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British Carriagedriving Council Minutes

Best Western Manor Hotel, Meriden, Solihull, CV7 7NH.

Friday 9th November 2018 at 9.00am

1	<p>Present at the Meeting: 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, and she reminded Council that the meeting would be recorded.</p>
2	<p>Conflicts of interest</p> <p>No new conflicts of interest were noted. Conflicts with individual agenda items will be noted during the meeting. CS noted that there would be numerous conflicts during this meeting but these discussions needed the input of the whole Council although anyone with a conflict would not vote.</p>
3	<p>Minutes of the previous meeting</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>Matters arising</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Social Media Strategy: Following the offers at the last meeting, nothing further has been arranged. JB noted that the PRfect company were willing to work on our behalf but felt that the event organisers were the ones that would be required to generate the information. He wished to gauge the enthusiasm of the event organisers at the meeting in the afternoon. JB noted that BC had contributed £2.5k to promote the 2018 National Championships and reiterated that the company were willing to work with us until the end of the year for this sum. PA queried the effectiveness of the campaign and asked if it had been value for money. JB noted that he had around 500-600 spectators who were there specifically to see the driving trials. This had been achieved with local press and radio targeted in addition to the posts on social media. JB noted that Hugh Scott-Barrett had matched the BC expenditure of £2.5k, making the total cost of the campaign £5k. PA noted she had achieved 200 paying cars at Bywell with no cost. JB felt the benefit was for the sport as all the spectators were there for the driving trials. PA noted that family and friends had been identified as the major source of new members according to the recent Facebook poll undertaken by Louise McCutcheon. CS felt the most efficient way to promote the sport needed to be identified. AF asked if the PR company contacted all the local riding and pony clubs. CS felt that much of the driving force needed to come from the event organisers as Council were developing a strategy for the whole sport. CS felt that our strategy needed to tap into the other BEF member bodies where there was goodwill and a reserve of prospective carriage drivers. 2. Memorandum and Articles and CASC: MK had written to HMRC who replied to say that the decision would be appealed after the additional evidence is submitted. CS will circulate a draft in the new year and he asked for input from all Council members and other possible members. 3. SDF funding for training clinics: AF contacted the SDF again after the last meeting, but they confirmed they did not wish to offer additional support for training this year. JI reported that she had not made any progress with HorseScotland. JI noted she needed a letter to confirm to HorseScotland that the existing funding is restricted to England. She suggested this letter could be written by AF on behalf of BC and this was agreed.

