**STRATHMORE & DISTRICT RIDING CLUB**

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**25th January 2022 @ 7.00pm at Kirriemuir Town Hall, Kirriemuir**

**AGENDA**

1. **In Attendance**
2. **Apologies for Absence**
3. **Minutes of AGM held on 26th January 2021**
4. **Matters Arising**
5. **Reaffiliation to BRC with effect from 1.1.22**
6. **Chairman’s Report**
7. **Treasurer’s Report**
8. **Election of Office Bearers**
9. **Election of Committee**
10. **Any Other Competent Business**
11. **Proposed purchase of new Puissance Wall**

**Donna Webster**

**SECRETARY**

**STRATHMORE & DISTRICT RIDING CLUB**

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**Held Via StarLeaf on Tuesday 26th January 2021**

1. **In Attendance**

Marie Ramsay (In the Chair), India Dorsie, Donna Webster, Stephanie Stewart, Carol Burdin, Chris Evans, Dianne Forsyth, Meghann James, Eve Beveridge, Hazel Mudie, Adrienne Milne, Alan Thomson, Ali Lothian, Bruce George, Catherine Blundell, Colette Main, Coreen McGregor, Fiona Shepherd, Flora Hunter, Gill Wilson, Jane Gilchrist, Jane Smith, Joyce Moulton, Jude Taylor, Judith Triebs, Julie Mejka, Julie Speirs, Karen Andrew, Laura Burrows, Lee Wright, Linda Mitchell, Linda Nicoll, Lindsey Foreman, Liz Murray, Lorna Carruthers, Louise Hill, Lucy Jack, Lucy Goldbury, Lynn Clark, Lynn McKay, Lynn Milby, Mary Kidd, Moira Morrison, Morag Thomson, Morven Lawson, Nicola Cargill, Peter Forsyth, Rachel Burdin, Rachel Handley-Greaves, Rohan Inglis, Sally Kidd, Sarah Leaver, Shelagh Steven, Shonagh Lawson, Susan Don, Susan Smart, Suzanne Cargill, Tracy McIntosh, Wendy Jenkins

1. **Apologies for Absence**

Jean Paterson, Susan Geddes, Ingrid Dyker, Julie Dyker, Carol Thomson, Gillian Fotheringham, Jenni Hamilton, Nikki Cant, Joanna Taylor, Lisa Geddes, Jackie Beierlein, Ellie McGaw, Carolann McCubbin, Alison Duncan, Caroline Fife, Zoe Guild, Joanne Graham, Morag Russell, Jaedyn Wright, Shonagh Stark

1. **Minutes of the Last AGM held on 22.10.2019**

Copies of the Minutes has been sent out to members on 6.1.21. These were approved by Carol Burdin and seconded by Hazel Mudie

1. **Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising

1. **Chairman’s Report**

Marie delivered the following report to the Meeting:

Well where to start. What a year that was. My first year as chairwoman certainly wasn’t one that I had planned or foreseen on any planet!!

So, starting off with winter dressage competitions 2019/20. We were able to hold all 4 competitions which was fantastic but unfortunately due to bad weather we were unable to hold all the winter showjumping. It always a shame to have to cancel events after the committee and helpers have put time and energy in to trying to make it happen but we have to look after our members and their wonderful horses.

Obviously due to Covid 19 we were unable to hold events or instruction in the summer months which I am sure was very hard for everyone to not be able to get out and about with their horses. Personally, I was pregnant so selfishly didn’t feel too bad for me as I wasn’t missing out on anything with my wonderful ginger ninja.

We were however able to start instruction again mid august with a Winter showjumping competition on the 10th October and a winter dressage competition on the 25th October, which again can I thank all those that stepped in and took over the dressage from me after ending up in hospital and having my baby early. So well done all of you, the entries were huge and you coped amazingly with all the new restrictions due to covid.

The ever changing covid guidelines made instruction and competitions hard due to travel restrictions. Alliances were made with Stonehaven & area RC, Strathearn rc, and north east fife rc to accommodate some of our further afield members so they could still get out and about to instruction and events and their members could join in in our instruction and events. With the restrictions in place we decided that the November dressage competition should go ahead but not be counted towards the league as it seemed unfair to our members who couldn’t make it due to the restrictions. And our November showjumping ended up being cancelled again due to bad weather.

