



Notes of the meeting of the Members Council on Tuesday 28th February 2017 at the Best Western Windmill Village Hotel, Birmingham Rd, Coventry, West Midlands CV5 9AL commencing at 10.30am.

Present: Iain Graham – Chief Executive
 Justine Naylor – National Director of Sport

- Anne Fearnall – Official (North)
- Jane Noton – Official (East)
- Karen McCoy – Official (Scotland)
- Steve Lynch – Official (Wales)
- Simon Buckley – Rider (North)
- Hannah Jackson – Rider (West Midlands)
- Andrew James - Rider (South West)
- Matthew Broome – Rider (Wales)
- Simon Bates – Show Organiser (East)
- Helen Wells – Show Organiser (West Midlands)
- Jane Gregory – Show Organiser (South West)
- Fiona Quennell – Show Organiser (Scotland)
- James Broome – Show Organiser (Wales)
- Alistair Mizon – Other (North)
- Katrina Moore – Other (East)
- Richard Seals – Other (East Midlands)
- Liz Edgar – Other (West Midlands)
- Caroline Blatchford – Other (South East)
- Marion Clark – Other (South West)
- Marjory McNaughton – Other (Scotland)
- Rebecca Worrall – Other (Wales)

In Attendance: Julia Biddle – Board Director – Showjumping Specific
 Nicky McMurdo – Executive Assistant

The newly appointed members' representatives of Simon Buckley, Hannah Jackson, Helen Wells and Caroline Blatchford were welcomed to their first meeting and Introductions were made around the table. It was reported that Jean Banks had also been appointed but was unable to attend today's meeting.

1)	<p>Apologies for Absence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Charles Britton – Show Organiser (North) • Edward Bunn – Show Organiser (South East) • Nicola Roe – Rider (East Midlands) • Steve Williams – Official (West Midlands) • John Jacks – Official (East) • Jean Banks – Official (South East) • Paul Urch – Official (South West) • Nicola McArthur – Rider (Scotland) 	

2)	<p>Declarations of Interests All 2017 Register of Interests had been received from Members Council representatives. The group were reminded that any amendments/updates should be reported to Nicky McMurdo.</p>	
3)	<p>To receive Notes of the Members Council Meeting held on 19th October 2016</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 148cms restricted Open – Katrina Moore. Katrina Moore advised that the ruling in respect of the 148cms Restricted Open had been amended and subsequently was not going to work. She explained the class was introduced for the production of ponies as well as children and by excluding riders who had been on a Nations Cup altogether defeats the purpose of pony production. It was felt the restriction should not be on the rider but pony/rider combination. It was agreed to refer the matter back to the National Sport Committee for further consultation. • 1.05m Open classes – dual qualification for the Amateur 1.05 class: Having discussed this at a previous meeting, the National Sport Committee decided not to amend, however due to the issues being encountered within Scotland, raised by Fiona Quennell, it was agreed to refer this subject back to the National Sport Committee for further consideration. • Boot Rule: A suggestion to incorporate the boot rule for the Winter JC and Winter Grade C classes was discussed and it was agreed a recommendation should be submitted to the National Sport Committee 	<p>NSC</p> <p>NSC</p> <p>NSC</p>
4)	<p>Funding update The Chief Executive reported Sport England Funding for Equestrian had been reduced and subsequently discussions were in place with the British Equestrian Federation who split the funding throughout the relevant equestrian disciplines. Due to the cut, some of the talent programme's previously funded will be reduced or removed completely.</p> <p>Furthermore, UK Sport's reduction for Equestrian funding plus the decline in lottery ticket sales has also reduced UK Sport funding.</p> <p>Para equestrian has been protected and will receive their allocated funding.</p> <p>The Equine Pathway programme has been removed from three Olympic Disciplines (including Showjumping) and there will be no funding from World Class for the British Showjumping Youth Teams going forward. A significant reduction for the Senior Nations Cup teams has resulted in the BS Board agreeing to fund the shortfall for 2017.</p> <p>Being relegated to Division Two of the Nations Cup series will have its challenges with Team GB able to attend 6 shows with 4 of those shows counting for points. It will, however, give a chance for new combinations to be seen and selected.</p> <p>A restructure within British Showjumping will entail more extensive records with data collection and video analysis being collated and recorded which will subsequently benefit those on the talent pathways and youth teams. NAF has been secured as the GB Team Sponsor for 2017.</p> <p>BEF has recently announced the appointment of Gordon Burton as their new Performance Director. Gordon brings a wealth of experience to the</p>	

