



# **NEWSLETTER**

## **DECEMBER 2023**

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# ● Chair's Report -

## Chairs report, 2023 AGM

I find writing and delivering this speech one of the most daunting tasks of being your chairwoman. However, I can have a little fun with it as it is the one thing that isn't censored before 'going live' unlike everything you read in the newsletters which passes by Trish first - who is now panicking as to what I'm about to say next!

I was somewhat flattered to find that the secretary from Area 12 had read last year's report, as some of the comments I had made were raised at the following ALM, so perhaps I should be careful with what I chose to say but that's not my style and I may go full Suella Braverman with this!

So let's deal with the price increase first and it's important for you to know exactly where your money is going. £24 from each member is going straight to BRC to pay for insurance. This insurance covers you at a BRC event and at no other time so you may still need your own insurance. There is also the affiliation fee to pay to BRC, which for a club of our size will be £190 for the year. Then there is Area 12 to pay which is 40p per head. As you can see this all adds up and doesn't leave us with very much in your club pot.

By now you should all have received an email from BRC regarding the new membership platform, Sport; 80. On the face of it, it appears to be good and in time I'm sure we will get used to the new system but for those of us that are rather long in the tooth getting used to new things is always a little daunting so please bear with us whilst we and BRC deal with problems that are already arising.

Our major concern over this system is the cost to you, our members, which is an additional £1.50 for going via Stripe. The original cost was £3 per transaction and the BHS have agreed to support BRC clubs and fund the difference. The cynic in me is rather cautious as to what the cost will be in future years! We weren't told about this cost and we and Area 12, and I suspect other Areas, are fighting this cost to it's members - as and when we have news we will let you know. And it would be naive of us to think that the BHS won't be clawing back the cost they are covering this year so there is sure to be further increases in memberships next year - I will be ready for them!

Myself and Trish went to the Area 12 AGM and ALM on 16th Nov and for the first time the we actually had members of other clubs speak with us and there was unity amongst the clubs regarding the introduction of Sport:80 and our new rep is now dealing with BRC and the many issues this has caused.

It was the first Area meeting that I found useful as it was good to know we weren't the only club feeling BRC were forcing Sport:80 upon us and having similar problems to

ourselves. However, these meetings are like mini soap operas and I have no intention of getting involved with the politics and behind the scenes backstabbing.

Now back to things closer to home and we hope you think your riding club still offers good value for money. All of the training offered is subsidised and we try to keep entry fees for our members as low as possible.

We topped and tailed our season with Jill's fabulous showing shows. These are incredibly popular, drawing competitors from far and wide and possibly for the first time, upsetting one competitor who didn't like being in the ring with those who were destined for HOYS. I think others look upon this as a positive that they are in a ring with that company and well done to Jill and her team for providing this great opportunity. Jill gave us the dates for the Dressage League and Trish promptly filled just about every other weekend with clear round jumping, mini jumping, the jumping league, bursary training and of course the 10th anniversary of the summer camp. If I wasn't doing dressage or training with Monte then I was Trish's' wingman at one of the jumping events - I rarely knew which one, it all became a bit of a blur, I just turned up held a stopwatch, called out faults, took photos and ate cake - sometimes all at the same time!

Emma and Deana squeezed in training whenever they could, which have all been well attended this year and Emma has kept us all entertained with her online quiz and photo competition yet again.

So a particularly busy year and my thanks go to our committee for organising all of this and all our helpers that have made this possible. I think it gets forgotten (especially by BRC) that we are all volunteers with busy lives and it is only our love of horses and a little bit of madness that make us do what we do!

For some of you it has been a tough year with the loss of your beloved horse or pony and we all hope we can support you in some small way through these times. I would like to make a special mention to the Speyer family who bravely came out to help at an event soon after the loss of their fabulous little pony. And Deana who has continued with all that she does for the club after the loss of the marvellous Murphy.

