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British Carriagedriving Council Minutes by Firefly

Meeting by Conference Call

Wednesday 21st January 2026 at 7pm

Attendees – Andrew Counsell (Chairman), Patti Atkinson, Malcolm Brown, Sara Clinghan, Rod Holdsworth, Jane Lamb, Jamie March, Dan Naprous. Apologies were received from Callum Dougan. Graeme MacArther (Club Liaison) was in attendance.

Office Operations

- Rachel Caughey has joined the team as the second part time Office Administrator.
- The new office team is currently very busy with year-end subscriptions and reviewing processes and systems
- The BC office is exploring better email solutions potentially linked to website hosting to improve ongoing communication
- Office open hours are under review and new trial hours will be announcement by end of February.
- Sarah highlighted positive member feedback on improved communication tone, with the office being approachable and supportive

Event Entry Systems and My Clubhouse Integration

- The council agreed to allow two National events to use their own entry systems this year while continuing to promote and improve the My Clubhouse platform for wider adoption by 2027.
- Patti confirmed start fees must be paid early alongside entries to verify correct class eligibility.
- Graeme and Jamie acknowledged logistical challenges in fully integrating club and national entries but supported progressing MyClubhouse usage, emphasising the need for education and system improvements
- Council agreed to pilot and test My Clubhouse with some clubs in 2026 to build confidence for wider rollout in 2027
- User login issues and system glitches continue but are recognised as part of the learning curve and system cleanup

Financial Overview and Legacy Funding

- Draft December management accounts show positive income trends inline with forecast and some provisional figures require finalisation for the statutory accounts
- 2 Legacy fund applications for training grants were received. One from Manx Harness Club and the other from Southern Carriage Driving Club . Both were unanimously approved
- Clarity was sought on training grant eligibility, confirming it applies to officials transferring up levels and to Affiliated Clubs who could apply once per year
- Council agreed to review training grant policies and improve communication to ensure awareness and proper usage.

Equipment and Resource Management

- The council unanimously approved renewing British Carriage Driving's national equipment stock with cones and balls funded from legacy reserves at a cost of £780.
    - The equipment is to be used for national Events and is also available to club to borrow.
    - Malcolm Brown maintains the register of BC equipment.

Governance, Council Composition, and Communications

- Justin Cowels attended to be introduced as the new Chairman of the Safety Committee. Council welcomed Justin and expressed their thanks to Keith Atkinson for taking the position for the past two years.
- Council agreed to proactively identify and recruit members with specific skills to fill gaps and support major projects, including fundraising and sponsorship
- The council confirmed continued use of WhatsApp for quick decision-making and communication, with plans to formalise protocols and integrate it into council articles in the future.
    - Members agreed WhatsApp reduces meeting times and allows asynchronous input, with formal ratification of decisions maintained during meetings
- The updated rulebook is near finalisation, with a comprehensive list of changes on page seven and an introductory statement acknowledging minor errors and inviting corrections.
    - The rulebook will be published online for download, with printing options to be explored based on last year's print volume and cost estimates.
    - Communication plans include emailing clubs the list of amendments to allow rulebook updates in advance of formal publication.
- Discussions clarified body protector standards, confirming no mandatory level for 2026 but recommending users invest in the best possible protection; clear communication will be issued via website and club calls.
- The 200 Club lottery is relaunched with tickets priced at £25, four draws per year, and increased prize money including a £200 first prize and £50 second prize for the first draw.
    - Funds raised will support purchasing equipment and scoring system dongles; sign-ups are via My Clubhouse, with media campaigns planned to maximize participation

Affiliated Clubs and Rule Enforcement

- Discussions emphasised the principle that all clubs must follow the same affiliation rules, or else forfeit affiliated status.
    - Graham emphasised that the affiliated clubs meeting is informal and allowing clubs to attend provides valuable input despite their unpaid status.
    - The consensus was to maintain current rules where unpaid clubs are not affiliated but allow continued informal engagement, with Rod and Sarah managing communications and club relations.
    - Future rule changes to formalise payment deadlines and consequences may be drafted for 2027 to close loopholes and prevent recurrence

Media, Communications, and Growth Initiatives

- The media team is advancing well, with new video content and website developments expected by late February to improve public perception and engagement

    - Callum has been working on media production, including videos for the website, with a tentative go-live date by end of February 2026.
    - Recent media outputs are positively received for being professional, cautious, and clear, supporting the council's objective to improve communication and grow the sport.
    - The council reaffirmed the ongoing objective to grow carriage driving, emphasising the importance of clear communication and engagement strategies to attract new participants.
- The council agreed to prioritise scoring system discussions on the next agenda, recognising that existing systems are complex and scorer availability is declining, risking shortages in 2027.
    - Existing systems include the FEI-based Leonard system and Mike Watt's system; a more user-friendly, unified national scoring platform is desired to support the ten national competitions and club events
    - Jamie noted a prior comparative document on scoring systems exists and suggested circulating it for review.

Anti-Doping and Athlete Testing

- A member raised a question regarding compliance with FEI's updated banned substances list for athletes, which would impact driver testing
    - Council members agreed that policing human drug testing in this context is impractical and unnecessary, especially given the infrequency of horse drug testing nationally.
    - The consensus was to exclude FEI human anti-doping rules from BC regulations for now, focusing resources elsewhere.
    - The BEF follows FEI's protocols, but BC has discretion not to implement them at the national amateur level.

Action items
Sarah and Rachel

- Follow up with Ashfields regarding legacy funding and obstacle sharing confirmation
- Continue managing affiliation forms follow-up, start fee collection, and email system upgrade investigation
- Collaborate with Matthew to enhance 'My Clubhouse' capabilities and user education; promote increased use for 2027 events
- Distribute invitation and link for January 29 club forum as broadly as possible to treasurers and club contacts
- Liaise with Malcolm to prepare documentation for BC cone equipment loan process and legacy funding request form

Patti

- Forward updated rulebook section regarding body protector standards to Sarah for website communication

Rod

- Provide final December management accounts and continue financial updates
- Add Special Development fund integration work to BC planner.

Council

- Review and finalise rulebook; send changes/amendments list to clubs upon Derek's confirmation.
- Monitor Club's affiliation payment status; maintain current rules enforcing non-affiliation without payment and insurance exclusion; defer formal policy changes to 2027.

