



**Notes of the Members Council meeting at Windmill Village Hotel, Birmingham Road,
Coventry, CV5 9AL on Tuesday 29th January 2019**

In attendance: Iain Graham, Justine Naylor, Kirsty Pearce, Sarah Elder, Matt Millin, Sarah Whitford Elizabeth Ogle, Jean Banks, Teresa Tanner, Karen McCoy, Rebecca Hawkins, Mia Palles-Clark, Hannah Jackson, Danny Dunne, Claire Read, Janice Mewse, Piers Warmoth, John Bedford, Jane Gregory, Craig Blackie, Richard Seals, Caroline Blatchford, Katie Smith, Amanda Carpenter

1)	Apologies for Absence	
	John Jacks Katrina Moore Di Fairclough Nicola McArthur Donna Wood Shaun Sands Daniel Kehler Vanessa Marmont	
2)	Declarations of Interests	Paper 1
3)	To receive Notes of the Members Council Meeting held on 23rd October 2018	Paper 2
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1.30m speed has remained the same as, based on statistics pulled from National shows, was not identified to be an issue. - AC – queried Flint and Denbigh discussion was missing from October meeting minutes 	
4)	Role of Members Council	
	<p>Explanation given by JN and IG</p> <p>AC – queried why “other members” can’t vote people onto National Sport Committee.</p> <p>IG/KP – As per the constitution only the specific Official, Show Organiser and Rider have direct representation on the NSC, the MC stakeholder groups want to vote on their group representation to the NSC, which was agreed by the rest of the MC. KP explained that there are many positions on the NSC that are interviewed for, for example owners, professional riders, amateur riders etc, and BS welcome applications from all members which fit the criteria.</p>	
5)	British Showjumping Update:	
	Chair appointment and Board update IG – New board appointments:	

- Chairman: Les Harris has completed 2 terms as Chairman so position was advertised in December. Interviews took place last week, with Caroline Blatchman and Piers Warmouth being part of the process, and BS are pleased to announce that Charles Britton has been appointed as Chair of Directors. This will be for a 3 year term with a maximum of 2 terms (6 years), with a re-election after first term. His appointment commences on the 1st April.

All agreed to appointment of Charles Britton – no objections made.

- Finance Director position is to be advertised as Jenny Quirke is at the end of her first 3 year term on the Board. The position is open for new applications or for re-election of Jenny for another 3 year term.

- Sponsorship and Marketing position to be advertised after Rod Kohler passed away last year.

- Showjumping specific positions to be advertised as Kirsty Pearce comes to the end of her second term.

Board are in the process of doing skills review of the Board to see what areas is felt need covering going forwards.

Dates of interviews for all of the vacant Board positions will be communicated with Member's Council in due course.

- Members Liaison Officer position has been filled – from 2 applications, Caroline Blatchman has been successful, who will deal with members who do not feel their complaint has been dealt with as well as it could be. Position came about after suggestion from the group British United Showjumpers (BUS) who felt the complaints procedure could be improved.

Staff update;

- Charlotte Quinn-Smith has moved from Sport Team into Shows team as Team Leader.

- Rebecca Heath is back from maternity leave and will pick up some of Charlottes duties including Area Reps and Officials Admin and Conferences and Nikita Pitt is picking up Stewarding deployment.

- Harriet Best from Comms team has resigned.

- Ruth McKiernan is on maternity leave – Melanie Scott covering East and East Midlands.

BEF

- IG provided update on funding. Sport England funding has been released.

- UK Sport funding to be announced soon. Expecting this to be less as funding has gone to other sports with Olympics potential which currently are not government funded.

- New Performance Director – Victoria Underwood has been appointed.

International

- Nations Cup division 1 shows have been confirmed. Team GBR will attend La Baule, St Gallen, Hickstead and Dublin. Also a chance to qualify for Olympics at Rotterdam.

