

**CHAIRMAN’S REPORT FOR AGM Thursday 3rd October 2019**

Well, we have had an incredible Year in 2019 !

A huge increase in the number of events undertaken during 2019 was sparked off by a report on an analysis of events undertaken by Sarah Godfrey in September 2018. The idea behind the report being that the Club at that time, held a Dressage focus in our programme of events.

Conclusions from the **2018 report** were :

1. Eventing / Show jumping teams and individuals represent our Club with little or no training to support them.
2. Most of the training provided was for our Dressage riders. There was lack of provision for the different disciplines and compared to other local Clubs, we were only offering a limited range of trainers.
3. On average , more riders were attending non- dressage related clinics despite the fact that we were holding minimal non – dressage related clinics ( Jumping, cross country )
4. BRC exists to provide training, competition and social activities to members. In 2018 we had 2 social events ( including the AGM )

Subsequent action was taken ….. and we hope that you have seen the result in the much increased range of activities, more clinics on offer and a huge increase in Teams and Individuals representing the Club in a wide range of events.

So, thanks must go to Sarah Godfrey for this report which has transformed Aspley Guise & District Riding Club into one of the strongest Clubs in Area 7, returning it to where it used to be when it was established in the 1980s.

The small Committee elected at the AGM last year took on the task to improve the Club. They have worked very hard to provide a massive increase in the amount of Clinics and Teams during the year..

Jane Emery has stepped down from the Committee owing to other commitments after a tremendous contribution as Club Secretary over the last year or more. Jane also helped to ensure that our constitution was updated for the 2018 AGM and has kept us all on track with the production of a log of all Club Policy documents. Her work on Health and Safety aspects of Club organisation has also been very much appreciated.

Gill Benwell has also stepped down from the Committee after invaluable assistance in improving our communications to members and non members and running the Dressage Twyford Clinics. Gill has also done a great job keeping our Team, Rider Participation and Summer Dressage Leagues up to date.

Marianne Rabanal is also stepping down as she is moving out of the area. Marianne has done a tremendous job in organising the Summer Dressage Shows while showing that it is possible to compete on 2 horses and run the Show at the same time ! She has been a valuable Committtee member in assisting with ideas and communications during the last year.

The work of these ex Committee members has been much appreciated during their time on the Committee and they will all be missed.

We are very grateful to members who have come forward to join the Committee in the last few months to assist with the running of the Club as the workload has increased and we couldn’t wait until the AGM.

Several volunteers have stepped in to assist with the smooth running of our events. Poppy Read, Lauren Fox, Lizzie Dodd, Phillipa Mitchell, Rowan Indge and Emelya King have now joined the Committee. But we still have more places available ….. particularly as we are looking to develop our Junior section in 2020. We would prefer more members on the Committee to share the workload more evenly.

**TEAMS**

We have had the best results for many years with a wide range of Teams ( details available on handout ) AGDRC is well and truly on the map with excellent results in Area 7 Competitions and many Qualifiers for BRC National Competitions this year. This is due to the tremendous work put in by our Team Managers ( Winter Dressage : Gill Benwell, Summer Dressage : Lauren Hewett, and ALL other events : Sarah Godfrey !) These events take a great deal of organisation and hardwork both before the event and on the day.

The main focus for our Teams is enjoyment and being part of a Team. We are not selective and anyone who would like to have a go is very welcome. This year we have introduced a Team ‘Whatsapp’ group to help develop Team spirit and a means of communication. And, it is a very active group particularly just before and on competition day !

So, a very busy year for our Teams and Individuals representing the Club in 2019 with many riders qualifying for the BRC National Championships which involve Teams from as far afield as Wales, Cornwall and Scotland. We are very lucky living where we do as many of the competitions take place in our area.

**Clinics /Camps:**

The majority of our Clinics have been well attended as we add more opportunities to our members. We have had an increasing amount of non members attending too, although many have now joined the Club to reduce the cost of their entries.

We have extended our range of Dressage and Jumping Trainers in response to the requests from our members. We are always open to new suggestions for both Trainers and Venues.

The annual Dressage Camp took place at Twyford Mill Equestrian ( courtesy of Shirley Rixon and Tom Graham ) and, as ever, this was well attended and enjoyed by all.

We are very grateful to both Liz & Vince Julier and Amanda Maine – Tucker for the use of their own private arenas during the year.

**Summer Dressage Series**

We have had a very successful 2019 with Marianne Rabanal organising the Dressage Shows for us at Addington and Wing JDC. We will miss her organised approach and hope that we can find a suitable replacement to run these Shows ( offers are very welcome !)

These Shows are the main fundraiser for the Club during the year so it has been pleasing to note an increase in the number of competitors. But, we still struggle for help to run the Shows at times , so any offers of help are gratefully received.

We finish 2019 with a number of events which are listed on a handout available for you to take away if you haven’t been able to see the listings on the website.

Once again we cannot finish the Year without a huge ‘Thankyou’ to all members of the Committee and to all our helpers who assist in running our events. Without our volunteers, we would not be able to run our Teams,Clinics and Shows.

We hope to remain as a Club that listens to its members with a friendly, supportive approach at all times.

Lynn Morgan

Chair of AGDRC 2019