

HODGEMOOR RIDER

AGM on 20 October

The AGM is on 20 October, usual time, usual place, that is to say 8 pm in the Reading room at Chalfont St Giles. There are quite a lot of new members this year, so do hope you will come. We try to keep the meeting as short as possible. So come along at 8 for a (free!) drink and snack, and then the meeting will start at 8.30 prompt.

Obligatory membership in woods

This came into force into April. It was felt it was about time after 8 years that all riders using the permissive trails in Hodgemoor should contribute to their maintenance, rather than just a few. Furthermore the Association now has a contractual obligation with the Forestry Commission to ensure that only members use the permissive trails. Members do not need to wear any identification tag but checks will now be done on a regular basis by committee members and Forestry Commission wardens.

Since April we now have 135 memberships (this includes adult, junior, family and walker categories) which compares with 90 last year, so this is a great improvement! And 85 of these memberships are by standing order which means we can budget much more easily.

Nonetheless a significant number haven't renewed (36). A lot of you have probably meant to but never got round to it! You will have received a reminder, so it would be helpful to us to know if you've moved, are no longer riding, or have some other reason for not renewing. If not, and you are riding in the woods, remember there will be checks from now on.

New Ideas, New people needed!

Susie Bicknell has for the last 8 years done

most of the work for Hodgemoor and wants a break. She will still continue to maintain the membership database, and send out regular emails to members. So far some committee members have proposed themselves for election to the following roles that Susie currently does. Anybody else is more than welcome to volunteer or help with these functions.:

Jane Braithwaite: **Yards coordinator:** ensure committee members or volunteers maintain communication with the yard allocated to them, post materials, answer questions and maximise membership take-up: maintain good relations with the yard owners and managers to ensure their support and to get help in promoting to all riders what a great facility Hodgemoor is.

Diana Bunyan: **Authorities and public bodies Coordinator:** maintain good relations with Bucks CC, Chiltern DC, Forestry

Commission and others to ensure our interests are represented and funding made available when possible

Richard Hill will remain as Treasurer and also take on some membership functions (eg chasing up renewals)

However there are other functions for which it would be great to have volunteers. Although desirable, it would not be necessary to be on the committee to take on any of these roles. Anyone (please!) at all interested in taking one or even more of these roles should contact Susie or a committee member before the AGM.

1. **Fund Raising Events Coordinator:** getting yards and other individuals in the HRA to organise events for our benefit including social, jumping, trec and dressage events.: conceive and promote new ways of raising funds especially social events like business forum and

Autumn 2008

quizzes.

2. Recruitment Secretary: solicit new members among those interested in riding in and around Hodgemoor

3. Electronic Newsletter Editor and webmaster/mistress: conceive contents, write much of it, invite contributions, assemble photos, edit, lay-out; typically 3 times a year.

4. Marketing Coordinator: update map, conceive promotion materials as required, have materials printed and distributed.

5. Fund raising Coordinator: long term solicitation of funding from outside HRA.

6. Riding Trails Maintenance Coordinator: assess need for repairs in the woods, communicate with Forestry Commission, get quotes, oversee work, inform membership

7. Development Secretary: assess key issues in the future of the association and those touching riders in our area: originate discussion documents as required, circulate and promote, get support and ensure action taken on the basis of what's then agreed: examples include the 1999 Five Year Development Plan for the woods which resulted in £65,000 being raised for the trails, the Wickham Way Bridle Path Development, the 2005 Development Plan which included membership requirement in the wood, the Amersham Triangle Bridle Path Development and the Seer Green/Jordans Bridle Path Development.

Marcus Bicknell is happy to stay on as Chairman. This might help for continuity, especially if several new people take on roles which will be unfamiliar to them at the start. However, anyone else is very welcome to stand. This is a time to make sure that all the good work we have achieved does not turn quietly to decay if

there is not additional help.

