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## British Carriagedriving Council Minutes

Best Western Premier Yew Lodge Hotel, Packington Hill, Kegworth, DE74 2DF

Wednesday 5th September 2018 at 9.30am

1	<p><b>Present at the Meeting:</b> Patti Atkinson, James Broome, Angela Flanagan, Ben Freer, Jane Isaac, Dick Lane, James Rooney, Chris Smith and David West.</p> <p>The minutes were taken by the Executive Officer, Mary Kusin.</p> <p>MK noted that the meeting would be recorded with the recording referred to should there be any disagreement over any item in the minutes. Once the minutes were signed, the recording would be deleted. Council agreed unanimously with this initiative.</p>
2	<p><b>Conflicts of interest</b></p> <p>No new conflicts of interest were noted. Conflicts with individual agenda items will be noted during the meeting.</p>
3	<p><b>Minutes of the previous meeting</b></p> <p>The minutes of the previous meeting were proposed by DW, seconded by BF, and agreed as a true record of the meeting. The Chairman signed the minutes of the previous meeting.</p>
4	<p><b>Matters arising</b></p> <p>1. <b>Social Media Strategy:</b> JB reported that he had been working with the PR company, Lloyd Bell, who were using various social media channels including Facebook, Instagram and Twitter, to promote the National Championships. The deal, for £2k + VAT, included this service until the end of the year.</p> <p>It was agreed that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• JB will liaise with Lloyd Bell to promote other events such as the driving at Olympia.</li> <li>• discussion was needed to see if the relationship with Lloyd Bell was to continue beyond the NCs and, in particular, whether they could assist BC in relation to social media issues.</li> <li>• a wording will be drafted to enable Council members to respond to Facebook discussions with a request for members to put any concerns in writing.</li> </ul> <p>The PR company had offered to provide a media course for event organisers and chefs d'equipe. CS suggested that JB continue to liaise with them and ask for a proposal, to include the cost, of what they can do for us going forward. This will be discussed at the next Council meeting.</p> <p>JB felt promotion of teams needed agents, or similar, to source information. BF felt that the BEF could be encouraged to do more to promote driving while CS felt the BEF needed greater awareness of the need to include driving.</p> <p>MK noted that only 3 events, Hopetoun, Bywell and Cricklands, had responded to the request to identify their sponsors and trade advertisers who would be permitted to place adverts on the BC Facebook group.</p> <p>2. <b>Memorandum and Articles Revision:</b> HMRC responded to BF's appeal to say that we would receive a reply shortly from their technical team.</p> <p>3. <b>SDF funding for training clinics:</b> AF reported that the SDF suggested Scottish clubs should request funding from HorseScotland as the SDF do not want to use their limited funds for training support this year. JI noted she had spoken to HorseScotland who were not receptive to funding for training and suggested contacting SportScotland directly. JI will contact other equestrian disciplines to enquire how they access funding from</p>