This take us up to our annual holiday of December and January and an all new lockdown. The start of our year had been planned but unfortunately February events and instruction has had to be cancelled. March has been planned and we are praying that this will go ahead but like everything for the last year we will just have to wait and see what happens….. The committee will be ready either way.

Hopefully, you have all had a chance to read the accounts, Donna will go over this next as our Jean couldn’t be with us in our virtual world. I hope you have all had a read of the proposals the committee have put to you all. We will cover this shortly.

This is quite a short report as, well we all know there hasn’t been must to report on. So, I will take this opportunity to thank the committee for their hard work and commitment. A big thank you to Chris, Eve and Emma for their time on the committee with us, the club can’t run without individuals like yourselves who are willing to give up their time to help keep the club running. Thank you to all who are continuing to stay on and a huge welcome to our new victims, I mean committee members haha. Be prepared for my funny GIFs to keep you entertained on our group chats and Carol’s random messages that were meant for someone else entirely. I would also like to thank Stephanie our membership secretary for taking on the role as our covid officer, not that we gave her much choice……. Jean for always being the voice of reason and of course Donna who keeps everything running.

Lastly I would like to thank all the members and their equine partners for supporting the instructors we use in the club, supporting the events we can hold and for supporting the club in general and for supporting us, the committee. It’s been a hard and trying year for everyone and I hope we can come through these difficult times together as a club but please remember this is a club, this is not life or death and in the grand scheme of things where life is at, at the moment life is a delicate balance of facemasks, hand washing, alcohol gel, 2 meter distancing and being confined to our homes, so yes the proposals that we have worked on make a difference to the club at the moment and these are not on a whim. We feel these changes will only benefit our club for the time being but like everything, it’s never set in stone forever. Thank you

1. **Treasurer’s Report**

As Jean was unable to join the meeting, she had sent out her report prior to the meeting. Copies of the Accounts had also been sent out to members when they had come back from the Accountant. Jean was able to answer queries beforehand or Donna was able to give answers at the meeting. The Accounts were approved by Meghann James and seconded by Suzanne Cargill.

Marie then read out a personal letter from Jean to the meeting:

*“This is just a very personal note but as a founder member of SDRC I was actually instrumental in affiliating to BRC mainly because I felt it was a challenge to our members to improve their riding capabilities with no prestige connected. In my own case this is exactly what happened, and I was extremely proud when our first members qualified for the championships each having used their other sports to raise money to cover the trip.*

*Unfortunately, over the years as everything got more expensive and so many local equestrian events are available, numbers from Scotland have decreased. As this decrease became obvious Iain Graham (now Chief Executive of British Showjumping), Donna and myself organised what was then Caledonia Championships which turned out to be very successful and in fact is still carrying on as the Scottish Championships (Saddle Up) by our Riding Club Area.*

*However, enough reminiscing. My main reason was to point out that my original thoughts of being affiliated have now changed having corresponded with BRC for the past three months trying to point out what a short sighted idea it is to increase fees at this time, but in December I think they decided to give up on me and suggested I contacted the Director of Finance of the BHS which I did on 29th December, but to date I have not even received an acknowledgement, so I am hoping enough Clubs decide not to affiliate and they will see the error of their ways.*

*I hope by writing this members will realise why I personally feel so strongly about this.*

*I would also like to thank our Committee for all the work they do especially Donna who seems to have got the most of it*

*Jean”*

1. **Election of Officer Bearers**

Chairman: Marie Ramsay agreed to stand for another year. She was nominated by India Dorsie and seconded by Donna Webster. There being no other nominations, Marie was duly elected.

Vice Chairman: India Dorsie agreed to stand for another year. She was nominated by Carol Burdin and seconded by Liz Murray. There being no other nominations, India was duly elected

Treasurer: Jean Paterson agreed to stand for another year. She was nominated by Donna Webster and seconded by Marie Ramsay. There being no other nominations, Jean was duly elected

Secretary: Donna Webster agreed to stand for another year. She was nominated by Hazel Mudie and seconded by Liz Murray. There being no other nominations, Donna was duly elected

Membership Secretary: Stephanie Stewart agreed to stand for another year. She was nominated by Donna Webster and seconded by India Dorsie. There being no other nominations, Stephanie was duly elected.

