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British Carriagedriving Council Minutes

Meeting by Conference Call

Wednesday 15th January 2025 at 7pm

	<p>International Teams Chair: MaryJane Campbell</p> <p>The Chairman welcomed MJC who updated Council on international issues.</p> <p>She noted that H2 have a training session in March with Michael Freund, there are not many ponies signed up yet for selection and the Single Horses are starting their next two year cycle. A new reduced rate of £75 is available for people joining the development squad when the aim is for championships in the future. If rapid progress is made, then the championship squad fee can be paid.</p> <p>There is a forthcoming meeting of the Chefs d'Equipe next week.</p> <p>She suggested joining up the different development squads to hold meetings on relevant topics. AC noted Iain Graham, CEO of British Showjumping, had invited driving to join any of their meetings which would add value to the development squad members.</p> <p>Following the survey, there was interesting feedback from the H1 support squad where the key outcome was the necessity for clear communication. It was felt that training for chefs, who have to deal with communication issues, would be valuable.</p> <p>The cost of FEI driving registration has not increased this year as anticipated but will rise significantly in 2026.</p> <p>H2 and the YDs have both been working with foreign trainers and the intention is to continue this in 2025.</p> <p>A small change will be proposed to the international selection procedure, and this will shortly be sent to Council for approval. This will enable a squad to have more than three selectors if they wish.</p> <p>AC noted that international members had been asked for suggestions regarding the rules revision. He noted that British drivers had not made many suggestions in the past and changes had been dominated by European countries. Philip Bateman is working hard to drive this forward and is liaising with British Equestrian. Following this, the Rules Committee will look at what should be incorporated into the 2026 BC Rule Book.</p> <p>The Para WCs will take place with the H4s in Lähden.</p> <p>Mary Jane raised some concerns that not all of the squads were in alignment with how they run and she is going to have further discussions surrounding this with an update to be given to Council when next in attendance.</p> <p>MJC noted that the YD selection is moving to have external selectors who are not directly involved with the squad and this will be discussed with the para drivers too. Paras and YDs have a slightly different approach to selection as no FEI qualification is required. AC suggested that a meeting could be arranged with the selectors and some Council members and MJC agreed to look into this.</p> <p>AC noted that changes were being implemented and thanked MJC for keeping everything moving forward.</p>
1	<p>Present at the on-line meeting: Patti Atkinson, Malcolm Brown, Andrew Counsell, Sara Clinghan, Callum Dougan, Dick Lane, Jamie March and Dan Naprous.</p> <p>Apologies were received from Rod Holdsworth.</p> <p>The minutes were taken by the Executive Officer, Mary Kusin.</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 AC, seconded by SC, and agreed as a true record of the meeting.</p>
4	<p>Matters arising</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Diversity and Inclusion Action Plan: A further attempt to find a date for the meeting will be made. AC asked MK to circulate the document again. Rule changes for 2025: PA and AC will meet to discuss the wording. Training Committee: AC has prepared a document to be circulated with proposals for a revised structure to be implemented in 2026. MB will oversee CDs, Katie Stewart for TDs, AC for judges and Marisa Pinnock for stewards. MB noted he planned to have an open book exam at the end of courses. This will assist in setting standards and give a clearer picture of everybody's experience and create a paper trail for anyone wishing to progress to international events. <p>Angela Flanagan is continuing to organise the coach training. It was noted that some coaches struggled to get course work signed off.</p> <p>A pathway for driving coaches will be created and it was suggested that a Level 4 coach could be asked to do this.</p>
5	<p>Correspondence</p> <p>Email from Averina Snow re pony selection event: JM noted a conflict of interest. He noted that Hopetoun was similar to the venue in Le Pin which made is a suitable selection event. A controlled warm up will be needed and it was agreed this would not affect the Driver of the Year points table or qualification for the National Championships. It was noted that MJC had supported this proposal. Council agreed to approve Hopetoun as a selection event for the ponies.</p>
6	<p>200 Club</p> <p>The present organiser has indicated that she has stepped down from this role. It was noted that the payouts recently had been very small and take up of 200Club membership low. Applications to join the 200 Club have been suspended temporarily however AC noted he had a possible volunteer to take it on.</p>
7	<p>BHS Access Liaison representative</p> <p>It was agreed that Fiona Powell will be approached to take on this role.</p>
8	<p>Finance</p> <p>The December accounts are not yet prepared due to the end of year requirements.</p>
9	<p>Legacy Funding</p> <p>Osberton obstacles: DL had calculated the cost of the materials used to build the obstacles which came to around £2.5k with labour still to be added. Council felt it was debatable if they will ever be used by anyone else. It was noted that none of the requested information e.g. how to transport the obstacles had been answered. It is unlikely that Osberton will run an event in 2025 and they may run an arena challenge for H4 instead. No firm decision was reached as RH was not present at the meeting.</p>
10	<p>Indoor Carriage Driving update</p> <p>It was reported that good entries have been received so far and new sponsors for the indoor championships sourced. An ambitious project rebranding ICDUK will be completed for the start of the winter 2025 events.</p> <p>A survey on back and body protectors had been undertaken and this will be shared with BC.</p> <p>ICDUK are in discussion with the Treasurer regarding the timing of payments for start fees and affiliation.</p> <p>Where possible qualified officials are being used at events.</p>
11	<p>British Equestrian update</p> <p>There was nothing to report.</p>
12	<p>Media Update</p> <p>The media group have met and created a plan which will be shared with Council who were invited to edit the document. It is hoped to have this ready by the start of February.</p>

