

BRC Area 1 - ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
held at the BHS Scotland Hub, Stirling, FK9 4RN
at 2 pm on Sunday 25th January 2026

DRAFT MINUTES

Present:

Jennifer Rentoul (Chairman), Kilmacolm & Killalan	Julie Hanna, BHS Scotland
Linda Allen (Treasurer), Edinburgh & District	Anne Millar, EFRA
Jane McDowall (Secretary), Stranraer & District	Evelyn Anderson, EFRA
Pat Bell, Polnoon & District RA	Susan Dick, Gareloch
Maggie Bunnett, North Ayrshire	Graham Parton, Gareloch
Susan Stuart, Ayr	Susan Crookston, Glenbrae
Darren Miller (Area Rep), Scottish Dressage Group	Rhoda McVey, Peebles & District
Katrina Boon, Ayr	Eilidh Black, SPRA
Helen Green, Ayr	Niki Bothwell, SPRA
Joyce Kent, Edinburgh & District	Sonya Campbell-Perry, HorseScotland

Jennifer welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming along to the Area 1 AGM.

1. Apologies

Jill Wilkinson (Arran), Shona Morton (Galloway & SW Scotland), Emma Fletcher (Edinburgh), Kat Lewis (Edinburgh), Julia Robinson-Dow (Lothians), Ainslie, Anne Marie van Heelsum and Charlotte Nevison (Peebles).

2. Minutes of the previous AGM (12th February 2025)

All agreed that the minutes were an accurate record of the business conducted. The minutes were proposed for adoption by Darren Miller and seconded by Susan Stuart.

3. Matters Arising not covered on Agenda

None.

4. Chairman's Report

"Good afternoon and welcome to the British Riding Clubs Area 1 Annual General Meeting.

I joined the committee in January 2025 and took over the role of chair from Julia Robinson-Dow a short time later as she had to step down due to family commitments. The committee would like to thank Julia for her guidance during her tenure.

I am extremely grateful to the Liaison Committee for their support this year. It has been a very busy one.

The competitions sub-committee organised the qualifiers and introduced the Area 1 Championships. Secretary, Jane proposed the concept. Qualification criteria were set and the championships took place at the winter dressage and show jumping qualifiers. This was very well received and made a significant difference to the attendance and financial viability of the events.

Congratulations to those who qualified for the National Championships and made the long journey south.

Sport80 is not the easiest to navigate. The committee are pleased to have been able to assist club officials new to the system.

As in all things not everything goes to plan. For the clubs that sought assistance I hope they are moving forward to 2026.

BRCA is 75 this year.

I hope you and your club members have an excellent year and it is memorable for all the right reasons.

Thank you."

5. Treasurer's Report and Adoption of Accounts

Linda went through the items of income and expenditure. There was a surplus of £2,810.03 for the year, which included £1,000 from BRC HQ for the Area Training Grant, which would have to be returned if not utilised. The donation from Glenbrae RC for the Arena Eventing qualifier and the grant of £500 from HorseScotland had all contributed to the surplus.

Joyce Kent enquired about the Area Training grant for her club. The Area 1 funded training grant is completely separate from the BRC Training Grant from HQ and isn't on offer any more.

The accounts were proposed for adoption by Anne Millar and seconded by Maggie Bunnett.

6. Area Representative's Report

Darren gave an outline of the proposed use of the Head Office Training Grant which had been discussed and developed at the preceding Area Liaison Committee meeting. Maggie had originally put a proposal to the Area 1 Committee about organising training for those new to qualifiers or interested in giving it a go but didn't know what was involved.

There would be two events - one in the West and one in the East. Heights at 60 to 80 or 90 cm. There would be a guided course walk with the course builder and the opportunity to ask questions. Jump the course, receive feedback and then jump again. There would also be the opportunity for spectators and potential course builders to attend. It was aimed at giving the feel of a qualifier without it being a competition. Cost would be £20 per rider.

Eilidh enquired about offering this for the Club qualifiers as well. These training sessions were aimed at those aiming to qualify for national championships at this time.

Rhoda asked about training for dressage qualifiers. This wasn't on offer this year. The grant was £1,000 and the application had gone to HQ for the show jumping qualifiers training this time.

Further information will be provided once details confirmed.

7. Election of Office Bearers and Committee

Jennifer Rentoul was proposed as chairman by Jane McDowall and seconded by Linda Allen.

Jane McDowall was proposed as secretary by Maggie Bunnett and seconded by Jennifer Rentoul.

Linda Allen was proposed as treasurer by Susan Stuart and seconded by Jennifer Rentoul.

Pat Bell, Maggie Bunnett, Darren Miller and Susan Stuart were willing to stand again. Anne Millar proposed that they all be re-elected as committee member en bloc and this was seconded by Helen Green.

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

8. Proposals for Area Liaison Fees

Area Liaison Fees - It was proposed that the fee remain at 50p per 2025 member (club membership numbers at November 2025) and this was unanimously approved. The fee will be £1.00 from 1st April (if not paid by 31st March).

9. Report on Area 1 Qualifiers and 2026 Qualifiers

The Area 1 Qualifiers Committee successfully ran a number of qualifiers during 2025. I am not going to list all the successful combinations, as even if you didn't qualify for the National Championships you took part. British Riding Clubs offer something for everyone, I can honestly say competing at a National Championship was a highlight of my early competition time, but also being a part of a riding club gives you support/friendship base for life, in my part over 35 years' worth!

9. Report on Area 1 Qualifiers and 2026 Qualifiers (continued)

The first was Arena Eventing, hosted by Glenbrae RC and supported by the Area Committee. This was held at Netherton Equestrian so for a lot it was a bit of a trek. As Pony club and unaffiliated classes were included overall the event made a good profit. Glenbrae must be congratulated for their efforts. The feedback was encouraging and the qualifier will be Totleywells on the 22nd March, check out Area 1 website.