Now looking forward to next year,

Gloria and Sylvia have been working hard behind the scenes to bring you one day camps in the spring. As ever they sound quite ambitious and packed for a day but they are sure to be fun! I just hope we have enough weekends in the year to fit everything in!

I shall now hand you back to Trish so I wish you all a rather early Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. *Kate*

# ● Secretary Report -

## Secretary report, 2023 AGM

Welcome and it is lovely to see so many of you on this cold winters evening. We have had a full calendar this year and I must start by thanking the committee who have worked tirelessly for the good of BHRC, thank you team, for your help, laughs and commitment.

On that note, I must also thank our fantastic volunteers who turn up at our events and do their bit. It makes running events so much easier and as a committee, we simply could not run events without your help.

I set up the Just Gem Bursary last year as a thank you to our volunteers. I plan on running the Bursary next year as well for those who have helped in 2023 and new members in 2024. It was particularly poignant in the summer as Topaz and I attended our horse agility rally, paid out of Bursary funds. It seems I have gone full circle with BHRC.

In August, we were told BRC was adopting an online membership platform with Sport80. Although I don't have a problem with the system as such, at no time were we told that it was going to be compulsory and the cost would be £1.50, although initially it was £3.00. At the recent Area meeting, all clubs felt that we hadn't been given enough time to familiarise ourselves with the impact it will have on our members. It does have one good point that I can see, it has a rolling yearly membership and despite my misgivings, it is here to stay. Membership forms, after the end of December, will be a thing of the past.

I have recently given up the role of junior co-ordinator. I just didn't have enough time after taking on the show jumping so Vicky Henderson is our new junior coordinator and I wish her well, I know she will have a great time with our lovely juniors.

I hope you enjoy the rest of your evening, come and talk to us if you have any requests for 2024 as the committee will meet early in January to plan the BHRC calendar.

Thank you, *Tricia*

## ● One Day Camp -

As you may have heard at the AGM we are hoping to hold a one day camp next year (possibly more than one!!!!)

Jill Perrior has kindly offered us the use of her wonderful yard, with a magnificent arena. It will be similar to the one day camps held when covid restrictions made life difficult.

Probably during the Easter period so late March early April.

We hope to have three or four different activities through the day, possibly things you may not have had the opportunity to try or something you have tried but with a Blackdown Hills variation!!!!

You will be asked to bring your own packed lunch and any feed you deem needed for your horse.

The main emphasis will be on having a fun day with your horse and other like-minded club members.

Details will be announced in the New Year on the club Facebook site so keep your eyes

open and I hope to see you there. *Sylvia*

## ● Membership -

As previously stated, as from 1st January, membership to BRC will be made via the Sport80 online platform. You will have received the following email from BRC -

*You are receiving this email because an account has been created for you.*

*This account is in relation to: British Riding Clubs*

[Click here to set your password](#)

*If you're having trouble clicking the password set button, copy and paste the URL below into your web browser.*

[https://auth.sport80.com/password\\_set/b5649c35-4e26-468b-9963-afeb80991874](https://auth.sport80.com/password_set/b5649c35-4e26-468b-9963-afeb80991874)

**IMPORTANT:** *This link is only valid for a period of 24 hours. If you click on the link after this period, it will not work. In the event you require a new link, navigate to <https://britishridingclubs.sport80.com/> and click the 'Forgot password?' button.*

*Use the email address this email has been sent to, in order to generate a new link for the account that has been created for you.*

*If you need any further help click on the support icon when on this page: <https://britishridingclubs.sport80.com/>.*

**Many thanks, British Riding Clubs**

You will still have the same membership options, but joint/family is slightly more complicated as BRC don't offer this option, it works as follows -

**Senior - £30.00** (you pay £30 + £1.50 booking fee and we get £6.00)

**Junior - £26.00** (you pay £26 + £1.50 booking fee and we get £2.00)

**Joint/family - child £21.00** - **this can only be used in conjunction with a full paying senior -**

(You pay £30 + £21= £51 + £1.50 booking fee and we get £3.00)

**Joint/family - senior - £25.00** - **this can only be used in conjunction with a full paying senior -**

(You pay £30 + £25 =£55 + £1.50 booking fee and we get £7.00)

## ● AGM -

It was lovely to see so many of you at our AGM; a record turnout, we think. Some trophies are yet to be returned; please can they be returned to a committee member ASAP so that I can update my records. Thank you.