	<p>4. On-line membership platform: CS had asked MK to approach Go Membership. MK noted the information regarding pricing sourced so far. JB asked how critical it was to have on-line entries integrated into the database as our entries tended to be expensive, compared to other disciplines, and would therefore incur a significant administration fee. CS felt the primary function was to be the membership joining database. MK will query the cost of entries.</p> <p>5. Photographers' insurance and BC membership: CS noted that this applied to all Associate, Full and International members.</p> <p>6. Barclays / Santander options: BF noted he had not yet had a chance to progress this.</p> <p>7. Action from letter of representation: BF noted that he had not yet progressed this. He had the notes in response from the auditors but had not yet had time to deal with it.</p> <p>8. ATVs and insurance: CS apologised for having missed this item.</p> <p>9. Class structure consultation: It was noted that the roles of each Council member created a conflict to some degree within the sport. CS noted that the responses had been received and the outcome was that there is no clear consensus in the responses and no groundswell of opinions for any particular options. The only option that had support from all classes was to do nothing. CS also noted that there was considerable feeling that change was needed although no clear idea had emerged regarding what change should be implemented. CS felt class sizes were not deterring any competitors and therefore felt that attracting more competitors should be the aim rather than changing the classes.</p> <p>JB felt that Horse Pairs had the greatest support for combining the classes and suggested this could be trialed for one year. DW noted that different dressage tests and cone speeds were an organisational consideration, although this was the only option he would be happy to support as he felt the lower levels needed to retain progression. JR felt the judges would not find it difficult to judge different tests within one class. CS expressed concerns that combining the classes may disadvantage drivers starting out in pairs. After some further discussion, a one year trial combining the 2 horse pairs classes and 2 pony pairs classes, with a choice of dressage tests (to be specified on the entry form), the same marathon and cones run at the current Advanced speed, with one class retained for the Driver of the Year and National Championships, was proposed by PA, seconded by JB and agreed unanimously.</p> <p>PA suggested extending this to Open and Advanced Single Horses and Ponies. For single ponies the speed difference for cones was more significant. Considerable discussion ensued around the safety of increasing the cones speeds for Intermediate and Open pony drivers. DW suggested restricting the trial to pairs. JB suggested a gradual increase in class speeds for pony singles at Intermediate and Open for one year and then consider combining the classes the following year. The proposal to increase the cone speeds for Intermediate ponies from 230 m/min to 235 m/min and the Open pony speeds from 240 m/min to 245 m/min was put forward by BF, seconded by JI and agreed unanimously.</p> <p>BF asked about combining tandems. It was agreed that this was at the organisers' discretion.</p>
5	<p>Correspondence</p> <p>1. E-mail from a probationary official requesting promotion: DW had replied to note that the official in question did not yet have sufficient experience at National and Regional events. DW had mapped out a programme with the aim of promotion being achieved next year.</p> <p>DL expressed concern that he had not been consulted and felt that the matter had been handled in a negative manner. DW noted he only consulted the other committee members when necessary and that in cases, such as this one, where the candidate did not meet the stated criteria, no consultation was required. CS agreed this was an appropriate course of action.</p> <p>2. Letter from a club regarding allocation of selection events: CS asked JI to elaborate. JI noted that the accounts for Hopetoun indicated the event was running out of money as an additional £4.5k had to be found to comply with the international requirements. The letter suggested that all FEI events should be selection events. PA felt this was a good idea as competing at any international event was highly beneficial. DL asked why Hopetoun had chosen to run as an FEI event. It was noted this was done when the FEI introduced the rule that WC qualification had to be achieved at an FEI 2* event. CS noted that the letter requested (1) a change to the current policy of asking the Chefs d'Equipe to offer their suggestions for selection events and (2) to offer some financial support for the event to enable it to continue as an FEI event.</p> <p>BF felt that selection events were not intended as a reward for events and should be chosen with the intention of obtaining the best team, therefore this was not a decision Council were best placed to take. DW noted that Council had an advantage as they were</p>

	<p>able to take a broader view and also felt that a good quality event, e.g. Hopetoun, was advantageous for the sport. CS agreed although he felt that the view of the Chef d'Equipe should still be taken into account. CS felt that the letter made good points which were all valid but it was agreed that the current policy would not be changed.</p> <p>CS noted that the second issue was the lack of funding. JI noted this also applies to Sandringham. BF felt that international events were needed for drivers to obtain World Championship qualifying scores, for the good of the sport and to develop a pathway to encourage international aspirations. PA felt that it was necessary to word this appropriately to ensure the members' perception was that their money was not being spent on international issues. It was noted that Brexit was a serious consideration as international travel may become significantly more difficult next year. DW and CS both felt that some assistance should be agreed and CS proposed that BF creates a proposal for BC to offer assistance to international events which will be discussed at the next meeting. This was proposed by DW, seconded by JB and agreed unanimously. MK will reply to the club on behalf of CS.</p> <p>3. E-mail from a member requesting inclusion of classes for Shetland ponies: After some discussion it was agreed that the rules would remain as they are.</p>
6	<p>Class Representatives</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Pony Tandems: Rupert Barnard had written to resign from this role and noted the class recommended that David Taylor is appointed to replace him. This was agreed unanimously. 2. Pony Fours: Susan Skeggs wished to resign from this role and Sara Howe had volunteered to replace her. This was endorsed by Jill Holah and agreed unanimously. 3. Horse Tandems: David Taylor had indicated he would not be returning to the Horse Tandems class and was happy to take on this role for the Pony Tandems. MK will ask David if he will do all tandems.
7	<p>Selection and Ratification Panels for Horse Fours 2019 and Single Horses 2020</p> <p>Single horses: It was proposed that this comprise of the Chef d'Equipe, Minta Winn, DL as Council representative and Di Hayes as Council nominee. This was agreed unanimously.</p> <p>Horse Fours: It was noted that the Chef d'Equipe, Zoe Morgan, has a conflict of interest and currently there is no consistent trainer. CS suggested asking Boyd Exell to take on the role of trainer for the purposes of the Selection Panel and this was felt to be a fair solution. It was agreed to ask Anna Grayston to be the Council nominee and PA will take on the role of Council representative.</p>
8	<p>Selection Events</p> <p>CS noted a conflict with Horse Pairs and Single Horses, JB and DL with Horse Fours, BF as a backstepper for Single Ponies and JI as an organiser. CS noted that everyone's input was necessary as so many issues are interwoven.</p> <p>CS noted Minta Winn had made various proposals to change the selection policy but there was no support for this.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Horse Pairs 2019: CS reported that the Chef d'Equipe felt Lowther was too late to be considered a practical option. It was agreed that May was a congested month. PA proposed having the 2 FEI 2* events as selection events with Ashfields for Pairs and Cricklands for Horse Fours. This was seconded by BF and agreed unanimously by those eligible to vote. 2. Combined Ponies 2019: CS noted the recommendation from the Chef d'Equipe for the ponies did not have all their selection events at the same venue. The suggestion was for Hopetoun, Cricklands and Sandringham for Singles and Pairs and Ashfields, Cricklands and Sandringham for the Pony Fours due to travel conflicts with RWHS. This was proposed by JR, seconded by DW and agreed unanimously. 3. Horse 4s 2019: see 8.1. 4. Single Horses 2020: The Chef d'Equipe had suggested using the National Championships and requested that unqualified drivers, seeking selection, were permitted to enter. It was agreed that, if the NCs were allocated as a selection event, only qualified drivers are eligible as per the Rule Book. CS noted that it was also suggested that Lowther could be a selection event. This was proposed by PA, seconded by JI and agreed unanimously. It was noted that, should George Bowman IV not be able to offer a standard cones course, the NCs remain an option.
9	<p>Club Championship 2019</p>

	<p>Having now been awarded for 3 years, MK queried whether or not it should be continued as, in reality, there were only 2 clubs likely to win. The consensus was that this remained a popular initiative. It was agreed to try and publicise this more to the clubs. JB suggested a club logo on carriages.</p>
10	<p>Finance</p> <p>BF apologised for the late distribution of the accounts. He reported that membership income was down £7k but this was offset by a £2.5k reduction in insurance costs. BF felt value was being returned to the members. Despite the net loss of income of £4.5k, the overall finances are still level with last year. Contributing factors were noted as no losses were incurred by the National Championships, less input from the bookkeeper, a reduction in postage and a £2.5 decrease in irrecoverable VAT. As the situation remains on par with last year, BF predicted another surplus of £11k this year.</p> <p>MK noted that the number of new members is significant although retention is an issue as there is an overall drop of 100 members, irrespective of the loss of marathon groomers. It was agreed to email members who have not renewed for 2018 to see if reasons for this drop can be identified.</p> <p>PA asked about the anti-doping costs. MK noted that the number of tests carried out this year had increased in line with the BEFAR policy.</p> <p>PA queried National Championship expenses of £1,203. BF noted this was the cost of rosettes and trophies for the Driver of the Year and Club Championship. The way it appeared in the accounts was due to a timing delay.</p> <p>AF asked about the BEF grant. BF noted this was kept in a separate account as it is not BC money.</p> <p>BF noted advertising expenditure has still to be recorded as these are September accounts.</p> <p>BF noted start fee income was down in line with a reduction in the number of entries.</p> <p>For 2019 BF proposed that a Supporter membership remains at £35 and an Associate at £75. A Full membership would increase from £170 to £175 and an International membership from £225 to £230 in line with inflation. DL felt that the reserves and surplus were sufficient to avoid having to raise membership fees. BF noted that there should not be a surplus year on year. DW asked how more money will be spent. BF noted that, due to the delay with the implementation of the on-line membership platform, the surplus is higher this year than expected. Next year he would expect it to be around £0-5k which is acceptable. It was agreed that this was an excellent result.</p> <p>BF noted the proposed increases in start fees of £29 to £30 for Novices and Para drivers, £39 to £40 for Singles, £49 to £50 for Pairs and Tandems with the Fours unaltered at £60. He also noted his intention to raise Affiliation fees from £21 to £22 per member, with an £11 discount for club members who were also members of BC. The minimum affiliation will increase from £475 to £490 which BF noted was less than inflation.</p> <p>DW proposed that all the suggested increases were accepted. This was seconded by JI and agreed unanimously. CS thanked BF for keeping BC's finances in a healthy state.</p>
11	<p>Committee Reports</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. F&GP: CS noted there was nothing to report, other than a look at an alternative on-line platform. 2. Competitions: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Evolution and Young Horse / Pony format: DW highlighted the very low uptake on YH classes and it was agreed to discontinue this class. Short format classes had been suggested. AF felt this was more for clubs and it was agreed that any discussion on short format events was a strategic decision at a later date. Evolution classes will continue in their present format. b) 2019 Event Calendar: DW reported that Redenham will not run as they are unable to alter their date and noted he was waiting for confirmation of dates from a few events. c) Review of event surveys: JB had circulated a review of the responses for 2018 and the previous 2 years. He noted that parking seems to have gone down in overall satisfaction but all other questions had gone up. This implies that events are listening and making improvements. CS noted that the class structure issue over class sizes deterring drivers from competing was a worthwhile question and JB has included this. CS thanked JB and the event organisers. d) Official's Promotion: DW proposed that Malcolm Aickin was promoted to the full list and this was agreed unanimously. MK and DW will both write to him. 3. Rules: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) E-mail from a Chef d'Equipe re amending the rule for first time international drivers: CS noted other correspondence has been received regarding this issue which pertained to one competitor. He had consulted members of the Rules Committee where there was no consensus of opinion. JB noted that a 65 dressage at home will be 75 abroad.

	<p>JR asked if Regional events could count for achieving a score to go abroad but it was noted this option had been removed as scoring at Regional events is more lenient. CS noted the rule had been introduced to remove the need for Council to discuss individual applications. JB highlighted that achieving the FEI 3* status was only part of the process and that National Federation authorisation was an additional requirement to being an FEI 3* driver. After some further discussion it was agreed that the rule would remain as it is at present.</p> <p>4. Judges: JR noted there was nothing to report.</p> <p>5. Health and Safety: JB reported 2 accidents at the National Championships and, as a result of one, the judges' box is to be re-sited at Cricklands.</p> <p>PA noted a driver had suggested giving competitors advance notice if obstacles contained moveable elements. JB noted they had been made to look permanent at the Championships. It was agreed to ask the Safety Committee to review this style of obstacles. PA noted they were designed by Barry Hunter, an FEI 4* course designer.</p> <p>Working Groups</p> <p>6. Training: AF reported that the BEF grant has been clarified and can be used for retaining people as well training and try driving days. AF has booked a date at Arena UK and invited club and national judges and writers to participate and interested drivers to watch. Club drivers will supply turnouts for the demonstrations. She noted that this was designed to build confidence and demonstrate differences in judging between club and international events.</p> <p>CS asked if there was a way some clinic or pre-season training could be offered to Novices to increase retention and encourage the move up to Intermediate. PA felt this could be run at clubs. JB felt those who contested the NCs this year should be targeted at locations near to their base. JI felt the Evolution drivers could be included. MK will identify the drivers in question and circulate this to Council as a starting point.</p> <p>Club TD clinics: JR will liaise with MK to organise these. DW has volunteered to take the Southern one.</p>
12	<p>Any other reports</p> <p>1. Office: A report was submitted to Council before the meeting. MK noted that she was still hoping for some suggestions from Council for Yearbook content. She was planning to include Evolution and Young Horse Driver of the Year and NC photos. A request had also been made for additional coverage for the para driving NCs and WCs. It was agreed to include a photo of the para National Champion and the WC bronze medal winning team on one page but retain the policy of only reporting on gold medals. MK noted that the Yearbook will go out by the end of January.</p> <p>MK suggested that a significant cost saving could be made by having the office number transferred to a mobile network. BF agreed and will liaise with MK regarding the possible implementation of this idea.</p> <p>2. Safeguarding: JI had submitted a report in advance of the meeting.</p> <p>3. Saddlers: AF had attended the meeting with the Saddlers' Company on 8th November. She noted that the Saddlers' Company was aware that many people have multiple headcollars and AF had pointed out this was because BC had a limited number of young drivers and para driving members. The Saddlers had offered to fund training instead if we wished. MK noted that the training grant had been reduced as BC did not offer specific harness fitting training. It was noted that harness fitting was part of the training for officials as it forms part of the marking scheme for dressage and the harness checks for Novice drivers. MK agreed to write to the Saddler's Company to make this point in the hope that the training grant could be restored.</p> <p>4. International Influence Meeting: AF had attended this meeting on behalf of BC but noted there was nothing relevant to report.</p> <p>5. BEF quarterly meeting: CS reported that this was mainly taken up by WEG reports although he had been asked to give a presentation on our strategic plan which focused on our attempts to live up to our mission statement. CS noted that each Council member at BEF had a specific role and suggested that we could appoint a director to focus on diversity in the sport. He also felt we needed to continue to build relationships with other member bodies and, with retention of participants now a focus at the BEF, member bodies are working in a more collaborative way.</p> <p>CS thanked JB and AF for attending meetings.</p>
13	<p>Date and venue for the next Council meeting</p> <p>There will be a short meeting after the AGM to elect a Chairman. MK will create a Doodle Poll for the week beginning 4th Feb 2019 to establish the most popular date and venue for the next meeting.</p>

14	<p>AOCB</p> <p>With reference to the revised class structure, CS asked how the requirement for a score of 65 for dressage, to achieve qualification for the National Championships, would work in practice. After some discussion it was agreed that this was less practical than first thought and would be dropped.</p> <p>PA asked Council to revisit the format of the points league presentation with Fenix and see if Mark would consider this taking place on Friday evening. A problem was noted as the marathon scores are used to establish the winners in the case of equality of points. CS suggested that the first priority was to have a discussion about sponsorship with Fenix.</p> <p>PA asked if Thursday dressage could be an option at the NCs. CS felt that splitting classes was not acceptable. JB asked if this had to be done. PA noted that the judges preferred scheduling a shorter day on Friday and that using 2 arenas would mean a higher standard as the 3rd arena is not in such a good location. It was agreed that this was acceptable although it was deemed necessary to have this information in the Yearbook. PA will include as much information as possible in the schedule. DW suggested mentioning this at the Conference and CS agreed to refer to this.</p> <p>Storage of records: MK noted she had retrieved the records to be kept from Ian Gilbert, including the financial records from 2016, and the remainder will be shredded. David Titmuss had confirmed he was still storing the financial records for 2013, 2014 and 2015 and has about 6 additional boxes from around 2004-06. BF will look into secure storage.</p> <p>This Girl Can Campaign: CS had circulated details of this campaign run by the BEF and noted the name is to be changed although this has not yet been implemented.</p> <p>Rainbow Laces Campaign: CS had circulated details of this campaign run by the BEF. It was agreed to forward it to the Indoor Carriage Driving UK secretary and encourage the indoor organisers to take it forward at their events over the winter.</p> <p>GDPR and class contacts: DL noted that some class representatives had trouble contacting the members of their respective classes. MK noted she had forwarded their e-mails in order to comply with GDPR. DL asked if another option could be found. MK will add a note for members to send their respective class representatives their contact details should they wish to be included in future consultations.</p> <p>Quad bikes inspecting the cones course: DL noted that he had been asked by a member if events could schedule a time for drivers, using quads, to inspect the cones as they felt they were inconveniencing the people on foot. CS felt this was an issue for individual event organisers. DL will talk to the driver and speak to organisers.</p> <p>PoJ and TD Reports: DL noted an event had asked for copies of these confidential reports. It was agreed that these will remain confidential and any issues identified will be taken up directly with the event by DW.</p> <p>There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 13.45 and thanked the directors for attending.</p>
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Signed _____

Date _____

Chris Smith: Chairman British Carriagedriving