

**Minutes of a Meeting of MGA Southern Region
Held at 10.30am on Sunday 19 November 2017**

At English Provender Company, Greenham Business Park, Thatcham RG19 6HA

Present: Jo Morris (Chair), Nikki Carter (Secretary), Leanne Chick (South Wiltshire), Alastair Elliott (South Wiltshire), Alison Grimshaw (??), Joanne Gubb (Child Welfare), Marilyn Hackman (Co-opted), David Leese (Bedfordshire), Kay Leese (Bedfordshire), Gail Maidment (Hampshire), Annie Morris (Riders Rep), Alan Peck (Treasurer, Kent), Sheila Peck (Kent), Anthony Rowles-Jones (South Kent), Dee Tordoff (Hampshire), Terry Tordoff

Apologies and Proxy Votes: Shelley Aylott (Hertfordshire), James Berry (Buckinghamshire)², Nicola Berry (Buckinghamshire)², Bella Capel (Royal Berkshire), Claire Hawkins (Dorset)¹, Colin Hawkins (Dorset)¹, Christine Hern (Middlesex), Carol Jones (Sussex), Clive Jones (Sussex), Debby Rowles-Jones (South Kent)³, Caroline Swann (Dorset South)¹, Paul Swann (Dorset South)¹

¹: Proxy vote given to Jo Morris

²: Proxy given to Dave Leese

³: Proxy given to Anthony Rowles Jones

Minutes of last Meeting

The last meeting was the AGM of 12 February 2017 and minutes would be formally approved at the next AGM.

Matters Arising from Minutes

All covered in the agenda

Chairman's Report (Jo Morris)

- 2017 has been a successful year.
- Riders selected to ride for the South of England, and Southern riders gaining Stage 1 places at the European Individual Championships, had been grateful for the financial support given towards kit and travel.
- Since we did not win all four of the Home Internationals in 2017 there would be no need to host a Ball this year.
- Marilyn Hackman spoke for all when she said that the South was very lucky to have such a good Chairman as Jo Morris and thanked her and her family for their hard work.

Financial report (Alan Peck)

- Alan Peck submitted his finance report (appendix 1).
- It was noted that the Southern Region were the first to submit their accounts to MGAGB – again
- Anthony Rowles-Jones queried why the opening figures on the accounts for February 2017 did not match the opening figure for November 2017, and this was due to the cash float held then put in the bank.
- Receipts for all cash expenditure must be produced and should not include personal expenditure on baked beans
- A year ago the region's finances were chaotic, but the region had plenty of money. The accounts are now in order, although some people are still paying entry fees to the old account, which has no Internet facility. The account will be closed to prevent people paying in to it.
- It was decided last year to spend some of the region's money on new equipment, which would benefit all riders, and two full sets were purchased.
- The Southern region holds £22,000 and will be used to the benefit of all Southern riders.

- It is appreciated that MGAGB can take funds from the South at any time, and even though the region could possibly operate independently of any other region of MGAGB, it is an intrinsic part of it.
- It was noted that the financial problems in MGAGB were due to having two full time employees. It was further noted that, if Charlotte Randall had not resigned as Event Manager, the financial problems would have continued since there was no contractual process whereby staffing would be reduced after one year. It was believed that the decisions on this were made by the Directors without full consideration of the financial implications.
- The reason the South makes more from its shows is that our overheads are low – we have very cheap rental for showgrounds toilets and judges’ boxes. The shows are run by experienced volunteers
- It was noted that agricultural land could be used for events for up to 14 days a year without affecting the land usage. The Clarke family have received many complaints from neighbours so are unwilling to use their land for MGAGB at present.
- The loan of £5,000 had been returned by MGA England after the Europeans, although it had not been easy to achieve. It was agreed that further short-term loans would be made if England MGA needs money to enable early payment of international entry fees before teams are selected. Such loans would have to be repaid once teams are selected and riders pay their entry fees.
- It was noted that the final financial outcome of the European Championships was still not clear. It was a shame that the organisers had worked so hard they had put their personal businesses on the line but looked as though they were going to make a loss.
- Thanks were expressed to Alan Peck for his meticulous work maintaining the accounts.

Riders’ Representative Report (Annie Morris)

- Annie Morris had been elected by the South to represent the U12 and U14 riders. Following the resignation of Ben Thornton she had taken on the older riders as well. In addition she is also acting as riders rep for MGAGB as the only one able to attend meetings.
- She had held a riders’ meeting at the Southern Championships, open to all riders. Several riders had expressed discontent about salaries being paid to people when work could be done as well by volunteers. Notes were taken at the meeting but were not circulated.
- It was noted that Dave Thompson has since resigned, but there is nobody willing to take on his job, or the transporting of equipment either as a volunteer or for payment.

