

**Minutes of the Southern Region Annual General Meeting
Held at 10.30am on Sunday 12 February 2017
At English Provender Company, Greenham Business Park, Thatcham RG19 6HA**

In attendance: Jo Morris ((Chair), Beth Bailey, Nikki Carter, Leanne Chick, Alastair Elliott, Glenda Garrett, Alison Grimshaw, Gail Maidment, Annie Morris, David Leese, Kay Leese, Jo Lock, Alan Peck, Anthony Rowles-Jones, Debby Rowles-Jones, Terry Tordoff

Apologies: Shelley Aylott, Nicola Berry⁴, James Berry⁴, Bella Capel, Alex Franklin², Neil Elliott¹, Marilyn Hackman, Claire Hawkins¹, Colin Hawkins¹, Paul Jenner, Kate Morris¹, Sheila Peck³, Emma Pink¹, Jason Pink¹, Dawn Stamp, Caroline Swann¹, Paul Swann¹, Robert Taylor⁴, Dee Tordoff, Catherine Walters, Paul Wheatley¹, Sarah Wheatley¹

¹Proxy held by Jo Morris

²Proxy held by Nikki Carter

³Proxy held by Alan Peck

⁴Proxy held by David Leese

It was agreed that flowers be sent to Marilyn Hackman

Minutes of last AGM (21 February 2016)

On the proposal of Jo Morris, seconded by Alan Peck, the minutes were approved.

Minutes of last committee meeting of 23 November 2014, copy attached

It was noted that the minutes regarding medical cover were incorrect. ERS had been asked to tender to provide medical cover at MGAGB shows in 2017, but had not been asked to provide medical cover at Southern Region Shows.

Southern Region Committee members were asked to read the draft minutes that were sent to them soon after each meeting to ensure that there were no errors before minutes were circulated more widely.

On the proposal of Jo Morris, seconded by Alan Peck, subject to this error, the minutes were approved.

Matters Arising from Minutes not on the rest of the Agenda

Jo Morris reported that she had been negotiating first aid cover with Sam for 2016 Southern competitions, but that Andy Gibson had emailed telling the Southern Region to find another provider after she had queried the price requested for cover at the Southern Championships.

Andy Gibson had contacted Charlotte Randall and Nikki Carter regarding statements in the General Committee and Southern minutes. Copies of the email correspondence form Appendix3 of these minutes.

The price as well as the quality of medical cover is important as we strive to give good value to members.

MGAGB medical cover would be provided by Bristol Ambulance, who had provided a detailed tender document on time.

Chairman's Report

Jo Morris's report forms Appendix 1 of these minutes

Financial Report

Alan Peck's report forms Appendix 2 of these minutes.

A large profit had been made at the Southern Championships as Head Office set the entry fees for League Shows, despite the fact that the South do not have to cover similar overheads.

There was discussion about the repayment of the £5,000 loan made to England MGA. The loan was made to pay entry fees in advance of Championships. England fund the elite of the sport but the South choose to fund all riders from mini minis upward. It was agreed to keep the matter of the

repayment of the loan on the agenda.

There had been a suggestion that the winners of the Open Premiership should receive a prize of £1,000. This had been refused by MGAGB, who are currently losing money due to paying three staff salaries. It is also believed that MGAGB do not approve of giving prize money. Kay Lees reported that they had offered a £1,000 prize from the Riders Fund for the World Individual Champion but this had been refused.

It was noted that if riders are competing for prize money they become liable to increased vehicle regulations including a requirement for tachographs.

Election of Riders' Representative

The South is the only region to have two riders' reps – one for the U12 and U14 riders and one for older riders. The younger riders are intimidated by the older members so will not say what they think in their presence.

Annie Morris had fulfilled both roles after Ben Thornton had resigned, as well as acting as Riders' Rep on the MGAGB General Committee

There had been no nominations received for either Riders' Rep and this was sad since so many riders are ready to complain about things yet none are willing to put themselves forward.

Annie Morris was happy to continue as Junior Riders' Rep.

On the proposal of Nikki Carter, seconded by Jo Lock, it was agreed to re-open nominations for the Senior Riders' Rep, with an email vote being made by Committee members when nominations were received.

