

ELISABETH CURTIS CENTRE RIDING FOR THE DISABLED

Minutes of the Coaching Committee 6.30pm Monday 18th July 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: Victoria Liston (VL)

2. Minutes of last meeting: Read and approved, post meeting amendment added from **SA**

3. Update and Matters arising since last meeting:

1. Sessions have had to be cancelled due to the extreme heat. Ponies are coping well in the heat and are being managed by grooms.
2. **PF** asked that a single item should be prioritised in memory of Ros Ward so that the family know how the money raised from the sale of the rocking horse has been spent. Money is still available from previous collections and items from the equipment list to be purchased. RW specific item to be discussed at MC. **KP** asked for preferences from the 'Equipment List' spreadsheet and these were discussed, and several items were put forward.

4. Management update: KP

1. A phone has been purchased for the yard as requested.
2. A new 'sack' trolley has been purchased.
3. New electrical items have been purchased for the yard.
4. ECC is awaiting quotes for replacing lights in the Tack Room/Office with sensor lights.
5. A cleaner, 'iclean' is to be contracted to complete weekly cleaning in the immediate term, suggested day to complete is Sunday.
6. It was suggested to combat the storing of paper towels Hand Driers may be appropriate. **KP** to take to MC and investigate grants – ongoing.

5. Pony Welfare Officer Report:

GD had a text from Steve at the Horses Trust to say that Huggy is doing really well and enjoying his retirement.

PONY WELFARE REPORT 17/07/2022

The hot, dry weather has presented it's own challenges, such as keeping the ponies as cool as possible; caring for the ponies' feet, which become more brittle and vulnerable to cracking/breaking; and the cancellation of some sessions. Thanks to the grooms for adapting their work routines where necessary, to continue the high standard of care that our ponies receive.

13/06/22 Vet attended.

Bobby and Muscadeu had routine vaccines.

Rupert had routine blood test – all fine.

Lolly had second blood test for encysted small redworm – levels still a bit high, vet advised another worming treatment and a further blood test in 6 months.

Muscadeu was tested for Cushings – negative.

Lolly had her 6 week review – Vet assessed that Lolly was 2/10ths lame. He was pleased with her progress, and advised that we continue with her current routine. Vet also advised starting a 12 week rehab programme of daily walking exercise, starting with 5 minutes per day for the first week, and increasing by 5 minutes each week. To date, Lolly is progressing well as she goes in to her sixth week of rehab.

19/06/22 Vet assessed Bobby's right eye and treated him for conjunctivitis.

21/06/22 Licence inspection. A great deal of behind the scenes work goes in to the preparation for an inspection. Thank you to Carol, Jayne, Lisa and Carole, for riding for the vet; and to Kristina and Robyn for their hard work in the preparations. The vet made some very positive comments regarding our care of the ponies; and the condition and fitting of the tack.

24/06/22 Farrier attended.

03/07/22 Baby arrived on trial. He went into field 3 with the herd in field 2.

06/07/22 Vet reviewed Bobby's eye and changed medication.

06/07/22 Sam was treated for kicks and several bites received from another pony. Reviewed his treatment with vet 08/07/22, vet advised to continue treatment and monitor.

15 & 16/07/22 Muscadeu attended the RDA National Championships. He travelled really well despite the hot weather, and he was an absolute superstar, enjoying all the attention. Huge thanks to Jayne and Katrine for supporting our competitors. It was hard work in the heat, but very much worth the effort to see our riders compete so successfully, and thoroughly enjoy their first experience of the Nationals.

17/07/22 Rio joined Baby in field 2, the introduction went well.

05/08/22 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

6. Session Updates:

Session	Participants	Volunteers that attend	Volunteers on books	Volunteers needed
Monday morning	7	8-14	14	10
Tuesday evening	13	5-15	14-15	12+ would like some volunteers who can stay the whole evening
Wednesday morning	9	7 School staff also attend	7	8+
Wednesday afternoon	6	10-12	12	12
Thursday morning	4	5/6	10	12
Saturday	6	6 – 15, average is 8	15/17	12

Continued use of 'Close contact records' – to be discussed at MC

Dates for next year to be published on website **Action: KP**

Monday starts 12/9/22

Tuesday starts 6/9/22

Wednesday starts 7/9/22

Thursday starts 6/10/22

Saturday starts 10/9/22

½ Term w/b 24/10/22

Term ends 16th December 22

7. Pony Day:

Preparations are progressing well. **SA** is liaising with Matt Dupont from Bedford Childrens Social Services, **CD** is preparing administrative paperwork and liaising with volunteers. Please could coaches ask their volunteers to respond to an email request for support on the day. **Action: All. KP** will provide a folder for paperwork to be stored after the event.

8. Nationals

KP thanked **GD**, and the two volunteers who attended, for their generous help and support at this event. Two participants attended, both riding Muscadeu, who coped very well on his own. It cost approx. £600 to get two participants to the nationals, including some re-usable equipment such as white numnah. Participant fees and the kind support of donors specifically for the national competition and the sponsorship from Spillers feeds covered the cost. **GD** commented that it would be good to get more supporters at the Nationals if possible.

9. AOB:

- CD** has made some updates to the Waiting List. **KP** thanked for **CD** her efforts, making it an easier task for coaches looking to take on new riders in the new term. **KP** is investigating digitising the application form. **Action: KP**
- GD** met the 'iCan equestrian' proprietor at the Nationals and ECC is trialling some of the products that were seen in use at the Nationals, such as an adjustable leather bar rein. Feedback to be given to **GD** to feedback to supplier. **GD** suggested the centre purchase canvas loop reins which were well received by participants at the show. We currently have none of this type. **Action: all**
- KP** updated ECC Covid precautions: no longer need to wear masks on site and no longer need to use Close Contact Sheet. Sanitising of tack, single use lead ropes and other cleaning to be discussed at MC with a view to stopping these precautions. Grooming kit procedure and hat sanitising to be kept.
- A CCTV camera system will be fitted in the Summer Holidays around the centre and in the arena.

5. **PF** is still chasing DBS forms and explained how difficult it is to get forms from volunteers who only attend a few times each term. Possible investigations made to digitise the process to make it easier?

Meeting finished at 20.00pm

Date of next meeting: Monday 12th September 2022 6.30pm via Microsoft Teams