

BRC Area 1 - ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
held at the BHS Scotland Hub, Stirling, FK9 4RN
at 2 pm on Sunday 12th January 2025

DRAFT MINUTES

Present:

Julia Robinson-Dow (Chairman), Lothians
Linda Allen (Treasurer)
Jane McDowall (Secretary), Stranraer & District
Pat Bell, Polnoon & District RA
Maggie Bunnett
Susan Stuart, Ayr
Darren Miller (Area Rep), Scottish Dressage Group

Linda Chambers, Ayr
Rebecca McNab, Ayr

Katrina Boon, Ayr
Helen Green, Ayr
Susan Crookston, Glenbrae
Joyce Kent, Edinburgh & District
Anne Millar, EFRA
Sandra Smith-Maxwell, EFRA
Jennifer Rentoul, Kilmacolm & Kilallan
Carolyn Wilson, Renfrewshire

Julie Hanna - BHS Scotland and Ayr RC

Julia thanked everyone for making the effort to attend and welcomed them all to the Area 1 AGM.

1. Apologies

Ginny Laing (Dunedin), Jill Wilkinson (Arran), Vicki Yuill (Arran), Shona Morton (Galloway & SW Scotland), Emma Fletcher (Edinburgh), Kat Lewis (Edinburgh), Carolyn MacDonald (Peebles & District) and Linda McMillan (Kilmacolm & Kilallan).

2. Minutes of the previous AGM (18th February 2024)

All agreed that the minutes were an accurate record of the business conducted. The minutes were proposed for adoption by Sandra Smith-Maxwell and seconded by Julie Hanna.

3. Matters Arising not covered on Agenda

None.

4. Chairman's Report

"My name is Julia Robinson-Dow and I am your current Chair of Area 1. This is my second year in this position and still a learning curve.

I am an active member of Lothians RC and on the committee for many years. I have been the chair of LRC for the past 4 years.

I still ride and compete my horses and have taken part at many of the qualifiers over the years and been lucky enough to compete at both the winter and national championships. Although this year has been very hard to be consistent at anything due to increasing family commitments that I need to fulfil and now my recent surgery which will take me out of action until April time.

It is with this in mind that I would like to thank your committee on behalf of myself all of area 1 members for their support, commitment and dedication to our area. Bearing in mind all our committee are volunteers and have stepped into the role on the committee (through bribery mostly!) kidding. But because we all have the best interests of our Riding Club members at heart and a commitment to the British Riding Clubs logo. Ride together, have fun together.

Currently we have our committee made up of 7 of us. All from various parts of Area 1. We have been holding our meetings here at the BHS Scotland Hub this past year which, has worked well in terms of access for all of us coming from our respective areas of Area 1. From Stranraer to East Lothian. Julie Hanna kindly offered us the use of these fabulous facilities at our AGM last year and here we are using for our AGM this time. Thank you Julie.

4. Chairman's Report (continued)

I'd like to introduce to you our current committee

Jane is our Area secretary and a member of Stranraer & District. Jane has a wealth of knowledge and understanding of RC and the role. She is an excellent organiser and keeps us all to task and current with relevant information. Jane manages the website, FB page and does all the committee meeting agendas and minutes. Jane makes sure that all our qualifier schedules are available and sorts out the payment systems amongst all the other admin involved, She has attended a lot of qualifiers and is fluent in all the RC Rule book, which is very handy!!

Maggie has been your area rep for the last 7 years. She is also one of our official stewards and has a huge amount of history and knowledge of all things riding club. She has her own young horse and is looking forward to starting him off this year with a view to getting back to taking part again at Riding Club level. Maggie has been a tremendous asset to the area whilst in her role as Rep and we owe her a great deal of appreciation and gratitude for her input, information, dedication and practical help on so many aspects of running Area 1. Whilst she is stepping back from her role as area rep to hand over to new kid on the block Darren. She is fortunately for us all, continuing with us on the committee and for that we are delighted about.

Linda is our finance/treasurer and is an excellent one at that. She is extremely familiar with the finances, and generally well versed in the BRC way of operations. Linda has also trialled the live results for our qualifiers and has successfully implemented them for the 2024 qualifiers. Much to her delight. Linda is always will to take on new tasks and willing to learn.

Pat a member of Polnoon RC and is another well versed member of our committee and is brilliant at sourcing our dressage judges and scoring at all the dressage qualifiers. She and her team are the backbone of the scoring and getting the results sorted. Pat has worked closely with Linda to implement the Live results and has worked tirelessly to iron our teething issues to make the live system be an excellent tool and move with the modern systems. Scoring is always a lot of pressure but Pat, and her team who consist of a couple of her personal family members and a couple of RC volunteers always do the job brilliantly! It's actually a huge part of the qualifiers and without the help and support of this committee either hosting the qualifiers or mentoring the clubs that do run a qualifier then running them would be almost impossible. So much work goes on behind the scenes to make the qualifiers happen.

