

Notes form Area 21 meeting 25th June at Carmarthen Rugby Club

Clubs represented: Clydach, Cwm Derwen, Cwmaman, Gower, Tivyside, Towy Valley, West Wales.

Apologies: Robert Luke (WW), Tim Lucas (CL), Laura Jones (WW), Steff Davis (CL) Wendy Price-Jones (CB)

Email correspondence received was read out.

All Clubs were informed via club secretaries but clubs who do not compete in Area competitions did not have to attend.

Judith Allen Area Rep had called the meeting to discuss Area competitions run in 2010 and the way forward for the Area competitions in 2011. A big 'Thank You' to all the clubs who took part in the evening. Clubs had input into the following:

General -

- The winning team/individual is invited by BRC HQ to the Championship. If however that team/individual does not wish to take part, the entry will be passed down to the second placed team/individual and so on, so clubs need to inform their riders of this.
- It was suggested looking in to the possibility of a Welsh Championships
- It was agreed that at the AGM the rule regarding Area compensating clubs for losses at Area competitions needs to be revised.
- It was agreed that if anyone has a particular expertise in a discipline, they let the organising secretary know so that help can be offered via phone/email.
- All agreed that competitor feedback was positive.

Winter Indoor Dressage - Host club Towy Valley held at Pibwr Lwyd, Carmarthen

Positive

- Well run by Towy Valley. To be run again on 26th & 27th February 2011.
- College had improved surface as requested by TV.
- Not too expensive to put on.

To be improved

- **Provisional entries to HQ** - It was agreed that when the provisional entry is sent to HQ, a copy is sent immediately to the organising secretary so that they might see what is needed for the competition.
- **Declaration Forms** - ALL declaration forms to be filled out CORRECTLY and CLEARLY. Elimination will occur in 2011 if not adhered to.
Changes on the declaration form on the day to go directly to scoreboard, judge, stewards and scorers.
- **Scoreboards** - Large print blank score sheets at the start of the competition in teams with time, number, rider, horse with a dedicated scoreboard updater so that any issues that arise can be dealt with immediately and not in the 30 minutes at the end of the competition. Also makes for a more exciting competition.
- **First Aid** - Competitors **MUST** be charged for First Aid and this must be made clear on the Area and Open entry forms.
- **Warm Up** - As the warm up area is small, any students that take part in the competition as BRC members **MUST** warm up in same arena as other BRC members.
- **Judges** - Possibly use judges who are not local - the Area to organise and pay for Judges. Make sure ALL judges have a copy of and are made aware of BRC rules.
- **Flu Vac checker** - Although the initial flu vacs will go to the Secretary of the show, a separate flu vac checker needs to be there on the day of the competition to take the pressure off the secretary.
- Parking steward
- **Dressage sheets** - Dressage sheets to be kept in test order in individual folders to save time when looking for a sheet if there is a problem.
- **Rules** - RIDERS TO BE MADE AWARE OF THE RULES. The rule book is online and it is up to team managers to make sure each rider is aware of the rules. Ignorance is no defence and elimination will occur in 2011.
- **Help from clubs** - Tasks for clubs entering to be specific eg. Towy Valley to provide collecting stewards, Cardigan Bay to provide car park stewards, West Wales to provide tack checker. Knowledgeable people can then be sought within that club for that task.
- **Times** - When the times are placed on the internet, the telephone number of the person who is responsible for the times to go on the document so competitors can contact that person directly
- **Official steward** - The declarations need to be collated in to teams and stapled together to avoid confusion.

Novice Indoor Show Jumping - Host club West Wales held at Moor Farm

(Additions in blue)

Positive

- Well run by West Wales
- Well designed course which rode well for Novices
- Only venue size wise capable of hosting Indoor SJ

To be improved

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- **First Aid** - Competitors **MUST** be charged for First Aid and this must be made clear on the Area and Open entry forms.
- **Judges** - Make sure ALL judges have a copy of and are made aware of BRC rules.
- **Flu Vac checker** - Although the initial flu vacs will go to the Secretary of the show, a separate flu vac checker needs to be there on the day of the competition to take the pressure off the secretary.
- **Judges Score sheets** - All teams to be entered ready on the show jumping score sheet in clubs.
- **Rules** - RIDERS TO BE MADE AWARE OF THE RULES. The rule book is online and it is up to team managers to make sure each rider is aware of the rules. Ignorance is no defence and elimination will occur in 2011.
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- **Changes to course** - Any changes to be made to the course after it has been walked by competitors, to be announced at the start of the competition.