## ● Junior Co-ordinator -

Dear Juniors

My Name is Vicky and I will be your Junior co-ordinator for 2024.

For those of you, who do not know me, I am Maisie's Mum, Maisie is 14 and we have both been with the BHRC for about 5 yrs now.

I would be very grateful, if you could have a little think, about what you would like to get from our club, also any training, events, camps, presentations, lectures etc, We have some incredible instructors that include, dressage, flat work, poles and jumping.

I am here to help and arrange fun things for all our juniors, however some input from you all would be much appreciated.

I look forward to seeing you all at our AGM, but please email me any ideas you have on

[vicky@daresdowntackshop.co.uk](mailto:vicky@daresdowntackshop.co.uk) - Many thanks, Vicky xx

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**Daresdown Tack Shop, owned and run by Committee member Vicky Henderson -**

**All BHRC members get a 15% discount at Daresdown Tack Shop, (excluding feed and 2nd hand) - Website [www.daresdown-tackshop.co.uk](http://www.daresdown-tackshop.co.uk) - 07762247046**

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## ● Just Jem Rosettes -

I am happy to take any unwanted/spare rosettes you may have and I will transform them for club use. It doesn't matter how tatty they are, or that you don't want to part with all your firsts and seconds.

## ● Merchandise -

Gillet's £42.50

Polo t-shirts £17.50

Saddle cloths - £45.00

Long sleeve Polo's £22.50

Rugby shirt. £25.00

Hoodie £22.50

Bum bags £9.00



ALL ORDERS TO DEANA, PLEASE.

## ● Training -

All details are on the 'events' page of our website - [blackdownhillsrc.co.uk](http://blackdownhillsrc.co.uk)

### Training Cancellation Policy

**Full Payment is required to confirm your place, and must be received 1 week before the rally date please.**

**Later entries will be accepted if space allows.**

**Payments via BACS or cheque posted to organiser. Payment online - please quote your surname and date of the event/training you are paying for.**

**There will be NO refunds for withdrawals unless the space is filled from a waiting list or a late entry**

## ● Dressage Restrictions -

From September 2021, the following will be put in each BHRC dressage schedule -

“RESTRICTED: Combination of horse and rider not to have been placed 1<sup>st</sup> where there were 1<sup>st</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup> placings or more” ( this only applies to Open competitions, not ‘members only’ competitions)

## ● Dress code -

### For all BRC competitions.

#### Hats

Hats which meet the current BRC standard must be worn with a harness properly adjusted and fastened. Skull caps must be worn with a silk.

#### Body Protectors

If worn, must meet the current BRC standard

#### Jodhpurs and Breeches

White, cream, beige, navy, or black breeches or jodhpurs may be worn.

#### Boots

Long riding boots designed for riding are to be worn. Short riding boots with gaiters of the same leather and colour may be worn. Suede half chaps may be worn providing they are of identical colour to the boots and have no decoration or tassels of any sort.

#### Jackets and Shirts

Jackets or smart fitted waistcoats must be worn including a tweed jacket with a coloured stock or collar and tie. White stocks, white American collar or white shirts with collar and tie may be worn.

#### Hair and Jewellery

Hair should be neatly secured and should not hang lower than the shoulder

#### Gloves

Gloves must be worn in ALL dressage competitions. Gloves are optional although they are recommended for show jumping.



