



# The Welsh Endurance Team

Founded 1988



## Minutes of the 2013 Annual General Meeting of the Welsh Endurance Team

The Annual General Meeting of the Welsh Endurance Team was held at 11:30am on Sunday 1st December 2013 at the Metropole Hotel, Llandrindod Wells, Powys and was followed by lunch.

Present: Charlotte Fleming (Chair)

Together with Tom Korn, Mary Korn, Angela Williams, Bethan Jones, Richie Billen, Eilian Williams, Colin Jacob, Carol Jones, June Davies, Sue Higgins, Fiona Valentine

In attendance: Jane Smith – Secretary.

**1. Apologies** were received from Chris Wray, Fiona Griffiths, Lisa & Harry Adshead, Annette Longland, Roger Lunt, Nesta Maskell, PaulaSchleising-Chaplin & Alan Morgan.

**2. The Minutes** of the Annual General Meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2012 were approved.

**3. The draft constitution** had been circulated earlier in the year. Several points had been raised regarding the existing constitution. The voting rights were extremely narrow & would normally exclude many of the members attending meetings. The new constitution would be more transparent & inclusive encouraging more members to be involved with WET.

Para 5.2 would be amended to read “Voting membership is open to all EGB members living in Wales or eligible to ride for Wales, including associate members.

### **Para 6. Selection. (New)**

6.1 Each group to appoint a person responsible for submitting nominations for consideration to the Chef d’Equipe within the time schedule as laid down in the Timetable of Events. The Chef d’Equipe to be responsible for the final selection in consultation with the Chair.

There were three members present who qualified under the old rules to approve the new constitution & it was approved unanimously.

### **4. Chair’s Report.**

This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> year after Pat Conn’s retirement and following her sad death this autumn I propose that after this report we have a minute’s silence to show our respect and thanks for all she did for Welsh Endurance.

I’d like to start by thanking our Chef Sue Higgins who allowed herself to be persuaded to accept the mission of building a team for the HI/CC. She did this calmly and with a light touch on the reins. There was little outward show of the effort she put in, including coping with last minute change of classes and rules in the HI and CC. Her welcoming and supportive approach embodied the ethos of the Home International, which is to encourage riders at all levels, be non-elitist and to encourage and develop

Minutes of the WET Annual General Meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> December, 2013.



# *The Welsh Endurance Team*

*Founded 1988*



team spirit. We had a fabulous team spirit. I don't think Sue slept on the night of the championship, not out of worry, but simply because her caravan became to focus of partying well into the small hours. Sue, you have done a grand job and we would be very lucky if you agreed to take on the challenge again next year.

The next person to thank also had her arm twisted into being on the committee: our secretary Jane Smith, the most efficient and reliable person I have ever met. When she crews for me I never doubt that she will be in the right place at the right time with the right equipment. And so it was with the secretary's duties: putting out sponsorship letters, re-drafting the constitution, liaising with the chef and website people, organizing meetings have all been done immaculately. She instigated running the Xmas Cracker ride to raise sponsorship for the team, leaving me to only do the enjoyable bits such as route finding. Jane, you have done a grand job and we would be very lucky if you agreed to stand for election again.

I need to thank Harry Adshead and Bethan Jones for putting us on a website and Facebook and for their enthusiasm and support for WET, & Chris Wray for all his help at Barbary Castle.

So for me the year has been a pleasure and a success:

We put 2 full teams into the HI and CC

We attracted new blood into the team

We had a great time at Barbary

We have tried to be open, inclusive, communicative, efficient and a little modern, using websites, social media and EGB database for results.

We are proposing modernizing the constitution to make it easier for people to have a voice.

We managed to attract 3 sponsors: Pegasus Arenas, Abbey Vets and Heron House financial management which enabled us to provide a team strip and subsidise the meal on Saturday evening at Barbary.

Wales has about 150 EBG members: small enough for there to be a good chance for those who want to be on the team, yet big enough to be able to attract new talent, new ideas and to share the work of running the team. Thank you all for being here and showing that you are prepared to get involved!

Members then observed a minute's silence in memory at Pat Conn.

