

HODGEMOOR RIDER

AGM on 19 October

The AGM is on 19 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'll try to keep the formal part of 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.

250 Members and Growing

Membership is still growing. This time last year, we had 135 memberships and now we're up to 164. This includes 43 family memberships. Assuming a family membership represents 3, this means that along with 111 adults and 10 juniors, we now have @ 250 members which is great! Thank you for your support.

There are 117 standing orders so we have subscription income of about £1500 p.a. plus cash subs and money raised from events.

Events: Great support from Yards and Individual members.

Thanks to Tim Taylor, Alison Adcock and many helpers, there was a very successful TREC event in April which raised £335. Our picture shows winner Tessa Bayliss on Martha in the corridor. Sacha Hamilton at Austens Farm kindly did a Freestyle to Music demo and then hosted an event. Rik and Jenien at Grove Farm hosted the first ever Hodgemoor One Day Event in August. Windmill Farm contributed with one of their dressage events. And Catriona McGarvie gave a horse therapy talk at Widmer.

Funds are Down: New Ideas, New People, Needed to Organize Events

These fund raising events have been terrific. But we are way down in the money we have raised this year. We are not the only ones. The strangles



outbreak in the spring caused many events to be cancelled, ours included. We need to catch up next year.

Are there one or two of you out there who would organize just one event a year? You would not need to be on the committee but just have the idea and do the organizing, with, of course, the help of the Secretary.

Dressage tends to raise the most money with, to be honest, the least effort. But other ideas would be great also. The Association in itself does not have an arena so we have to count on the cooperation of yards with suitable arenas. Perhaps you would coordinate with your yard to run an event?

Member Wood Checks

Only one check has been done so far. But more will be done. Remember 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 so checks are done by committee members and Forestry Commission wardens with updated membership lists.

At long last with @ 250 members after nearly 10 years, we are getting to the point where most riders using the permissive trails in Hodgemoor are paid up members, rather than just a hardcore, faithful few. Just a few left to round up!

Speed Limit Reduction Campaign

The Association submitted a weighty report to Bucks CC in favour of reducing the speed limit to at least 40 mph, ideally to 30 mph on Twitchells Lane down to Jordans and Chalfont Road into Seer Green. With the help of Sacha Hamilton, Zoe and Pete Glowski, we even did a video showing how dangerous these roads are. Feedback from the Council is so far positive and we should know the decision in October.

Work in Woods

No work has been done this year in the woods. See Richard's note below on our funding and how it's spent. We plan to do more work in 2010 so we would welcome your suggestions on what to do at the AGM.

Autumn 2009

Hodgemoor Riding Association

Homefarm Orchard, Threehouseholds, Chalfont St. Giles, Bucks HP8 4LP - Phone 01494 872447 - Email susie@hodgemoor.org.uk

HAPPY HODGEMONEY!

Ahead of the AGM I've attached Hodgemoor Riding Association's annual accounts so that those of you who like numbers can check my arithmetic. But the accounts are about more than just the numbers, so here's a bit of explanation.

First, our financial year runs from 6th April to 5th April, so the £2,221.62 you see on the bottom of the accounts was what we had in the bank on 5th April 2009 and it doesn't include any the income since then - about £3,000. Members who have taken out standing orders - thanks, it makes our planning so much easier! - will know that these are paid in mid-April, so we get quite a bit of income at the beginning of our year. With new members joining up (without the need for Monty's round pen!), our subscription income has been steadily increasing (£1,060 in 2006/7, £1,740 in 2007/8 and £2,210 in 2008/9). The current year will be about the same.

On the other hand, our income from events has more than halved since 2007/8. This is due partly to our having organised fewer events (more volunteers needed!), and partly to less support, probably as a result of the miserable summer weather. Overall our total income fell by £500 compared to the previous year, so we really do need your support for future events!

Here's our last two years' income from events so you can see how things have changed:

2007/8		2008/9	
XC Clinic	£20.00	June 1 Cross Country	£55.00
Receipts from Treasure Hunt	£100.00	Combined Dressage/Show Jumping	£158.00
Receipts from XC/TREC	£157.00	Oldefields Dressage	£290.00
Dressage	£25.00	Hallowe'en	£40.00
XC Event Widmer	£30.00	Sue Edwards demo	£48.00
Newcomers Dressage	£563.15	"Livery crawl" 28/12/08	£30.00
Challenge			
Dressage to Music	£160.00	Xmas Dressage	£340.00
XC Totaliser	£235.00	Wendover Woods ride 28/03/09	£50.00
Hodgemoor Business Forum	£375.00		
Xmas Dressage	£370.00		
XC for Horse Trust donation	£320.00		
KC La Pierre talk	£368.00		
TOTAL 2007	£2,723.15	TOTAL 2008	£1,011.00

The question you'll be asking is what do we do with your money? Well, we do have some running costs like room hire, refreshments for the AGM, newsletters and the website, but we're doing our best to minimise them. Most of your money goes in improving the riding trails in and around Hodgemoor under our agreement with the Forestry Commission. Next time you're cantering along one of those trails, just think £100 a stride - that's what it costs to lay and maintain them. We didn't spend anything on this in 2007/8 but, in 2008/9, we spent over £8,000 (almost twice our income). Why? Well, we tend to carry out maintenance work in two year cycles. That's because it's more cost effective to mobilise a contractor once to do a lot of work rather than to do smaller jobs more frequently. So we need two years of good income in order to be able to do the maintenance work. That's why we need your subscriptions and your support for our fundraising activities.

Richard Hill, Treasurer

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**Annual General Meeting
8 p.m. Monday 19th October 2009
Reading Room, Chalfont St Giles**



AGENDA

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| 1. Welcome by Chairman. | Marcus Bicknell |
| 2. Submission of annual accounts for approval. | Richard Hill |
| 3. Maintaining Membership levels and Communication with Liveries | Susie Bicknell |

	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004
Adults	111	104	64	70	52	85
Juniors	10	6	12	6	9	6
Family	43	18	12	11	11	5
Walkers	2	2	2	2	2	5
Cyclists	5	5				

4. Report on Events so far:

XC Totaliser	£ 85	
TREC	£335	
XC Totaliser	£ 20	
XC Clinic	£ 20	
Dressage to Music	£180	
BBQ	£ 90	
One Day Event	£140	
Catriona McGarvie Lecture	£ 60	TOTAL £930

- 5. Suggestions for next season's events**
- 6. Report on riding by members only on Hodgemoor Wood Permissive Riding Trails**
- 7. Suggestions for next year's repairs**
- 8. Bridleway upgrades**
- 9. Area 10 Speed Reduction**
- 9. Election of Officers and Committee**
(Please send us your nominations or bring them on the night. 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. Volunteers needed for specific tasks please
- 10. Any Other Business.**

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