- KM - queried how Brexit will effect horses travelling abroad to such shows. IG confirmed it will make it more difficult as there are potentially extra health checks, transporting checks, and possibility of new passports/health cards. BS unsure until given facts but working closely with DEFRA and BEF on the matter currently a case of wait and see.

<p>- BEFAR – YR team lost European gold medal due to substance detected in one horse at the event. IG expressed importance of educating and highlighting the risks to all members!</p> <p>AC – trying to arrange anti-doping workshop with Paul (DO) but had no luck. JN will follow up with Paul. Other areas are holding workshops and find them well received.</p> <p>MM – happy to work with DO to deliver workshops. All agreed they work very well at academies where the members are already there.</p> <p>- Safeguarding – plans are in place to increase education with new equestrian specific online training course now available. All officials will be taking the course over the next year, sending out in a tiered approach – starting with the highest level and working downwards. Area Reps will also be sent the course to take in due course. HJ asked whether equivalent qualification would be accepted to avoid duplication – JN confirmed.</p> <p>- Reminder that JN is BS safeguarding officer so any queries or concerns should be forwarded to her.</p> <p>- Data protection – the changes BS have had to make to ways of working comply with new data protection legislation and work well.</p> <p>- Working with entry system software, Horse Monkey, Equine Affairs and Equi-Live, to further improve data protection procedures when working with venues. MM queried as to whether it could be linked to judges app. IG suggested it could but is work in progress at present.</p> <p>National sporting update</p> <p>- JN gave overview of updates. Most of the updates to this year’s rule book are clarifications rather than new rules following feedback to limit rule changes where possible.</p> <p>- Boot rule – reminder this is in place for ponies now.</p> <p>- Summer pony premiers – reduction in number of Pony Premiers this year.</p> <p>- Stabling booking at premier shows – to be looked at. Been notified that stabling being sold for shows up to 6 months in advance of the show, IG suggested stable bookings only open a maximum of 3 months prior to the event to avoid selling out too soon. All agreed this was a reasonable amount of time.</p> <p>- Spring Championships 2019 – To be held at Addington Manor in March/April in partnership with Chris Parker who has taken over at Addington Manor.</p> <p>- National Championships – Will be at Stoneleigh again for 2019 work on HS2 is in progress however will not affect the championships this year except potentially some minor changes to lorry parking. No building work to take place during champs. KS queried future of championships. IG - 2020 and onwards is in discussion and depends on HS2 developments. IG confirmed BS are in final year of 5 year term with Grandstand Media.</p> <p>Academy show will run after the championships as in previous years. HJ enquired about the tradestands stopping for the second week (academy week). IG confirmed this is in discussion with tradestands but some tradestands find it a long time to stay. We can use last year’s data re footfall to encourage them to stay.</p>	<p>CQS</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Olympia U25 – World Class withdrew support for the original U23’s at Olympia. BS picked up and changed to U25 as aligns with international U25 Nations Cup classes being introduced and to improve progression from young riders into senior classes. Currently working with UK international shows to hold U25 classes. - Objection rule 198 – JN - reminder that any complaints/objections should be reported within 30 minutes of the class as per the rule. MM clarified that it should be 30minutes from the show posting the results, not the prize giving. JN - Objections must be logged on the day and should be communicated at the show. CB queried why the need to log fence by fence results. IG explained benefit of information for training officials and course builders, course builder analysis and also the value in an insurance case where member is making a claim against course builder/venue. MM asked whether need for fence-by-fence results on horse’s record due to increase in objections from members if such information is easily accessible. Discussion as to usefulness of information to riders and coaches – majority vote to keep. <p>2019 and future plans</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Academy conference – being held 28th Feb encouraging a representative from each area to attend wherever possible. - Coach mentoring qualification – applications are open for those interested - CPD – coach cross discipline CPD days/events towards the end of this year - Level 1 stewards - qualification/training launching soon for collection ring stewards and similar officials to help improve understanding of the rules. MPC queried time commitment. JN confirmed it is TBC but should be 1 day. KM queried if it would be mandatory. JN confirmed that this wasn’t currently the intention - SW suggested little fact book for collecting ring stewards regarding rules etc. IG – for show centres/organisers to arrange if wanted but printed material is not suitable as goes out of date quickly and causes confusion (not financially viable). Material on how to become a steward is available but we need to concentrate on training current stewards before encouraging new ones. - Officials Experience Programme – applications currently open. - Animal welfare – Sport under ever increasing scrutiny nationally and internationally regarding horse welfare. FEI rules regarding spur use is more reactive than proactive – waiting for blood to be drawn before penalising which looks bad on the sport. Racing is currently being scrutinised for whip use even with the cushioned whips which cannot mark the horse, racing have been warned whips may have to be banned altogether. Showjumping only restrict the length of the whip and the amount of use. Looking into potential of cushioned whips as in racing. People’s perceptions of welfare vary greatly nationally and internationally and with live streaming and video footage it is only going to be looked into more. HJ queried belly bands. IG confirmed multi-discipline and multi-role welfare groups are forming to discuss. 	
6)	Appointments and Members Council National Sport Committee Representatives	