Callum and Sarah

- Coordinate media/video production rollout and 200 Club communications launch

Andrew

- Add scoring system and sport growth discussion items to next meeting agenda

Club liaison (Graeme MacArthur)

- Manage affiliated club attendance concerns and act as primary contact for complaints

Signed _____ Date _____
Andrew Counsell: Chairman British Carriagedriving

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British Carriagedriving Council Minutes

Meeting by Conference Call

Wednesday 18th February 2026 @ 7pm

1	**Meeting Format:** Online **Minute Taker:** Sarah McLaughlin **1. Attendance** **Present:** Patti Atkinson (PA) Andrew Counsell (AC) Sara Clinghan Callum Dougan (CD) Jane Lamb (JL) Jamie March **In Attendance:** Rachel Caughey Graeme McArthur (Affiliated Club Liaison) **Apologies/Arrivals:** Rod Holdsworth joined at 19:28 Dan Naprous joined at 19:56	
2	**Conflicts of interest** No new conflicts of interest were noted. Conflicts with individual agenda items will be noted during the meeting.	
3	**Minutes of the previous meeting** The minutes of the previous meeting were proposed by AC, seconded by JL, and approved as a true and accurate record.	
4	**Matters Arising** **4.1 Allerton Own Entry System** It was agreed that the 2026 Allerton event may use its own entry system for entries and start fees. • Allerton will provide a list of entries after the closing date. • The office will confirm class eligibility. • BC is reviewing My Clubhouse with a view to improving usability. • Communication will be sent to clubs this year to support education and ensure the system is user-friendly. **4.2 Scoring Systems** Council discussed the need for a simple, consistent scoring system that all organisers and scorers can use going forward.	

	Key points: • Several systems are currently in use. • The MW system is considered user-friendly and integrates easily with websites. • The Lineart system produces live scoring but is less straightforward to link. • It is unclear which systems clubs are currently using. • The priority is recruiting and retaining scorers; they should be able to use systems they are comfortable with. **Action:** Engage with club and national scorers (via an online meeting) to gather feedback on current systems and preferences. A key initiative is to grow the number of trained scorers. It is important that clubs do not feel a system is being imposed on them. This will be mentioned at the next clubs' meeting.	
5	**Correspondence** **5.1 Gateway at Championships** The Gateway class has been raised at club meetings and by organisers. • A survey has been issued (29 responses to date). • The survey remains open until early March. • Council previously decided not to run Gateway at the 2026 Championships. • Survey results will be analysed before a potential change to the original decision is made. • Future championship organisers will be consulted **5.2 Member Body Vet Representative** Rosie was proposed. No objections were received. **5.3 Try Driving Request** Giselle Lockets application approved – process from last year to be followed. A reminder will be sent to clubs regarding Try Driving opportunities. **5.4 New Club – Glebe Estate** Council agreed to the affiliation of Glebe Estate. All required paperwork must be confirmed as complete. Office to follow up and ensure all in place. **5.5 Cover Charge Proposal – Suggestion given to Council by a Club Chair** The idea of introducing a cover charge was discussed. Historically some events have charged differing amounts depending on the number of nights stayed. Concerns were raised that members may not be comfortable with additional costs. BC is not able to support mandatory additional charges; however, events may adjust their pricing structures if they wish. AC is willing to discuss further. Clubs may consider more innovative pricing approaches. **5.6 Malcolm's Resignation** Malcolm's resignation was formally accepted. Council acknowledged Malcolm's valuable contribution to BC Council and looked forward to working with him on club and national activities in the future. **5.7 Use of BC Logo**	

	A communication was received regarding permission to use the BC Logo by affiliated clubs and that it was agreed that use of logo by affiliated clubs is perfectly acceptable in order to promote their affiliation to BC.	
6	**Decisions by email/Whats App** 1. None this month	
7	**Club Treasurers Forum** Meeting held Tuesday 17 February. • 16 clubs represented. • Constructive discussion with a range of topics covered. • A number of potential changes and ideas were identified and working party will develop further into changes for 2027. Once completed, minutes will be circulated to clubs and Council. Some ideas require further information gathering and progression.	
8	**Finance** January 2026 accounts were not yet available. The final management accounts position for 12 months to December 2025 is similar to that shared at the previous meeting. Statutory accounts will be prepared and sent to the new auditors. No changes are planned to the current forecast or budget for 2026.	
9	**Legacy Funding** 1. No applications received	
10	**2026 Rule Book** Discussion focused on wording regarding cameras on hats and whether interpretation is sufficiently clear. Key points: • Clarification required from the Rules Committee and Safety Committee. • Question raised regarding what supporting data informed the decision (FEI uses POJs to make decisions). • Debate over whether to publish as-is or delay. • Agreement reached to delay publication until clarification is obtained. • Once approved, the Rule Book will go to print regardless of minor errors. • The Rule Book cannot yet be placed on the website. • It will be emailed to all members once finalised. The “changes list” generated significant queries this year; this approach may be reconsidered next year. The 2027 Rule Book timeline: draft to be ready by December 2026. Council acknowledged this year’s Rule Book was a substantial piece of work and the Rules Committee were again thanked for their time and effort in its production.	
11	**Growth of Sport – Member benefits** Standing agenda item. Discussion included: • Improving communication about existing benefits (seminars, expert access, newsletters). • Considering what additional benefits could be offered.	

	• Feedback from the last clubs' meeting regarding sport growth. Further discussion required at the next meeting.	
12	**Health & Safety** 1. Report from Justin Cowles Our first committee meeting provided a great opportunity to meet members and gain a better understanding of their values and aspirations for the group. During the meeting, I have asked members to feedback on current aims and objectives which was agreed that these could be strengthened to reflect a more proactive safety culture and better align with external expectations. My initial focus will be on building positive relationships across the clubs by attending meetings, offering practical advice where needed, and maintaining regular communication with Council to encourage collaboration on safety matters. As part of our ongoing commitment to meeting insurance requirements, Safety Officer training remains essential. Two sessions have already taken place, but we recognise that not everyone was able to attend. A further session is now being planned to ensure all members have the opportunity to complete the required training.	
13	**Affiliated Clubs Meeting** Last meeting held 9 February. Notes of the meeting were supplied.	
14	**Media Update** CD demonstrated the new website layout and sections. • Currently in testing phase prior to launch. • Significant work underway. • Policies and procedures being aligned with BEF standards (RC assisting). • As BC contributes approximately £7,000 per year to BEF, it was agreed that available support should be fully utilised.	
15	**BC Office Update** **15.1 Email Usage** Move towards using centralised email@ addresses for office work. **15.2 IT Systems** Issues reported: • Delays in sending/receiving emails. • Systems not synchronising. • Operational inefficiencies resulting. • Suggestion to move to Microsoft Office. • Concerns raised regarding hosting systems: • Separate hosting recommended to reduce risk if one system fails. • Suggestion that Alice host the website. • Recent website hack highlighted vulnerabilities; it took 24 hours to reach Krystal support. • RH to discuss cost implications with RC. Decision to be made with regards to IT systems on WhatsApp prior to the next meeting.	
16	**Anti Doping** • Human anti-doping is included within the rules. • FEI human anti-doping is conducted at most shows. • Members have raised concerns. • Funding remains a concern. The anti-doping presentation was recorded and may be shared on YouTube. The office will contact BEF for clarification on processes and further information.	
17	**AOCB**	

	17.1 BEF Animations Consider including BEF safe sport animations on the website. BEF to be informed. **17.2 Conference** A second room is required. A face-to-face Council meeting will again be held this year.	