Appointment of Safeguarding Officer

Joanne Gubb was elected unopposed as Safeguarding Officer for the Southern Region.

Co-opted Members

Marilyn Hackman was the only co-opted member of the Southern Committee in 2016 and it was agreed to co-opt her again in 2017.

Election of Representatives on England MGA Committee

Concern was expressed that not all the England Representatives attended England Meetings or Southern meetings so were unable to represent the views of the Southern Region.

Concern was also expressed that since England was not represented on the General Committee so, although part of MGAGB, there was little accountability.

There were six applicants to be the South's representatives on the England Committee and, following an election, Alastair Elliott, Alison Grimshaw, Kay Leese and Jo Morris were appointed.

England MGA

Various matters were discussed including:

- The European Championship was being organised by a sub committee of England MGA made up of committee members and co-opted members.
- The European Championships were to be held at Bath and West Showground
- The website for the championships would be online soon and packages could be booked from there.
- All IMGA competitions would follow the new height weight rules. Riders' height and weight and pony heights would be required on the preliminary declaration forms, possibly with photographs of ponies and riders. Any pairing that was thought to be suspect would either have to produce authenticated certification of heights and weights or be measured before being allowed to compete.
- Concern was expressed that weighing and measuring young people could lead to emotional problems. It was noted that this happened regularly at Pony Club.

- It was not known whether the England accounts had yet been submitted for audit.

Southern Competitions 2017

Planning for these are underway.

Entry fees for the Southern Championships would be as set by Head Office, but the Southern Classics would be cheaper.

There would be a generator and showers at each show.

It was not known whether the South would have to pay the costs of an MGAGB employee to attend the Southern Championships since there would be two General Committee members amongst the organisers (Jo Morris and Paul Wheatley)

The rings would be set up to required dimensions by New Park. These would be made longer than usual to allow for an inner, breakable fence behind the start/finish line.

It was stressed that the competition organisers should be notified before any changes were made to rings by anyone.

South of England Teams 2017 and election of trainers

The Southern Region Home International Trainers will be:

Open: Peter Walters (to be held at Nottinghamshire County Show on 13 & 14 May)

U17: Robert Taylor (to be held at the Northern Ireland Championships)

U14: Shelley Aylott (to be held at the Welsh Championships on 9 & 10 September)

U12: Jo Morris (to be held at the Scottish Ireland Championships)

On the proposal of Nikki Carter, seconded by Jo Lock, it was agreed that the team and reserve riders, and trainers of the teams travelling to Northern Ireland should be given £150 each and those travelling to Scotland should be given £100 each towards their travel costs.

Equipment and Equipment trailers

A new nine-lane set of equipment for all games would be purchased

The small trailer, currently being stored with Ham family, would be delivered to Jo Morris or Alistair Elliott to enable equipment to be checked and nearly three sets to be made up.

The large trailer needs to be serviced and the tyres checked

There was discussion about the hire of Southern equipment to England for the European Championships. It was agreed that the charge would be £500 for the week, with all broken equipment to be replaced with exactly matching equipment. A contract for this would be drawn up,

Matters discussed at MGAGB General Committee

Jo Morris reported on matters discussed at General Committee, including:

- Anybody under 18 who is in the ring must wear a properly fastened riding hat that meets regulations. This is for insurance reasons. Concern was expressed that riders were riding up and down the ring before the first game in a heat and this was putting arena party members at risk and should be stopped by referees.
- No dogs should be in the ring at any time
- Charlotte Randall is preparing policies for competition cancellations and tagging of ponies
- Insurance was being looked at and Alison Grimshaw suggested she had contacts who could help with this.
- The possibility of having a vet on site at all times was being investigated, with costs varying across the country (£400 per day, £350 per day, £75 per hour). Sarah Chadwick's practice had offered to cover her to act as a vet at competitions for £300 per weekend. Some vets had said that they did not want to be sat in their car all day. It was believed that a vet employed for the weekend could monitor pony conditions and offer others services such a vaccination for non-

competing ponies.