	<p>HorseScotland. AF noted the Sport England funding needed to be allocated by October/November otherwise some of the grant will need to be repaid if more training is not carried out. She felt clubs were often too busy during the season and asked MK to send a reminder.</p> <p>4. <b>GDPR Policy and archive files:</b></p> <p>CS had circulated a GDPR audit document. He felt it was useful to show our compliance and audit our GDPR procedures. This was proposed by BF, seconded by DW and accepted unanimously.</p> <p>CS referred to the photos MK took of the archive boxes. It was agreed that there was no need to retain the old Company Seal although there was a suggestion to offer it as a prize or for auction.</p> <p>Having checked the contents of the archive files, it was agreed to retain:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• results</li> <li>• accident reports (which will be anonymized after the relevant limitation period has passed)</li> <li>• documents pertaining to insurance</li> <li>• financial records for the last 6 years.</li> </ul> <p>MK noted we needed to collect financial records from David Titmuss. BC need to check who else is keeping information on their behalf. CS noted BC are not qualified to give advice but suggested sending the audit document to all clubs to assist them to comply.</p> <p>PA noted stewards conveners and photographers also requested advice. CS noted each data controller has responsibility to comply but felt BC should offer guidance and that the on-line database could be used to ensure GDPR compliance for stewards' data. PA suggested a free category of membership for volunteers.</p> <p>5. <b>On-line membership platform:</b> CS reported that he and BF were continuing to liaise with Revolutionize. He noted problems with their standard contract and confirmed BC were not yet at the stage of signing the contract. BF noted he had no response from Revolutionize regarding 3rd party users in Europe and will follow up on this.</p> <p>6. <b>Dispersal of obstacle materials from Cirencester:</b> DL reported that he had visited the estate and met with their representatives and the conservation manager. They had asked for a long list of certifications which included criteria which were difficult to meet. To move this forward, it was agreed that the work would be carried out by estate contractors and a cost of £1.5k had been approved by CS and BF. DL took 4 lorries and a forklift and has uplifted all remaining materials. The fort obstacle has been purchased by a member. DL noted his plans to sell the remaining timber to clubs, or on eBay as a last resort. He will pass funds to BC in due course. DL will send MK the details to send the invoice for the fort obstacle. CS thanked DL on behalf of BC.</p> <p>7. <b>Requirements for officials attending clinics:</b> CS proposed that the wording of rule 985.1.2 was changed to say that Judges and TDs must attend at least once every 2 years, CDs every 3 years, but take out the reference to officials being removed from the list as this option is covered by the first sentence. This will give Council a more flexible procedure to follow. This was proposed by PA, seconded by AF and agreed unanimously.</p> <p>8. <b>Class Progression and clubs' responses:</b> DW had circulated the revised draft following consultation with affiliated clubs. PA noted there was no assessment for team driving and DW agreed to insert the need for an assessment at the event. PA also suggested amending the pre-novice assessment to take place at the halt and on the move and to remove the restriction on the number of gates. Subject to those amendments this will be circulated to clubs. CS plans to ask for further comments from clubs at Conference after which he hopes that clubs will opt in.</p> <p>9. <b>Photographers' insurance and BC membership:</b> CS has asked the question of our insurers and is awaiting a reply. MK asked if Associate members would be covered as the e-mail referred to Full members. CS agreed to clarify this with the insurers.</p> <p>10. <b>Evolution and Young Horse / Pony format:</b> This will be reviewed after the National Championships.</p>
5	<p><b>Correspondence</b></p> <p>1. <b>E-mail from a member re electric fences:</b> CS noted this correspondence had been generated by the reminder to event organisers regarding the rule pertaining to electric fencing. The Safety Committee noted it could reduce numbers able to enter events if electric fencing was not allowed. Various difficulties were discussed. PA noted this rule had been strictly policed at Bywell with enclosures on the hedge side and harnessing up on the other side of the lorry. JR noted the enclosures had been in a different field from the parking at the recent Irish event. DW noted that the FEI Vet Regs specify 3mx4m for a portable stable although it was agreed this cannot be extended to side stables. CS suggested</p>

	<p>amending Annex 14.4 to say that uncovered pens may be permitted by event organisers based on a suitable RA and that the relevant details will be published in the schedule. This was proposed by DL, seconded by BF and agreed unanimously. Tethering is not permitted. MK will add this to agenda for the event organisers meeting with an earlier note to event organisers to highlight this rule change for their schedules.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. <b>Letter from a member re class structure:</b> CS will write and thank the member noting that the strategic review will take account of the points made.</li> <li>3. <b>Letter from an event organiser regarding the tender document for the NCs:</b> The member noted that tender documents normally request a note of the financial contribution to be made in the event of the tender being successful. It was agreed that the document sent out by BC was a “bid to host” and perhaps “tender” had been used in error. CS will reply to note that BC did not feel it was realistic to ask for an event organiser to pay for the privilege of hosting the Championships.</li> <li>4. <b>Letter from a member with suggested changes to the class and event structure:</b> It was agreed that CS will reply to say these suggestions will be discussed in the strategic review. DL noted he had been misunderstood and the letter did not reflect his comments accurately. He will chat informally to the member to clarify the situation. It was felt that event organisers appreciate members taking the time to complete the on-line survey and MK will put a discussion of on-line surveys onto the event organisers meeting agenda.</li> <li>5. <b>Email from a member regarding the distance to the NCs this year and the compulsory use of the stabling:</b> CS will reply and thank the member for letting us know why they are not coming to the NCs this year and stress Council’s plan to seek a permanent central location to minimise traveling for the maximum number of people.</li> </ol>
6	<p><b>Ratification of e-mail decisions</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Date of 2019 National Championships:</b> It was agreed that this would be decided once tenders had been received.</li> <li>2. <b>Senior Points League Prizes:</b> Rosettes for 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> and a sash to the winner had been agreed.</li> <li>3. <b>Evolution and YH classes and the Senior Points League:</b> It had been agreed not to include the Evolution or Young Horse/Pony classes in the Senior Points league.</li> <li>4. <b>Invitations to NCs for Indoor Novice Champions:</b> It was agreed that the invitations would not roll over to the next driver should the Champion either have already qualified in another class or not wish to enter. It was agreed to include the Indoor Junior Champion in the list of invitations.</li> </ol>
7	<p><b>National Championships 2019</b></p> <p>This discussion took place as the last agenda item.</p> <p>It had been suggested that an earlier date to submit bids to host the National Championships would be advantageous and this was agreed. JI suggested CS mention the request for earlier bids at Conference.</p> <p>MK noted Ashfields had expressed interest although no bid had been received. DL phoned Ashfields who noted they intended to be more pro-active in the process next year. CS noted that he had spoken to Ashfields who had indicated they would step in to assist if no other bids were received.</p> <p>CS invited PA to introduce her bid. PA noted she had nothing further to add but was happy to respond to any questions.</p> <p>A number of points were raised and PA confirmed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the closing date for entries can be moved to accommodate qualifiers from the later events.</li> <li>• the practice arena would be 100m x 40m and additional ground in 2019 will accommodate a number of practice areas.</li> <li>• that Bywell would continue as a National or Regional event if the Championships were not repeated in 2020.</li> <li>• that the layout was spectator friendly with 3 or 4 obstacles visible from the grandstand which would be larger for a championship event with expanded options for catering.</li> <li>• any size of marquee can be provided.</li> <li>• there would be no other driving event at the venue.</li> </ul> <p>PA asked if Council could supply NC accounts and BF forwarded these by e-mail for PA to consider. PA asked if BC would consider covering any deficit, although she felt the NCs should easily run at a profit. CS noted this was not an option and was a significant reason for putting the event to an external organiser.</p> <p>DL noted that Bywell had received excellent reports. CS felt that moving the venue around the country was desirable until a permanent venue could be identified.</p>