Darren, is chair of Scottish Dressage Group and bring a lot to our meetings, reflects a younger generation view point and he provides humour to most meetings as well. His club undertook the hosting, of the winter intermediate dressage qualifiers at SNEC in December. Darren willingly takes on tasks and responsibilities; he is also an official steward for the area. We cannot host any qualifiers without an OS and for a while we struggled in the area to have enough OS. We still need to be working towards increasing our pool of 2 x OS Darren, and Maggie and this is something we will be addressing in the coming year.

Darren is also now our newly voted Area 1 rep. he is taking over the reins from Maggie and together with the committee we will be looking to help support him in his new steep learning curve role and how best to help find his feet and way forward.

Susan, who is a member of Ayr RC, joined us this time last year at the AGM and came onto our committee. She is a busy and very active RC member and I'd say she's pretty much game for anything horsey! She has been at many qualifiers and championships and has an invaluable amount of experience also with RC and committees. We have enjoyed welcoming her to our committee and look forward to continuing to work together.

I would like to on behalf of myself and all of Area 1 members say a big thank you to all of our committee members and show our appreciation of their commitment and hard work.

A few things throughout the year that are worth a mention.

-Last year we spent a LOT of time talking about the new Sport 80 platform and its rapid, ill prepared introduction to all of us at club level for membership renewals and joining. It was quite a transition that took up a lot of time for many of the membership secretaries and committees.

4. Chairman's Report (continued)

Susan kindly volunteered to collate all the emails and information raised from the clubs after we put out a further request to everyone for feedback issues they wanted raising. Despite this we received no response to the request sent out via our area 1 FB page. Seems that we have all succumbed to the realisation we have to accept it and just get on with it. But thank you Susan for offering. It has caused many an irate conversation between members and HQ and now hopefully the dust has settled on the new system and we don't need to further discuss it.

- The 2024 Horse Trials qualifier invites from Areas 2 & 22 was put to the membership for votes. 9 clubs responded and the majority opted for area 22 at Auchlishie. We'll be coming onto Area Qualifiers later in the agenda.
- Last year only 1 member from the whole of the area attended the Combined Training and Combined Challenge qualifiers. She did win her class and huge well done to her.
- We had our Summer Dressage Qualifiers on 7th July at Morris and hosted by Area 1. As stated earlier this was the first time the live results system was used for scoring and allowing everyone to follow the results online. The initial template set up was time consuming for Linda and Pat but once done the system worked well. Feedback from all members said it worked well. And with use everyone will become more familiar with it all.
- SJ and style qualifiers at Muirmill on 24th July, again hosted by the Area. Muirmill was used as a trial of a different venue. Feedback was varied with issues that caused problems with the parking, no proper office space, and that the venue was not overly conducive to creating a qualifier feel to it. Entries were not great and we also offered extra non qualifying classes to help boost the numbers attending but found that made very little difference to entries overall.
- A big thank you and well done to all the clubs who participated, helped host, volunteer & spectate at the qualifiers.
- and also to all the individuals and teams who qualified for the National Championships at Lincoln in September and the winter championships in April this year at Arena UK.
- Championships are a fantastic experience to compete at and definitely gives one a sense of the enormity of the British Riding Clubs as a whole and an experience and scale which is unknown to most of our Scottish members. It is such a great thing to be part.

It's worth mentioning all the clubs who took the journey to the various championships in 2024 and giving them all a round of applause for attending.

Peebles, Lothians, Edinburgh, SDG, Polnoon, Ayr & Glenbrae

- Going forward we are re introducing / reverting to the weekend of summer qualifiers and therefore we have booked Morris on 12th & 13th July 2025 and with SNEC booked for 4th & 5th July 2026.
- Glenbrae RC are hosting Arena eventing at Netherton Equestrian Centre on 9th March 2025 with a range of qualifying and non-qualifying classes. The schedule is out. Pre entries close on 14th February. Excellent that Glenbrae are taking this on and we wish them every success in hosting this event.
- As a committee we meet 3 to 4 times a year. This allows us an opportunity to be more organised for holding qualifiers, producing schedules and save the dates much further in advance than previously, securing judges, venues, photographers, first aid etc. It also allows us to mentor and help support hosting clubs to successfully run an event. Thanks to the Area for hosting the summer qualifiers and the winter SJ qualifier where the 60cm class qualifier was first introduced. There were only a few entries for the 60cm class but BRC and our area are hoping that once everyone is more aware that there is now a 60cm class that entries will increase. BRC is doing its best to encourage riders to enter and compete at real grass roots heights and dressage levels. Area ran the novice dressage at Morris for the winter qualifiers and SDG hosted and ran the winter intermediate dressage and DTM at SNEC in December. A big thank you again for running all the qualifiers last year.
- Last year we introduced the new Volunteers award with trophy for the winner and nominee rosettes to all those nominated. This year we have had 4 nominations for this award and we are hoping that the award gathers momentum for the recognition that our

