



**NORTHERN DRESSAGE GROUP**

**47<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> November 2016 at 8.30pm

The Hartwood Hall Hotel Chorley

**Present** Dianne Wood Janet Zaldats Ade Lanigan Liz Ross Dawn Grundy Mel Mason  
 Linda Wadsworth Clare Walmsley Sally Mills Gaynor Parry Philippa Hamilton Suzanne Gregson  
 Fiona Lace Ann Lace Tonia Carus Eileen Lester Sylvia Bentham

1	<p><b><u>Apologies and Welcome</u></b></p> <p>Apologies were presented on behalf of:          Deborah Grant, Vicky Spencer, Charlotte Traynor, Stephanie Grimshaw, Ellen Eccles, Sue Dutton, Steven Barr, Emma Mc Donald, Sandra Edwards, Julie Bowker, Jane Ferguson, Lauren Gardner and Linda Rodgers.</p>
2	<p><b><u>Matters arising from last year's AGM</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clarity on membership – at AGM 2015 the club had 78 members but as of the 2016 AGM there were 92 members at this early stage of the club's year.</li> <li>• Quadrille – due to unavailability of suitable horses it was decided not to enter the quadrille competition. Horses that can withstand an atmosphere, music and costumes were needed but the club were not in a position to take this forward</li> </ul> <p>Minutes proposed – Fiona Lace      Seconded – Philippa Hamilton</p>
3	<p><b><u>Chairman's report - Presented by Dianne Wood</u></b></p> <p>Good evening everybody and welcome to Northern Dressage Group's 47<sup>th</sup> AGM.</p> <p>This has been my first year as chairman and what a busy year it has been. All of us on the committee have worked hard to find out what members want from the club and to try and put on events which suit everybody. We conducted a survey and had some good responses which have helped us in planning events, some of which have happened and some which are yet to come.</p> <p><b>Competitions</b></p> <p>Our survey back in the spring suggested that people wanted competitions at places like Myerscough and I am delighted that we have been able to achieve that. The entries at Myerscough have been excellent and we are planning more competitions there throughout the coming season. Crow Wood has also grown in popularity – with a full day each time this last year. We have struggled to get weekend dates at Aintree as they are so busy so ran a couple of weekday evening competitions. These are generally quite difficult for members to attend and so we are trying to book weekends only. The atmosphere at competitions has been fantastic with some great feedback from members on Facebook.</p> <p>We have had more people competing at the higher levels than previously so felt it was time to reintroduce advanced medium and also freestyle to music at medium and advanced medium. At the moment those classes are combined – pick a level style mirroring British Riding Club</p>

competitions. If entries grow then we will look at splitting them into separate classes.

### **Training**

The survey also suggested that members are interested in more flatwork and music training at Myerscough, Crow Wood and Aintree. We have run a couple of very successful test riding clinics with Helen Bradley – one at Myerscough and one at Crow Wood – we will plan more of these! Music training with Philippa Hamilton at Myerscough has been so popular we have had to put on extra dates and also hope to do some of these over at Crow Wood. Fiona's training continues to be very popular too. We have struggled to put on much at Aintree at present. Two committee members – Sian and Irene retired during the year leaving only 8 of us on the committee. Unfortunately there is a limit to what we can manage to do – but we have nominations for new committee members so hopefully we will be able to add training at Aintree to our schedule for next year. We will aim to have some daytime and some evening training at the various venues to cater for members' differing work patterns.

### **Teams**

We have been very busy with teams this year and are happy to give anybody who would like to compete on a team the chance to do so.

We have had a good few members qualifying for the various riding club championships with Dawn Grundy becoming a National Champion at Medium in the intermediate winter championships and Emma McDonald winning the Riding Test at Lincoln in September. Lots of people have had placings and represented the club – well done and thank you to you all.

### **Social Events**

Last year at the AGM one member – Steph Grimshaw - suggested a social ride would be good fun. So we ran one. It was a great day if a bit wet – at Somerford Park Farm Ride. Sadly one rider was dislodged and injured but she is on the mend – and is now back on board a horse.

A member of the club approached the committee for some help in organising a demonstration with the Eilberg family. This was organised for the 20<sup>th</sup> of August at Aintree and the evening was a huge success.

We also very recently held a talk with Stephen Clarke which proved very entertaining and informative. Stephen enjoyed doing it so much he has agreed to come back and do it again – with the theme dressage stars from past to present. Kat Dibbits suggested we all vote for our favourite horses to see.

