**ENDURANCE GB - WESSEX GROUP BRANCH ANNUAL MEETING**

Minutes of the AGM held on Saturday 10th November 2018 at Marston Magna Village Hall, Marston Magna, Somerset BA22 8BY.

In the absence of Rosemary Henderson, Group Chair, the meeting was taken by Claire Quinney, Vice Chair. Claire thanked Holly from Baileys for her very interesting talk and welcomed all those attending. She then introduced the Committee.

1. **APOLOGIES:**

Apologies were received from Rosemary Henderson, Annette Hansford and Heather Giles.

1. **MINUTES OF BAM 11.11.17:**

The Minutes had been previously circulated and no corrections were made.

Proposed: Jill White

Seconded: Ann Walton

1. **MATTERS ARISING:**

There were no matters arising.

1. **CHAIRMAN’S REPORT:**

(I will precis this for the purpose of the Minutes when I have a bit more time)

1. **MEMBERSHIP:**

Janthea gave a brief presentation on Membership numbers. In 2017 the Group had 142 Full and non Riding Members which was now down to 128. 39 had not renewed and 17 new Members had joined. Last year Associate Membership was standing at 18 but was now down to 13, 5 of whom had not entered anything. The Supporters category had numbered 137 in 2017 but now stood at 66. Between 25 and 30 Full Members are Life Members and not active, giving a slightly false figure. Of the 128, only 91 had entered rides. The downward trend was alarming and a plea was made to everyone to encourage their friends to give endurance a go.

A lively discussion ensued with various suggestions from the floor on how to encourage people to join. Sally Rowe wondered what was the conversion rate, casual pleasure rider to Full Member and the answer was very low indeed. Ashley Gallimore felt that endurance is not understood by other riders and suggested a campaign on social media to draw in Instagram and Twitter users. She also wondered if contacting colleges like Kingston Maurward or Bicton might be worthwhile and Liz Hinings thought that sending them an information pack might be beneficial. Sally McIlwaine wondered if it would be possible to involve students as helpers as they have to have elements of practical experience for their courses. Pony Club and Riding Club involvement was also mentioned , both of which are being targeted by EGB. Ashley also suggested that we could use social media to profile a rider or horse every month. Sally Rowe wondered if the raffle for complimentary Associate Membership could be offered on Facebook as we were no longer attending the SW Equine Fair. The constraints of GDPR legislation were referred to and Sam and Geraldine asked if Members would forward their ideas for discussion in Committee.

1. **TREASURER’S REPORT:**

The Accounts had been circulated and Claire reported that 2018 had been quite a reasonable year. Although there was a slight deficit, this was mainly down to the Group’s purchase of a new equipment trailer which was money very well invested. She thanked Liz Hinings for her continued generosity in donating her TS expenses and also thanked the Members for their support.

1. **ELECTIONS TO COMMITTEE:**

Sam, Jane, Alison and Claire were due to retire and all had re-stood. Sarah Davenport had decided to stand down but would continue to look after the Website, for which she was thanked. This had left a vacancy on Committee and Lynne Searle had stepped forward, nominated by Geraldine White and seconded by Jane Perrett. Claire thanked and welcomed her.

1. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS:**
   1. Claire announced there were still vacancies on an Unmounted Training Session to be held at Nikki Malcolm’s after Christmas.
   2. The Annual Awards Dinner would be held at the new venue of Haselbury Mill on January 19th. Claire urged everyone to attend.
   3. Amanda reminded everyone that applications for the Junior and Young Rider bursaries needed to be with Rosemary by November 30th. The cut-off date for upgrade medals was also November 30th.
   4. The voting deadline for election to the EGB Board was fast approaching and Claire asked that everybody use their vote. In the same vein, Sam asked if anyone had any questions about the proposals that had been submitted by both Members and the Board for discussion/voting at National AGM.
   5. Carol reminded everyone that the trophy information she receives comes straight from the main EGB computer and urged Members to check that the details held are correct. She also reminded people that Pleasure and Pleasure Pairs logs needed to be with her by 30th November and anyone who had helped should have registered with her to be eligible for trophies.

There being no further business, Claire declared the meeting closed at 9.30pm.