4. Chairman's Report (continued)

members do with volunteering to make clubs run successfully. We will be announcing the award winner for 2024 today.

- As an area we are working towards building bridges with the historically broken bridges that were between our area and Area 22. This is definitely beginning to be more positive and we plan to continue progressing this relationship.

- We are also looking to put on area training days, particularly for show jumping. These days would mimic qualifier rules, courses and atmosphere but would be for training only so will give everyone a chance to experience and gain experience of taking part. The finer details are still being worked out but we would hope to provide this opportunity at either side of the area. I.e. Morris and SNEC. Watch this space.

Thank you all for listening to me so far.

We are all here to try and work together and do the best we can for our Area. There will be an opportunity at the end to give us any feedback or suggestions/items that you would like us to look at and see how we could improve, we are always open to suggestions. We also don't have all the answers but we are willing to try find them.

In the meantime I wish you all a successful 2025 coming season with you and your 4 legged partners.

Thank you again for listening and I will now pass you onto LINDA for our treasurer's report."

5. Treasurer's Report and Adoption of Accounts

Linda went through the items of income and expenditure. There was a loss of £3,688.87 for the year, mainly down to lower entries for the qualifiers.

The accounts were proposed for adoption by Maggie Bunnett and seconded by Helen Green.

6. Area Representative's Report

Maggie's report: "It is nice to see you all.

As this is my last report as Area 1 Rep I would like to start with some thanks. Thanks to all the clubs which have supported the qualifiers over the last 7 years. A huge thanks to all the volunteers, I can truly say you have been much appreciated and without you these events would not have run as efficiently as they have done.

A special thanks to my fellow committee members, our Secretary Jane who commits over 200 hours a year to ensuring the consistent and smooth running of the Area along with Linda and Pat for their stalwart efforts with times & scoring, especially with the implementation of Riding Club Results which have proven to be a fabulous resource.

2024 was another testing year with sadly Almond shutting down. A lot of clubs have been active but across the area a lot of membership numbers are down, volunteers are less available and as such any should be valued. With ongoing financial pressures and a bigger choice of venues/competitions it is difficult to grow clubs. We have just lost another of our small clubs Girvan & District.

It is a positive that a lot of our clubs have welcomed new people onto their committees and these in turn have taken up roles such as team managers with enthusiasm but please remember to help support new committee even if you have served your time and moved on. I would also encourage clubs to highlight rule changes to all its members but especially ones competing at qualifiers. We have a few issues last year, wrong bits and worse incorrect whips. The new whip rule has been widely publicised over the last year, included in schedules and posts on Facebook.

The other issue which was mainly evident at the Intro/Novice Qualifiers was the confusion introduced by BRC with the use of BRC Prelim 1 and BD Prelim 1 etc. This will be no different this year. BRC & BD tests are not the same, please highlight this with your club members doing qualifiers. The BRC ones are free to download and all area schedules

6. Area Representative's Report (continued)

clearly state BRC Test or BD Test and year.

Area Qualifiers 2024 - Summer Dressage Qualifiers at Morris, Summer SJ Qualifiers at Muirmill, Winter SJ at Morris, Winter Intro & Novice Dressage at Morris and Winter Intermediate & DTM at SNEC all ran by members of the Area 1 Liaison Committee, with keen competitors and volunteers. In the main entries were on average down but all who competed gave positive feedback. Financially most made a loss, Muirmill only made a small profit due to the generous discount provided by the venue. The Area Committee will continue to look for means to encourage attendance at these qualifiers.

Congratulations to all who qualified and attended the various Championships in 2024. It is impossible to list you all and rather than miss any out – well done.

Finally a Huge Congratulations to Ayr Riding Club Member, Sharon Thom. Sharon was the recipient of the BHS Exceptional Achievement Award. Sharon has been a stalwart supporter of both Ayr Riding Club and Area 1 Qualifiers for many years, in addition qualifying for a number of Championships and is an inspiration to us all.