## ***5. Chef d'Equipes Report***

Sue stated that she felt it had all been a huge success as far as people coming forward, We were able to send two strong teams & there was excellent team spirit. For her part she felt it was a good event, although there had been a lot of pressure with classes being changed very close to the event date. Communication between the other team chefs was very limited, Sue felt there should be much more discussion about classes and how the awards are calculated. More points should be allocated to performance. However there had been good cooperation between all the riders & it was unfortunate that the results didn't reflect how well everyone

Minutes of the WET Annual General Meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> December, 2013.



# The Welsh Endurance Team

Founded 1988



had done. Sue thanked the officers & everyone who had made it such an enjoyable event, especially our sponsors, one of which (Saran Allot Davy of Heron House Financial Management) for putting on a lovely supper on Saturday evening, which was enjoyed by everyone. Special thanks to Chris Wray for his help with organising maps & crewing. Sue very kindly agreed to stand again as Chef, which was met with great approval & appreciation by everyone.

## **6. Treasurers report. (Tabled)**

Alan Morgan had indicated that he wished to stand down as Treasurer, but had kindly forward a report. This showed an income from sponsorship at £500, the donations & team strip sales amounted to £187. Expenditure on the team strip for riders totalled £423, leaving a balance at the bank of £315.77

## **7. Appointment of Officers.**

Chair. Sue Higgins proposed that Charlotte Fleming be appointed for a 2<sup>nd</sup> year. This was seconded by Jane Smith & unanimously approved

Secretary. Jane Smith agreed to continue for a further year as secretary.

Treasurer. This post was not filled; Bethan Jones had someone in mind & would be in touch with the officers.

## **8. Any other Business.**

A lively discussion followed with some excellent ideas coming forward.

- June Davies suggested that the Welsh Team could perhaps develop a theme for the Best Turned Out team & she agreed to take this forward.
- Communications. Tom Korn thought we should improve our communication channels, the WET web site should be more regularly updated, the EGB website should carry more WET information and greater use should be made of social media. Sue Higgins informed the meeting that EGB were losing the services of the lady who presently managed the EGB website & it was likely that a new site would be developed, hopefully linking all the groups in a more global manner.
- Newsletters were suggested, perhaps featuring a rider' story with the main aim to get everyone more closely involved & to nurture team spirit. However, it was agreed that it could sometimes be extremely difficult to get interesting articles to feature.
- Sue Higgins agreed to send out a monthly email with updates for riders.
- Clothing. Everyone agreed that the quality of the clothing was very good. There had been a suggestion that WET should only supply team strip for the year & then have it back to use again but no-one felt that this would be acceptable & everyone felt proud to wear their team strip at other events. It was agreed that the Jodphurs supplied two years ago were very acceptable.
- The clothing should carry the sponsor's logos, the year & venue of the event, but the country should be dropped.
- There was a possible spelling error in the Welsh wording which should be checked.
- Red Dragon stickers should be purchased for riders hats.

Minutes of the WET Annual General Meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> December, 2013.



# *The Welsh Endurance Team*

*Founded 1988*



- Try to provide Welsh bunting for around the camp.
- Transport. Some suggested that it might be less expensive to hire one large lorry for most of the team horses but most members present would apparently prefer to travel their own horses.
- Vet presentation. Suggestion that WET supply red head collars
- Saddle clothes depicting the Welsh dragon would be very smart & could just be in a lightweight material.
- Red, green & white ribbons in horses tail & manes also looked very patriotic.

## Fundraising.

- It was suggested that WET could run a show which could prove a lucrative earner & in some cases it was possible to get sponsor's to match fund. Richie & Eilian would look into this. There was a possibility of approaching Halsdon Arabians for sponsorship as they now had close connections with Wales through Beth Langley.
- The 2013 sponsors would be approached again & Charlotte Fleming had spoken to Torque who were based in Wales & had indicated they may be interested..
- Jane Smith said that last winter they had written over 100 letters to potential sponsors with virtually no replies. She felt it would be much better if everyone involved with WET tried to get even small amounts of money or raffle prizes from their local companies & members present all agreed.

## Meeting venue.

It was agreed that the Metropole Hotel was probably as central as we could get & they had provided a pleasant room & hopefully a good lunch. The dates available would be either 30<sup>th</sup> November or 7<sup>th</sup> December, 2014.