Signed Andrew Counsell Date 2/3/2026

Andrew Counsell: Chairman British Carriagedriving

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British Carriagedriving Council Minutes

Meeting by Conference Call

Wednesday 18th March 2026 @ 7pm

Format: Online
Minute Taker: Sarah McLaughlin

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1. Attendance

Present:
Patti Atkinson
Andrew Counsell
Sara Clinghan
Rod Holdsworth
Jamie March
Dan Naprous

In Attendance:
Graeme McArthur (Affiliated Club Liaison)

Apologies:
Jane Lamb
Callum Dougan
Rachel Caughey

---

2. Conflicts of Interest

No new conflicts of interest were declared. Any conflicts relating to specific agenda items will be recorded as they arise.

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3. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were proposed by AC, seconded by SC, and approved as a true and accurate record.

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4. Matters Arising

4.1 Gateway Survey Results

Survey results were circulated to Council members in advance of the meeting.

Summary of Results:

- 54 responses received
- Of 17 eligible respondents, only 6 attended
- Key barriers identified: distance, travel costs, and transport/logistics
- Mixed views on attendance at the 2026 Championships
- 77% would attend if the location were more central; 22% would not

The 2027 National Championships are planned for Frickley, a more central location. Feedback from clubs indicates strong interest in Championships participation.

Key discussion points included:

- National events help introduce competitors to higher levels and provide aspirational goals
- Concerns regarding willingness to travel more than three hours for a one-day event
- Some members view lower levels as developmental, with Novice considered the minimum level for national competition
- The majority of Gateway drivers are based in the Midlands and southern regions
- Windsor typically attracts approximately 20 entries
- Consideration was given to creating alternative progression opportunities outside of a championship structure

Decision:
A vote was held on running a Gateway Championships in 2026:

- In favour: 2
- Against: 4

Outcome:

A majority vote not to run a Gateway Championships in 2026, with the position to be reviewed for 2027.

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5. Correspondence

5.1 Vaccinations – Clubs

Information from British Equestrian was reviewed. Members also shared findings from independent research.

- The “gold standard” vaccination interval is six months
- However, documentation supports that a 12-month interval provides sufficient cover

Decision:
It was unanimously agreed to amend the National Rules for 2026 and remove Para 1.3.5 in Annex 11, Vaccinations.
The Rules Committee will be informed.

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6. Decisions by Email/WhatsApp

- The WhatsApp protocol format was considered effective, though overly detailed
- A one-page summary format was recommended for consistency across documents

Event Schedules Approved:

- Sandringham
- Hopetoun
- Shanes Castle
- Windsor
- Seacliff
- Allerton

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7. Council

- A Director (or Directors) is being sought to lead sponsorship
- Supporting documentation will be developed outlining sponsorship opportunities
- An email will be circulated to members inviting interest

Discussion highlighted that sponsorship is not solely financial but also important for raising the profile of carriage driving.

- Consideration was also given to the appointment of additional or replacement Directors

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8. Club Treasurers Forum

- A working group meeting is scheduled for 7th April
- The group will review suggestions raised at the previous meeting
- Recommendations will be presented to Council for consideration

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9. Finance

- February financial reports were circulated prior to the meeting
- Affiliation income is currently below budget
- This will be reviewed at the monthly finance meeting

Key points:

- A full-year forecast is to be prepared
- Increased expenditure due to office transition and system upgrades
- Website costs remain within budget
- A six-month support package has been implemented and is considered a worthwhile investment
- Future extension of support may be considered
- Office staff are close to obtaining full access to the Virgin account and debit card

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10. Legacy Funding

No new applications have been received.

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11. 2026 Rule Book

An additional 30 large-print copies have been ordered and received.

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12. Growth of the Sport

Growth remains a key strategic priority.

Key discussion points:

- Clubs play a critical role as the foundation of the sport
- Greater guidance may be needed to support clubs in promotion and recruitment
- Progression from club membership to British Carriagedriving membership typically takes 2–5 years
- Financial sustainability and funding remain key considerations
- Recent improvements (office and website) provide a strong platform for growth

Additional actions:

- Extract key contributions from RH and JM into a separate document
- Create a dedicated “Growth of the Sport” resource folder
- Consider developing support packages for new and struggling clubs (e.g. office and social media support)
- Graeme McArthur to reflect on how best to coordinate club support initiatives and report back at the next meeting

13. Health & Safety

The next meeting is scheduled for 24th April.

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14. Affiliated Clubs Meeting

- Minutes were circulated to Council
- Scoring systems were discussed

Actions:

- Office to contact clubs to gather information on scoring systems used
- Clubs to provide details of individuals responsible for scoring
- A working group will be established
- A Teams meeting will be arranged for scorers

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15. Media Update

A website demonstration evening is scheduled for Monday with the website planned to go live on Wednesday 25th March.

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16. BC Office Update

- Office hours were discussed
- Council members to provide feedback
- Further discussion to take place at the office meeting on Monday

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17. Governance

- Privacy Notice retention period set at six years (approved unanimously)
- Data protection matters noted

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18. Any Other Business (AOB)

- A proposal was made to co-opt additional members to Council.
- A number of individuals were suggested and discussed.
- This will be brought back to the next Council meeting after further consideration.

Discussion highlighted the importance of ensuring individuals have sufficient capacity and that appointments support the strategic aim of growing the sport.

Sign-Off

Signed: Andrew Counsell
Date: 24/03/2026
Andrew Counsell
Chairman, British Carriagedriving

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British Carriagedriving Council

Minutes of Council Meeting

Held via Conference Call
Wednesday 15 April 2026 at 19:00

Format: Online
Minute Taker: Sarah McLaughlin

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1. Attendance

Present:
Andrew Counsell (Chair)
Sara Clinghan
Rod Holdsworth
Jamie March
Jane Lamb
Callum Dougan

In Attendance:
Graeme McArthur (Affiliated Club Liaison)
Rachel Caughey

Apologies:
Patti Atkinson
Dan Naprous

The Chair formally welcomed attendees and expressed thanks to Alice for her work on the website. The Council acknowledged the significant scale of the project and commended her professionalism and contribution.

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2. Conflicts of Interest

No new conflicts of interest were declared. Any conflicts relating to specific agenda items will be recorded as they arise.

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3. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were proposed by AC, seconded by SC, and approved as a true and accurate record.

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4. Matters Arising

No matters arising were noted.

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5. Correspondence

5.1 Email from Paul Hart

Council considered a proposal from Paul Hart to host the 2026 Gateway Championships.

It was noted that Council had previously agreed not to run the Gateway Championships. Members expressed concern that accepting the proposal could undermine that decision.

Council agreed to respond to Mr Hart thanking him for the offer, confirming that the Championships will not be held, but offering support should he wish to organise Gateway-style events independently during the year.

An email from Patti Atkinson received prior to the meeting expressed support for Mr Hart's proposal.

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6. Decisions by Email / WhatsApp

- **H2 Selection Panel:** Sara Clinghan, Dan Naprous, and Zoe Morgan — unanimously approved.
- **Royal Windsor Entries Selection Panel:** Dan Naprous, Karen Bassett, Peter Bennett, and Robert Wilkinson — unanimously approved.

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7. Council Structure and Roles

AC presented proposals regarding the expansion of Director roles within Council (maximum of 14 Directors), with responsibility for leading key committees.