- The league system for minis was being reconsidered, providing lunchtime classes for mini minis at £15. Riders must be at least 4 years of age and could compete on lead rein. At Spring Championships teams would choose whether they entered the U12 or Mini competition. There was considerable discussion about whether minis could receive some assistance. Clarification is required on this. *Since the meeting Leanne Chick has contacted Charlotte Randall and been told "The Mini Division will play some, but not all rule book games i.e. no Joust, Balloon, throughout the season. Teams may not receive any outside assistance"*
- A new blood rule is to be brought in covering blood from the mouth. There was consensus that this should be extended to cover blood from any part of a pony
- Sophie Morris, MGAGB Safeguarding Officer, is reviewing the use of the breathalyzer. She is also circulating a drug incident form to all show organisers, covering riders and ponies. There was discussion about what can be done about drug abuse. It was noted that drug tests are unreliable and timing of tests is very important. The police are not willing to act at an event as it takes place on private property. If given sufficient reason, they will search lorries entering or leaving the showground.

Various incidents were described, including one of a drink being spiked and multiple episodes of drug taking off the showground

It was agreed that education is important, but that if the Olympics cannot prevent drug use, we have no chance

- Qualification for riding in Home Internationals now follows IMGA rules but no rider can compete for more than one region in any three year period
- The new MGAGB website is up and running. Various people felt that a full list of competition dates was needed to supplement the calendar in use on the website
- The Open league would now run with 24 teams in the Premiership and all other teams in the Championship
- Results of the survey of members were circulated. It was noted that 57% of members had never competed abroad.
- The Winter Working Party did not seem to be active and participants had stopped receiving emails. Annie Morris would investigate what was happening
- All members had been asked if they wished to participate in external shows
- An online shop would be opening later in the year
- Payments by PayPal and World Pay would be accepted
- Charlotte Randall was investigating and providing guidance on what levels of First Aid cover should be provided at competitions
- The change between Alison Davies and Sophie Morris appears to have caused confusion about existing DBS certification of trainers
- The Assistant Referee courses run in Scotland by Davy Quinn have led to IMGA qualification and those run by Alun Whitney in England have given MGAGB qualification. There needs to be unification of the courses

Any Other Business

Matters raised included:

- Thanks were expressed to Gail Maidment for finding the meeting venue and providing lunch for everyone
- There does not appear to be an Open Meeting following the MGAGB AGM this year. Since the AGM has a set agenda there is no opportunity for members to speak and raise matters to be considered by the General Committee

- Many counties run friendly competitions but there is no way of controlling how funds raised are used. Alan Peck suggested that income and expenditure accounts for such events should be produced and provided to MGAGB. MGAGB is a limited company so has legal responsibility for funds raised under its auspices. Such shows should be expected to pay a percentage of profits to MGAGB.
- Concern was expressed that some friendly shows are demanding entry fees in full a long time before the event.
- It was queried why there should be a competition restricted to Open riders. The Future Stars competition provided classes for Open riders. All members of MGAGB should be able to compete at competitions.
- The name Future Stars was considered to be derogatory, implying that the younger riders were not stars already.
- Concern was expressed about laps of honour for U12 and U14 riders who just raced around the ring. This is unsafe and disrespectful of the winners
- Concern was expressed about the behaviour of some trainers and supporters who were deliberately shouting and upsetting riders and ponies during games like four flag

Date and venue of next meeting

19 November 2017, venue to be confirmed

APPENDIX1

Chairman's Report Feb 2107

Thank you to the very committed and united South of England committee, yet again, we have had a successful season and that is due to your continued involvement and support.

With Alan Peck back as the treasurer of the Region, we are extremely fortunate to have our finances back under control and extremely healthy, thank you Alan, it's a huge weight lifted!

We have sadly lost two of our committee, Linda Burton as our child protection officer, as Jess has now retired from the sport, I am not sure that will last long! – but who knows – but a huge thank you to Linda who has got us off on the right track! – the new title on the block is safeguarding officer, and I am delighted to welcome Joanne Gubb to the committee as the south of England's SGO!

Our next member to resign was Ben Thornton, who due to business commitments, and I'm not sure but also becoming a "Scottish" rider, deemed it difficult to substantiate his role as the senior riders rep – but again thank you from the committee for your "short" – no joke intended!!! – but useful and valued input into the discussions of the committee.