## Whips - ALL jumping

One whip is permitted and must be between 45cm and 75cm and must not be weighted or feature a hard point at the end. The end of the whip must be padded. The 'pad' must be smooth with no protrusion or raised surface (which includes embroidery) and be made of a shock absorbing material throughout its circumference. No substitute for a whip may be carried.

## Whips - dressage

One whip of any length is permitted for all BRC dressage. Whips must not be used in a way or be of a length that disturbs other riders and may not be picked up if dropped during a test. If a whip is shorter than 80cm then it must be padded.

The 'pad' must be smooth with no protrusion or raised surface (which includes embroidery) and be made of a shock absorbing material throughout its circumference. No substitute for a whip may be carried.

The full BRC rule book can be viewed online - [brc.co.uk](http://brc.co.uk)

## ● Contact numbers

**Chairwoman** – Kate Hopper, Pleasant House, Clayhidon, Cullompton, Devon.  
EX15 3TS. 07707815610 [huskykate4@gmail.com](mailto:huskykate4@gmail.com)

**Secretary** – Tricia Budd, 24, Newlands Grove, Ruishton, Taunton, Somerset.

TA3 5JJ. 01823 442597 [triciabudd24@gmail.com](mailto:triciabudd24@gmail.com)

**Treasurer** – Deana Rowland, Coombe Hill House, Symonsburrow, Hemyock, Devon. EX16  
3XA. 01823 680021 [deanarowland2@aol.com](mailto:deanarowland2@aol.com)

## ● Data Protection -

If you have ticked the box on your membership form - '**I do not give consent**' - for your photo to be used on our Facebook page, website and newsletter, please can you introduce yourself to the organiser at each BHRC event you attend. Whilst every effort will be made by BHRC not to use your photo, images of members in backgrounds may at times be unavoidable and BHRC cannot take responsibility for third parties taking and using images.



A rider wearing a ROYAL BLUE arm band is hard of hearing - BRC handbook

RED - Red ribbons signify a horse kicks.

GREEN - A green ribbon means that the horse is inexperienced.

BLUE - It is helpful for stallion handlers to put this colour ribbon in their horses' tail, especially if you have a mare as it warns you to stay away.

WHITE: White ribbons are helpful for letting others know that this horse is for sale

# Membership Form 2024



Website – [blackdownhillsrc.co.uk](http://blackdownhillsrc.co.uk)



**Completed membership form** to be sent to:

Mrs Tricia Budd, 24, Newlands Grove, Ruishton, Taunton, Somerset, TA3 5JJ. [triciabudd24@gmail.com](mailto:triciabudd24@gmail.com)

Contact Name .....

Address and Post code.....

Telephone.....Email.....

**Senior - £30, Junior - £26 (age from 6 to 18 years) For 2 members of the same family, £5 discount.**

First Name	Surname	New member?	Riding activities	DOB if junior

**I ENCLOSE CHEQUE/CASH FOR £..... payable to BHRC OR**

**I HAVE SENT A BACS PAYMENT OF £.....ON..... (Date) WITH REFERENCE ..... (Surname)**

**NatWest – sort code 60-23-05, account no; 74506439 Blackdown Hills Riding Club**

**Volunteering:** We depend upon the support of our members in order to function as a club. We request all members to help out on **one** occasion each year. By joining BHRC, you consent to us contacting you in relation to volunteering.

**Data Protection:** I agree to data relating to my membership being held by BHRC. I agree that this data may be disclosed to British Riding Clubs. Please tick here  if you DO NOT give consent for your photo to be used. Whilst every effort will be made by BHRC not to use your photo, images of members in backgrounds may at times be unavoidable and BHRC cannot take responsibility for third parties taking and using images.

- I agree to data relating to me being held by BHRC and passed to BHS British Riding Clubs.
- I agree to my contact details being released to the committee or other members for the purpose of riding club activities
- I agree to help at one event or club run activity during the year
- I agree to abide by BRC rules

Signed..... Date.....