The objective is to:

- Strengthen leadership across priority areas
- Distribute workload more effectively
- Formalise responsibilities through defined roles

Discussion points included:

- Recognition that several key functions are already being delivered effectively by individuals outside Council
- Concern that requiring all leads to sit on Council may increase workload unnecessarily
- Agreement that some areas (e.g. Health & Safety) function well independently, reporting into Council
- A view that certain strategic roles should be represented at Council level

Two priority areas were identified:

- Sponsorship
- Volunteers

RH supported formalising these as Director roles.

CD highlighted ongoing challenges in recruiting stewards and emphasised the importance of strengthening volunteer structures. It was agreed that the volunteer working group should be relaunched, and that MP should be invited to attend a future Council meeting.

Actions:

- Sarah McLaughlin to circulate presentation slides
- Directors to review proposals and provide feedback
- Item to be revisited at the next meeting

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8. Finance

8.1 Club Treasurers Forum

The most recent meeting (7 April) was productive, with several recommendations arising. Subject to Council and club support, proposals may be incorporated into 2027 affiliation costs. Further updates will follow.

8.2 Royal Windsor Programme Advertising

Council agreed that advertising costs are not justified by the return on investment and confirmed the decision not to participate again this year.

8.3 Monthly Management Accounts

- March income: £7,000
- Year-to-date: £64,000 (compared to £65,000 at same point last year)
- Affiliation income slightly below budget
- Staff costs reduced compared to previous year due to restructuring
- Insurance costs stable; renewal due 1 July
- Website costings on budget

Council requested membership statistics comparison at the next meeting and ongoing monitoring of trends.

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9. Legacy Funding

No new applications were received.

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10. Courses and Clinics

Upcoming activities include:

- Insurance Webinar (rescheduled): 27 April
- CD & TD Training: 18–19 April
- Stewards Marathon (Zoom): 22 April
- Health & Safety Meeting: 24 April

Positive feedback was received regarding the recent dressage clinic in Scotland. The format was considered effective and may help attract additional judges from British Dressage into the sport. JM to follow up.

---

11. Sponsorship

Council discussed the urgent need to strengthen sponsorship.

Key points:

- The financial landscape of the sport has changed significantly
- Existing sponsorship is limited and often localised
- Structured sponsorship packages have been developed but require further implementation
- Long-term partnerships should be prioritised

A **Director of Sponsorship** role will be established, supported by a working group.

Discussion highlighted the importance of:

- Clearly defined sponsorship packages

- Targeted funding for specific initiatives
- Demonstrating value to sponsors
- Aligning sponsorship with growth of participation

Actions:

- Circulate sponsorship role description
- Issue recruitment communications via email, social media, and external networks
- AC and CD to coordinate with the office (deadline: end of month)
- Meetings to be arranged with current sponsors
- AC to follow up with new sponsor enquiry

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12. Growth of the Sport

GM reported on discussions with affiliated clubs.

It was recognised that clubs are central to the sport but are primarily focused on retaining existing members rather than recruitment.

Council agreed to develop two targeted surveys:

1. Supporting retention of existing members
2. Attracting new participants

These surveys will provide data to inform future strategy.

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13. Health & Safety

Next meeting scheduled for 11 May.

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14. Safeguarding

A report from SA was circulated.

CD requested safeguarding training for all Event Organisers.

Action:

- SM to follow up with SA

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15. Affiliated Clubs Meeting

Minutes from the meeting held on 30 April were circulated.

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16. Media Update

CD confirmed a reduced capacity role due to personal commitments but will continue to lead the Media Committee.

Updates included:

- Website project successfully launched
- Membership feedback being incorporated

- Analytics tracking in place
- Governance documentation to be reviewed annually
- Social media supported by the media group

Concerns were raised regarding communication and accountability in relation to branding decisions. It was agreed that clearer responsibility and consultation processes are required going forward.

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17. BC Office Update

(No substantive update recorded)

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18. Governance

AC will review and update the strategic plan and associated governance documents.

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19. Any Other Business

- Proposal to establish a **Youth BC Committee** to be discussed at the next meeting

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20. Close of Meeting

The meeting closed at 21:19.

Sign-Off

Signed: Andrew Counsell
Date: 20/05/2026

Andrew Counsell
Chairman, British Carriagedriving Council

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British Carriagedriving Council

Minutes of Council Meeting

Held via Conference Call
Monday 26 May 2026 at 7:00pm
Format: Online
Minute Taker: Sarah McLaughlin

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1. Attendance

Present:

- Andrew Counsell (Chair)
- Sara Clinghan
- Rod Holdsworth
- Patti Atkinson

In Attendance:

- Graeme McArthur (Affiliated Club Liaison)
- Rachel Caughey

Apologies:

- Callum Dougan
- Jamie March
- Jane Lamb
- Dan Naprous

Council expressed its sincere thanks to Callum and Mark for organising a fantastic event at Hopetoun.

---

2. Conflicts of Interest

No new conflicts of interest were declared. Any conflicts relating to specific agenda items will be recorded as they arise.

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3. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were proposed by AC, seconded by SC, and approved as a true and accurate record.

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4. Matters Arising

4.1 Equine Flu

Council expressed its thanks to the office staff for their work in relation to Equine Flu measures. The BEF has provided extensive information, and clubs have been proactive in implementing procedures.

The online resources available have been very good. British Carriagedriving has also provided considerable information, along with policies and procedures. Council is confident that, provided procedures continue to be followed, no events will need to be cancelled at this stage.

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5. Correspondence

5.1 Email Received – VSE Weights of Drivers

Work is progressing on suitable guidelines for the VSE & SE classes for the ratio of turnout to pony weight. This is felt to be vital for answering any potential perception issues about the capability of the equines to compete in their classes without welfare concerns. Turnout weight to include all persons on the carriage, the carriage and harness. Initial findings seem to be in the 1.25 to 1.5 to 1 – 1 being the equines weight. Information, once finalised, will be shared to members.
It was noted that there is currently no formal weight ratio for any class.
AC is working with the Welfare Committee and others to finalise guidelines.

5.2 Email Received – VSE Class Representative

Not discussed.

5.3 Email Received from Mike Watts Regarding Scoring Systems

AC spoke with MW and apologised for any misunderstanding arising from last month's minutes. It was clarified that no negative criticism of his scoring system had been intended.

A questionnaire is now ready to be circulated to clubs. MW is keen to work with British Carriagedriving to develop a scoring system that works effectively. Once responses have been received, further discussions can take place.

MW is happy to provide training and will be invited to the next Council meeting, as well as the clubs meeting once questionnaire feedback has been reviewed.

It was also noted that “Live Jumping” is another scoring application currently in use. MW’s system is already being used in the USA.

5.4 Email Received from Rules Committee Regarding Children on Carriages

Discussions at the clubs meeting raised concerns regarding a child getting onto a carriage at the end of the marathon phase. The Safety Officer at the event prevented this from happening.

Articles 942.7 and 949 have been reworded and revised. As this was considered a safety issue, Council felt it should be addressed before next season.