### **Helpers**

Quite often at the AGM the message is – please, please can members volunteer to come and help at competitions. This year I am very pleased to say that many more people are coming forward to help. It is essential that we have volunteers – otherwise we simply can't run. If you

	<p>haven't done it before – don't worry we will help you. Our judges are great at training up writers and it's such a good experience seeing tests from the judge's perspective. Stewarding also gives you chance to meet other members and their horses. Obviously we understand that if you are competing at each of our points shows then you cannot help. However we also have to provide helpers for the area qualifiers – so if you aren't competing on a team why not come along, lend a hand and see what it's all about.</p> <p><b>Planning Ahead</b></p> <p>Looking ahead to the future we are planning a good variety of competitions at Myerscough, Crow Wood and Aintree and training at various venues.</p> <p>We also planning to hold some different training courses – mechanical horse training sessions at Midgeland riding school and Confident rider workshops with Sandra Edwards. We are also planning a joint camp with Northern Liaison Group. This will be at Somerford Park on the first May bank holiday next year. The details haven't been finalised yet but if you are interested please let me know. If it proves popular with our members we will consider running one ourselves. We are looking also at running more social events – such as a coach trip to Badminton.</p> <p>If any members have any suggestions for other activities you think would be of benefit to members please do let us know. If it's possible, and people want to do it, then we will do it!</p> <p>Dianne asked for any comments or questions. Sylvia Bentham expressed her view that the Club had been very well run and everyone was friendly and approachable. She also suggested a bio-mechanics training idea.</p> <p><b>Action – Sylvia Bentham to forward Di Wood details of the Bio-mechanics initiative.</b></p>
4	<p><b><u>Treasurers report – Presented by Ade Lanigan</u></b></p>
	<p>I took over the role of Treasurer in June this year and together with the committee we hope to have a clear understanding of our finances. PDF copy attached to these minutes.</p> <p>Firstly, you will see at the bottom of the 3<sup>rd</sup> page of the audited accounts (attached) the accounts show a deficit of £746.00 compared to £1401.00 last year.</p> <p>The income and expenditure for the club is based on the following areas –</p> <p>Income</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Membership – Reduced numbers which appears to be a national trend. However, a slow but positive recovery towards the end of the year. As an affiliated club to BRC it costs the club £11 per member (Honorary, Rider and non-rider) to affiliate to BRC and our affiliation fee is reflective on the previous year's membership numbers.</li> <li>• Sponsorship – a new way of generating income to help cover the cost at Championships and</li> </ul>

## Trophy Show

### Expenditure

- Rosettes and sheets cost – an increase due to increasing entries and double classes at prelim and novice- a victim of our own success
- Team events - members participating in NLG team events have increased, riders pay their own entries through the club to the NLG but those that qualify for national Championships are subsidised by the club. The way we subsidise our riders is to be reassessed for the forthcoming season.
- Competitions overall show a profit, entries are up and but costs have increased. We are lucky to pay an hourly rate at Crow Wood, Aintree on weekdays and more recently Myerscough.
  - Northcote stud as a venue is expensive and only available at a daily rate. Entries there are historically low and we do not cover our costs. As yet nothing has been booked at this venue for next year. However, this will be reviewed as the year progresses.
- Championships - The 2015 Championships made a loss but having increased our sponsorship package we started off the new financial year with our Championships making a small profit
- Training is more popular this year and there has been more of it! Needless to say the costs have increased and overall we made a small profit. We do try to keep our training cost neutral but on occasions we make a little bit extra.
- T shirt sales have been slow, the loss shown is for one t-shirt used as an overall points prize last year and the second has been lost.
- Printing is slightly reduced as we try to send out as much information electronically, this figure should be reduced again next year with more members becoming electronically available
- Helper's fees come from the extra £10 on the clubs membership and the helpers fee shown includes a **small** honoraria to the committee. This year's figure is a more accurate reflection of where the helpers fee goes to. Committee members do not receive a helpers fee at our own club events. ie running shows and clinics. We are obliged to also provide helpers at NLG events and the club makes a contribution towards petrol costs and this does include committee members
- This year Sundries includes, flowers for retiring committee members, donation in Memory of Brenda Smith, website fee (twice in the financial year), refreshments at competitions for helpers and judges etc, meeting venues and light refreshments which committee members did make a contribution to but we have stopped this altogether.
- During the year we have a North West Air Ambulance collection tin and we have been able to donate £75 to the charity

