

BHS Dorset Committee

Annual Report 2015

The
British
Horse
Society

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The BHS Dorset committee is made up of enthusiastic volunteers that have done a great job both in the public eye and behind the scenes. There has been a huge effort on everyone's part to organise events which are informative and have been of interest to both members and non-members.

The Access and Bridleways teams have been out and about assessing rights of way and looking into creating links between various bridleways and have enjoyed a large number of successes this year.

The Welfare team have been busy attending welfare cases and bring the dangers of ragwort to the attention of horse and land owners as well as helping out at the Castration Clinics held by the BHS this year.

We have held a number of different events this year ranging from the highly successful pleasure ride, a number of clinics with Eric Smiley through to car boot sales.

We are busy planning a programme of events for 2016 and are involved in a joint venture with BHS Somerset where we are running a camp together on 10th June. It is a great pleasure to work in collaboration with another committee and hope that we will see a number of you there.

The details of all of our forthcoming events will be posted online at www.bhs.org.uk/bhs-in-your-area/south-west/dorset and on our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/BHSDORSET/. Events will also be published in the members' magazine, British Horse. We'd love to hear from you if there's something you'd specifically like the BHS to do or arrange.

We on the committee would like to remind all riders hacking out about the importance of wearing hi-viz wherever you ride and whatever the weather. We would love to make sure you all stay safe.

During 2016 we hope to welcome some new committee members to enable us to build on the friendly and approachable committee of volunteers already working on your behalf. Please get in touch if you'd like to find out more about volunteering.



Our Committee

All of our activities are undertaken by our committed volunteer team.

Chairman: Natalie Franks

Vice Chairman: Tracy Jackson

Secretary: Kate Franks

Treasurer: Anne Taylor

Membership Secretary: Jocelyn Jenkins

County Access and Bridleways Officer:
Carol Shoopman

Access and Bridleways Officers: Sue Lees, Lynsey Henderson, Sue Acland, Ruth Blaug, Jean Heaton, Judith Jesty, Mary Court, Kate Morton, Kay Steele, Gillian Reese & Sarah Watts

Education and Events Officers: Claire Hundley, Leanne Hemingway, Katherine Locke & Amy Walden

County Riding and Road Safety Officer:
Gill Longhurst

County Lead Welfare Officer: Tracy Jackson

Welfare Officers: Helen Mayo, Katieanne Moores, Sarah Mitchell-Sheppard

Committee Vacancies

We are always keen to welcome new volunteers. We are especially looking for people to fill the following vacancies:

Safety Officer : to promote the BHS' safety work and www.horseaccidents.org.uk

Welfare Officers: to investigate reported welfare concerns and act as an advice point for all horse owners

Events Officers: to organise fundraising and social events

Communications Officer: to provide articles for the press and advertising events

Email volunteer@bhs.org.uk to find out

Access and Bridleways

The Dorset Access team have been busy defending our rights of way and attending a vast number of consultations this year. 11 Officers cover mainly east, north and mid Dorset as part of the BHS Bridleway Sub Committee.

The team have been looking into linking existing bridleways and promoting the change in legislation in 2026 whereby many historic routes used by horse riders and carriage drivers will be removed if they are not formally recorded. The BHS toolkit is available to record routes: www.bhs.org.uk/access-and-bridleways/2026.

The Access Week Pleasure Ride organised at St. Giles House, Wimborne St Giles in May by kind permission of Lord and Lady Shaftesbury was a success and was extremely well attended with 147 riders taking part. Many want the ride to be repeated.

DCC have now received proof of ownership from the National Trust for a proposed route in Gaunts Common for a previously claimed bridleway. We are providing £200 to go towards some surfacing.

The photo is of the Centre Wire Worcester Hydraulic self-closing gate which can be adjusted to self-close up to 26 seconds. We purchased the gate and the DCC rights of way team installed it on the North Dorset Trailway near the church in Stourpaine.



Safety and Riding and Road safety

There have been a number of tests held in Dorset throughout the year as well as a number of enquiries into holding tests at the Fortune Centre. A test has already been run at this venue where good results were obtained.