	<p>PA had offered 2 possible dates: 23-25 August or 30 August-1 September 2019, with the later date her preferred option. CS felt bringing the date forward would be desirable as it would help clubs find dates for their own championships and make the National Championships more accessible to members as they would fall during school and university holidays. On the other hand, he noted that the 3 Regional events on the bank holiday weekend had generated 13 more qualified drivers and start fees would be lost. BF expressed disappointment that only one tender had been received for a second year.</p> <p>CS asked PA if, due to the qualifiers on the bank holiday weekend, the 6-8 September could be an option but PA confirmed the dates offered were the only ones that suited the estate. It was suggested that the Championships should take place from 30<sup>th</sup> August to 1<sup>st</sup> September which missed any major championships abroad. CS felt that there had been sufficient discussion and it was time to reach a decision. PA confirmed she was happy to continue with her bid having seen the accounts for previous championship events.</p> <p>PA left the room.</p> <p>DW proposed PA's tender for the later date is accepted. This was seconded by JI and agreed unanimously. It was noted that the Horse 4s had more recovery time with the 2nd date.</p> <p>PA returned to the room and CS congratulated her on a successful bid to host the 2019 British Carriagedriving National Championships from 30<sup>th</sup> August to 1<sup>st</sup> September 2019.</p> <p>CS suggested JB and PA liaise to see if any ongoing sponsorship can be arranged. JB noted the PR company did not deal with sponsorship.</p> <p>JI asked if it would be worth writing to Redenham to note that BC are aware of the difficulties and ask them to look at the possibility of moving a week earlier to alleviate clashes and enable the event to be a qualifier. DW suggested DL speak in person to the organisers and this was agreed.</p> <p>The date and venue of the 2019 championships will be announced at this year's championships.</p>
8	<p><b>Revision of Class Structure</b></p> <p>This will be discussed after the close of the main business.</p>
9	<p><b>AGM, Conference and End of Season Ball</b></p> <p>It was agreed to keep the same format as 2017. CS will chair the Affiliated Club meeting and Philip Bateman invited to chair the International meeting.</p> <p>MK asked if Council wished to invite any sponsors. It was noted that this had been done in the past when the presentations were made at the dance but it was agreed this could be included in any future sponsorship package.</p>
10	<p><b>Council Elections</b></p> <p>CS, JI and JR are due for re-election. All three are willing to stand again. MK will ask for any other nominations to be submitted 4 weeks before the AGM.</p>
11	<p><b>Finance</b></p> <p>BF noted he had sent attachments with reports for the year to July although August is not yet complete. He noted that the results were pleasing. Memberships were down but offset by the reduction in insurance costs. The overall situation is slightly up on this time last year when there was a £16k surplus. PA asked why the office cost and staff salary was down. BF noted this was due to the office assistant being unavailable. MK noted her net income had reduced as she was now taxed on the use of one room as an office.</p> <p>BF noted that Barclays had written to say that BC no longer qualified for free banking due to the level of turnover. Santander offer better rates and free banking up to 2.5 million for sports organisations. CS noted that paying in can be an issue and needs to be practical under any new arrangements. PA noted that Barclays should be able to estimate the cost for the previous year. BF will report back at the next meeting.</p> <p>BF noted that the 2017 accounts needed signed today with the letter of representation. DW queried the note in the letter of representation from the auditors that indicated some expense claims needed greater authorisation. BF noted he had not seen this and will check with Critchleys regarding future action.</p>
12	<p><b>Committee Reports</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>F&amp;GP:</b> CS reported that F&amp;GP have not met since the last Council meeting and the updates for Revolutionize have already been detailed.</li> <li><b>Competitions:</b> <p>DW noted there had been considerable correspondence regarding Goodwood's new format with a wide variety of views as to whether or not it had been successful. Some expressed safety concerns. It was agreed that more detailed guidelines were needed for the future. DL</p> </li> </ol>