	<p>role, having worked within elite sport for over seventeen years. Currently Performance Advisor at UK Sport, he is no stranger to equestrian sport and is aware of ongoing matters.</p> <p>The British Showjumping International Committee met at the end of February whereby selection policies and procedures were discussed which may result in tweaks to the policy.</p> <p>In relation to the cuts in Funding, Liz Edgar asked if the money the Association spends on legal fees could be reduced and used towards sending teams abroad instead. The Chief Executive advised the Board would be equally happy to spend this in a different way instead of spending on legal challenges to the constitution by members identifying themselves as 'The Group': Jon Doney, Dianne Duggan, Liz Edgar, Bob Ellis, Peter Gillespie, Alan Golledge, Vicki Morton Jane Pelly and Jane Twemlow. Challenges have resulted in matters being reviewed by our lawyers and then in some cases an independent QC at significant cost to British Showjumping.</p>	
5)	<p>International update – FEI/EEF/GCT</p> <p>It was reported that rule changes are currently being instigated by the FEI. There has been a suggestion to harmonise entry fees and prize money around the world. This stems from Europe and other countries digging their heels in for the FEI not to take the same steps as America, who don't do much low level competitions. If changes were made similar to those in America, entry fees will become prohibitive to riders. The Chief Executive will be writing to the FEI and backing the emphasis that Europe wants to have seats on the Jumping Committee as it's currently predominately filled by American, Japanese and Russian representatives. The FEI Sports Forum is being held from 10-11 April in Lausanne where this will be discussed in more detail.</p> <p>The FEI have reached an agreement with organisers of the Global Champions Tour (GCT) whereby 20 GCT shows will be run per year. This will, in one respect, make Britain's Nations Cup campaign more tricky in respect of selection purposes, however, It will provide the opportunity for up and coming riders to be selected for teams.</p> <p>The FEI have amended their rules in respect of Six Bar challenge competitions whereby the cups used have been reduced to 12mm.</p> <p>It was reported that the ruling pertaining to blood on a horse had been modified. The rule remains as mandatory disqualification for any competitor whose horse has blood on its flanks, however it is discretionary elimination if blood is either in the mouth or nose.</p> <p>Steve Lynch also advised of an amendment to placing poles in the warm up area.</p>	
6)	<p>Judges App update</p> <p>The new Judges App is nearing completion and within the last few weeks a couple of groups of Judges have been into the office to test. Following the tests a number of tweaks are being developed and once finalised the app will be rolled out to groups of Officials.</p> <p>It was reported that not everyone will be asked to use the app in the immediate future but for those officials who are interested there will be</p>	

	<p>details in the Officials Newsletter of forthcoming training. Feedback received to date has been that it's very easy to use and once in use will create less work for Headquarters.</p> <p>In terms of grading of results, the new app will record all faults in future which in turn will show on a horse's record. A notification to this effect will be circulated to members as potentially this could result in more fines being generated initially as the system will collate details on all unregistered horses in competitions not just those who are placed or obtain double clears.</p> <p>A Members Council representative asked if it was possible for expiry dates of horses registrations could be shown online as it's difficult for people riding horses for owners to keep track. It was reported that this would be transcribed back to the IT department to consider.</p> <p>Ticket to ride purchases will in the future be purchased from British Showjumping directly as opposed to Show Centres. They will be available via Members Online login or by contacting the office directly.</p>	NF/IG
7)	<p>Category 2 prize money limit</p> <p>Considerable discussion took place in relation to shows in general considering ways to encourage riders to stay in the UK and stop show centres clashing dates thereby diluting competitors. It was generally felt that not enough competitions of 1.30m and above are scheduled due to lack of numbers and high prize money which drives British riders to travel to the likes of the Spanish tours. Katrina Moore suggested using funds from the Development Fund and although it was confirmed the fund was still in use it wasn't felt that this would get competitors to shows.</p> <p>Karen McCoy explained how the Scottish show secretaries work together to ensure there are no clashes of same category shows held over the same weekend.</p> <p>There were various suggestions put forward by Show centre proprietors in terms of protecting show dates and capping prize money at Category 1 and 2 shows. A suggestion to cap rings rather than the whole show was made as well as raising the prize money limit for a Category 2 shows to £3500 from £2999. Furthermore it was felt Category 3 shows with prize money of £5000 and above should be protected and must have a 1.40m or similar incorporated in their schedule.</p> <p>With the majority of the Members Council representatives happy to increase Category 2 show prize money from £2999 to £3500 it was agreed this matter would be referred to the National Sport Committee. It was also agreed to convene a meeting with the Show Organisers to gauge their views on categorization in general.</p>	NSC/JN
8)	<p>Welfare</p> <p>Equestrianism in general is seeing an increase in lobbying of animal rights activists which go as far as campaigning that it is cruel to ride horses. The British Equestrian Federation have had to submit responses to parliament as lobbying through MP's is becoming more popular and this is not just being aimed at competition horses.</p> <p>Discussions on saddlery and tack ensued with a suggestion that the noseband ruling for ponies should be extended to horses also.</p>	