A number of venues have expressed a wish to be able to host Riding and Road Safety exams. In order to do this the venues must have a risk assessment completed by the BHS.

Dorset is currently short of examiners, there are currently only 2. If this is something that interests you and you wish to train to become an instructor, please visit the BHS website for more information.



Welfare

The main focus of the Welfare team this year has been Ragwort and Welfare Officers have been kept busy visiting sites and leaving information on the dangers and management of Ragwort. It has been very rewarding seeing several fields being cleared of ragwort after leaving these cards and ragwort leaflets.

Winter last year was quiet with the first welfare case coming up in February. It is encouraging to see that there are not a vast number of welfare cases in the county.

Dorset Welfare was present at a BHS Castration Clinic in Bristol which was well attended by people bringing their horses along. The clinics were also attended by other charities so it provided our Welfare Officer in attendance a chance to discuss issues with the other charities.

The castration clinics provided people with a chance to have their horses chipped, given a passport, have the castration and a wormer treatment. Dorset provided the tents that were used at the Bristol clinic and 30 horses were castrated at the time.



Education and Events

Dorset have held a number of different events this year including a car boot sale at Paddocks Pantry in June and various clinics with Eric Smiley which were all well attended. We hope to run more of these clinics this year.

There have been a number of different XC events running within Dorset as well with an indoor XC event which raised £70 and a XC clinic with Emily Lee in February which also made a profit.

We are in the middle of running a raffle with some lovely prizes which have all been donated to us and are busy preparing for our joint camp with BHS Somerset in June of this year.

If you have any training or events that you would like us to run, please do not hesitate to contact us.

As mentioned in Access, we also held a very successful Pleasure Ride. Here are some of our riders taking part in the ride. We had a range of attendees in terms of ability and age. It was fun for all the family.



Our Members

BHS membership gives a huge range of benefits to help you enjoy your life with horses. But more than that, membership is vital for helping us raise funds needed to improve access, safety, welfare and education for all.

In Dorset we have over 1615 members which saw a steady growth throughout 2015.

We would like to thank each of our members for supporting the BHS and ask that you please do get involved with the activities going on in Dorset. If you would like to see specific events being run in Dorset please do contact us.

If you would like to be part of our committee, please have a look at our vacancies and come along to see how you could help. Volunteering is very rewarding and you will get to meet some lovely people who share a passion for equines.

Our Plans for next year

We'd like to continue the growth in membership that we've enjoyed this past year and to put on more fun, educational and fundraising events for our members to enjoy.

Events include:

- BHS Equine First Aid Evenings at Bryanston School - 16th February
- Camp at Chard Equestrian (in conjunction with BHS Somerset) - 10th June
- Welfare and Access talks
- Sponsoring local event classes
- Horse Health Course Part 1 by BHSI

Our Finances

A proportion of The British Horse Society membership income is provided to each committee every year to cover volunteer expenses and support local activities.

The events and training fees raised go to help with welfare, access and subsidising our training sessions.

Photographs and thank yous

A big thank you to our outgoing Vice Chairman, Carol Shoopman who remains on the committee as County Access and Bridleways Officer. Carol has done an amazing job of holding the committee together whilst we looked for a new chairman. Her hard work and dedication both to her Bridleways and the position of Vice has been an inspiration to us all.

A number of our committee members have achieved their long service awards this year. Judith Jesty received her 5 years award and Brenda Pearce achieved 10 years before she decided to move on to other things. We wish her the best of luck.

Jocelyn Jenkins also received an award of merit.

The BHS is very grateful to Lord and Lady Shaftsbury for their kind permission to hold a pleasure ride in the grounds surrounding St Giles House and Estate. They have since won an award for their participation.

Thank you to Carol Shoopman for organising the ride and to the Trail Riders who also provided support to the event.

The committee would also like to thank Eric Smiley who has run some of our clinics this year.

All committees are part of The British Horse Society a Registered Charity Nos. 210504 and SC038516.

Registered Address: The British Horse Society, Abbey Park, Stareton, Kenilworth, CV8 2XZ.

www.bhs.org.uk