	<p>reported that adjustments have been made to the original route and, at the wash up meeting, it was agreed not to use the new format again next year. JR noted that the format had worked well abroad in hot weather. JB felt that it could be of use in this country if very hot or very wet conditions were expected but CS noted that it needed to be publicised in the schedule as it is a factor when drivers decide where to compete. CS asked if the Goodwood information had been disseminated to other event organisers. MK will add this to the event organisers agenda and CS will raise it for discussion at Conference. DW felt that it should be discussed at the TD training clinic.</p> <p>DL felt that the Evolution classes at Goodwood were not achieving the aim to bring in new competitors. DW noted this will be reviewed after the NCs.</p> <p>DW circulated a draft event calendar for 2019. DL noted that Goodwood's date was not yet confirmed. DW noted Redenham had a problem with changing farming policy and may not be able to run in 2019 although DL reported that Redenham did now plan to run in 2019. PA noted that none of the 2017 Redenham competitors had travelled to Bywell this year although a few had attended the FEI 2* event at Cuffesgrange. In the past, late events have counted as a qualifying event for the following year. CS suggested continuing this discussion with the National Championships. DW noted he had still to hear from Windsor Park.</p> <p>DW reported that MK had asked the Competitions Committee to review the need for Declaration Forms and it was agreed these were no longer required. The ICE number will be requested on the entry form and the main club a driver wishes to represent onto the membership form.</p> <p>MK had also asked the Competitions committee to consider if it would be appropriate to send some of the event paperwork to event organisers electronically. This was agreed and MK will add this to the event organisers agenda. It was noted that MK still had to print numbers with logos.</p> <p>MK asked what logos were required on the numbers for the NCs and it was agreed to add Tristar once at the bottom.</p> <p>3. <b>Rules:</b> PA directed Council to rule 966.1 where a high pulse rate at the halt is elimination although the rule does not specify that the driver must retire. CS asked PA to refer this to the rules committee.</p> <p>4. <b>Judges:</b> JR noted that many judges had differing standards. Reviews have taken place after the dressage and action taken to eradicate discrepancies. He suggested specialist cones judges need to be encouraged, especially for Regionals and more BD judges could be encouraged to improve standards of judging in dressage with the presentation mark awarded by the judge at C. CS noted that the proposed new FEI rule on collective marks may make this irrelevant.</p> <p>5. <b>Health and Safety:</b> Peter Bridson had submitted a report before the meeting. CS noted that the ATV rule may need tweaked and MK confirmed that no further comments on this subject had been received. CS asked MK to further amend the guidance and add the point noted in the report that vehicles should be road legal if used on a road while inspecting the marathon route. CS queried whether or not members should have insurance. DW felt that they should be reminded that the law requires them to be insured. CS will check the position for competitors and consider this again at the next meeting.</p> <p><b>Working Groups</b></p> <p>6. <b>Training:</b> AF noted the training grant had been publicised to clubs and confirmed it can be used to provide a wide range of training opportunities including backstepper or volunteer training. CS felt this may help retention. Midlands have taken up the offer and 3 other clubs have shown interest. AF noted that the BEF were looking for considerable information from the clubs and feedback from participants. CS suggested going back to clubs with these suggestions to increase take up. MK will resend the club information. 2 installments of the funding have been received and AF has explained to the BEF that numbers participating are expected to pick up fairly soon. AF will send MK any additional information she wants included in the next e-mail.</p>
13	<p><b>Any other reports</b></p> <p>1. <b>Office:</b> MK noted she had nothing to add to the report submitted in advance of this meeting. CS thanked MK for arranging the advert with Olympia.</p>
14	<p><b>Date and venue for the next Council meeting</b></p> <p>The next meeting will be in the Manor Hotel in Meriden on 9<sup>th</sup> November before the event organisers meeting. CS felt it should be a short meeting restricted to essential agenda items. The agenda will need to include selection events and selection panels for the following year with an update on Revolutionize. The next meeting will be decided after the Conference.</p>

