Draft Minutes of SWDG AGM
Date:20 November 2023, 7:00pm at Chard Equestrian Centre
Present: approx. 10 members and 8 committee members – Lucy Pinney, Carolyn Price, Tracy Scammell, Camilla Hankinson, Ellie Robins, Chloe Marsh, Louiza Sims (co-opted) and Sarah Whittington

Item	
1	**Welcome from the Chairman** Lucy Pinney (LP) gave a short review of the year and encouraged everyone to speak up what clinics they would like to see. The 90 cm Arena Eventing team had qualified for the Championships at Aston-le-Walls but although the forecast was for heavy snow BRC insisted that it would go ahead. Unfortunately, the 90 class was cancelled due to the weather and all agreed to leave and get home safely. There was a considerable cost to this and the Team Manager Tracy Scammell had tried to claim some costs back from BRC but was successful in getting the entry fee refunded and nothing more. LP also mentioned that Diana Pinney had competed at the Summer Championships at Lincoln and was well placed in both the Novice and elementary classes. Ideas from the floor included Ben Lile but most trainers want to train for 3-4 hours regularly has not really been possible. Not sure why SWG members don't come to the clinics we put on. Discussed some alternative venues such as Whitcombe and Down Close.
2	**Apologies:** Karen Martin, Tor Douglas
3	**Approval of Minutes from the AGM on 6 November 2022**
	Approved – Proposed by Ellie Robins, seconded by Chloe Marsh
	Matters Arising
	There were no matters arising.
4	**Report on the Club`s Year by the Chairman** LP had already briefly given an update on the main highlights of the year. In addition to this LP ran through the new membership scheme from BRC. There is no choice in this we have to go with this and all memberships will be online. Lots of discussions have taken place with both BRC HQ and Area 12. LS, ER and CP have managed to set the system up for SWDG but at present still waiting to understand how Hoarary memberships will be set up. Lots of other Clubs across the country have struggled with this. No one is happy as BRC had not properly engaged with the membership. No membership can be renewed, nor new members join unless they use the new system online. LP proposed that the membership fee for 2024 should be increased to £35 per year to cover the increase that BRC were charging. This was unanimously approved.
5	**Treasurer's Report and ratification of the Accounts**
	LS had been co-opted to the committee and provided a brief overview of the Clubs finances to date. This was provided on a copy circulated at the meeting. LS said that the Area 12 dressage had gone well and added funds to the Club. Clinics were still being run at cost and some made money others lost a bit but overall the Club finances were in good shape. There were no questions raised. The accounts were proposed by SW and seconded by ER. Gill Randall of Kitson & Trotman was proposed as the 'auditor' for the forthcoming year. Proposed by CP and seconded by TS.
6	**Election of the committee**
	Louiza Sims was formally elected to the committee, and Diana Pinney agreed to stand. The entire committee was re-elected en bloc. Proposed by Alice Gaillard and seconded by Linda Paget.
7	**Update from Area 12 Area Liaison Meeting**
	CP gave a short update from the recent ALM which she attended as both an Area 12 committee member and as SWDG Riding Club's rep. there were 2 main topics raised one being the new membership system imposed on all Riding Clubs across the country, and the other was the Area rep. Chris Beer stood down and Lindsay Opperman was elected as his replacement. Lindsay is a member of the Quantock RC and has long been involved at Club and Area level.

8	**New BRC membership process**
	This was raised earlier in the meeting and CP ran through the process. ER will send out an email with a link for all existing members to make it easier to renew. Everyone will need to set themselves up with a Sport:80 account as this will be the platform used. Certain Club officials will be able to see the membership information, but this is very restricted for GDPR purposes. The system now requires members to add a next of kin which is quite useful.
9	**Presentation of Trophies**
	Trophy winners were announced by Camilla Hankinson as per the attached list
10	**AOB**
	Clinics were discussed further, CP remarking that clinics and RC events in general were becoming onerous to run due to the H&S tasks that had to be undertaken. CP stressed the importance of ensuring that all Clinics were run strictly to the BRC rules as there was potential for personal cost if there was an accident and the Club was found to be negligent. LP once again very kindly offered Linnet Farm for clinics at no cost to the Club. SW's clinics continue to be popular and Cameron Beer and Jo Rimmer have done some clinics for the Club. LS raised the point that clinics need to be advertised on both the website and the Club's Facebook page to encourage others to come along. LS also said it would be useful if there could be some updates on how good the clinics were on our social media to encourage others to try them.
10	**Close**
	The meeting closed at 7:46pm