little notice. Susie Pool & Vanessa Martin arrived and rode, but Ian Spalding was turned back at M40. Lucy Knight received the cancellation news before setting out. There was some odd scoring and results!

We made our first visit to Onley EC, Rugby for the Winter Intermediate Showjumping with Susie Pool in the 90cm and Ian Spalding in the 100cm classes.

The Combined Training Championship was held at Aston le Walls with Melinda Veal in the 70cm, Susie in the 90cm. Susie finished a commendable 2nd!

We had qualifiers for BRC National Championships at Lincoln with Susie, Ian, Catherine James and Lily Stiff qualifying, but only Susie competed. As part of the Area 17 team Susie had a lovely ride but again the results a bit suspect!

Frances Hall has qualified for the BRC Winter Novice Championships in Grantham, in April 24 – well done.

Camp:

Camp was successful with a lovely atmosphere and great food & with no drama until Hayley broke her wrist. She is all fixed and back jumping! Thanks to Alison Coleman & Claire Arnold for organising (with Sandra Groves as backup in the background).

Rides:

The ride on the beach at Studland and the Hot X Bun ride were enjoyed as usual. The Perham ride was cancelled due to rider injury but will be back this May. The Longleat Forest and Christmas rides were a great success and lovely mince pies, supplied by Burbidge's Bakery, were enjoyed by all.

Talks & Demos:

The Brain and Behaviour talk by Amanda Barton was fascinating. It was followed by a simulator session at her premises.

Summer BBQ and in hand demo by Tracy Lawson at Susan Wheatley and Ian's home was enjoyed and well attended despite the rain.

Both gave an insight and knowledge I wished I had 20 years ago.

The tack sale was a success at the new venue, Weyhill Fairground Hall. The site provided better parking and access. It was quite a social occasion with the chance to sell unwanted items.

The annual Christmas dinner was held at The Mughal Indian restaurant in Ludgershall. It was an enjoyable night with excellent food. The 17 attendees were made up mostly of Committee members.

Clinics: The clinics with Robert Pickles and Ants McKeown continued to be well attended. We are lucky to have such great instructors and hope Elizabeth will return to instructing this year. XC remains the only discipline we have provided limited training for but hope to plan dates for the future. We re-introduced weekday sessions and welcomed Diana Burgess back as a regular instructor. The sessions have proved a success.

Helpers:

It remains a challenge to get enough volunteers to run events. We can't run events without help.

We are reliant on the goodwill of non-members, family & friend to fill the roles. Often, they number as many if not more than members.

Thank you to everyone who has helped make this a successful year.

Stats:

Some interesting stats were produced by Lindsay for the year.

105 members.

Clinics – 140 entries, 45 members attended.

Competitions – 150 entries, 50 members attended.

Teams – 45 entries, 17 members participating.

Non-competitive members often attend the social rides so a good variety of activities for all.

Lindsay concluded her report with a summary of her Chairmanship by saying:

Finally, it is the end of my tenure as Chairman following 31 years’ service. It is now time to hand over responsibility to someone else.

My goal was to exceed my father’s, Sam Hart, 10 years as Chairman. Although in the beginning, I was told he served for 13 years.

Somewhere along the line, the digits got mixed up and I ended up staying for 31years.

I embraced the role as it encompassed my own riding aims.

Sam had laid down the foundations, structure, principles & ethos for me to follow.

It has been an adventure, a challenge and testing but also a privilege. I have been proud to be at the helm of this great club and its members.

I have met many lovely people and horses. I have visited, ridden & supported at many different places.

There have been highs and lows but a great experience. It is a great club. I have received the plaudits, but I have not done this on my own – it has always been fantastic team work.

Thank you to everyone who has joined me on the journey and eased my path.

I can’t name everyone who has helped, but special thanks to Sandra for her help and support & always being my “wingman” and Pete for his forbearance & unflinching support and in his role in sourcing, acquiring, maintaining and building club equipment, always ensuring it was supplied in working order when required.

Over now to the next generation!

Item 6: Adoption of accounts

Copies of the accounts for the club financial year 2023 were distributed to the attendees, summary below.

Susie asked if clinics are run on a “break-even” basis which was confirmed. The accounts showed a surplus of £600+ but Lindsay confirmed there was a loss of £21 – Chris and Lindsay to review.

Instruction figures update post AGM:

Revenue included £100 grant from BRC Area 17 (carried forward to 2024)

Expenditure only included Instructors cost and clinic venue costs (£590) were inadvertently omitted.