Child Welfare Report (Joanne Gubb)

- Joanne Gubb reported that it has been a relatively quiet season regarding safeguarding issues. Safeguarding is as much for protecting the children as well as the trainers & team managers. In the south she received 3 complaints that were put in writing and forwarded to Sophie Morris to take appropriate action if required.
- At the West Midlands Friendly there was aggressive behaviour towards another Parent who inadvertently picked up a piece of equipment from another persons lane. The person concerned acted in an alleged threatening way, which left the parent feeling very upset and scared. The aggressor refused to apologise. The person concerned was warned regarding their future conduct and the complaint placed on file.
- She received several complaints from Parents from an under 12 teams regarding a particular trainer’s behaviour in the ring. Video evidence and statements were forwarded to Sophie Morris. It was decided that the particular trainer was not breaking any rules but rather acting in an unsportsmanlike manner.
- There was concern regarding a video of a rider at Newark. Unfortunately or fortunately with the platform of social media used, the video was erased once viewed.
- She has also been informed, by a county rep, of some name calling towards one of the riders from riders of the same age. This is currently being observed.

- Although no complaints were made it was mentioned several times that the fancy dress at Welsh Champs was not an appropriate function for the younger members due to some costumes or lack of modesty by some entrants.
- It is worth mentioning that no trainer or county rep should be involved in any meetings, emails or text messages with a child without a 3rd party being present or copied into the conversation. This includes the under 18's who are classed as vulnerable young persons.
- It was noted that ground juries do not know whether a person they are investigating has committed previous offences, similar or not. It was suggested that there should be a nominated Safeguarding Officer at every event who could hold this information and supply it to the ground jury if needed.
- Concern was expressed about the dangers of trainers standing in the way of incoming riders in adjacent lanes.
- It was noted that a Facebook page, MGA Rants, was contrary to MGAGB social media policy, but since it is anonymous no action can be taken. It was believed that it was unwise for anyone to post to it.
- There was discussion about drug use and the possible introduction of random drug testing as well as breathalysing.

Matters Discussed at MGAGB General Committee

- Mary Worth will no longer run internal shows and is reducing her workload. She will deal with administration, finance and attend external shows. Rosie Thornton will not run internal shows either. A Show Manager will be appointed to run the 7 Head Office shows.
- Dave Thompson had resigned as Arena Manager but will keep a set of equipment for external shows. Volunteers are being sought to store and maintain equipment trailers and transport them to shows and mark out arenas.
- The 2017 events were:
 - Spring Championships - a large show with a lot of mud and complaints about the distance between the three rings.
 - Great British Friendly - a new show at a new venue and run by Charlotte Randall, and was the last show that she ran as Event Manager. There were complaints about the ground and that there was only one tap. Entries were not great and the show will not be held in 2018
 - UK Masters – a large show, making a profit. Parking was a problem as was the runway ring
 - British Individuals - no members of the General Committee except Trevor Clingo and the show made a loss
 - Future Stars – run by Matt Clingo and Andrew Reynolds. It made a small profit but was not well attended
 - Open Cup Challenge - low entries and a loss.
 - World Individuals – a large profit was made despite the weather.
 - Inter Counties - a large loss due to the minimum bar spend
 - British Pairs - successful despite lower entries
 - End of Season Show – ran in two rings and made a profit. Foul weather meant no heats were run on the Sunday, just finals. There was much argument about two riders from one team who failed the breathalyser tests
 - External shows made nearly £14,000, Blenheim was done for free and was well received.
- There were considerable problems at Intercounties with a gate being left unlocked and two ponies escaping plus drunkenness and abusive behaviour to Stoneleigh staff. Neighbours also complained about noise from tannoys. MGAGB has one year left of the three year contract with the venue and discussions are being held as to whether they can, or want to, use the venue next year.

- It was considered that the way in which free drinks were given to those at the bar to use up the minimum spend was unfair to juniors and those who did not know about it. A fairer system would be to give every competitor tickets to use at the bar either personally or by their parents.
- Numbers at Intercounties would be lower in 2018 due to the clash with the World Team Championships.
- Membership fees would not increase for 2018.
- Mini minis competitions were causing concern and may be put back under the control of the main show
- Most people prefer one-ring shows as they can watch everything.
- Jo Morris said that she would like to bring back the Intercounties parade – even if unmounted. Presentations could be made then.
- MGAGB has become an Event Management organisation. It is too big to be a volunteer-led entity.
- A lot of work needs to be done on reviewing the league system
- MGAGB made a small loss in 2017.
- It was noted that the loan given to Charlotte Randall to purchase a caravan had not been fully repaid.