1. **Election of Committee Members**

Emma Martin had already resigned from the Committee following a change of job/location, Eve Beveridge and Chris Evans had also intimated their intention to resign at the AGM.

Coreen McGregor was nominated by Hazel Mudie and seconded by Linda Nicoll

Jane Smith was nominated by Donna Webster and seconded by Carol Burdin

There being no further nominations Coreen and Jane were duly elected to the committee

1. **Affiliation**

When the Committee realised that the Club were going to struggle financially to pay both the Affiliation Fees and the rent of the Club Field, a statement was sent out to Club Members in advance of the AGM letting them know the situation and proposing that we unaffiliate for one year until such time as Covid allows us to resume normal activities and generate income. The Committee had checked beforehand about reaffiliating and about securing insurance cover. Members were asked to contact the Committee with any objections or queries beforehand. At the meeting, Liz Murray and Suzanne Cargill said that they both strongly agreed with unaffiliating. This was put to a vote and of the 59 members present, 50 votes to unaffiliate, 3 voted to stay affiliated and 6 abstained. Therefore, it was agreed by an overwhelming majority to unaffiliate for 2021.

1. **Quorum**

The Committee had also laid out a proposal if the Club decided to reaffiliate to amend our Constitution to reflect this. We had also proposed to reduce our Quorum from 25% of our current membership to 20 members. Gill Wilson said that she felt this figure was too low and suggested 30. Catherine Blundell proposed we reduce it to 20%, Gill Wilson seconded this and as there were no objections, this was agreed.

It was also agreed by the membership that we would have it written into our Constitution that members could join any future AGM’s online.

Susan Smart proposed that we allow Proxy votes. This was seconded by Marie Ramsay and, there being no objections, this will be included in our Constitution.

1. **Any Other Competent Business**
2. Julie Mejka suggested that we share the field with the Pony Club to try to cover some of the field rental costs. Jane Smith said that she realised this hadn’t worked when it was tried before but that the Pony Club Membership was greatly reduced in numbers now so hopefully, they wouldn’t damage the field. It was agreed that this would be taken back to the Committee for further discussion.
3. Shelagh Steven suggested that we put an extra button on our Equo Events pages for donations. Again, it was agreed to take this back to Committee for discussion.
4. Mary Kidd suggested that we hold a pleasure ride with a BBQ to follow to raise funds. It was agreed that this was a good idea and would be investigated further by the Committee.
5. Shelagh Steven reminded members that it was the Club’s 50th Anniversary next year and that we should do something special to commemorate this. It was agreed that the Committee should definitely look into this and would welcome suggestions from members.
6. Suzanne Cargill suggested maybe looking to move summer events round different venues instead of holding them at the Club Field. Donna explained that having costed it out, hire costs for venues would work out roughly the same as we pay for the field rental and then we would still need to find, and pay for, storage for our equipment. There followed a discussion about the pros and cons of the Club Field and other possible venues to be used. Jean is going to speak to Peter Jannoch to try to negotiate another reduction in the rent of the field and also about filling in the potholes on the track. It was also pointed out that the field is available for our members to use Free of charge and that many didn’t have anywhere to school, etc at home. It was agreed that this would be discussed further at Committee.
7. Julie Speirs proposed that we increase the competition entry fees rather than the subscription costs so that members would only pay extra for things they could take part it. The Committee had already explained in the Statement sent out to members that they felt this was not the right time to increase subscriptions when events were being cancelled and members got very little for their subscriptions last year. We had also stated that we were disappointed that BRC were increasing our affiliation fees given the current climate.
8. Coreen McGregor informed the meeting about a new arena which had just been licenced by Angus Council in the Forfar area. She is going to give more details to the Committee so this can be discussed in more detail.

Following a vote of thanks to Marie, the meeting closed at 8.50pm