Concern was expressed that some clubs may over-interpret the rules and prohibit children from riding on carriages altogether. A suggestion was made that children should only be permitted where they are able to get on and off the carriage independently and sit safely without assistance. This proposal was referred to the Rules Committee but rejected on the grounds that it could be considered discriminatory.

Following further discussion, it was agreed that the final line of the wording should be amended. PA will respond to the Rules Committee, which is due to meet in early June.

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6. Decisions by Email / WhatsApp

6.1 Schedules

Schedules for Allerton and Brechin were approved via WhatsApp.

6.2 Scoring Questionnaire

Approved.

6.3 FEI Steward Nominations

Nicola Corby and Leigh Kenworthy were approved to be put forward as FEI Stewards, with seven votes received in favour.

SM to update MP to progress the process.

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7. Council

7.1 Competitions Director

7.2 Letter to Members

A letter and job descriptions now need to be circulated to members. The office and Competitions Director will promote this to members and invite expressions of interest.

Further conversations will take place to ensure requirements are fully understood. The office will action this process, with appointments to be voted on at the AGM in November but some personnel may be co-opted to Council prior to that date.

Council discussed the key director roles currently being sought. RC will draft a letter and circulate it to Council. The information will be distributed to all clubs and British Carriagedriving members.

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8. Finance

8.1 Club Treasurers Forum

The next meeting will take place on 16 June. Minutes from the previous Treasurers Forum will be circulated to clubs in advance.

Council approved the recommendations made by the Treasurers Forum. In line with the recommendations from the Club Treasurers Forum working party, future affiliation fee increases would be linked to CPI inflation, with confirmation communicated to clubs by 1 September each year, subject to exceptional insurance cost increases.

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9. Finance

9.1 Monthly Management Accounts

Membership fees are only slightly below the equivalent position last year, with further memberships expected throughout the remainder of the year.

Start fees will continue to come in over the course of the season. Passport and registration income is higher than last year.

Staff costs remain on budget following the office reorganisation, although there has been a one-off cost associated with the IT upgrade.

Overall, figures remain on track with the budget, and savings resulting from the reorganisation are now becoming evident.

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10. Legacy Funding

10.1 Funding applications

An application has been received from a club for substantial funding, further information has been requested before a decision can be reached.

An application for a Club Training Grant of £200 was approved.

11. Sponsorship

Discussed under Item 7.

12. Strategic Plan

British Carriagedriving needs to update its Strategic Plan. Council members are to review strategic planning documents circulated from other disciplines.

AC will meet with RC and CS to review the documents further.

13. Growth of the Sport

Ideas for growth will continue to be circulated and developed. Previously discussed surveys also need to be distributed.

GM will work with the office to progress this.

14. Environmental Sustainability

No matters raised.

15. Health & Safety

A report was received from JC.

Since the last report, the committee has held its first formal meeting, which was considered very successful. It was unanimously agreed that the committee's new objectives better reflect the modern focus of health and safety within both the wider industry and the organisation itself. This will provide greater clarity in both strategic direction and operational aims.

JC also reported a productive meeting with the insurance representatives, which provided greater understanding of how certain risks are perceived and identified areas for future work.

Positive feedback had also been received from Catherine regarding the committee's plans and direction.

In relation to training, 15 attendees participated in the most recent session, with excellent engagement throughout. This also highlighted some of the practical challenges clubs face in managing safety requirements.

Actions agreed by the committee include further research into:

- Hat cameras
- Body protectors
- Website presence and resources
- Administration and management of Safety Officers

JC has now been added to the regular clubs meetings, which will provide valuable insight into club-level challenges while improving accessibility and support from the committee.

JC also requested the opportunity to present reports to Council in person each quarter to allow direct discussion and feedback.

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16. Safeguarding

Nothing to report.

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17. Affiliated Clubs Meeting

GM expressed concern regarding declining Council attendance at club meetings and would welcome greater participation. Council noted this feedback.

Discussion also took place regarding whether monthly meetings remain necessary. GM confirmed that the meetings are well attended and continue to work effectively, although additional attendance would always be welcomed.

RH confirmed that meeting links will be circulated to all Council members.

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18. Media Update

CD not present.

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19. BC Office Update

National entry numbers were reported as follows:

- Ashfields – 40
- Hopetoun – 30
- Windsor – 27

- Cricklands – 25
- Chepstow FEI – 37

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20. Governance

20.1 Self-Assessment Form Received from BEF

The self-assessment form must be completed and returned to the BEF by Thursday. RC completed the assessment to the best of her knowledge and requested Council approval prior to submission.

Council unanimously approved the submission. It was noted that some information is currently missing from existing policies, and CS may be able to assist with this.

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21. Any Other Competent Business

No additional business was raised.

The meeting closed at 8:54pm.

Sign-Off

Signed: Andrew Counsell

Date: 01/06/2026

Andrew Counsell
Chairman, British Carriagedriving Council

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British Carriagedriving Council

Minutes of Council Meeting

Held via Conference Call

Wednesday 17th June 2026 at 7:00pm
Format: Online
Minute Taker: Sarah McLaughlin

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1. Attendance

Present:

- Andrew Counsell (Chair)
- Sara Clinghan
- Rod Holdsworth
- Patti Atkinson
- Callum Dougan
- Jane Lamb
- Dan Naprous

In Attendance:

- Graeme McArthur (Affiliated Club Liaison)
- Rachel Caughey

Apologies:

- Jamie March

---

2. Conflicts of Interest

No new conflicts of interest were declared. Any conflicts relating to specific agenda items will be recorded as they arise.

---

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were proposed by AC, seconded by CD, and approved as a true and accurate record.

4. Matters Arising

4.1 Previous funding application received

An email has been sent to the office detailing the further information required by Council, which has been forwarded to the applicant.

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5. Correspondence

5.1 Email received confirming a national event not wishing to use My Clubhouse as their entry system

The event in question is wanting to use a different entry system for the event. This causes a number of problems including the competitors BC membership eligibility for classes entered.
All entries would have to be manually checked against the BC myClubhouse database for eligibility and a lot of extra work is generated chasing information required.
Council discussed whether to make My Clubhouse mandatory for all entries to all National events.
There are potentially other systems available, as there was when myClubhouse was originally chosen as being the best match for BC's needs.
The office will put together a scoping document discussing options.
Any system needs to work for the office, for event organisers, and for the users, who are our members.
RC to arrange a meeting with the event organiser concerned to discuss further.

---

6. Decisions by Email / WhatsApp

6.1 Combined Ponies Selection Panel

Approved

6.2 FEI Steward request to switch nationality to Ireland

Approved.

6.3 National Championships Schedule

Approved

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7. Council

7.1 Email to members and job descriptions

All of council confirmed they are happy with the documents and office to send out to members

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8. Club Treasurers Forum

The treasurers' meeting was held last night, with a handful of people attending. Recommendations from the working party were reviewed, and all were comfortable with this. This will be on the agenda for the next clubs meeting, as all changes to the current system are positive. AC requested that it be redistributed to council so they are able to answer any questions if required.

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9. Finance

9.1 Monthly Management Accounts

All figures as should be and to date where we are expected to be.