15	<p><b>AOCB</b></p> <p>PA had received an e-mail from a TD and PoJ regarding a competitor who had been eliminated for an error of course and could not have their Competence Card signed. Despite extenuating circumstances, it was agreed that an exception could not be made.</p> <p>DW noted that Onley had received a visit from BEFAR and asked if the additional cost of providing testing stables could be reimbursed and this was agreed. JI asked if this was extended to the FEI events. It was agreed that one off costs would be reimbursed but not costs that are part of the event organisation.</p> <p>JI asked if BC had an opinion re continuing FEI 2* events. It was agreed that these were highly desirable for GBR drivers but needed to be independently financially viable.</p> <p>DL had a query from Malcom Aickin regarding possible promotion to full TD. DW had already spoken to him about this and asked him to update CV for future consideration.</p> <p>DL noted Jeannie Lane had asked for a copy of the TD report. MK will e-mail her one.</p> <p>JB asked if there was anyone who should be invited to the NC's VIP lounge. Directors were invited to contact JB if any suggestions were forthcoming.</p> <p>BF had a query from Jeanie Lane regarding a club which struggles to organise outdoor events but runs a number of good indoor ones. She asked if they could be covered by the Indoor Driving UK insurance to save paying the BC affiliation fee. CS confirmed that they could run it on behalf of Indoor Driving UK but not as their own club.</p> <p>As there was no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 2.45.</p>
	<p><b>Strategic Review of Competitions and Class Structure</b></p> <p>CS noted that a strategic review of competitions and class structure was ongoing by BC, as the governing body for the sport, and suggested that participation should remain high on the list of priorities. The paper Frank Campbell had published on Facebook and sent to the BC directors was included. This had prompted some grumbling amongst members, but some constructive ideas and e-mails from members had resulted, putting a number of suggestions on the table. It was agreed that a review of the number of classes was necessary. CS felt that the BC structure should promote international aspirations.</p> <p>To start, CS felt each Council member should have a turn to note any specific points they feel should be addressed, and the following were identified:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mission statement</li> <li>• Vision of where the sport is heading to shape strategy</li> <li>• How do we portray the sport?</li> <li>• Participation</li> <li>• Falling membership</li> <li>• Falling entries</li> <li>• Review mission statement</li> <li>• New entrants</li> <li>• Retention</li> <li>• Relationship with clubs</li> <li>• Combine classes – too many</li> <li>• National and Regional structure, indoors events and progression – value for money and support needed from grassroots to international and home FEI 2* events</li> <li>• Development – athletes, grooms, volunteers and officials</li> <li>• Admin</li> <li>• Health and safety</li> <li>• Safeguarding</li> <li>• Rules</li> <li>• Communication</li> <li>• External expectations – key messages to fit with strategy and media experience and our USP</li> <li>• BEF – cooperation with other Member Bodies</li> <li>• What are the things everyone wants?</li> <li>• How are the differences managed e.g. differences in approach of national and international drivers?</li> </ul> <p>Other points mentioned included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The feeling that some novices progress too fast</li> <li>• Newcomers need more information to get started</li> <li>• Some judges feel that 55 should be achieved in dressage before competing abroad</li> <li>• Reintroduce a dressage standard for National Championship qualification and reduce the number of places from which drivers can qualify</li> <li>• Drivers need to have fun</li> </ul>

- Many of these points were highlighted in the SWOT analysis, conducted a number of years ago

CS felt a realistic approach was required and suggested identifying issues which overlap. Class structure and the relationship between National and Regional events are linked and therefore a good area to prioritise. Other topics, seen as priority issues, are the number of classes, NC qualification and the need to retain our home FEI 2\*s. It was felt that the mission statement should include the list of aspirations PA had read out as outcomes of the SWOT analysis.

