



HOOFPRIENTS February 2020

VIEW FROM THE CHAIR

We had a good turnout at the AGM way back in October where about 50 members turned out for the annual report. In 2018 we finished the financial year at a substantial deficit, so it was great to report a huge turnaround and a decent surplus for 2019. Much of that improvement was due to the popularity of the Dressage at Howe which we agreed to run last year. A big thank you is due to Shona Brearley and Emma Defew for putting these shows together but also to the very many volunteers who have gave up their time to ensure these competitions ran so efficiently all year. The good news is that we have been asked to continue running these weekends next year as well – well done, one and all. The next will be on 25 January – so, as ever, please lend a hand if you can.

We lost a number of long-serving committee members. Jenny Cushnie, Joy Fulton, Dawn Wallace, Sharron Ferrier and Ferne Fairfull all decided to stand down. We thank them for all their hard work on behalf of the club over many years. As a token of thanks, all were presented with a bottle of special “FRC” vino (possibly to celebrate their escape!). A hard act to follow but we were very pleased to welcome some new faces on board – Kirsty Trotter, Simone Purves, Kerry Anne Strachan and Glenn Wheelans; also Linda Wood is a welcome re-join. Julia Edwards has since been co-opted so we are back to full strength.

The AGM is also about awards – and there were plenty. So “Well done” to Dressage league winners – Caroline Baillie (Tsar), Kirsty Trotter (Milo), Joyce Simpson (Bradley) and Janet Croft (Lady); our Show Jumping League winners – Lynn Rodger (Marco), Kirsty Trotter (Cara), Kerry Ann Strachan (Kenzie), Rhona Beda (Lia) and Leona McKeown (Travis). The Linklater Trophy for the best all-rounder went to Roslyn Davidson and William – a massive 45 points clear of the rest, and the Vic Trophy was won by Marco (Lynn Rodger). A great end to a successful season!

OTHER MATTERS

Update on Flu Vaccinations

No doubt you will have read about changes to requirements for flu jabs. From 1 March 2020 British Riding Club's will be adhering to the 6 monthly vaccination rule in line with BE and BD Riding Clubs now need horses attending qualifiers to have been vaccinated within 6 months of the competition.





This does not mean that you have to get your horse vaccinated every six months; the advice is that if you are likely to compete at qualifiers you should get your horse vaccinated in April and that will give cover to the end of the summer. It's probably worth doing this anyway if you are going to be out at lots of horse shows next summer as well as it will give your horse better protection.

DRESSAGE AT HOWE

As most of you are aware we will be continuing to run dressage at Howe for 2020. The Kingdom Dressage League will run from January 2020 through to the Championships show in November.

New Rules to be Aware of for 2020

1. Each horse/rider combination can only do a maximum of two classes per day.
2. As we believe that if you want to compete, you need to be prepared to give something back to the sport, we have decided that if you want to be in with a chance of placing in the top ten of the league at the end of the year, you must have completed a minimum of three hours helping at our events. Any horse/rider combination who has not completed their three hours help will have their points wiped off the board before the Championship thus making them ineligible for the end of year prizes.
3. The closing date of each competition is the Sunday before the event.

Upcoming Dates for Dressage at Howe

Saturday 22 February

Saturday 21 and Sunday 22 March - Kingdom Spring Dressage Festival

Equestrian Fire Relief

Dressage at Howe on Saturday 25 January raised **£550** towards Australia's Equestrian Fire Relief! Well done to all who competed and volunteered at this event. <http://equestrianfirerelief.com.au/>

Lessons

Lessons were arranged at Howe for those who had helped out at the Dressage and they went down very well with those that participated.





A miserable day but lovely to be inside and dry! This was also an opportunity for some others to sign up to help at future events.

Volunteers

As you all know we are always looking for an extra pair of hands on a show day. Why not have a go at writing/scoring/stewarding and become more involved in the club?! These shows/events can only run if we have enough volunteers on the day. Sign up to help when you're not riding or come back later in the day once you've taken your horse home. Shona is very good at running shifts and you won't have to be committing to an entire day. You may also reap the benefits later!

LOOKING AHEAD

Committee have finalised dates for 2020 and these should be circulated to members very soon. We are also intending to hold a meeting on 18 March to go over our plans for the new season, following feedback from members – details to follow.

We will then be hosting our Opening Night/Quiz Night on 1 April which will mark the start of the Summer season which will run from April to September.

Some Dates for Your Diary

Area 22 Camp, Brechin – 23/24/25 May
Area 22 Dressage to Music qualifiers – 31 May at Ladyleys Aberdeen
Area 22 Dressage/SJ qualifiers – 4/5 July at Brechin
Scottish RC Championships – 12/13 September at Auchlishie.
Area Horse Trials – TBC

What to Expect from This Year's Syllabus

We will be running the Show Jumping and Dressage Leagues again on a Wednesday night. We will also have instruction nights organised by Sarah-Jayne Bowers with a variety of disciplines and instructors with levels suitable for all.

Our Mini XC will be coming up in April which will be held at the Club Field and we will be hosting a mini ODE again later in the year. With last year's Team Show Jumping being rained off we are also planning on hosting another and this time, fingers crossed, we have some better weather!