	<p>Members Council National Sport Committee representatives elected as follows: Show Organiser – Jane Gregory Rider – Hannah Jackson Officials – Matt Millin</p>	
7)	<p>British Showjumping strategy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Revisions made to strategy at the end of 2018 which will be reviewed in March and amends made for 2020 onwards. - IG gave overview of BS vision and values (see presentation). 	
8)	<p>Discussion points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Stabling booking at away shows – aware that venues are requiring payment of stables 6 months in advance of show which is causing additional financial pressure on members. IG suggested stable bookings only open a maximum of 3 months prior to the event to avoid selling out too soon. All agreed this was a reasonable amount of time. <p>Venue standards Discussion regarding ensuring appropriate venue standards at BS venues and balancing this with ensuring opportunity for members to access affiliated competition within areas/regions. Highlighted challenges with geographic differences some areas having too many venues some having too few.</p> <p>Break out for discussions within stakeholder groups. Riders and Coaches highlighted the following priorities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Quality of surface – is it consistent between rings and collecting rings? Does it remain a good standard throughout the day? 2. Course builder – quality of courses 3. Onsite staff – are there enough to keep the show moving? 4. Catering facilities 5. Parking – is the lorry park big enough? 6. Showering facilities for stay away shows 7. PA system quality – can you hear everything and how good is the communication? <p>Suggested venues are rate 1 star to 5 star depending on quality of facilities and facilities available. As the chair judge rates the facilities for every show, this information could be used. IG concerned judges are employed by the show centre and therefore not independent. HJ suggested members council rate the centres – would need to be consistent.</p> <p>Equestrian version of trip advisor for anyone to leave a review online for all show centres.</p> <p>Officials and Others highlighted same priorities and furthered the following points.</p> <p>JG – BS don't have a standard arena size allowed or recommended. IG – hard to state when some of the biggest shows in the UK have the smallest arenas. Lower level competition require larger arenas and high level can get away with smaller arenas. KM concerned that smaller arenas limit course building ability. IG concerned about members in</p>	