	<p>At LIHS the new leaflets were handed out to interested parties to coincide with the demonstration by DN which had been very well received. A showjumper had been driving which appealed to the public and further promotion is being discussed. The RDA have been approached to see how more drivers can be introduced to the sport and an offer of space on a stand is a possibility for LIHS 2025.</p> <p>A monthly spot in "Carriage Commentator" has been agreed. The media group will be asked to suggest topics and the BC meetings may be useful with generating ideas. Podcasts with a range of drivers would also be an option. A Peterborough company, specialising in equestrian topics, have podcasts and CD asked if anyone would join him to promote driving.</p> <p>Council have been asked to submit biographies which will be published on Facebook to improve the image of Council.</p> <p>Schedules will be circulated to enable planning of event promotion.</p> <p>Work is ongoing to mirror posts on the website and Facebook.</p> <p>Promotion of the different driving disciplines at Sandringham are under way with the event organiser.</p>
13	<p>BC Office Report</p> <p>The membership statistics have been shared and are fractionally down on this time last year although memberships are arriving daily.</p>
14	<p>Competitions Committee</p> <p>Schedules for 2025 are almost finished and will be forwarded to PA shortly.</p>
15	<p>International Teams Committee</p> <p>In 2025, RWHS are inviting H4 and P4.</p> <p>The FEI Youth Driving Cup is a new competition. There is a possibility of running these events at large county shows, which would suit the format, although finding suitability experienced drivers to take part could be a challenge.</p> <p>Potential sponsorship is being pursued by AC who has a number of opportunities under discussion. The clubs would welcome any financial support.</p>
16	<p>AOCB</p> <p>BC and Affiliated Club Meetings: Following a survey of clubs, these meetings will now take place monthly on Mondays. The next meeting will take place on 27th January at 7.30pm.</p> <p>Clinic Attendance: A query had been raised regarding clinics to see if participation in the clinic at Rheged counted as attendance. Council agreed that this was acceptable.</p> <p>BC Survey: A survey has been created to send to members regarding the BC office. This will be sent out shortly.</p> <p>Club Responses: The response from clubs was queried regarding the Safeguarding audit (19/30 responded), Safety audit (14/30 responded) and Insurance Declaration (29/30 responded). The action to be taken regarding clubs that have not complied will need to be considered.</p> <p>New FEI Rule: The new FEI noseband measurement tool is currently being produced and will be introduced to international events in May 2025.</p> <p>As there was no further business, the Chairman thanked the directors for their time and closed the meeting at 8.50pm.</p>

Signed _____

Date _____

Andrew Counsell: Chairman British Carriagedriving