Festival of the Horse - Host West Wales held at Trecoed

Positive

- **Venue** - Well designed and galloping courses however West Wales will not host this competition again as a loss of over £600 was made. On reflection although Open classes were run, it did not appear any charges were made to the competitors for First Aid

To be improved

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- **Flu Vac checker** - Although the initial flu vacs will go to the Secretary of the show, a separate flu vac checker needs to be there on the day of the competition to take the pressure off the secretary.
- **Scorers score sheets** - XC score sheets from BRC HQ not made available which made scorers job difficult.
- **Judges Score sheets** - All teams to be entered ready on the show jumping score sheet in clubs.
- **Judges** - Make sure ALL judges have a copy of and are made aware of BRC rules.
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- **Official steward** - The declarations need to be collated in to teams and stapled together to avoid confusion.
- **First Aid** - Competitors **MUST** be charged for First Aid and this must be made clear on the Area and Open entry forms.
- **Fence Judges** - With the running of Open classes it is too long a day for the fence judges and alternative fence judges must be sought for Open classes. Fence Judges to

stay half an hour after the last person goes xc so that any problems with the scoring can be identified and solved with the judges still present.

- **Going** - This can sometimes be rough.
- **Venue owner** - Not always able to get the owner to do what is required so the course is not always ready to be walked.

Area Dressage & Show Jumping - host Area 21 held at Pembrey

Positive

- Good venue with plenty of parking.
- Going underfoot always good.
- Plenty of area to warm up.
- Big enough to hold both competitions.
- The day ran relatively well.
- Judges coffee baskets.

To be improved

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- **Timing for Show Jumping**- Although two minute intervals between each rider are acceptable, course walking and changing the height of fences needs to be factored in to SJ timings.
- **Team running order in Show Jumping** - This needs to be as for Dressage and Novice Indoor that the first rider of each team goes first etc.
- **First Aid** - Competitors **MUST** be charged for First Aid and this must be made clear on the Area and Open entry forms.
- **Official steward** - The declarations need to be collated in to teams and stapled together to avoid confusion. There is a much larger amount of paperwork with regard

to the results for the OS over the days succeeding days as results need to be collated for two competitions.

- **Secretary** - The secretary needs to be in overall charge of the day as they are receiving the entries and will know how the day should run. All that goes with organising a competition then pulled together by the secretary eg. Clipboards with score sheets ready for judges.
- **Style Jumping Judge comments** - Only one competitor in the ring at any one time as it is not a show jumping competition and the judge has to follow different rules.
- **Show Jumping rings** - Using one ring proved time consuming but using two and paying for a BSJA course builder is more cost. Using a second ring with club jumps for Open classes to generate income.
- **Dressage Open Classes** - Run more Open classes to generate income.
- **Sponsors** - Try to gain sponsorship to cover prize money for Open classes and generate income.
- **Presentation of awards** - It was generally decided to keep prize giving to the end of the day as it makes for a more exciting event, and hopefully with improvements made to the running of Area competitions, it will not be as late as previous years.
- **Venue** - The site is not secure so it is difficult to leave things unattended the day before. The Area is also not in control of the General Public who can get in the way. A new venue, Cothi Bridge Showground is being sort for 2011 and the event will run again as an Area with both disciplines on the same day.
- **Food for stewards** - It appeared that stewards expected to be fed as this had happened last year. It was generally agreed steward must bring their own food as the costs need to be kept at a minimum.

Horse Trials - Host Tivyside held at Trecoed

Positive

- Well run by Tivyside. To be held again on 26th June 2011.
- **Venue** - Well designed and galloping courses.
- Close proximity of Dressage, SJ and XC to each other.
- Good ground cover.
- Good viewing course for spectators and commentators.

To be improved

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- **Official steward** - The declarations need to be collated in to teams and stapled together to avoid confusion
- **Fence Judges** - With the running of Open classes it is too long a day for the fence judges and alternative fence judges must be sought for Open classes. Fence Judges to stay half an hour after the last person goes xc so that any problems with the scoring can be identified and solved with the judges still present.
- **Dressage arenas** - These can sometimes be stoney.
- **Show Jumping** - The course builder commented that there were too few poles and of varying sizes which would have been difficult to arrange if poles had be broken during the competition.

- **Radios** - These need to be present at each fence so that a rider can be stopped if a fence needs repair and to inform fence judges of class starts. Not every fence judge needs to inform the commentary just a select few.
- **Venue owner** - Not always able to get the owner to do what is required so the course is not always ready to be walked.
- **Glanusk** - Not to run on the same weekend as Glanusk Welsh Horse Trials Championships as it took competitors away.
- **Toilets** - Not good, need improving.