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10. Legacy Funding

No new applications received

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11. Governance

AC and RC met with Chris Smith, who agreed to update the documents. Chris confirmed which documents he will deal with under governance and which he will not be updating. RC has created a tracker for all documents, showing who is responsible, review dates, and where each is filed, to keep on top of all the policies. Future plans for managing them were discussed, including holding one meeting each year to go through all documents, which must be monitored and risk-assessed. BEF is supportive of this process. One Drive's metadata functionality, which CD uses at work, allows timescales and review dates to be set up and reports to be pulled off.

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12. Growth of Sport

12.1 Scoring Survey – deferred to next meeting

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13. Health & Safety

Sadly a horse passed away at a recent affiliated club event. BC offers its sympathy to all connections. There were no circumstances that could have prevented the sad occurrence. It did highlight that BC should have a policy in place to guide its response to this type of incident.

---

14. Safeguarding

Details that clubs provide on safeguarding leads were discussed, and the office confirmed they do hold this information. It was questioned whether the office should request clubs' policies on an annual basis.
A WhatsApp group is being put together for safeguarding leads who wish to join, and further training for clubs and event organisers is being planned.

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15. Affiliated Clubs Meeting

The last meeting was cancelled due to the agenda being very minimal

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16. Media Update

The office is now up to speed on uploading to the website. It was mentioned that it would be great to have more people on the media committee, as there is so much to do.

---

17. Office Update

Office confirmed that the workload had become more manageable and both have got to grips with the day-to-day running. Sandringham having a different entry system has created some questions and substantial extra work for the office.

---

18. AOCB

18.1 Environmental Sustainability

A suitably experienced person has generously offered to take on this subject and will liaise with the BEF going forward

18.2 VSE

Discussion has been held with VSE drivers and investigation into the ratio of weights of the equine to the total of driver, vehicle and harness. AC will produce a guideline document for existing and future competitors in the class.

18.3 BEF Council Meeting

AC attended and welcomes any other BC council members to join in future meetings.

18.4 Glebe Estate

New club, looking to grow and progress with a view to running an FEI event in 2028.

18.5 Stewards and Drivers

It was discussed that the manner of some stewards towards drivers was a little abrupt at times. New drivers to the sport need to understand the rules but also be encouraged. It was also discussed that drivers must remember to be courteous to stewards who give up a great amount of their time.

The decline in stewards was discussed, with many reaching the age where they no longer wish to continue. This year's fuel prices are also believed to be a factor discouraging people from giving up their time to drive to competitions. The importance of looking after stewards was discussed, and it was confirmed that this is an issue in many disciplines, not just driving.

18.6 Prize Giving for National Championships

After taking on this task for many years and doing a wonderful job, PA has decided to step down from the role. BC are therefore seeking ideally two people to take on the task during the National Championships. Anyone interested should contact the office.

18.7 Sponsorship

Riding and Harness Stuff and Howdens have both confirmed they are happy to continue with their sponsorships for 2026.

The meeting closed at 8:50pm.

Sign-Off

Signed: Andrew Counsell

Date: 23/06/2026

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British Carriagedriving Council

Minutes of Council Meeting

Held via Conference Call

Wednesday 15th July 2026 at 7:00pm
Format: Online
Minute Taker: Rachel Caughey

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1. Attendance

Present:

- Andrew Counsell (Chair)
- Patti Atkinson
- Callum Dougan
- Dan Naprous
- Jamie March
- Jane Lamb

In Attendance:

- Graeme McArthur (Affiliated Club Liaison)
- Rachel Caughey

Apologies:

- Sara Clingham
- Rod Holdsworth
- Sarah McLaughlin

---

2. Conflicts of Interest

No new conflicts of interest were declared. Any conflicts relating to specific agenda items will be recorded as they arise.

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3. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were proposed by CD, seconded by JL, and approved as a true and accurate record.

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4. Health & Safety

Justin Cowles presented a written report to Council and it was noted that he would be in attendance during the August Council meeting.

Justin was thanked for his report.

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5. Matters Arising

5.1 Use of myClubhouse

Following last month's Council discussion about myClubhouse use this issue was discussed by WhatsApp further and it was agreed that myClubhouse would continue to be used by the BC Office and this should not get conflated with the consideration of the scoring systems.

Noted that we need to upskill all stakeholders. DN have had discussions with SM regarding this and need to make it more user friendly by streamlining some of the processes where this can happen.

5.2 Scoring Systems

The scoring system questionnaire generated 19 responses and Council received the full responses together with a briefing paper summarising the responses received.

It was noted that there are a number of people/Clubs very comfortable with and supportive of Mike Watt's system. AC agreeing to consider further and put on agenda for next time and to discuss via WhatsApp and work with key stakeholders to ensure there is a system that continues to work for the Clubs and will be enduring. PA suggested creating a document regarding what changes people have suggested and put that to Mike Watts so issues are not drip fed to him and perhaps a working party to move this forward. Need to ensure longevity of the system.

5.3 Prize Giving for National Championships

It was noted that this is normally carried out by Patti but that she has stepped down from this responsibility and the search continues for a replacement. Three people have been asked but to date have not got someone to do this.

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6. Correspondence

One complaint has been received and relates to the previous complaint received. A Disciplinary Committee has been set up to deal with this and is progressing.

Resignation letter from Keith Atkinson from the Safety Committee. It was noted that a thank you letter should be sent to thank him for all he has done.

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7. Decisions by email/WhatsApp

7.1 Stewards badges

It has been suggested that the 200 Club funds be used to fund the purchase of the Stewards badges. These badges form part of the pathway that is being created for Stewards which provides training and recognition of the voluntary and hard work they complete on behalf of competitors. It was noted that still waiting for a response from 200 Club organisers to agree to this spend. It was also noted that if these were to be given to all Stewards who have completed Level 1 and attended National Events that 100 will not be sufficient. It was noted that we should therefore look for the larger number of badges. It was agreed that BC would apply for a further BEF Volunteers Grant and with a view to this covering the costs of the badges but in the meantime BC covers the costs.

7.2 Use of myclubhouse

See above

7.3 Application from BYD

See below

7.4 Training Grand Application from Weald Harness Club

See below

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8. Council

It was noted that one application for the Competition Director has been received but that it suggested splitting the role so there are two posts covering Strategic (at Director level) and Operational. This had not been shared with Council members but will be post the meeting and members should consider. PA to speak to applicant.

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9. Insurance Renewal

Significant work has been undertaken by AC, PA, RH and Justin Cowles to work with the insurers to secure this year's insurance policies. The renewal report has been put to Council and it was noted that this is similar to last year and was agreed that this should be accepted and the relevant invoices paid.

It was noted that there is a concern by the Clubs regarding the Statement of Fact that the insurer is requiring Club Chairs to sign. It is the insurer's position that this is an annual occurrence and should not be new to the Clubs and is required by the underwriters so they can understand the risk they are insuring. It would appear from the Affiliated Clubs' meeting that this annual declaration has not been sought before. An action was taken away by Rachel & Graeme to meet with Howden to discuss. They have pushed back on a meeting but there has been email correspondence and Graeme is comfortable with their responses. It was noted that the Clubs can be provided with this insurance policy so they understand the cover that they gain.