The south of England were able to host two shows in 2016 – the ever popular – but reduced entries from 2015 – Southern Championships, which was a great success, yet again heavily sponsored by New Forest Haylage (NFH), Tottie, and Nag Rags, thank you to Kate for acquiring the sponsors and collecting the prizes etc, children and adult entertainment were a huge success with the "silent rave" and huge thanks must go Paul Wheatley who works tirelessly behind the scene with co-ordinating "anything that breaks or needs fixing"! And all of the "Dorset" team who are a huge support in running the shows at New Park. We are hoping for 2017 that each county will have an allocated ring for them to support, along-side the organisers to ensure the smooth running of the 3 rings.

The revival of the Southern Classics was a well-supported show that ran smoothly along-side the home internationals at Blenheim, the theme for the weekend was to give back the riders and the parents - and the "stable plaques" & useful prizes, and again sponsorship was secured from NFH. Was well received by all – here's to the 2017 version and new ideas for and from the members, with prizes and gifts for all taking part. (Bad timing for the Peck's as Sarah is getting married this weekend– perhaps we could skype"!) – only joking Sarah! x

We welcome the revival of Surrey for 2017 – riding in the Navy red and white, and look forward to the support, once again, of the Jenner family et al.

Following our last meeting we will be "revamping" our equipment, and the order is placed for 9 lanes of complete rule book equipment ready for the 2017 season and the older set to be made up to standard and kept in the smaller MGAGB southern trailer ready for externals etc.

The results of the Home Internationals nearly saw another "Ball" on the horizon but with the strength of the Welsh U12 team that wasn't to be – PHEW!!!! X J - but the South still dominated the regions in absolutely fantastic style and performance. Thank you to the trainers, we would all like to thank Sheila Peck for her courageous and determined training in 2106, ably assisted by Pete Walters and a great "substitute"! Thank you to the trainers of 2016

Sheila, Pete & Annie – you are a credit to your region.

The results for 2106 were as follows.

Open: South 126, North 111, Ireland 109, Scotland 74, Wales 70

U17 : South 152, North 144, Ireland 120, Wales 94, Scotland 86

U14: South 61, North 56, Wales 39

U12: Wales 80, South 73, North 67, GB 37

We welcome applications from new trainers for the 2017 season.

We will be looking at the part the South play and support the England committee, especially with hosting the Europeans Championships in 2107. The England committee are going from strength to strength with new members and we need to ensure that the elected members from the south can offer the knowledge and commitment to support them in this event. Votes will take place at the AGM for the new 4 southern elected members.

I would like to close with thanking you all again, we are very fortunate to have what we have within a sport we all love, and would like to wish you all a very successful & healthy 2017!

Jo Morris

Southern Chair

APPENDIX 2



FINANCIAL REPORT FOR AGM February 2017

Balance brought forward from 31/10/15	£22178.42
Balance at 31/10/16	£33224.23
Profit for the year	£11045.81

Events:

Southern Ball:	Income £ 7323.00	Outgoings £ 7075.30	Profit £ 247.70
Southern Champs:	Income £20945.00	Outgoings £ 8037.59	Profit £12907.41
Southern Classic:	Income £ 6769.35	Outgoings £ 4263.55	Profit £ 2505.80

Other Major Expenses:

Home Internationals	£1485.60
Equipment	£ 947.47

We have now completed the transfer of all our funds from Lloyds into one NatWest account.

Re-payment of the £5000 loan to England MGA will be requested following the European Championships in August.

Alan Peck

APPENDIX 3

Email Correspondence between Andrew Gibson, Charlotte Randall, Nikki Carter

Innacurate minutes correction please

Tue 07/02/2017 18:36 from Andrew Gibson

Charlotte

As a member of MGAGB I get the minutes from Southern. In this minutes I noted a strong inaccuracy that needs attention please

It is with regards ERS and not getting the Southern Medical Contract, and was stated by Jo Morris citing the GB minutes.

I note that we probably had our email conversation after the MGAGB meeting where it was clearly stated the issue at Inter-counties

It was explained thoroughly after an investigation that 1. There were no rented in staff, they were all Global ERS, 2, There was no out of date equipment whatsoever other than one small ampule of sodium chloride in 1 individuals bag of which he was responsible for and none the less would not have been used,3 that the individual concerned at the inter counties who left the show ground did not want to be away that weekend, did not like MGA and subsequently has left the company.

