

BOURNE VALLEY RIDING CLUB

NEWSLETTER - MARCH 1975

The A.G.M. was held on February 18th but where were all the members? You certainly weren't at Tidworth House that evening! Apart from the President and Committee, who were there in full force, only ten other members turned up. The Chairman, in his annual statement, said he felt that apart from competitors, there had been a distinct lack of interest in the Club during the middle of the year but he thought there were signs that enthusiasm was picking up again, so it was disappointing and rather disheartening that so few members come to the meeting.

The Chairman continued his speech by thanking our President, David Packman, for his continuing support during the year; he also thanked the Committee for all their help, particularly Tina Bowyer who had nobly carried on for another year as Hon. Secretary as there had been no nominations for this job last year.

Jane Haddock has resigned from the Committee and did not wish to stand again and there being only sufficient nominations to fill the vacancies, no vote was necessary. Your officials for the year are : -

|                |   |   |
|----------------|---|---|
| President      | - | Mr. D. Packman  |
| Chairman       | - | Mr. S. Hart   |
| Hon. Secretary | - | Mrs. R. Hicks (Skamore Cottage, Tangley,<br>Andover. Chute Standen 225) |
| Hon. Treasurer | - | Mr. N. Creese   |
| Committee      | - | Miss S. Appleton  |
|                |   | Mrs. T. Bowyer  |
|                |   | Miss J. Bush ( Newsletter )   |
|                |   | Miss A. Miller (Programme Secretary)                                    |
|                |   | Mr. T. Oliver   |
|                |   | Mrs. T. Oliver  |

Miss Sue Hudson was co-opted onto the Committee to act as Competition Secretary.

It was decided that we should invite a number of Vice-Presidents into the Club, not necessarily members but people who have helped the Club in one way or another in the past. It was emphasised that they were not being elected for financial reasons but to act as Patrons to the Club, also it would be a small way of showing our appreciation for their past help. Several names were put forward but it was left to the Committee to decide the final number.

The fodder bulk buying scheme was discussed and it was agreed that the Committee should go ahead with this plan. Full details will be published in due course.

Bridleways were also discussed and the meeting voted that £5 should be sent to the B.H.S. Bridleways Appeal Fund. This is to help finance a case that the B.H.S. are fighting in the Courts and I understand are now taking to the House of Lords, to prevent the downgrading of bridleways to footpaths in Kent. You may think that this has nothing to do with us but if the B.H.S. lose



this case it is quite possible that downgrading will take place in other counties and many paths and tracks will be lost to riders.

It seems that there may be a problem over our future use of the covered school at Tidworth. It is understood, although we have no written confirmation as yet, that our block membership subscription of £5 a year to the Tidworth Mounted Sports Club, which enables us to use the school and facilities (such as they are!) is to be raised considerably and, on top of that, we will have to pay £7 a day when using the school. It was thought that this would put it beyond our financial means. Mr. Hart said that he would make enquiries from the Sports Club secretary and also look into the possibility of using the school at Larkhill.

Owing to some new rules and regulations, we are no longer able to have a block membership of the Officers Club at Tidworth but the powers that be have agreed that we may continue to hold meetings at Tidworth House so long as one Riding Club member pays a full subscription to the Officers Club. The Committee have voted that Mr. Hart should be that member, so in future we go there as Sam Hart's guests and are requested, please, to sign the Visitors Book.

As we organised the Area Trials last year we will not be running any of the Area events this year. The Dressage, Prix Caprilli and Show Jumping will be held at H.M.S. Dryad on 10th August and the Horse Trials at Arundel, Sussex, on 31st August. The latter is a long way for us to go but we will send a team if members are willing to travel that far. It is possible that stabling may be available for anyone wanting to stay overnight. Mr. Hart, in his statement to the A.G.M., congratulated all the 1974 teams, particularly the show jumpers who did so well in the finals at Stoneleigh and, but for a disqualification on a technicality, would have been among the rosettes. He gave a special word of thanks to Sue Appleton who was competition secretary and team manager last year.

The Club accounts were approved and it was pleasing to see that the 1973 deficit had been turned into a profit of £58 in 1974. This was mainly due to the very successful Christmas Draw promoted by Norman Creese and the equally successful Dinner and Dance run by David Packman. Mr. H. W. Morgan was again elected Auditor, a job he has generously done for us, free of charge, ever since the Club started. There is another plea from the Treasurer to those members who have still not paid their subscriptions, to send them to him now. Riders £2. Non Riders £1.50. Subscriptions to be sent to Norman Creese, 6 Clock House, Bodenham, Salisbury, Wilts.

The A.G.M. closed with suggestions from members for future events including : film shows, talks by a Vet, stud visits and an idea that we should invite members of other Clubs to spend a riding week-end with us. The Committee will try to include these ideas in the years programme.

After the above formal business of the General Meeting it is nice to be able to end this letter on a more personal note and congratulate Sue Appleton on her engagement to Edward Way.

J.B.