Email Newsletter from now on

The credit crunch has hit Hodgemoor. This will be the last printed newsletter, apart from the annual AGM notice. We've decided to communicate only by email. Each newsletter costs around £300 in printing and posting. We do 2 a year, and at £34 a square metre, £600

would just nicely pay for repairing a large 17 metre boggy patch. 85% of our members are on email, and we will try and ensure that those who aren't get info by post. We would like the website to be more active, which is why it would be nice to have good web master/mistress! (see point 3 above).

Trail Repairs

By the time this reaches you, work should just have been completed on repairing trails in the woods. To be able to do these repairs is after all why the Association exists and thanks to your support, we have this time spent £7500. This amount doesn't go far at £34 a metre: we have been able to do 200 metres of trails plus drains as required. But it does enable us to ride in relative comfort all year round in Hodgemoor and avoid the risk of the wood being closed to horseriders because of the damage caused.

Work by Forestry Commission and Bucks CC

The Forestry Commission has done a fair bit of work in Hodgemoor this year, spending over £4000 on drainage on what had become a permanent quagmire outside the charcoal burner entrance. The Association is paying to surface this new drainage. And many thanks to Bucks CC who has again given us a £2000 grant which has gone towards resurfacing a 60 metre bog in the main bridleway near the old bike pitch.

Support from Livery Yards

About the best thing that has happened this year is the great active support we are now getting from local yards. Every single one (bar one who shall remain nameless) has either helped organise an event to raise funds or offered to. In fact, we haven't been able to take advantage of all the offers this year. This is mainly because the weather has been so rotten, and also there have been so many other local events going on that it has been quite difficult to find suitable dates. But we shall certainly take advantage of these offers next year if they are still on! Another good reason to have an enthusiastic events organiser for the association (see point 1 above...)

HODGEMOOR RIDING ASSOCIATION



Annual General Meeting
8 p.m. Monday 20th October 2008
Reading Room, Chalfont St Giles



AGENDA

1. **Welcome by Chairman.** Marcus Bicknell
2. **Approval of Accounts.** Richard Hill
3. **Maintaining Membership levels and Communication with Liveries** Susie Bicknell
85 standing orders (36 in 07) out of total of 135 memberships (90 in 07) - 36 have not renewed

	<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2003</u>
Adults	104	64	70	52	85	77
Juniors	6	12	6	9	6	16
Family	18	12	11	11	5	9
Walkers	2	2	2	2	5	1
Cyclists	5					

4. **Report on Events and funds raised:**
 - XC 2 March in aid of Horse Trust: (£350 donated)
 - KC La Pierre talk 26 March: raised nearly £350.
 - XC 1 June (only 6 people!) £55
 - BBQ 5 July (Food cost £105, takings £195) £90
 - Windmill Farm Dressage £170
 - Highclere Dressage and SJ £150 Total £815
 - Last year, events raised nearly £2000, so we're behind this year
 - Future Events for 2008.**
 - Dressage 18 Oct Oldefields
 - TREC 14 Sept Cancelled: too labour intensive
 - QUIZ night November To be advised
5. **Report on riding by members only on Hodgemoor Wood Permissive Riding Trails**
6. **Maintaing the Trails in the Woods: £7500 spent**
7. **Suggestions for Future Events**
9. **Election of Officers and Committee**
(Please send us your nominations or bring them on the night. We are keen to see some new faces on the committee, especially anyone who would be willing to help organise events and/or really interested in developing new bridleways. Meetings are about 4 times a year.)
Current Committee:
 Marcus Bicknell (Chairman), Susie Bicknell (Secretary), Jane Braithwaite, Diana Bunyan, Deborah Davies, Richard Hill (Treasurer), Audrey Holbrook, Terry Holbrook, Angela Stallard
Delegation of secretary's roles. Susie Bicknell is not standing for the post of Secretary in its present, wide, definition. See newsletter over. Volunteers needed

10. Any Other Business.

The usual raffle will be held so any offering gratefully received on the night!