Hence actual instruction figures showed a loss of £21

Instruction figures should read:

| | | | | | |
|--------------------------|-------|--------------------|---------------|--------------|----------|
| Revenue | £3049 | Expenditure | Instructors | £2480 | |
| | | | Clinic Venues | <u>£ 590</u> | |
| | | | | £3070 | Loss £21 |
| BRC Area 17 Grant | £ 100 | | | | |

There were no other questions.

Propose to adopt accounts – proposer Hamish, seconder Fiona Webb.

| | |
|--|------------|
| Total Fixed Assets: | £3,810.01 |
| Total Current Assets: | £22,697.28 |
| Net Current Assets (liabilities): | £22,139.78 |
| Total Assets less Current Liabilities: | £25,949.79 |
| Net Assets: | £25,949.79 |
| Gross Profit 2023: | £5,735.37 |
| Profit on ordinary Activities before Taxation: | £3,568.84 |
| Profit after Taxation: | £3,568.84 |

Item 7: Appointment of Auditor / External Qualified Accountant to verify accounts
Propose to ask Andrew Horsnell to audit accounts again – Proposer Ian, Seconder Sandra.

Item 8: Subscriptions for 2025

BRC continue to increase fees year on year. Many emails sent by BRC regarding Sport 80 which we have not yet adopted. The change in fee structure and collection of fees impacts on the club negatively. Fees increased by £4 last year and this year. There was a discussion about introducing a club joining fee. Susan Wheatley suggested the increase in our subs are in line with other clubs and are reasonable. Susie suggested we state our subs are raised depending on BRC increase but Lindsay said this would not work as we are not advised of BRC increases until November – this may mean the Constitution needs to be reviewed.

Sue Baker questioned the non-riding membership as BRC fee is higher than the club fee.

| Subs confirmed as follows: | 2024 | 2025 |
|--|------|------|
| New members | £42 | £48 |
| Additional family members | £34 | £40 |
| Renewals before 15 th February | £34 | £40 |
| Non riding members | £18 | £18 |
| 1 st September – 1 st December | £58 | £66 |

It was decided we adopt the proposed 2025 fees then review later this year with possible amendments to the Constitution.

Proposed by Lindsay and seconded by Susan.

Item 9: Election of Chairman and committee members for 2024

Lucinda was welcomed to the meeting and Lindsay confirmed that Lucinda has agreed to continue as President for the next 2 years.

Election of Chairman and Committee Members were all proposed and agreed.

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| Chairman – Joint | Fiona Webb – nominated by Lindsay seconded by Julia Croombs and Kim Male |
| Chairman – Joint | Susan Wheatley - nominated by Lindsay seconded by Julia and Kim |
| Committee | Julia Coombes – nominated by Fiona, seconded by Lindsay |
| | Hamish Mathews – nominated by Louise, seconded by Hayley |
| | Ruth Spooner - nominated by Fiona, seconded by Lindsay |

They join the existing team of

| | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| Secretary | Louise Makepeace |
| Treasurer | Chris Webb |
| Membership | Janet Burnett |
| Teams | Susie Pool |

Committee

| |
|--------------|
| Ian Spalding |
| Jenny Allan |
| Leah Burgin |
| Sue Baker |
| Val Goode |

Item 10: Constitution

The constitution is ratified annually, no changes were due for 2024.

Item 11: Any other business

Lindsay reminded all that subs are now due. Annual quiz is on 26th Jan at The Lion – Sandra is Quizmaster. Details of the dressage competition on 25 Feb at Wilton RDA will be distributed shortly. Camp details soon available. Refreshed BVRC branded clothing on sale.

Item 11: Presentations

Lindsay announced details of 2023 trophy winners

BVRC Trophy winners 2023

| | | | |
|------------------------------------|--|--------------------|-----------------------|
| Brocks Farm Trophy | Novice Rider | NP | |
| Linda Juniper | Novice Horse Trials | Liz Brook | Eddie |
| David Packman Memorial Trophy | Intermediate Horse Trials | Katey Cuthbertson | Yellow Willow |
| Doorsteps Open Horse Trials Trophy | Open Horse Trials | NP | |
| | | | |
| Shield with horse on front | CT | Juliette Gerrard | China Rose |
| Florin Cup | CT | Lesley Dale | Amigos Boy |
| Ruby Seward | CT | Susie Pool | Dubai |
| Marilyn Haisman Cup | CT | NP | |
| | | | |
| BVRC Cup | Dressage Walk & Trot | Kay Pogson | Something Special |
| BVRC Lloyd Dressage Cup | Dressage Prelim | Antoinette McKeown | Acer |
| Streaker cup | Dressage Prelim | Antoinette McKeown | Scroccy Road |
| Highland fling | Dressage Novice | Kim Male | Billy loves Cruise In |
| BVRC Dressage | Dressage Novice / Elim | NP | |
| | | | |
| Bluebell Cup | Riding Club Horse | NP | |
| | | | |
| BVRC Novice Hunter Trial | Novice Hunter Trial | Sharon Brown | Regal |
| | | | |
| Romance Challenge Cup | Intermediate Hunter Trial | Helen Carpenter | Harry |
| BVRC Open Hunter Trials | Open Hunter Trial | NP | |
| | | | |
| Be Fair Cup | Annual Competition Points | Kay Pogson | |
| Caballine Trophy | Annual Helpers Points | Ross Tully | |
| Caballine Rose Bowl | Annual Helpers Points – Non Committee | Dee Hodson | |

Lucinda Green presented the rosettes and cups. Thank you to Sandra for taking photographs.