We did our very best to correct the issue and did so within 2 hours taking up my personal time for the weekend. conversations did not take place with the committee as clearly you had other focuses over that weekend, and as you say no other issues occurred, in fact there are no issues.

I spoke with Maggie Gorvett on arrival and as you nominated her to oversea any issue that maybe occurring you will find Maggie in fact had no issue as listened to what had happened. You can verify this

I invited on several occasions for anyone from GB to our HQ to see how we operate , this sadly was not taken up...

I have no issue if another provider is brought in, that is certainly your propogative, but what you cannot do is minute inaccuracy as this is damaging when it is not true.

Whatever is stated in minutes can be corrected by the committee and circulated as it would be in business.

I would be grateful if this can be done forthwith if that in fact is minuted in GB notes, as it is on the Southern.

I look forward to your response and reply to this.

I note your email thanking us for our work over the last 8 years.

We are covering a number of MGA events regardless including the Europeans hence why it is important to correct the minutes as soon as possible

Regards Andrew

Wed 08/02/2017 07:43 from Charlotte Randall

Good Morning Andrew

I will take your email back to committee.

As you say, your email replying to my queries as to what happened at Intercounties was received after the meeting where it was discussed.

I do have to say however the paramedic I spoke to who left Intercounties informed me directly that she was not employed by ERS and that she was leaving due to being unable to put her registration on the line for the conditions she was expected to operate, namely out of date medical supplies, that she showed me, and faulty equipment, namely the defibrillator in the ambulance.

Just to clear up exactly where those points came from as she spoke me to herself and at that point I had not heard from you.

We are aware, and thank you, for your invites to ERS HO however they are not a viable option for the business at present as we are nomadic and therefore all supplier relationships are managed remotely.

I am sorry you are unhappy with what is recorded in the minutes and I will bring it to the committees attention and get back to you.

I hope the Europeans goes extremely well, and I will no doubt see you at the Welsh Pairs.

Kind Regards

Charlotte Randall

Wed 08/02/2017 08:02 from Andrew Gibson

Thank you for your quick reply.

This is where the investigation that we carried out shows the individuals flaws, as she was directly contracted to ER Systems

The person made inaccurate accusations so she could leave That's why Maggie had a look when I arrived to clear it up.

There were no OOD medical supplies and this was backed up by the other staff on the site. There was agreed a small pack of ECG sticky dots on the vehicle but this was an oversight not something that creates a war of words from an individual, all she had to do herself was remove them, as there were plenty of other dots on the vehicle and in other vehicles. You had 3 12 lead machines and 3 defibrillators on top of this.

The Defibrillator, 12 lead ECG was checked by a member of staff afterwards and a self check sheet printed off, these machines are expensive and all have certification of compliance

This was an untimely and indiscriminate attack on the good work we do at ER Systems as we have robust systems in place to make sure there are no oversights, occasionally there maybe something on a vehicle or in a bag, but this is an individual responsibility to check these items as organisationally we provide all of this. In essence if the young lady had reported the issues she had at the time, the corrections would have been made or discovered and nobody would be none the wiser.

This does not constitute inaccurate statements to be made in that context as it is neither right or fair.

I will ask any business if they have the occasional disgruntled employee, that was a good case of one.

I understand the reasons for not coming to our HQ. My reasons were several fold, one we have been doing this a long time and know it well, 2 it would demonstrate the integrity of the organisation that its not just what you see on a weekend with the ponies.

We don't wish to be damaged by an individuals inappropriate behaviour.

Kind Regards Andrew

Wed 08/02/2017 17:02 from Nikki Carter

Dear Andrew

The Southern Committee minutes are circulated to all County Reps and people who attended the meeting for checking before being disseminated more widely to all members of the Southern Region as part of the matters to be discussed at the Southern Region AGM. As usual, there were a couple of corrections made to the draft minutes (bits I missed, bits I got wrong and typos). Nobody made any comments about the part of the minutes relating to ERS.

As you know, minutes are a record of what was said at the meeting. The minutes will be discussed at the AGM before being formally approved and I will make sure that your email is read to the meeting so that any errors of fact can be corrected. I will then ensure that the corrections are disseminated to all Southern Region members in the same way as the original minutes were.

Kind regards

Nikki