	<p>Katrina Moore felt the new rule that ponies cannot be ridden on the bottom rein of a Pelham was wrong and believed it was opening the floodgates for an accident. Many Members Council representatives agreed and as children's safety is of paramount importance to BS it was agreed the ruling would be referred back to The National Sport Committee for further consideration.</p>	NSC
9)	<p>Qualification buy back rule</p> <p>Paper 3 (Rule 290.9) was received and considered by the Council. It was a general coconscious that there were genuine cases/reasons why this rule was required in the Handbook and therefore no change was made to Rule 290.9</p>	
10)	<p>Winter shows – thoughts/prize money</p> <p>The Members Council representatives were split into two groups to discuss winter shows in the UK and how they can be improved:</p> <p>Group 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rule 76.6 should be enabled for the Development Classic schedules to encourage more show centres to host the shows without making a loss • Was there a need for both a Premier Show and Development Show throughout the winter? Maybe amalgamate the classes into one schedule. • Culminate the 5 and 6 year old classes and show on live streaming to enhance the profile and develop interest by including relevant breeding information. • Suggestion of a final/league for young horses, start the series in January with a series of affordable fortnightly shows • Encourage shows to run bigger classes with British Showjumping sponsoring any loss of the class being held. <p>Group 2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rule 76.6 be enabled and a suggestion that BS sponsor any extra prizes to ensure competitors enter. • A Series for 5 and 6 year old horses culminating in a final at the Winter Championships. Maybe a Young Horse Final but not including 4 year olds. A suggestion of holding one show a month. • Newcomers/1.10 open's permitted at Premier Shows as many top riders like to take their novice horses to jump also. • A necessity to provide for members who remain in GB during the winter months as opposed to travelling to Spain. 	
11)	<p>Height / age classes – discussion</p> <p>It was agreed that at this moment in time there was no need to move away from the current system and use height and age classes instead. It was felt that Show Organisers can already run age and height classes if they required, therefore, the current system was available to all to run classes to suit their clientele.</p>	
12)	<p>Categorisation of horses/ponies</p>	

	The Members Council considered that grades of horses being referred to as Grade A, B and C and Grades JA, JC and JD were still valued and therefore felt no change was required.	
13)	<p><u>Any other Business</u> <u>Caroline Blatchford:</u> Caroline advised that pony shows were diminishing but show centres don't want to run them. She advised that more 12 years old upwards were riding horses as opposed to ponies. It was reported that many show centres no longer wanted to host pony shows due to the behavior encountered and vandalism to their centres. It was further advised the launch of the 'Just for Schools' competitions have been a great success and are becoming increasingly popular around the country.</p> <p><u>Hannah Jackson:</u> Hannah suggested British Showjumping run something similar to that currently in place by British Eventing for their grassroots member whereby an accredited coach is available on site at a show to encourage, support and better members.</p> <p><u>Katrina Moore:</u> Katrina advised the number of small pony premier competitors had dropped significantly and wondered if it was worth reducing the number of Small Pony Premier shows to ensure the entries were worthwhile to the venues. This would mean that more riders would need to qualify from each competition. It was agreed this should be considered and the Chief Executive reported that The Pony Club were experiencing the same drop in numbers.</p> <p><u>Marion Clark:</u> In response to a question from Marion, it was confirmed that an Area Committee would be responsible for any debt to the Area Funds. It was also reported that should an Area be encountering such issues the Area Representative should be speaking to Personnel at Head Office.</p> <p>It was reported that a safety issue had been highlighted that competitors in the practice Area were riding figure of eights and crossing paths of the practice jumps, not only becoming a danger to other riders but helpers at the jumps. It was felt more stringent guidelines should be incorporated for riding in the practice area before someone is seriously injured.</p> <p><u>Fiona Quennell:</u> A request for British Showjumping to arrange more Club Course Designer assessments to qualify was raised and it was confirmed the matter would be discussed with the Scottish Development Officer.</p> <p><u>Karen McCoy:</u> In response to a question raised by Karen, it was advised that Show Centres need to clearly define their process for accepting entries, in circumstances when entries have been requested prior to the show day.</p> <p><u>Anne Fearnall:</u> It was confirmed the British Showjumping AGM would take place on 12th June 2017 at the Best Western Windmill Village Hotel.</p> <p><u>Hannah Jackson:</u></p>	MB/LM

	Hannah advised that members located in the North region for the Bronze and Silver League Semi-Finals had asked if they could attend the Keysoe (south) semi final as they were closer to that venue than Bishop Burton. It was reported that the venues have to tender for the competitions and therefore whichever venue is successful determines where in the country the semi-finals are.	
14)	Date of next meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10th October 2017 	

Meeting concluded at 3.40pm