---

10. Legacy Funding

10.1 Application from BYD

This decision was taken by WhatsApp and noted Jane Lamb's & Jamie March's conflict. It was noted that funding has not been provided for any other international squad trainers and while BC would be keen to support this there is not sufficient funds to provide such support across all squads therefore a decision was taken not to support.

10.2 Application from Weald Harness Club for a Training Grant

This decision was taken by WhatsApp and noted Jane Lamb's conflict and therefore she abstained from voting, the decision was taken to support this application.

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11. Strategic Plan for BC

Chris Smith KC is drafting governance documents for the governance review.

CD raised issue about reporting Equine Welfare and how it is reported. Noted that Jane Isaac is dealing with this and that BEF's Globocol is being extended to cover equines, not just humans, however this in turn requires BC to develop a protocol/policy on how this should be used, which is in hand.

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12. Affiliated Clubs' Meeting

The notes from the meeting were provided to Council members for review and the contents noted. The issue regarding Statement of Fact was discussed above.

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13. Media Update

Amy Matthews has been accredited for Aachen and will be our press officer. Once we have definite entries Amy to be advised as she will create a graphic for release on our social media channels. Noted that Amy has provided a significant amount of help regarding social media around international events and results.

AC speaking to potential media people to come onboard and was agreed that AC should put them in touch with CD.

---

14. AOCB

14.1 Nichola Corby

Recommended following her acting as probationary TD that she is accepted as a National TD judge.

The meeting closed at 7.50pm.

Sign-Off

Signed: Andrew Counsell

Date: 22/07/2026

Andrew Counsell
Chairman, British Carriagedriving Council

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British Carriagedriving Council

Minutes of Council Meeting

Held via Conference Call

Wednesday 19 August 2026, 7:00pm | Format: Online | Minute Taker: Sarah McLaughlin

1. Attendance

Present:

- Patti Atkinson (Vice Chair)
- Rod Holdsworth
- Callum Dougan
- Jamie March
- Sarah Clinghan

19:13 – Justin Cowles joined the meeting.

In Attendance:

- Graeme McArthur (Affiliated Club Liaison)
- Rachel Caughey

Apologies:

- Andrew Counsell
- Dan Naprous
- Jane Lamb

2. Conflicts of Interest & Declaration of AOCB

No new conflicts of interest were declared. Any conflicts relating to specific agenda items will be recorded as they arise.

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were proposed by SC, seconded by PA, and approved as a true and accurate record.

4. Health & Safety

Justin Cowles attended the meeting. The Safety Committee is making progress, though slowly; three members have stepped down (two due to retirement and one unable to continue) and have been replaced by three strong candidates.

The accident and incident reporting process is being reviewed, as it supports insurance processes, enables early reporting, and allows the organisation to learn from incidents. The aim is to create a structured learning loop.

Justin is keen to hear from Council on any safety concerns or areas where the organisation may be vulnerable. Collaboration between officials at events in relation to safety needs improvement. Any safety queries should be directed to the Safety Committee.

5. Matters Arising

5.1 Prize Giving for the National Championships

Tim Maloy and Jackie Herd will organise all trophies and rosettes at the events.

6. Correspondence

6.1 Email received from MB regarding storage of equipment

This was discussed and no decisions were made; other options are to be explored, including selling items that are not in regular use. MB will be informed once a decision has been made. This item is to remain on the agenda until resolved.

6.2 WhatsApp message received from JM regarding Council attendance at Club meetings

GM confirmed that Clubs appreciate seeing Council members attend their meetings. Council members discussed their experiences at these meetings and how they felt they had contributed. It was suggested that a rota be created for Council attendance, to be put to other Council members. GM expressed concern about attendance becoming a chore and would prefer Council members to attend because they want to support Clubs. A WhatsApp poll was suggested to establish who is available to attend, which would help keep this in front of Directors' minds. PA currently attends every meeting but will step down in November.

Action Points

- Office to email MB
- Office to ensure poll is set up prior to Clubs Meetings.

7. Decisions by Email/WhatsApp

7.1 Gateway Survey

Deferred to next meeting

8. Council

Co-options: three individuals were put forward for Council to consider. It was queried whether they could fulfil their roles without formally joining Council; it was confirmed that all three are keen to join Council and take on an active role.

- Justin Cowles – proposed by AC, seconded by RH – all in favour.
- Tim Maloy – proposed by AC, seconded by CD – all in favour. Tim will support the YouTube channel, helping to use it more effectively and explore monetisation, and will also support the Media Committee.
- Mary Jane Campbell– proposed by AC, seconded by RH – will look after accounts and the Directors' side of the Competitions Committee. Someone is still needed to take over the running side of the Competitions Committee.

The Office is to write to all three officially to confirm their co-option and invite them to attend the next meeting. BC email addresses are required, and details are to be added to the website.

Action Points

- Office to write to the three new council members
- Office to update website
- Office to create email addresses

9. Club Treasurers Forum

No recent meeting; nothing to report.

10. Event Organisers Meeting

10.1 Update from meeting and dates given so far

Positive meeting held. Some dates confirmed, some events not in a position to confirm yet. PA informed all that My Clubhouse will be used next year for all National Event entries. The office continues to improve and understand the system and is happy to deal with any queries or concerns.

10.2 National Championships 2027

Deferred to next meeting

11. Finance

Income is in line with expectations, with nothing unusual to report. It would be useful to have an analysis of membership categories at the next meeting.

The new auditor is in place and is currently working on the accounts.

The insurance report has been circulated to, and signed off by, Council.

12. Legacy Funding Applications

Two applications were received.

A training grant application from a Club was confirmed as not having received a grant this year; all in favour.

A legacy funding application was received after the event had taken place. As the application was retrospective, Council unanimously declined the application, as it had no opportunity to influence how the event was televised or promoted.

It was confirmed that legacy funding is not to be used for operational costs.

Action point

- Office to confirm to both applicants the outcome

13. Rules – Emails Received from Rules Committee

13.1 Children as passengers on carriages

New wording was received and agreed by all.

13.2 Pregnant women on carriages

It was agreed this should not be addressed in the rules and should remain a matter of individual judgement.

13.3 ATVs and motorcycles

There are nine provisions in the rules: a warning, followed by a yellow card, and then a request to leave if the issue continues. The Rules Committee had not consulted the Safety Committee on this; the insurance renewal process prompted the issue to be raised. It was noted that in Ireland, offenders are sent home. It was agreed to refer this matter to the Safety Committee.

13.4 Overuse of driving aids

A document is in the process of being created, it was agreed that the wording on it is a good start; to be raised with the Welfare Committee for further discussion.

Action Point

- Office to update rules committee on points 1-3

- Office to liaise with welfare committee

14. Growth of Sport

Two papers/questionnaires have been proposed; the answers will provide useful information to support Council in growing the sport, backed by evidence. It was agreed this will generate useful discussion among Clubs. AI will be used to help collate the free-text answers.