Matters discussed at England MGA (Alastair Elliott, Alison Grimshaw, Kay Leese, Jo Morris)

- Nikki Carter had resigned as secretary and Alison Grimshaw was now Acting Secretary.
- Anthony Rowles-Jones would take over Alison's position as a Southern Region representative
- Maggie Gorvett would be England's IMGA representative.
- Alastair Elliott expressed concern over the selection process. He believes that many selectors are well meaning but lack knowledge. The trainer should select the team and get it approved by the England Committee.
- Several people disagreed with this and said that trainers with experience in the younger age groups could be seen as not being impartial, since they trained riders in those age groups.
- The choice of selection shows was queried. Being a selection show increased entries and hence profits. The fact that one such show was offering funds to England was considered unfair.
- It was felt that some officers on the England committee had no interest in the younger riders and expressed personal opinions rather than those of members in general.
- When the England committee was set up it was with the aim of being fair, open and transparent
- Southern representatives were asked to ensure that feedback, even if minimal, was available for all riders looking for selection, not just those who made the Squad Session.
- The probable financial loss of the European Championships was discussed and it was suggested that the organisers lacked experience at running events and were too busy trying to run the best event rather than one that was financially sound
- It was requested that a full set of accounts, as submitted to MGAGB for audit should be made available at the next Southern Region meeting.
- It was questioned who would bear the loss if it exceeded England MGA's funds.

Matters discussed at IMGA

- The IMGA AGM would be held on 2-3 December 2017

Review of Southern Competitions 2017

- The Southern Championships was a successful competition.
- The bales of haylage given to each competitor were very popular, and many bought more haylage from New Forest Haylage, so they had insufficient stock to meet the demands of their regular customers
- The bouncy castles for younger members were much appreciated as babysitters.
- It was noted that unsupervised children – riders and non-riding siblings – caused problems at

competitions throughout GB, but the problems are less at Southern competitions where entertainment is provided for them

- The Southern Classics were cancelled due to insufficient entries

Southern Competitions 2018 – dates, venues

- The Southern Championships would be held at New Park on 23 and 24 June
- The Southern Classics would not be held in 2018

Southern Training 2017

- It was agreed that the Southern Region should use some of its funds to provide at least one, preferably two, training days over the winter, open to all Southern riders, similar to those run a couple of years ago with Sports England funding.
- All reps were asked to suggest suitable venues

Equipment and Equipment trailers

- The South currently has three sets of equipment, 2 of 9 lanes and 1 of 8.
- The large trailer has been sold and replaced with a lighter glasonite trailer
- The two new sets of equipment used at the European Championships was returned in 'used' condition, with a lot missing. The Morris family spent two days sorting out the trailers after the event and had ordered replacements for missing and broken equipment, which has been paid for by England MGA.
- The hire fee was reduced to cover the cost of poles bought by England to replace those broken early in the competition and new funnels that were used to replace the hard plastic ones used on the joust lances.
- It was noted that Signam/Sportsmark have gone out of business.

Any Other Business

- Dawn Stamp had retired as County Rep for Greater London. Sharon Taverner would take her place.
- It was noted that Gloucestershire and Devon would be removed from the active counties' list if they did not compete in 2018
- Cheating in the ring needs to be penalized. Assistant Referees must watch at all times.
- Xtreme Sports (Emma Lloyd) had been restarted and was running an event in 2018. They are not part of MGAGB, so may not have proper insurance.
- Marilyn Hackman thanked the Region for the flowers sent to her when she was ill.
- Concern was expressed about trainers poaching riders from established teams. It was considered that this was morally unacceptable
- Enquiries would be made about a trophy made by Geoff Snell of a sword race competitor that used to be presented at Intercounties. It was believed that this may be in safe keeping with Ro Day

Date and venue of next meeting

AGM to be held on 11 February 2018

APPENDIX 1 – FINANCIAL REPORT



FINANCIAL SUMMARY NOVEMBER 2017

NatWest Account:

Balance 31/10/16	£ 32 917.46
Income	£ 27 009.10
Expenditure	£ 37 870.55
Balance 2/11/17	£ 22 056.01

Southern Championships:

Note 1.

Income	£ 19 362.00
Expenditure	£ 10 725.39
Profit	£ 8 636.61

Southern Classic:

Note 2.

Income	£ 640.00
Expenditure	£ 749.02
Loss	£ 109.02

Equipment:

Note 3.

Income	£ 3 429.10
Expenditure	£ 25 127.00

Home Internationals:

Entries paid	£ 2 360.00
Travel/Support	£ 1 450.00

Other:

Income:

England Loan	£ 5 000.00
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Expenditure:

Postage	£ 3.35
Mileage	£ 370.80
Gifts	£ 43.20
Meeting/Buffer	£ 156.79
Euro Indivs support	£ 180.00