Finally on page 4 of accounts

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The club has written off the laptop as it's been lost for several years!</li> <li>○ The creditor figure is for outstanding work done by the accountant in preparation of this year's accounts</li> <li>○ Balances are shown as at bank at year end. Still in a strong position and with careful management should continue to remain solid in the year ahead.</li> </ul> <p>Some of the areas we feel the club has benefited include taking the decision to 'modernise' the club and move forward with on-line entries through Horse Monkey. Not everyone has a cheque book these days. We have considered other methods but there is no fee to the club using HM, the charge is to the competitor. Its open to members and non-members and takes some of the strain from show organisers as it does the hard work for you with times etc.</p> <p>Therefore would the AGM please approve the audited accounts of the club year ending 2016.</p> <p>Proposed      Ade Lanigan                      Seconded    Fiona Lace              Decision - All agreed</p> <p>I would therefore like to propose that the accounts in 2017 be audited by CCW (Blackpool), Stephen Barr is a current NDG member and has offered to audit the books free of charge. His company have been very generous to the club in supporting our trophy show and Club Championships.</p> <p>Seconded – Sylvia Bentham      Decision – All agreed CCW as Auditors</p> <p>Finally I would also like to thank Campbells Caravans &amp; Motorhomes for their on-going support. We are very pleased that so many local businesses in Lancashire are more than willing to support our club. They have without doubt helped the club over the last couple of years and long may it continue.</p>
5	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Items to be discussed</u></b></p>
	<p><b>Juniors</b></p> <p>The club had taken the decision to allow juniors to enter competitions as non-members in an attempt to encourage more entries at shows and generate more income. Was now the time to consider junior members? It was discussed and considered that junior non-members would be welcome at competitions, but at this time there was no need to change the club's policy. The club would re-assess if there was a sudden influx of junior entries.</p> <p>Proposed – Suzanne Gregson      Seconded – Mel Mason</p> <p><b>Decision</b> – All agreed that Club policy stays same – no Junior members – but welcome to compete as non-members.</p>
6	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Election of Committee</u></b></p>
	<p>There are 3 members of the Committee – Ade, Di &amp; Dawn up for re-election by rotation but with the addition of 4 vacancies on the Committee. Nominations had been received from Suzanne Gregson, Clare Walmsley, Gaynor Parry &amp; Ellen Eccles. In view of the fact the nominations met the number of vacancies there was no need to vote on election of individuals. It was proposed by Janet Zaldats and seconded by Linda Wadsworth that the 3 existing Committee members remain on the committee and that Suzanne, Clare &amp; Gaynor be elected. In the absence of Ellen at the AGM this decision was deferred.</p>

7	<p><b><u>Presentation of trophies and awards</u></b></p>
	<p>Northern Liaison Group trophies were presented to NLG qualifier winners who had also represented the Club at National finals this year:          Senior Novice 0 points FSM – Clare Walmsley          Senior Novice FSM – Philippa Hamilton          Senior Elementary FSM – Philippa Hamilton          Open ‘pick a test’ Medium/AM FSM – Philippa Hamilton          Senior Medium Winter Dressage – Dawn Grundy          Medium Summer Dressage – Dawn Grundy          Senior Team – Sue Grimes, Steph Grimshaw, Beth Moore &amp; Clare Walmsley          Club trophies were presented to:          Ashworth Cup (Rider of the year) – Emma McDonald          Dark Ages (Horse of the year) – O Fon Pererin          John Glover Trophy highest % at FSM qualifier – Philippa Hamilton          Gladys Rhodes (Chairman’s award) – Liz Ross</p>
8	<p><b><u>Suggestions for club events</u></b></p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vet talk</li> <li>• Other suggestions welcome during the year</li> </ul>
9	<p><b><u>Any other business</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of show jumping events – no real interest from members – however if members are keen to represent the club at area qualifiers we will support this. Polework and jump training continues to be available.</li> <li>• Schedule of classes – It was suggested by Suzanne Gregson that it might be a good idea to sometimes change the order of classes at club competitions. This would give competitors in later classes a chance to be done earlier and those in the intro a chance to compete later on. Whilst it was appreciated that the extremes of late or early times does tend to fall upon these classes the reasons for the schedule running in this order is to enable people competing at 2 levels to ride their easier test first. There was general agreement that this was more beneficial therefore no change to the schedule of classes.</li> </ul>
<p>Meeting closed at 9.50pm</p>	