The Office will put this together and send it to Clubs ahead of the next Clubs meeting, allowing a couple of weeks for responses. This could also be discussed at the AGM.

Action Point

Office to complete questionnaire and send to clubs

15. AGM and Conference

Awards:

- Young Driver Award – Junior category.
- David Broadbent memorial trophy – memorable steward or other volunteer
- Chairman's award

Lunch for attendees: proposed at around £10 per person, consisting of jacket potatoes with fillings, served by staff. Ticketing will be controlled via bookings on My Clubhouse; no objections were raised.

Proposed agenda for the day: it was suggested a junior was invited to the conference to give a talk about their experience, including a demonstration of her dressage and cones tests, with 15 minutes allocated. CD and SM to discuss technical coverage of the conference.

Clubs will be encouraged to attend and book a table for the evening.

The face-to-face meeting on Friday has been deferred to the next meeting, as a number of council members were not in attendance to discuss.

16. Safeguarding

Dates of training were provided to Council. Bookings to be done via My Clubhouse.

17. Affiliated Clubs Meeting

The Statement of Fact (SOF) from insurers is still being discussed by some Clubs. Since the meeting, one form has been returned, with no further queries raised by Clubs.

18. Media Update

The team is providing good support. AM is managing Facebook and Instagram, with a good increase in followers on Instagram and TikTok. AM is currently in Aachen as press officer, we also have support from a photographer. Media promotion of the National Championships is underway, with conversations taking place regarding sponsor promotion.

The Office has requested a meeting with CD to review the website. Council needs to consider how to promote the sport beyond social media in 2027, and all members are asked to give this some thought.

Action Point

- Promotion of National Championships
- Office to meet with CD

19. Office Update

Event entry numbers were shared with Council members.

20. Welfare

An update was given on a recent meeting with BEF regarding Globocol access and the reporting procedure. JI requires Council's support in decisions that need to be made. The Office is working with JI to establish a recording process and ensure that every complaint is handled efficiently.

21. My Clubhouse and Scoring

Meetings have begun in order to streamline the communication between My Clubhouse and MW's scoring system.

22. Event Dates

Confirmed and possible dates were presented to Council. Council approved the dates provided by organisers so far – all approved.

23. AOCB

JM noted that the minutes on the website are not up to date; SM to action.

A complaint has been actioned and is now concluded.

Congratulations to the BYD Squad, to Sophia Routledge for her gold medal, and to Isabelle Brunner for her dressage win.

VSE: deferred to next meeting.

The meeting closed at 21.25

Sign-Off

Signed: Patti Atkinson

Date: 26/08/2026

Patti Atkinson
Vice Chairman, British Carriagedriving Council

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British Carriagedriving Council

Minutes of Council Meeting

Held via Conference Call

Wednesday 16th September 2026, 7:00pm | Format: Online | Minute Taker: Sarah McLaughlin

1. Attendance

Present:

- Andrew Counsell (Chairman)
- Patti Atkinson (Vice Chair)
- Justin Cowles
- Mary Jane Campbell
- Tim Maloy
- Callum Dougan
- Jamie March
- Sarah Clinghan
- Jane Lamb
- Dan Naprous

In Attendance:

- Graeme McArthur (Affiliated Club Liaison)
- Rachel Caughey

Apologies:

- Rod Holdsworth

2. Conflicts of Interest & Declaration of AOCB

No new conflicts of interest were declared. Any conflicts relating to specific agenda items are recorded against those items as they arise.

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were proposed by CD, seconded by JM, and approved as a true and accurate record.

4. Matters Arising

Introductions were made to the new council members, who were welcomed by the Chairman.

5. Correspondence

None received.

6. Decisions by Email/WhatsApp

None received.

7. National Championships

7.1 Classes for Next Year

Council discussed whether to remove the A and B tests. These were originally introduced following the removal of the Intermediate class; running two tests was felt to create uneven judging and make the competition less fair and consistent, and a single test, particularly for the Novice class would simplify matters. The general feeling was that the council should move to one test for Novice.
Providing a novice class for multiples was also seen as helpful especially for those new to the class or with new equine combinations.
The group also discussed how long combinations should be able to remain in Gateway and Pre-Novice: when the class was introduced there was an understanding that competitors should not be able to stay in Gateway indefinitely, and the same principle should apply to Pre-Novice. It was noted that the Event Organisers meeting had discussed dropping Pre-Novice altogether, but the group felt the jump from Gateway to Novice is significant and that Pre-Novice helps bridge that gap. No conclusion was reached except that these points should be discussed with the clubs before a decision was taken.

Action: Patti Atkinson to draft a document setting out proposed changes to classes for next year and circulate it to council for comment. Clubs should also be asked for their views before any final decisions are made, with the aim of having a structure agreed ahead of the AGM.

7.2 Gateway at Championships 2027

Council discussed if the Gateway Championship should be reinstated. It was previously agreed that for 2026 it would not be held and the decision would be revisited for 2027.
After discussion Council agreed that there would be no Gateway Championship in 2027 within the current class structure.
PA spoke in favour of holding the championship but had to declare a conflict and could not vote on the issue.

8. Council

An application has been received for the vacant Sponsorship Director role.

Action: Office to arrange an interview with the applicant.

9. Finance

RH was not present for this item. The new schedule of affiliation fees has been circulated to council, with a suggestion to round some figures to simpler amounts. Fee increases are in line with, or just under, inflation, based on CPI and then rounded up or down as appropriate.

10. Legacy Funding

Two applications were received, and both were fully supported by council. JM declared a conflict of interest on this item.

Action: Office to inform applicants of outcome

11. Health & Safety

A wider discussion on the ATV ruling is needed and will be picked up at a later meeting. Two incidents from the weekend were RIDDOR-reportable; JC is awaiting the reports. There is a substantial amount of work still to be done on accident reporting, and the safety committee is working closely with Howdens.

Action: JC to follow up on the outstanding RIDDOR reports and update council once received.

12. Growth of Sport

There is an opportunity to run a demonstration at the Northumberland County Show, which has been done previously and generated great publicity for carriagedriving.

Action: PA to raise it with the Ettrick committee this weekend.

13. AGM & Conference

Council approved the draft AGM Notice & Proxy Form and agreed that a call for any members who wish to put themselves forward should be done by email and relevant documents sent with email and put on website.

The Conference agenda was discussed and agreed and it was agreed the meeting would also run via teams.

Action: Office to contact Lead and Chefs to invite to talk at the Conference.

14. Affiliated Clubs Meeting

Notes from the meeting have been shared with council members.

15. Media Update

AM did a great job managing social media for the Championships. Cavewood produced excellent footage and videos, which were widely shared by clubs.

Action: CD to contact Everything Horse Direct. Office to forward the relevant email to CD.

16. Office Update

Nothing to report.

17. Welfare

Minutes of the welfare meeting have been circulated to council. Use of the driving aid remains an ongoing challenge, and closer collaboration between the Welfare and Rules committees is required.

18. Any Other Council Business

The meeting closed at 21:21.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Andrew Counsell
Chairman, British Carriagedriving Council