Dates for 2025 are on Website/Facebook and a sheet on your chairs. I hope to see many of you at these events and thanks.

7. Election of Office Bearers and Committee

Julia explained that all committee members (Julia, Linda, Pat, Maggie, Susan and Jane) were willing to stand again.

Katrina Boon proposed re-electing them en bloc and this was seconded by Julie Hanna.

There being no opposing proposals all were duly re-elected.

Jennifer Rentoul was proposed by Rebecca McNab and seconded by Linda Allan.

There were no other nominations.

Maggie suggested a representative for Juniors and Darren will follow up.

8. Proposals for Area Liaison Fees and Area 1 Funded Training Grant

Area Liaison Fees - Linda proposed increasing from 50p to £1.00 per 2024 member (club membership numbers at November 2024) and this was seconded by Joyce Kent. The fee will be £1.00 up to 31st March, then £2 from 1st April. This was unanimously agreed.

Area Training Grant - This will not be offered during 2025 but will be reviewed for 2026.

9. Area 1 Qualifiers

It was proposed by the management committee to offer the opportunity for members to compete at the Horse Trials at Auchlishie run by Area 22 without having to pay a pre entry fee, offering the Horse Trials at Ivesley EC on 15th June by invitation of Area 2 as the Horse Trials qualifier, allowing members to compete at both Horse Trials. This was approved by the majority of members.

It was also noted that the new South West of Scotland Horse Trials were on the weekend of 14th and 15th June (starting at 90 cm).

Combined Training / Combined Challenge - It was agreed to offer the Combined Training qualifier at the Area 1 Summer Dressage qualifier on 12th July and take up the offer from Area 2 for the Combined Challenged on 17th August at Ivesley EC.

- Arena Eventing - Sunday 9th March at Netherton Equestrian hosted by Glenbrae RC.
- Horse Trials - at Ivesley EC on 15th June 2025 by invitation of Area 2.
- Summer Dressage and Combined Training - Saturday 12th July 2025 at Morris EC.
- Summer Show Jumping (including BHS Scotland Greaves West & Ayre Style Jumping qualifier) - Sunday 13th July 2025 at Morris EC.

9. Area 1 Qualifiers

- Combined Challenge - at Ivesley EC on 17th August 2025 by invitation of Area 2.
- Winter Intro and Novice Dressage - Sunday 12th October at Morris EC.
- Winter Show Jumping - Sunday 26th October at SNEC.
- Winter Intermediate Dressage and DTM - Sunday 2nd November at SNEC.

10. A.O.C.B.

Joyce Kent raised concerns about today's venue being too far and not in Area 1. All others present had no issues with the venue and many found it easier to reach.

A member raised concerns about the Intermediate Dressage qualifier held at SNEC in December - no tack check, safety concerns about an extremely busy collecting ring, poor warm up etiquette, near misses and lack of stewarding. There appeared to be a shortage of volunteers to steward with two volunteers stewarding from 12 noon until late. Darren replied that there was no tack check required - it was up to the rider. Darren advised that unfortunately there was a shortage of volunteers and the event had run a little late.

Maggie requested that clubs try not to organise events on the same date as Area qualifiers, particularly clubs in close proximity to the venue.

Julie Hanna advised that clubs can apply for the BHS Scotland qualifiers for the championships at Scone Palace.

Julia thanked everyone for attending and contributing. The meeting closed at 3.35 pm.

.....
Chairman

.....
Date

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

HORSE TRIALS QUALIFIER

HT80 Individual Quaich - Jenny Wilson on Bellindene Rhuaridh (South Lammermuir)

HT 90 (Novice) Individual Quaich - Jodie Darrie on Woodend Freddy O (South Lammermuir)

HT 100 (Intermediate) Individual Quaich - Katie Rourke on Henry Higgins (EFRA)

SUMMER DRESSAGE QUALIFIER

Prelim Team - BHS Riding Clubs Team Dressage Rose Bowl

Peebles & District - Rhoda McVey - Trimragh Jacob; Helen Robertson - Downland Hannah; Caroline Wilson - Gortskeagh Amy and Lucy Barclay-Carr - Lieve.

Open Team - Robert Young (Newton Mearns) Perpetual Trophy

Strathendrick A Team - Robyn Hodgson - Kind Gent; Emily Hedgecoe - Wickstead Swanky Panky; Tara Whitworth - Gentle Blue Diamond and Pat Rennie - Lomondside Jade.

CHAIRMAN'S AWARD - Maggie Bunnett.

BRC AREA 1 Club Volunteer of the Year presented to Jill Wilkinson of Arran Riding Club.