



Notes from the British Riding Club Development Forum held on 28 January 2016 at Holiday Inn Kenilworth, CV8 1ED commencing at 1100.

Area Spotlight

Highlights

- Numbers entering qualifiers have increased
- Numerous areas happy Championship successes
- Clubs that have previously been quite in areas are now becoming more involved
- Medium dressage introduction has been welcomed
- Winter Leagues, Mercian League run by Areas for grassroots competitors
- Setting up Area Facebook pages / websites have increased involvement
- Some areas have set up scoring programmes to help at qualifiers
- Successes at 2* European Championship and World Club Tournament
- Training success include:
 - Course Building
 - Working Equitation
 - Camps at area and club level

Issues that require further support

- Safeguarding information - **will re-send out the information.**
- BRC Centres - lack of engagement and participation
- Volunteer recognition, use at events and retainment
- Scoring at qualifiers
- Area Training Numbers
- Locating a club on BRC website – missing out clubs and not bringing up most local club
- Succession planning for new Area Representatives
- Prohibited substances
- New clubs affiliating when in close proximity to other clubs
- Admin burden of the Official Steward
- Vet at club level cross country
Although it is understood that this is expensive, BRC provides a certain standard of care to its members. Should an incident occur and a vet not be onsite this could be detrimental to the reputation of BRC. The minimum requirements found in the BRC Official Stewards & Organisers Rule Book are set in accordance with the insurance company.
- Communication of safeguarding issues
- Distance to Championships and clashing with other disciplines
- Hat tagging
It was clarified that a club/organiser must take reasonable steps to ensure compliance of the new hat standards by members and non members if competing at a club show.
- More lower level competitions
- DTM prelim entry fees
- Increasing interest in becoming Official Stewards and running qualifiers
- Leo Harris Award
The winner is being announced in the next issue Rider magazine.
- Clubs persistently not paying liaison fees / Only affiliated for insurance

If suspect a club only affiliated for insurance, please inform the office and steps can be taken to look into the issue.

Breakout Feedback – concerns from the area, new initiatives introduced to an area and any proposed ideas

Group 1

- Education of Junior riders – pace of riding
- Succession planning for Area Representatives and Official Stewards
- Review of prohibited substances for grassroots competitors
BRC follows the FEI rules regarding substances. Due to regulations cannot pick which rules are followed and apply only to the higher levels. Lack of rider education and knowing the question to ask their vet.

Group 2

- Better Safeguarding communication
- More example text like the suggested constitutions
- Communications different uses and Social Media policy
- Data sheet for writing schedules
- Centre specific competitions
- Working Equitation
- Flu vac databases – initially extra work but once set up a lot easier to monitor
- Regional Grass Roots League
- More for top level competitors – wildcards to Open SJ etc.

Group 3

- Qualifying for Championships but not attending
- Location of Championships – long distance to travel for one test
- Volunteers – extra jobs, feeling respected, reward system
- Area Awards

Group 4

- Volunteers not being needed at Championships once there
- Open SJ in Winter and top level classes low entries – wildcards?
- First Aid cover at club level
- Vets on courses for Hunter Trials
- Working Equitation
- Training initiatives – Officials training
- Varied training such as trips to vets etc.

Group 5

- 100+ still in demand, increase participation
- Multi discipline – Teams with a different horse and rider completing different phases (Equiathalon)
- Cost of entry fees
- BRC Finances – will be published in next Rider magazine

Group 6

- HT scoring programme
- Application of 30 minute objection period
- Retaining scorers
- Logistics of area/regional competitions
- Prelim entry money
- Official Steward paperwork
- Standard declarations sheet online (per discipline)

Group 7

- Scoring programmes
- Venues in areas
- Clubs organising qualifiers
- Areas sharing venues
- Dealing with last minute changes – up to areas to decide on cut off time
- Lack of Riding Test and Style Judging opportunities and progression up the judging level
- Late entry fee