Be Fair and Caballine,

Be Fair and Caballine results were announced and those present collected their rosettes and trophies. Thank you to Annie Rae for compiling points. Well done to the winner of Caballine Rosebowl, Dee, who is always cheerful and happy to help wherever needed.

| BE FAIR | | | CABALLINE COMMITTEE | | | CABALLINE NON-COMMITTEE | | |
|----------------|---------------------|----|----------------------------|----------------|----|--------------------------------|-----------------|----|
| 1 | Kay Pogson | 88 | 1 | Ross Tully | 41 | 1 | Dee Hodson | 40 |
| 2 | Susie Pool | 83 | 2 | Sue Baker | 39 | 2 | Sandra Groves | 31 |
| 3 | Kim Male | 75 | 3 | Hamish Mathews | 37 | 3= | Jemma Manders | 25 |
| 4 | Juliette Gerrard | 62 | 4 | Val Goode | 34 | 3= | Meredith Baker | 25 |
| 5 | Lesley Dale | 36 | | | | 5 | Susie Pool | 24 |
| 6 | Ruth Spooner | 35 | | | | 6 | Dominic Mathews | 18 |
| 7= | Antoinette Mckeowen | 30 | | | | 7 | Louise Hall | 17 |
| 7= | Ian Spalding | 30 | | | | 8 | Rosie Mathias | 16 |
| 7= | Rosanna Fiddes | 30 | | | | 9 | Alison Bennett | 14 |
| 10 | Fiona Webb | 27 | | | | 10 | Gareth Hall | 12 |

Caballine - 65 members gained points totalling 650 hours. Be Fair – 47 members gained points.

Gifts were given as a thank you to Ros Kershaw (Rosette Co-ordinator and Event Organiser) who is standing down from the role.

Susie read a wonderful tribute to Lindsay:

PRESENTATION TO LINDSAY HILLS

ON HER RETIREMENT AS CHAIRMAN OF BVRC

I have been selected from a cast of one, having been the longest standing Committee member, 2nd only to Lindsay, to try to summarise in a matter of minutes, her 31 years as Chairman plus her time in the Club before then. As an engineer, I managed to complete my escape tunnel before her and a couple of years ago, Lindsay kindly summarised my time on the Committee. Now it's my turn to reciprocate and our difficulty was that we couldn't ask the Oracle on all matters BVRC. If I get anything wrong, I'm sure she'll correct me!

BVRC was founded in 1966, affiliated to BRC a year later and Lindsay and her mother Sylvia Hart, were two of the first members. They were soon joined by Lindsay's father, Sam Hart, who became Chairman for 10 years (1970-1980). So BVRC really is in her blood, evidenced by her total commitment to the Club and its success.

Obviously, quite a few horses have seen her through nearly 40 years with BVRC:

Highland Fling. In 1969 they were the first of BVRC to qualify for the BRC National Championships, then at Stoneleigh, in Individual Dressage. You might recognise this name, as Sylvia donated the Highland Fling Trophy to be presented to the Best BVRC member at our Dressage competition.

With Touch of the Blarney, in 1972, she competed in the 3'6" Horse Trials Championships.

In 1978 she rode Summertime Jester to 2nd place in the Pairs Dressage Championships, with Sue Holland riding Highland Fling.

It was another 6 years (1984) before she got to the Horse Trials Championships again, this time with Charlemagne.

In 1988 at Club level, with Springtime Ceilidh, she won our Intermediate Horse Trials Trophy, the David Packman Trophy for Best BVRC member. Four year later (1992), she won it again with Catalin, with whom she also did several Area Dressage and SJ Qualifiers.

Finally, there's Kuwait's Endeavour with whom she made her final mounted appearance at the BRC National Championships, in 2010, in a BVRC Dressage team. Sadly prematurely, they both had to hang up their riding boots in 2013 and Diva lives a life of leisure behind their house.

Next time you are privileged to win one of our trophies, take a few minutes to peruse the names engraved on it.