The first topic to be addressed was the number of classes which provoked considerable discussion. Points raised included:

- Lot of classes are good for progression.
- Members have different aspirations.
- Although Facebook posts included suggestions to amalgamate classes, this had not been popular a few years ago when suggested at Conference and the idea had been dropped.
- Options exist to amalgamate classes, keep classes the same, merge horses and ponies, amalgamate with a handicap.
- Good uptake in Novice but retention to Intermediate is a problem.
- Evolution has had some success and will be reviewed after the NCs.
- Keeping 4 levels and amalgamating horses and ponies but split for the NCs.
- Making qualification for the NCs more difficult could increase entries or alienate drivers.

CS indicated a preference to retain all the classes with the focus on increasing the number of drivers. He had to leave the meeting at this point due to work commitments and handed the chair to JB.

In order to address the issue of retention from Novice to Intermediate, it was suggested that the number of novices and intermediates required to upgrade after the National Championships was reduced. To encourage progression, it was suggested that Novice drivers complete obstacles 1-6 and Intermediates 1-7 where events had 8 obstacles, with reduced speeds on the marathon and a more straight forward cones course. This would ensure progression for all aspects of the event, not just dressage.

After considerable discussion, PA made the following suggestions:

1. classes remain as they are at present. It was agreed this suggestion required further discussion.
2. a mark of 65 or less for dressage is introduced for National Championship qualification. This was proposed by PA, seconded by JI and agreed unanimously.
3. novice drivers complete 6 obstacles and intermediate drivers complete 7 obstacles (open and above drive 8 where the course allows). This was proposed by DI, seconded by JR and agreed unanimously.
4. marathon speeds are reduced for novice and intermediate classes. It was noted that, as fewer obstacles would be driven, this would allow novice and intermediate drivers to reduce their speed. PS suggested having a separate briefing for novices.
5. only the top 3 finishers, or the top 50% (whichever is fewer) in the novice and intermediate classes at the National Championships are required to move up a level. This was proposed by PA, seconded by BF and agreed unanimously. It was agreed this would be implemented this year although the rule book still allows drivers to move up voluntarily.

The option to have a more straight forward cones course for Novice, Intermediate and Open Pairs was considered. This was rejected as it was agreed that the current slower times were sufficient as it was not always possible to have 2 courses.

JB asked the directors to consider amalgamating classes. BF noted one of the proposals in Frank Campbell's document suggested amalgamating Intermediate and Open but having different tests however, the differences in the cones widths could be a problem. It was felt that it may be a more practical option to amalgamate Novice and Intermediate classes. DW felt 3 clear steps existed at present for drivers with a small minority having international aspirations. JB felt that combining Novice and Intermediate horses and Novice and Intermediate pony classes could work if the rules specified the minimum number of entries. These classes would be split for the NCs and points leagues.

With so many different options, it was agreed to ask the single pony and single horse class representatives for the views of their respective classes. They would be asked for feedback on the following 3 options:

1. combine horses and ponies at Novice, Intermediate and Open, retaining the split classes for Driver of the Year awards and the NCs.
2. do nothing.
3. offer an alternative suggestion supported by the classes e.g. combining Novice and Intermediate or Intermediate and Open etc. This would require the same tests, cone speeds and marathons. If the decision is to combine Intermediate and Open, a standard cone width would be needed.

<p>The above would also be offered to pairs with option 1 to combine Open and Advanced, with the existing dressage tests and cone speeds retained and separated for the Driver of the Year and NCs.</p> <p>A similar request will be made to tandems.</p> <p>Replies will be requested by the middle of October.</p> <p>JI asked if BC was committed to supporting FEI 2* events. BF felt it had to be. DL noted the additional financial implications. JI confirmed that the additional organisation was not significant. JI noted that the lack of selection events this year reduced the number of international entries at Hopetoun. PA suggested using the 2 FEI events as selection events. DW felt that any expenditure on international events was not considered fair by some members. DL reminded Council that the Chefs d'Equipe were recommending the selection events based on feedback from the drivers. BF felt that slight fall in the number of drivers should not be sufficient to affect the viability of the event. JI asked BC to consider carefully whether or not having international events that were not selection events reflected well on BC. JI felt it was not viable to continue as an international event without support. BF felt it was strategically important to support the FEI events.</p> <p>JB closed the meeting 18.20 and noted that the other points raised would be revisited at a later date.</p>
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Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Chris Smith: Chairman British Carriagedriving