

ELISABETH CURTIS CENTRE RIDING FOR THE DISABLED

Minutes of the Coaching Committee 6.30pm Wednesday 1st September 2021 Microsoft Teams

Present: Kyle Palmer (**KP**) (Chairman), Charlotte Dunham (**CD**) (Secretary), Gina Dunn (**GD**) (PWO), Pearl Farr (**PF**)

1. Apologies for absence: Victoria Liston (**VL**), Sarah Armstrong (**SA**)

2. Minutes of last meeting:

Amend 5. Sentence at end of PWO report 'Many thanks etc.' to be removed.

Amend 6.1 Tuesday PM session to read 'would be low on volunteers if all participants were to attend'.

3. Sessions:

- Monday AM: sessions have been attended by a few participants but have been happening regularly throughout the summer. **CD** would like to get the more vulnerable participants back to the sessions. **CD** asked about participants who need extra help with mounting. Advised to use masks, hand sanitiser and gloves and check that volunteers are happy to help out. The handling belt will need to be sanitised after each use by spraying and wiping down.
- Tuesday PM: most riders are back with 14 riders attending the three sessions. There are enough volunteers for the moment but **GD** would like some more in the near future.
- Wednesday AM: St Johns School hope to attend after half term. 2 Tuesday riders have changed to Wednesday AM. Youth Inspired TBC. Greys would go to **GD** on this session until after half term and then hopefully attend on Thursday with Lizzie Hill (see below).
- Wednesday PM: There are 6/7 riders and **GD** should be able to take some off the Waiting List but will need more volunteers. Some riders did not attend. Pupils from BMS are unavailable to volunteer on Wednesdays.
- Saturday AM: Currently has 11 participants; 9 are riding and 2 are doing Horse Care, passing their 'Grade 1 Horse Care Proficiency'. Volunteer numbers fluctuate so parents are still being asked to help.
- Tuesday/Thursday AM: A County Coach, LH, has been approached and has kindly offered to run the Tuesday/Thursday morning Sessions. **KP** will be liaising with her and hopefully the sessions will be up and running soon. There are also 2 other coaches currently in training. **Action: KP TBC**
PF has agreed to draft a letter to send to participants who repeatedly do not turn up to sessions when expected. **Action: PF**
GD asked how coaches know if the participants have paid. The organiser or Trustee helping at sessions will have access to payment details on 'Teams'.

4. Management update: KP

- There is a new advert for potential ponies on the ECC Facebook page. There has already been some interest and a potential pony has been offered. **Action: GD**
- Fees will be increasing from half term. 30 minutes to £12.00, 45 minutes to £18.00 and schools 30 minutes £10.00. It is hoped that the ECC will be able to implement centralised invoicing in the near future but for the first half term, participants will be invoiced at their sessions as usual.
- Al Barnes has been accepted as a new Trustee and he has been helping Ros Ward with a fund-raising initiative, the 'Grass Maze' in the back field.
- There are new collection boxes with QR codes but they need to be updated as 'Virgin Money Giving' is now shutting down and a new provider is sought. **Action: KP**
- PF** has arranged a first Aid Course for volunteers in September which is now full up. **Action: PF**
- For the Autumn Fair on Sunday 3rd October, **PF** asked if horses could be in their stables for people to see them, with possible help from Saturday volunteers/coaches? **KP** to investigate 'Stable Tours' **Action: KP**
- MC** have created a thank you card for all volunteers to be distributed at sessions, as a small gesture of abiding thanks and gratitude for their help during the past 18 months. It was suggested that a similar card be created for all those volunteers who have had to leave this year. **Action: MC**

5. Pony Welfare Officer Report: 31/08/2021

The ponies have been working well in sessions and ET.

03/08/21 Huggy, Lolly, Dixie, Sam and Rupert had routine vaccinations. Muscadeu, Rupert and Bobby had routine dentals. **GD** sought vet's advice regarding Huggy's continuing mild diarrhoea, vet prescribed medication.

06/08/21 Huggy's breathing had become more laboured, **GD** forwarded a video to the vet, who advised an increase in Huggy's inhaler, and the vet said that he would explore the option of an additional inhaler.

07/08/21 Huggy was distressed, his breathing more laboured. The vet attended, discussed treatment options, and treated Huggy for immediate symptoms.

09/08/21 **GD** gave vet update; he advised a secondary inhaler to support Huggy's breathing. So far, Huggy's breathing has been more stable, and he is responding well to treatment for diarrhoea. He has now returned to field with Sam, Dixie, Bobby and Muscadeu. Options for Huggy's retirement are being explored.

Ellie continues with in-hand pole work and she is responding well to the sports massage. Her breeder will have her back when she retires.

The ponies are working well in ET sessions.

Bobby is being ridden by some of our more balanced participants and is going well. Muscadeu now has a sheepskin pad on top of his numnah.

03/08/21 Farrier due.

Gina Dunn - PWO

6. Re-Opening:

KP sincerely thanked all for help and support in getting the ECC back open.

7. AOB:

1. **GD** reminded all to put any special tack that has been used away properly at end of sessions. Tack being sanitised on ponies is working well and more time saving.
2. **KP** asked if any volunteers could donate crafts/jams/ etc. to the stall at the front of the car-park it would be welcomed.

Meeting finished at 20.11pm

Date of next meeting: Monday 4th October 2021 6.30pm via Microsoft Teams