So from 1966-1991, Lindsay was an active riding and team member, including a few years as team manager. Moving on to non-mounted matters, she joined the committee in 1991 and became Chairman a year later. At that time there were about 70 members, which reached a peak of about 300 in 2006. However, the recession hit in 2008 and even Lindsay, with all her passion, drive and enthusiasm, could not overcome the continuing effect of this and world events since, and in recent years, numbers have settled at slightly over 100.

In gaining Lindsay as Chairman, the Club also gained the benefit of her husband Pete and their business, Pacts Auction Systems, and their lovely property, where BVRC equipment has

been stored for a number of years. In Pete, she had the important moral support, understanding ear, a reliable cross country controller for several years, and help with Club equipment. This was made more formal and extensive, as he became the BVRC Quartermaster after his retirement. Running their own business, Lindsay was able to flex her time between the Club and work, wherever the priorities lay, which sometimes entailed working on either till the early hours. I am sure that their staff also helped occasionally, even if only to answer the phone to me and provide me with information. There would also be evidence of BVRC around the office and she never made an expenses claim to BVRC for her hundreds of miles on BVRC matters. Thank you Pete and Pacts, who I feel was almost an unrecognised sponsor of BVRC. Without all this, and the previous experience, none of us should expect any successor to necessarily be able to achieve the same.

Lindsay's organisational skills and attention to detail are second to none. Through trial and experience, she developed ways of running all aspects of competitions, which embedded double checks, efficiency, and accuracy & speed of results. When things didn't go smoothly, she'd go back and analyse where the problem occurred and correct it next time. Her computer programming mind was brought into good use in bug fixing. The excellent reputation of the Club is entirely due to her systems and guidance. For one, Mud Sports Photography prioritises our Hunter Trials & Horse Trials over other bookings because he considers it one of the best run events that he supports. BVRC events are regarded as friendly, welcoming and well organised, and we receive numerous thank yous from non-members, including elite riders such as Lucinda Fredericks, Harry Meade, Helen Martin and Hector Payne.

She has been a strong leader of the Committee, a driving force, which at times has been tough on the volunteers, but always in order to achieve the highest standards, and the best possible for Club members. She has always done what she feels is the best for the Club and insisted on thorough research or consideration before accepting changes. Her strength of character has enabled her to withstand the rare vitriolic outbursts from competitors and even a threat from one's lawyer.

Beyond, as well as within the Club, she has been fearsome in her defence of grassroots riders, representing her views of absolute fairness and adherence to the rules at Area 17 meetings, or to BRC. She has always been keen to provide the Novice Shows to encourage truly novice or nervous riders and horses, which have been much appreciated over the years. She has followed the direction set by her father to offer a variety of instruction, at cost, to Club members. This includes our Annual Camp at Stockland Lovell, which, with the help of Sandra Groves, she set about getting the first one off the ground in 2006. Every year since (except for 2 Covid years) she has organised lessons and instructors, enabling each rider, numbering between 15 and over 30, to have exactly the range of lessons that they requested – quite an organisational feat with 4 different choices, several different heights/standards and 6 lessons each to cover.

Lindsay's support to Club representatives at Qualifiers and Championships has been unequalled, probably across the country. Except when health issues inhibited her, she invariably supported any team or individual competing at Qualifiers or Championships, including daily trips to Swalcliffe for the 3 Day Event and driving to Lincoln Showground to watch one dressage test. Had she only had one car throughout, dedicated to supporting members at these competitions, no doubt she would have taken it round the clock – for the youngsters among you who only deal in a digital world, that's over 100,000 miles.

Other than competitive activities, Lindsay has ensured that we have provided social events to include the non-riding members and social rides for the uncompetitive ones. Whatever the weather, she has turned out, initially to lead a ride, and subsequently to provide, Hot Cross Buns at Easter and mince pies around Christmas. We reckon that she has probably buttered somewhere approaching 1,000 Hot Cross Buns over the last 30 years, with some assistance from Sandra or another Committee member.

During lockdown, Lindsay took it upon herself to create an archive of the Club's entire history with all the documents such as newsletters, Qualifier and Championships riders, Trophy winners, and photographs that we collated for the BVRC 50th Anniversary Party and more. I don't think many members have found their way there but I thoroughly commend it to you, for when you are relaxing over a cup of coffee. Without it, we'd have certainly been a bit stuck writing this!!

This short recap is only scratching the surface of the efforts that Lindsay has made on our behalf. I could go on but you get the message and it would take days to cover her entire history with this Club. It's best I stop now other than to say the most important thing, and in the words of Giovanni Pernice, Lindsay, thank you, thank you, thank you.

Susie, Fiona, Susan and Lucinda presented lovely retirement gifts to Lindsay.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm