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British Carriagedriving Council Minutes

Radisson Blu Hotel Stansted, Waltham Close, London Stansted Airport, Essex, CM24 1PP.

Monday 7th October 2019 at 9.30am

1	<p>Present at the Meeting: Patti Atkinson, Angela Flanagan, Jane Isaac, Dick Lane, James Rooney, Chris Smith, David West (arrived 1030) and, by invitation, David Titmuss as acting Treasurer.</p> <p>Apologies were received from James Broome.</p> <p>The minutes were taken remotely via a teleconference link by the Executive Officer, Mary Kusin, who noted 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.</p>
3	<p>Minutes of the previous meeting</p> <p>The minutes of the previous meeting were proposed by JR, seconded by AF, 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. CASC appeal: CS noted a further reply had been received from HMRC and he is collating additional details in order to respond. 2. On-line membership platform update: This was detailed in the office report. 3. Strategic Plan: CS note he was still working on this and showed members a copy of the new BEF strategic plan. 4. Risk register: CS noted he was still working on this. 5. Privacy Notice: CS noted no comments had been received in response to the revised draft he had circulated and proposed that the draft privacy notice was adopted. CS asked MK to check that MyClubhouse was compatible with the privacy notice as this is an important policy which has to be implemented, particularly with regard to the length of time information is retained. BC need to ensure systems are in place to make the policy work.
5	<p>Correspondence</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Email re 'flu vaccinations: CS noted this topic had been discussed in detail at the recent BEF meeting who were working on preparing their own policy. CS noted JB had sent an e-mail with comments on this agenda item indicating that he was not in favour of the FEI policy and preferred a policy of 12 month vaccinations with a recommendation for 6 months. DL noted he was not in favour of compulsory 6 monthly vaccinations as racing felt it was not necessary. He felt the FEI policy was adequate. JI felt that 6 monthly vaccinations were the best option and PA felt that the "within 6 month" option was preferable. CS noted the FEI rule seemed to be the preferred option. PA noted a possible issue with Club classes at regional events. CS felt that all BC events would need to adopt the BC vaccination rules. CS noted that number of 'flu cases had reduced in the last few months but vigilance was still required. Adoption by BC of the FEI rule for 'flu vaccinations was proposed by JI, seconded by PA and agreed by a majority with DL against. 2. Letter requesting NF endorsement of application to be an FEI Steward: JI noted that GBR did not have very many FEI stewards. Further aspects of this discussion were deemed to be confidential by the British Carriagedriving Council. As BC does not have an equivalent post, CS suggested finding out what the FEI requirements are to be able to

cross reference these with the CV at the next meeting. MK will reply to note that we do not currently have training for stewards and have requested a note of the FEI criteria.

3. **Email from a member suggesting regional driving advisors:** This was discussed at some length and agreed as a good idea with the directors all agreeing to be regional advisors. It will be added to the web-site via a map with contact details for all the directors, giving their email and mobile, as the current directors are well spread over the country. MK will respond to thank the member for the suggestion and confirming that the idea had been unanimously approved, while Council felt it was better for progression of the sport for directors to be first point of contact.

CS noted that he was often approached at events by members and suggested having a specific time at each event when Council are available for an informal chat with members. CS suggested a rota and asked the directors to come to the next meeting with a plan for the season and a preferred time for these chats to take place.

4. **Email from a member proposing an alternative format:** MK had circulated a document which summarized the wide range of comments on Facebook. CS invited comments. PA felt star levels caused confusion with the FEI and noted that the idea of cob classes had not found favour on Facebook. As an organiser, PA felt that the one day format, combined with a 2 or 3 day event, was difficult to coordinate and that the one day format was already adopted by many clubs. It was noted that there had been a number of Facebook comments noting the similarity of the 1* proposal to the existing Evolution classes. AF felt that many of the proposals were already in place at club events. DL agreed that most of what was suggested is already done by BC or at club or indoor events but a lot of opinion had been whipped up on Social Media so BC had to be seen to listen. JR and JI agreed with DL and PA. JI highlighted the number of people commenting on FB that were not members. CS noted the confusion with the star nomenclature but felt that Evolution should continue as a lead in for people from club to National. CS agreed with the consensus that most of the ideas were already implemented. PA noted the Evolution class was cancelled at the NCs as 7 had qualified and only 2 entered. PA agreed the Evolution class was a good idea but it was a challenge to organise, a view endorsed by JI. MK noted that there had been a number of comments suggesting that people wishing to enter short format events or Evolution classes are not prepared to travel very far. AF felt further clarity on who can enter Evolution classes was required.

DW joined the meeting having been delayed by heavy traffic.

CS noted event organisers had the option to schedule Evolution classes to suit themselves and that one idea of having the Evolution class was to encourage people to stay over and offer help for the main event. DW felt Evolution had, so far, failed in its original intention. CS noted he had been a strong supporter in the beginning and there had been some success with a number of drivers having taken the step up to National events. MK noted that many of the FB posts had indicated that many did not know the Evolution classes existed and suggested retaining these classes in the present format but making a much greater effort to target likely participants. CS felt it would give out the wrong signal if Evolution was removed and it would need to be replaced with an alternative. DW felt that MK's suggestion should be adopted. CS felt that the class can run on any day and it would be worth asking the event organisers to give it their support for 2020. JR asked if there were any tweaks that could be introduced to make it easier to run. A new rule to reduce the number of times a driver could win the Championships was suggested. After some further discussion, it was agreed to try and revitalize the Evolution class in 2020.

5. **Email from a member with a query about the value of entries:** JI noted that the member had asked about the contribution to BC from start fees of some members who only did one event versus someone who entered 4. CS noted BC is funded by subscriptions and start fees which are designed so that the "user pays". Costs to BC include some fixed overheads and some costs that depend on the number of serviced events with preparation of schedules, the Yearbook, event paperwork, competitor numbers, green cards, information and support. BC also provide timing clocks and their maintenance, tabards, cones and a dressage arena. Start fees also contribute part of the cost of running BC and training officials. MK will reply with details of what's provided and how BC is funded. CS suggested this is added to the next news pages in Carriage Driving with a comment on the percentage of office time to prepare paperwork for events.

6. **Email re format and selection events at Lowther:** CS suggested this was dealt with in 2 parts: one format and one selection events. he noted that George Bowman IV had indicated that Lowther would run a traditional format next year and this was warmly welcomed. The Lowther Derby will be kept as an optional extra and Council hope many will take part as this promotes the sport to the country fair audience.

Selection events will be discussed under item 23.2(d).

7. **Email from a member re Selection Events:** CS noted the number of points in this e-mail. First, whether or not the class members get a vote regarding selection events. It was noted that some Chefs d'Equipe ask the drivers to vote, some make the decision themselves,

	<p>and some invite comments from the class. Some classes ask for the £200 selection fee to be paid in order to have a say. CS confirmed that the allocation of selection classes was a Council decision with input from the chefs. PA felt the chefs should not have the decision which can now appear to be the case. DL felt that the drivers perceived selection events were chosen to support events and CS and DW confirmed that this was indeed an important factor to take into account. MK reminded Council that the original intention, when the Chefs d'Equipe were invited to comment of the choice of selection events was to enable integration with desirable international events, not to choose the events in Britain. it is important that the Chefs d'Equipe need to make Council aware of any factors they wish taken into consideration. MK noted the request of 2 chefs that drivers need to have completed a 3* event as part of the selection process but CS felt it was not necessarily their intention to include RWHS, rather that the drivers should go abroad. Council broadly supported the suggestion that drivers should have competed at 3* level but felt that further consideration needed to be given as to how this would work in practice and how a rule could be drafted that worked for all classes.</p> <p>Point 2 is about rotation of selection events which will be considered under item 23.2(d).</p> <p>Point 3 is about changing the process for allocating RWHS invitations. PA felt that the present system was not necessarily producing the desired result with one driver entering with horses that had not previously competed together although Council had not been made aware of this when the entries were ratified. CS noted that the procedure was kept under review but Council had no plans to change the present process at this time. CS asked directors to consider alternative wordings for the allocation of invitations and to circulate this by e-mail. MK will reply.</p>
6	<p>Ratification of Decisions taken by e-mail</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Affiliation of the Bedfordshire Carriage Driving Club: A new club, Bedfordshire Carriage Driving Club, had applied to become affiliated to BC and this was agreed unanimously. 'Flu Vaccinations: This was discussed above under item 5.1 which supersedes the decision taken by email. Scoring Trailer: DT confirmed that this was becoming uneconomic to maintain and, as he had owned it for a number of years, he has sold it.
7	<p>Promotion of officials: John Goodwin, Malcolm Brown and Esther Rawlinson</p> <p>DW noted that John only worked in Ireland but had excellent references. His promotion to the Course Designers list was proposed by DW, seconded by DL and agreed unanimously.</p> <p>Malcolm's promotion to the list of Course Designers was proposed by DL, seconded by JI, and agreed unanimously.</p> <p>Esther's promotion to the Judges List 3 was proposed by DW, seconded by PA and agreed unanimously.</p>
8	<p>BEF Medal of Honour</p> <p>CS had circulated the BEF's request for nominations. It was agreed that BC would not submit a nomination this year.</p>
9	<p>Welfare of ponies</p> <p>DW noted his club had been considering a horse welfare issue of weight ratio of driver and backstepper and pony as a number of turnouts, usually small ponies, had been recently seen competing which could be considered to have compromised horse welfare. CS noted he had spoken to the WHW representative at the recent BEF meeting who noted there was insufficient research at present to give firm guidance. CS confirmed that horse welfare was always at the forefront of BC's thinking. JI noted a weight limit for drivers at RDA which was taken very seriously. In RDA the animal can only pull its own weight over rough ground and its own weight plus 50% on tarmac. This would mean a 300kg pony could pull a combined weight of carriage, driver, groom and harness of 300kg and cyclists often accompany a carriage and people are weighed. The fitness of the pony was clearly relevant and JI reminded Council that RDA targets were aimed at leisure ponies. PA queried how this could be applied to tandems where there are 2 ponies but one did the bulk of the work. JR mentioned a previous recommendation where a pony was deemed capable of pulling 2.5 times its own body weight. CS felt that action was needed and was more of an issue at club events where there will not be a vet as nothing should compromise the welfare of equines. CS suggested asking the judges for guidance although the practicalities of weighing horses and drivers at events made creating a rule impractical. JR will take this to the Judges Committee and ensure it is raised at the judges training clinics. As a result of concerns raised, the judges will be asked to produce a</p>

	<p>recommendation. This will be run past WHW. Public perception of equestrian sport is an important consideration.</p>
10	<p>Equine Vaccinations</p> <p>CS reminded Council that the BC decision was to follow the FEI 'flu vaccination rule. CS felt that, as tetanus was not a biosecurity risk, tetanus should be left to the drivers and this was agreed. CS noted the BEF and AHT recommendations which, from the start of next year's outdoor season, will require FEI vaccinations. CS asked MK to explain to members how this will work and to stress that any queries should be directed to members' vets. It was also noted that drivers need to check the requirements of any centres they may be visiting.</p>
11	<p>Venue for National and Club Judges Clinics</p> <p>CS noted the Unicorn Trust was the traditional venue but he felt there were other options which might be considered for future years if this made it easier for members to attend. Further aspects of this discussion were deemed to be confidential by the British Carriagedriving Council</p>
12	<p>Retention of safeguarding documents</p> <p>MK noted that safeguarding documents would be retained indefinitely. Council needs to take no further action as the privacy notice has been passed.</p>
13	<p>Selection and Ratification Panel for Horse Fours World Championships 2020 and Pony and Horse Pairs World Championships 2021</p> <p>Council agreed to defer a decision until the new Council is appointed, and possibly consider this topic at the short meeting after the AGM.</p>
14	<p>Selection and Ratification Panel communication</p> <p>MK requested that the Council representative is appointed to officially notify the BC office and Council of the decision of the Selection and Ratification Panel and any desired wording required when making the announcement of the teams. This was proposed by DW, seconded by JI, and agreed unanimously.</p>
15	<p>AGM and Conference: format, agenda and topics for discussion</p> <p>Council agreed to follow the same format as last year. CS will chair the affiliated clubs meeting and Philip Bateman will be invited to chair the international meeting. DT noted he was happy to attend the Conference and speak as Treasurer; Council thanked him for this offer. MK will e-mail the members one more time and ask for questions and suggestions in advance although this does not preclude discussion on the day.</p>
16	<p>National Championship Report</p> <p>CS noted that the NCs had been a fantastic event. PA thanked him and reported that she had received lots of positive comments. PA noted a significant loss of entries to the Pony WCs and a southern club event. She felt it was very disrespectful of any club to organise an event the weekend before or after the NCs. The event did not break even having run it on a green field site but would continue as a National in 2020. It was felt that drivers need to know where the money goes and DT offered to create a Powerpoint presentation to show this at the Conference. PA felt that the NCs should revert to being organised by BC. CS asked MK to add an agenda item for the next meeting to discuss how the NCs and National events are run.</p>
17	<p>Equality and Diversity Policy</p> <p>CS referred to the documents circulated by MK and asked AF to introduce these. AF explained that, in order to be compliant with the BEF requirements for good governance, the Equality Standard for sport needs to be completed. CS asked AF to complete this on behalf of BC and then circulate it to Council for comment. AF noted she had requested comments from CS on the Equality Policy which also needs to be signed. CS will complete this review and it will be circulated for Council's attention with the other documents. CS asked for any specific comments to be sent to AF. AF noted that it had been suggested that the policy is displayed at events and on the website.</p>
18	<p>Retention of Officials and badges</p> <p>This referred to the e-mail sent to PA by Katie Stewart which proposed a training programme and qualifications for stewards along the same lines as the FEI. PA promised to send it to MK for distribution to Council. CS felt that this could be aspirational rather than practical at this time. AF noted a stewards training day was organised at Bennington Carriages. AF will send MK details for the website and for the clubs.</p>

	<p>After some discussion, the idea of badges would be reconsidered once the steward's proposal is discussed.</p>
19	<p>Committee Composition for 2020</p> <p>F&GP will comprise CS, JB and PA with the new treasurer once appointed.</p> <p>Competitions Committee will remain unchanged.</p> <p>Rules Committee will remain unchanged.</p> <p>Judges Committee will remain unchanged.</p> <p>It was noted that Frank Campbell had not responded to many recent communications sent by the Safety Committee and MK will check if he wishes to remain on this committee.</p> <p>Mary Jane Campbell will be added to the Yearbook listing; her name is already on the website.</p> <p>MK will ask Mary Jane Campbell to confirm any changes to the Young Driver Committee.</p> <p>MK will ask Julie Camm to confirm any changes to the Para Driving Committee.</p> <p>JI as Council Lead for Safeguarding and AF as Council Lead for Equality and Diversity will be added to the photo pages on the website and Yearbook.</p> <p>The changes above were proposed by PA, seconded by AF and agreed unanimously.</p>
20	<p>FEI Driving and Para Driving surveys</p> <p>MK will complete the 2 FEI surveys on behalf of BC. She will contact Julie Camm for input into the Para Driving one.</p> <p>The second one asks for opinions on the FEI's proposal to remove the ban on pneumatic tyres, which Council agreed to support with the restrictions removed altogether, and reducing the size of dressage arenas for pony pairs and singles to 80mx40m. JR felt that welfare considerations should be considered for the pony singles and pairs. CS asked JR if he had ever judged a test where welfare was compromised by the longer arena. JR noted that he had seen this in some novice classes. CS suggested it could be easier to review the novice test. After some discussion about the implications of this proposal, CS asked the directors to vote; 3 were against the proposal and 3 abstained. MK will respond to say that we do not support this proposal.</p>
21	<p>Young Driver and Para Training Awards</p> <p>It was agreed that, should the Worshipful Company of Saddlers renew their offer of training grants for Para Drivers and Young Drivers in 2020, the wording would be changed to improve clarity and will confirm "complete" means to do so without retirement or elimination.</p>
22	<p>Finance</p> <p>CS thanked DT for stepping in to assist Council while a new Treasurer was sought and for providing such excellent commentaries on the current financial situation. DT had expressed concerns about the drop in membership numbers. CS felt many people had joined as Associate members last year out of habit but this year realised they did not have to.</p> <p>DT noted positive progress regarding the appointment of a new treasurer. DT noted he had long conversations and the prospective treasurer was a thoroughly professional finance director who DT had no hesitation in recommending for the position. Given the timing of the Council elections, it was agreed that the new Treasurer would be co-opted in November and stand for election in future years.</p> <p>DT noted Council's wish to keep the cost of competing as low as possible. Affiliation and membership fees will remain unchanged for 2020 with start fees lowered for the majority of classes and three free start fee vouchers given to all new Novice drivers. DT will help prepare the 2020 budget.</p>
23	<p>Committee Reports</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. F&GP: CS noted he had nothing to report but mentioned a few related issues. he had been to 2 BEF Council meetings and was continuing productive dialogue with the other Member Bodies. CS also noted that the issue of succession for the role of Chairman should be considered by Council as he is happy to continue for another year but won't be putting his name forward the following year. 2. Competitions: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Amalgamated classes for 2020: DW noted that there was little support for the amalgamated pairs classes and some very unhappy competitors. PA proposed

reverting to Open and Advanced Pairs classes. This was seconded by DL and agreed unanimously.

For Singles, PA noted some members had been in favour of removing the Intermediate class although DW had received negative feedback on this topic. DW felt the classes should be retained but encourage organisers to combine classes if entries are low. MK noted this idea had been proposed at the Conference in the past and had been so unpopular the idea had been dropped. CS felt that removing or merging classes put people off.

DW proposed that the singles and pairs classes revert to the times as detailed in the 2018 Rule Book. This was seconded by AF and agreed unanimously.

- b) **Future of Evolution classes:** This was discussed earlier under item 5.4.
c) **Review of marathon distances for Novice and Intermediate drivers:** DW noted there had been a few problems but none that were significant and proposed this should be retained. The Council were in agreement.

- d) **Selection events for 2020:** DL, PA, JI and CS declared conflicts of interest on a number of the following decisions.

DL noted he had great respect for GB IV's enthusiasm but, despite the bad weather, would like to see the changes implemented for a year before any selection classes are awarded for Lowther.

H4: DL left the room for the vote. Ashfields, Cricklands and Sandringham agreed unanimously as the selection events for the Horse Fours by those eligible to vote.

H1: CS, JI and PA left the room for the vote. In the absence of CS, DW took the chair. There were a number of alternatives. PA noted Lowther gives an excellent crowd experience. It was agreed Osberton was not an option for a selection event at this stage and 3 events were needed in the middle of the season. It had been suggested that the Singles did not want their selection events too close together to allow for further training between events. Hopetoun, Sandringham and Bywell were proposed by JR, seconded by DW agreed unanimously as the selection events for Single Horses by those eligible to vote.

H2: CS left the room for the vote. PA proposed Lowther which was seconded by DW and agreed unanimously.

Ponies: PA left the room for the vote. CS noted he was not in favour of using the NCs which does not need any increase in entries. it was noted that the NCs had only been used as a last resort in the last 2 selection rounds. JI proposed Bywell. This was seconded by DL and agreed unanimously.

Following the meeting a late conflict was identified with members of the pony class who were also YD trainers who would wish to attend the YD European Championships and would therefore be unable to compete at Bywell. Council noted they would have taken this into account had this conflict been notified in advance of the meeting. The first selection event for the ponies has therefore been changed to Osberton.

- e) **Safeguards for driving trials run in conjunction with other events:** MK noted the need to ensure safeguards were in place to complete the driving trials when run in conjunction with other events. This was agreed and will be further considered when approving schedules.

- f) **Exemptions re clinic attendance for experienced officials:** DW noted he had received a request from an experienced official, who only wished to officiate for one more year, to be granted an exemption from attending the National clinic at Stow on the Wold. DW asked for approval for Ian Douglas to be told in advance that he did not need to attend the 2020 training clinic and this was agreed.

- g) **2020 Calendar:** DW noted Osberton had received favourable reports and recommended it is approved as a National event in 2020 which was agreed unanimously. It will be a qualifier for the 2021 NCs and Points Table. CS asked if anyone had comments regarding the organisation of Osberton. AF noted that the lorries were parked far too close together and that there had been a few problems with public accessing the obstacles when it was not safe to do so. CS noted that, despite being told some obstacles were closed for walking at certain times, this was not the problem it had first seemed, and could be managed. CS suggested providing an information tent and "Ask Me" tabards to improve interaction with spectators. Try Driving days would need to be advertised with booking options on the day.

CS noted some issues over circulation of the dates. DW noted that it was easier to avoid confusion by not circulating dates more widely. CS asked for dates to be sent out by the Chairman of the Competitions Committee to Council once enough were confirmed to make the list meaningful.

3. Rules:

- a) **Number of people on a carriage when exercising at an event:** It was noted that an anomaly existed in the Rule Book which was clear that 2 grooms were needed for fours in competition and an additional groom required if leading the spare horse, but did not clearly specify 2 grooms had to be with the turnout when

	<p>exercising. Clarification of rule 5.1 to require 2 grooms on the carriage at all times, plus an additional groom if a horse was being led, was proposed by JI, seconded by DW, and agreed unanimously</p> <p>b) Selection wording: CS clarified drivers need to compete at, rather than complete, at least one selection event to be eligible for selection and will ensure the 2020 Rule Book reflects this decision.</p> <p>4. Judges: Dressage tests for 2020: JR noted a review of the novice test is underway which will be revealed at the National clinic at The Unicorn Trust. He noted the possible changes to the FEI Singles tests which may have an implication on the tests for BC events. Other tests remain the same. PA noted Novices still have 5 collectives as an incorrect sheet had been used at a recent event.</p> <p>5. Health and Safety: A report from the H&S Committee had been received in advance of the meeting. It highlighted that distances between lorries had to be adequate and MK was asked to add this to the event organisers meeting agenda.</p> <p>A recommendation was made that drones should not be allowed. PA noted that drones have their own rules and regulations. DW felt that we could make an addition to our Rule Book that these cannot be used without the express permission of the TD, which would prohibit drivers being followed by a drone operated by friends or family. This was agreed.</p> <p>High Risk Turnouts: DW noted that one animal had bolted twice at one event. It was felt that TD and PoJ reports should be identifying any such risks and this information forwarded on to other officials and events to ensure it is more actively dealt with. DW and MK will amend the report form to have a box to confirm there were no issues which need to be dealt with.</p> <p>CS noted much more stewards training is needed. MK noted the point of the spectator who had commented on the handling of her own accident at Bywell. It was agreed that there needs to be a checklist of points for stewards to deal with and that the Safety Committee needs to make recommendation of issues that need to be addressed as obstacle observers need to be prepared for eventualities on the day.</p> <p>Ambulances were discussed. PA noted medical cover is one of the major costs for an event. CS noted the Risk Assessment requires organisers to consider the number of ambulances. DW suggested an ambulance could take a casualty to a treatment centre to allow the ambulance to return to the event. This will be reviewed by the Safety Committee.</p> <p>It was noted no date had yet been set for the Safety Training and MK will contact Peter Bridson and chase this up.</p> <p>Working Groups</p> <p>6. Training: AF reported that a stewards training day had been arranged for 2/11/19 and will email MK details for publication.</p> <p>UKCC coaches' CPD is to arrange a Try Driving Day in their areas. AF will collate dates to enable MK to publicise this.</p> <p>CS noted that he had been asked if any CPD training could be part funded by BC. It was agreed this was not an option at this time.</p>
24	<p>Other reports</p> <p>1. Office: MK added to her report and noted that there had been 65 new members in 2019 despite the overall drop in membership numbers. MK noted the number of non-returning members was fairly high.</p> <p>Looking ahead to the Yearbook, MK noted that Zilco had declined to advertise in the 2020 publication and asked Council to think if they could identify an alternative advertiser who would like the premium spot of the back cover.</p> <p>2. Safeguarding: JI noted there was nothing at this time.</p> <p>3. Equestrian Safety Group: DW will attend the next meeting on 13/11/19.</p> <p>4. Equality and Diversity: AF noted this had already been discussed under item 17 although a meeting date has to be arranged to allow for the necessary Equality and Diversity training to be delivered to the directors.</p> <p>5. Social media Strategy: Further aspects of this discussion were deemed to be confidential by the British Carriagedriving Council. CS referred to the paper received from Rebecca March which CS felt was well thought out and addressed many aspects, both positive and negative, of the current arrangement with PRfect. He noted that for many reasons the relationship with PRfect had not worked. PA noted she would be happy to share her experience of how to get the media involved and she felt any event organiser could do this. PA proposed the contract with PRfect is not renewed. This was seconded by JI and agreed unanimously.</p> <p>PA felt Council would benefit from a strategy meeting, in addition to the normal Council meetings, to look at the way forward for the sport rather than always being reactive. CS</p>