Area 1 went by kind invite to Area 2 for the HT qualifier, only a few attended but thanks to Area 2 for their great event at Ivesley which has had a lot of investment since the current owners took over in 2015.

Fast forward to July, we had originally booked to run over our 2 day festival at Morris with Dressage on the Saturday and SJ on the Sunday. Unfortunately due to very low SJ pre-entries, to ensure we did not suffer a large loss, we amalgamated the 2 days into one on the Saturday. Thanks to Morris who did not charge us for cancelling the second day. On the last few days it was unseasonably warm and guidance was followed from HQ. We were very lucky that Morris has available over 80 day stables, plenty of water and shade. Whilst the SJ was outside the main entries were in the indoor dressage. All levels and ages attended, it was up to individuals if they wished to withdraw and it was both stressful and sad for the committee when a couple of clubs withdrew.

Using social media to stir up issues is contrary to BRC rules and completely unacceptable, we hope this was an isolated incident.

Winter Dressage at Morris was very well attended and fortunately the weather didn't cause any issues. Great atmosphere and we had good feedback from the New Area 1 Championships we ran. Thanks to our sponsors.

Winter SJ was at SNEC and had such a good attendance we had to revert to a single phase competition. We are aware that a small number of competitors were disappointed but the vast majority were very happy and have asked we do this format ongoing. If we had not changed the entry numbers would have meant volunteers onsite from 8 am till 7 pm at least. Whilst we split the day in 2 halves for a lot of the volunteers there are obviously a number who have to be there from start to finish. In addition, riders who had qualified for the Area 1 Championships had to choose between doing qualifier classes or Championship classes as most felt to do both would be too many rounds.

With the introduction of the competitor passes, which we hope will encourage people to enter more classes; we have now lost the knowledge of entry levels which the pre-entries provided. To help both us as the organisers and to give competitors a help on entry fees we have introduced early entry discounts. This has proven to be popular and will be continued this year. Can I remind all Team Managers that all changes need to be emailed to the Area 1 Secretary.

Our dates for 2026 have already been published starting with the Arena eventing on 22nd March at Totleywells - all the rest are available on the Area 1 Website.

On behalf of the committee I would like to thank all the volunteers who help at these events. I am fully aware of cost of travelling, time constraints etc and will always be flexible regarding the supply of volunteers. Some clubs job share so jobs are covered but by more than one person. Local clubs to events often step into gaps in cover but in first instance clubs are obligated to supply 1 volunteer per team or 4 individuals.

Area 1 Champs Dressage – total entries 96. Area 1 SJ Champs – total entries 33.

2026 Qualifiers

- Arena Eventing - Sunday 22nd March at Totleywells Equestrian.
- Horse Trials - Sunday 7th June at Auchlishie by invitation of Area 22.
- Summer Dressage and Show Jumping- Sunday 26th July at Morris EC (change from 5th July due to change of date for Oatridge Horse Trials).
- Winter Show Jumping - Sunday 4th October at SNEC.

9. Area 1 Qualifiers (continued)

- Winter Dressage and DTM - Sunday 1st November at Morris EC.

Jennifer thanked Maggie for her comprehensive report.

Joyce enquired whether Area 1 could encourage Morris EC to do anything about their awful car park. Unfortunately not.

Anne enquired how many clubs had replied to the offer of Area 2 and Area 22 Horse Trials qualifier. Five.

Anne asked why Totleywells had been chosen as the venue for the Arena Eventing qualifier over Netherton due to it having limited parking. The venue had good facilities, was closer to clubs and owners had processes in place to deal with limited parking.

10. A.O.C.B.

Jennifer advised that Area 1 has two Official Stewards to oversee qualifiers - Darren and Maggie. There is a training process in place - shadowing following by training. Members were requested to ask at their clubs if anyone would be interested.

Anne asked the clubs what their thoughts were on the extra £2 on affiliation fees to BRC. Area 1 had not received any comments.

Joyce stated that she was sad to see that Almond Riding Club had folded and reported that Edinburgh & District Riding Club had been grateful for their portion of Almond's funds.

Julie advised that the BHS Scotland qualifiers for Scone Palace International Horse Trials were now open to clubs. Dodson & Horrell should now be referred to as "D&H" only.

Julie kindly offered the BHS weighbridge for Area 1 qualifiers. Jane will advise dates.

Julie mentioned the upcoming pilots of road signs with more information to follow in February.

Sonya Campbell-Perry, CEO of HorseScotland gave a short talk about the organisation.

Julie was thanked for all her help with allowing the AGM to be held at this venue.

Jennifer thanked everyone for their attendance and wished them a safe journey home.

The meeting closed at 3 pm.

Chairman

Date

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

HORSE TRIALS QUALIFIER

HT70 Individual Quaich - Ashley Durie and Bob Hill (Edinburgh & District)

HT 90 (Novice) Individual Quaich - Emma Fletcher and Strike It Lucky (Edinburgh & District)

SUMMER DRESSAGE QUALIFIER

Prelim Team - BHS Riding Clubs Team Dressage Rose Bowl

Peebles & District - Rhoda McVey - Trimragh Jacob; Annemarie van Heelsum - Violet's Vienetta and Charlotte Nevison - Fenstons Dreamwork.

Open Team - Robert Young (Newton Mearns) Perpetual Trophy

Galloway and SW Scotland - Lindsay Birch - Duke, Heather Conn - Pipers Appeal, Sophie Martin - CCS Dante and Susan Mitchell - Well Afford.