

ELISABETH CURTIS CENTRE RIDING FOR THE DISABLED

Minutes of the Coaching Committee 6.30pm Tuesday 19th April 2022 Microsoft Teams

Present: Kyle Palmer (**KP**) (Chairman); Charlotte Dunham (**CD**) (Secretary); Gina Dunn (**GD**) (PWO); Pearl Farr (**PF**) Session Organiser, Trustee; Debbie Saunders (**DS**); Alex Greene (**AG**) Coach in Training

1. Apologies for absence: Sarah Armstrong (**SA**)

2. Minutes of last meeting: Read and approved

3. Update and Matters arising since last meeting: None

4. Management update: KP

1. Carriage Driving: A successful 'Show and Tell' meeting took place on March 26th. There were no representatives from the Waverley Group due to covid issues but 15+ people attended and were enthusiastic. There were new volunteers and potential coaches for CD. Some participants attended too.
2. Work on the fallen tree and fencing in Field 1 is waiting for financial approval to proceed. The Tree surgeons will also be tidying up the trees in the Sensory Ride.
3. Al Barnes (**AB**), Trustee, has put up fencing around the area for external lighting to include emergency and security lights.
4. Equipment Grant – ongoing.
5. The funeral of Ros Ward will take place on Monday 25th April at 10.00am at Norse Road Crematorium. **SA** is organising a 'Silent Auction' of Betsy, Ros' rocking horse that she received for her 60th birthday, a month before she died. The family will kindly donate the proceeds to the ECC.
6. **PF** has been approached by Bromham Show Committee to ask if ECC would like to have a stand at the show on the 3rd July. Lots of help will be needed and **CD** has asked if a specific email can go out to volunteers asking for help. **Action: KP tbc** £1500 was raised at the successful Curry Night and it is hoped that another similar evening will happen in the future.
7. ITV Anglia came to do a short article on the ECC, which was shown on 9th April. Since then, over 20 people have applied to become volunteers, including some with Coaching qualifications. Thanks to **KP, GD** who did the coaching and **Robyn** who groomed all the ponies and made the yard look very smart.
8. Mel Guy, a Physio, is running the London Marathon and would like to give money to ECC. She has asked if it is possible to come and take some photos of sessions at ECC. **Action: PF**

5. Regionals:

There are 18 entries, some riders are doing 2 classes. Volunteers are needed for Saturday 7th tack cleaning and grooming and on Sunday 8th with general help at the show. Dixie, Lolly, Sam and Muscadeu are going.

6. Pony Welfare Officer Report:

PONY WELFARE REPORT 06/03/2022

The vet has suggested a prescription of 'Regumate' for Lolly. **GD** has asked that bits are washed after each session and that ponies should be led straight out of the Mounting Block. **CD** has agreed to make a sign for the yard and for the school for both these issues to remind volunteers. **Action: CD.**

Private rides: **GD** reported that she has had good feedback from the sessions and would like to thank volunteers for their help. **GD** also reported that the ground in the back field is rough, so only walk in the Dressage Arena and be aware with less balanced participants. Rio needs time to process new situations but all ponies have been into the Countryside Challenge area and Dressage arena. When in the Sensory Ride, Rio is aware of any activity in local gardens and needs a firm voice, which he responds to, to encourage him and give him confidence. He has been used in the Sensory Ride and in sessions off the lead rein in the school with disabled participants.

PONY WELFARE REPORT 18/04/2022

The ponies are generally well. Due to the weather changes we quickly went from muddy fields to hard ground. So far, we've not had much grass growth.

During ET, the ponies have been familiarised with our countryside challenge course, including our rather interesting scarecrow! This has been a good opportunity to introduce Rio and Bobby to the equipment used on the course, and for Rio to be ridden around the back field.

09/03/22 Vet treated Lolly for mild colic

17/03/22 The Spillers rep visited with the weighbridge, all ponies weighed and condition scored. Thanks to Lilly for helping.

23/03/22 Vet treated Huggy for breathing issues.

30/03/22 Vet treated Bobby for an infected sheath.

31/03/22 Huggy moved to the Horse Trust for retirement. Many thanks to Lisa for transporting Huggy. It wasn't an easy journey as we seemed to experience all weathers. It was snowing as we left, we had rain, bright sunshine, more snow, and we arrived in a hailstorm. However, Huggy travelled really well and he was keen to explore his new surroundings. Having quickly settled, Huggy experienced breathing issues a week later. He responded well to treatment and being moved to a different field, and hopefully he can now enjoy his new surroundings and his new friend. Huggy has proved very popular with the grooms there.

01/04/22 Farrier attended

01/04/22 Osteopath treated the ponies and advised on exercises. He commented on how the ponies are generally improving, he did however, highlight the importance of ponies working actively to promote their wellbeing, making it clear that allowing the ponies to walk at a slow pace can be detrimental to their health. Dixie and Lolly will benefit from being massaged before being ridden. Thanks to Kristina for her commitment to doing regular carrot stretches and follow up exercises/massage as advised by the osteopath. Thanks to Lilly and Oliver for helping during the osteopath visit.

04/04/22 The saddler visited and made necessary adjustments to saddles. She commented on how well the ponies are looking, and that the saddle alterations were minor, which means they are maintaining their shape. She reminded us of the need to keep the ponies straight as they leave the mounting block, particularly Bobby. Thanks to Carol and Carole for riding for the saddler.

13/05/22 Farrier due

Thank you to our grooms for all their hard work, and thank you to the volunteers who help exercise the ponies.

Gina Dunn – PWO

Thank you to **GD** for all her hard work.

7. Session Updates:

Session	Participants	Volunteers that attend	Volunteers on books	Volunteers needed
Monday morning	8	8-15	14	12
Tuesday evening	15	5-15	14-15	12+ would like some volunteers who can stay the whole evening
Wednesday morning	7	7 School staff also attend	7	8+
Wednesday afternoon	7	10-12	12	12
Thursday morning	3	5	5	9
Saturday	7	5-8	15	12

8. Chair of Coaching:

The Riding Committee was formed by coaches several years ago and is now called the Coaching Committee. It was set up with no governance guidelines but it was unanimously agreed at this meeting to have an annual review of the 3 roles; Chair, Pony Welfare Officer (PWO) and Secretary. These posts are currently held by **KP**, **GD** and **CD** respectively. It was proposed by **DS** and seconded by **AG** that these people remain in post and they all accepted.

9. AOB:

- PF** asked if other organisers are invited to CC meetings? A discussion was had and it was decided that the committee should remain as Coaches only with an MC representative (**PF**).
- PF** asked that she should be made aware of which session all new volunteers attend so that she can keep up to date with issuing DBS forms. **Action: PF** to liaise with **VB**.
- CD** asked which calendar/diary should be used to communicate events. The desk diary in the office is preferred rather than the Excel calendar.
- DS** asked about coaches in training. **VL** and **AG** are training. **SA** is also in training and needs to send off BHS certificates to **NO** **Action: KP**
- KP** Cancellation of Sessions. In the event of having to cancel a session because the coach is unavailable, please communicate via the WhatsApp messaging for cover. If there is no cover, please inform **KP** who will then inform Trustees.
- KP** is stepping down from some of his Trustee duties to concentrate on his academic studies.

Meeting finished at 20.09pm

Date of next meeting: Monday 13th June 2022 6.30pm via Microsoft Teams