	<p>suggested holding one every year at which no normal business would be conducted. As the way forward for social media forms part of the overall strategy, it was suggested that Rebecca March should be invited to attend as she had offered in her letter to be involved with formulating a new social media strategy and a plan for next year. CS will write to Rebecca.</p>
25	<p>Date and venue for the next Council meeting</p> <p>There will be a short meeting after the AGM.</p> <p>11/2/20 was proposed for the next meeting as this fits in with availability for most of Council and the need to arrange delivery of the Equality and Diversity training. AF will organise to have this take place in the morning. The venue will be arranged after the new Council is confirmed.</p> <p>A date for the strategy meeting will be arranged after the Conference.</p>
26	<p>AOCB</p> <p>Jl suggested adding BHS liaison to other reports and this was agreed.</p> <p>DT thanked Council for inviting him to attend the meeting and offered his services for as long as they were needed.</p> <p>PA suggested having the event organisers meeting earlier in the season to enable ideas to be discussed. Jl confirmed this was on the agenda for the Event Organisers meeting as was the query about restricting attendance to National Event organisers. CS felt it was a meeting for all organisers so Regional events should be in attendance. This will be discussed at the Event Organisers meeting.</p> <p>At the BEF's invitation to MBs, JR confirmed he will attend the NGB Membership Forum titled "The Competitive Edge".</p> <p>CS noted he will shortly be attending a Brexit meeting with reference to equestrianism.</p> <p>MK noted the Horse Tandem NC trophy had not been seen since it was returned in 2017. MK will circulate an appeal to try and locate it on Social Media.</p> <p>MK noted she was unable to confirm the cost of repairing the Intermediate Pony NC trophy until she was able to drive. Once this can be established a decision regarding repair or a new purchase will be made.</p> <p>Emails had been received from 2 Chefs d'Equipe suggesting that there should be a requirement to attend a 3* event to be eligible for selection. It was agreed this cannot be implemented just now for H1 as they are part way through their selection process. CS noted a number of issues this raises including the question of when this has to be completed. Support for the proposal was positive but further consideration is needed to see how it is to be implemented and a clearer proposal wording formulated before details can be worked out. CS will reply to both e-mails.</p> <p>As there was no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 4pm and thanked everyone for attending.</p>