	<p>areas with generally lower standards not having anywhere to go, making the sport inaccessible to some. Also concerns that it will create friction between show centres.</p> <p>JN confirmed that DO's assess venues prior to affiliation. IG explained that although standards are required across the board, some elements are the responsibility of the show centre to comply with local authority (e.g. health and safety).</p> <p>IG identified that there is a lack of competitor feedback but that DO's and judges rate the venue which is a good starting point.</p> <p>HJ highlighted that the feedback on improvements needs to be encouraging without demoralizing for show centres as they work very hard to keep standards and by demoralizing them, they may withdraw from BS competitions.</p> <p>MM suggested a rider survey/questionnaire to be sent by email. Majority agreed that the uptake would be poor.</p> <p>JG suggested feedback form on BS website for all show centres but unable to be anonymous as could come from competing show centres.</p> <p>MM – questionnaire to be filled in through members login so not anonymous and can be policed easier to avoid the above.</p> <p>JG suggested re-assessment of course builders to make sure the standard is maintained. IG explained course builders attend conferences and CPD to maintain standards. Very hard to remove a qualification from someone which they have been awarded. CPD is being more enforced and governed going forward.</p> <p>Agreed ratings venues would be hugely contentious, but for venues to be annually assessed.</p>	
9)	Any Other Business	
	<p>KM – Rule 121.3 re adults riding ponies in warm up. Should this be broadened to anywhere on the showground.</p> <p>KM – Should a privacy screen be mandatory at all shows in the case of an incident? IG – all show centres should have some form of privacy screen facility should one be required.</p> <p>KM – Stallion discs are breaking a lot. Also owners cutting them so as not to touch horse's eye and the holes to feed the bridle through are too small for some bridles. Different materials – rubber may be? IG – can be looked in to but needs to be cost effective.</p> <p>KM – For drawn order classes where a competitor is late for a valid reason, they should be dropped down the list by a minimum of 6 horses. Any less is not enough. IG – this is up to the show organiser. It is the rider's responsibility to make sure they're on time for their class.</p> <p>KM – Boot rule poster has been well received. Could we have something similar for collecting ring etiquette?</p> <p>JM – Can bigger fines be considered for cancelled show dates as some centres are booking more dates than they need and then cancelling when they don't want them, making other shows lose out? JN – steps are being taken to monitor and reduce the cancellations. From the summer calendar any cancelled shows will go to DO's for verifying the rationale behind the cancellation and the organiser being fined accordingly as per the affiliation agreement. The impact of this process will then be reviewed to ascertain if fine needs to be increased. JM hoped</p>	<p>MB</p> <p>CQS</p> <p>LJ</p> <p>MB</p>

	<p>the fining of centres who continually cancel shows would prevent them booking dates they may not be totally committed to run.</p> <p>MM – Riders don't agree that tables should change from the one advertised in the schedule based on entries. They don't feel as though they get what they pay for prefer to be run as per schedule. IG – confirmed good to hear and it what BS always try to encourage wherever possible.</p> <p>RS – Has received positive feedback from Pony Club members regarding the help they have had from the office with getting into BS.</p> <p>MPC – Request for grey breeches to be permitted – feedback from senior riders mainly. To go to NSC</p> <p>MPC – Limit to the number of rounds jumped by a junior competitor in one day as feels some riders are doing too much. IG – compared to other sports, time spent in the ring is minimal.</p> <p>KS – Does boot rule apply to Just For Schools competitions? JN confirmed it does not apply</p> <p>TT – Concerned about UKSJ forum as there is a lot of negativity and bullying including towards officials which is preventing some people from wanting to be officials. IG – Social media is not monitored so anyone concerned should send the post to the office, along with a complaint and it will be investigated.</p> <p>JB – Judges app does not allow you to insert a different chair judge per day. Some judges will only be at the show for one day of a multi-day or multi-ring show but is input into the app as the chair judge for the whole show. IG – IT issue which will be looked in to.</p> <p>JB – Windsor Horse Show's schedule being changed to 2 National tours (from 2* competition) will have a negative impact on the entries of another show. IG – venue was notified of the change and complained that it did not go through the standard late date process. Decision was made based on the fact that Windsor was already running 2* and this was being changed to two national tours approx. 1.40m with restricted numbers in each (circa 30) most of whom likely to be riders in the 5* therefore the estimated entries likely to change largely from what they were already running. Whilst this venue have complained also likely that riders would complain if Windsor changes not granted. Affected venue chose to move to that date as they originally clashed with Chepstow. Windsor will be notified of the appeal and this will be looked at by BS.</p> <p>Horse and Pony Grades</p> <p>Time and weather did not allow for discussion. To be added to agenda for next meeting.</p>	NSC
10)	Date of next meeting	
	TBC - March 2019 to confirm new board members and discuss horse and pony grading.	