

Hi All,

I hope all is well.

Just wanted to give you a heads up on a couple of things for next year. Meg is working on the notes from the Advisory Committee to send out to you all and will be emailed over shortly. We are just awaiting on BE to have their Sport Meeting in regards to having their rule changes finalised but there shouldn't be anything that will drastically affect us for next year. Meg will probably wait to send the notes until these have been confirmed to keep the amount of emails we send to you to a minimum so all the details are in one place.

In terms of rule changes there aren't that many for 2018.

Just a reminder that body protectors rules will be changing on 1 January as per 2017 Handbook (everyone has had a year notice) that the purple label 2000 body protectors will no longer be accepted.

There are going to be several new Direct Entry classes this year following member feedback.

At the National Championships we will expand the Veteran Horse and Veteran Rider to have Pick a Test Elementary and Medium for each class.

At the Dressage to Music Championships direct entry classes will be as follows:

Grassroots Dressage at Intro and Prelim level with the same eligibility as the Grassroots League to give a 'Have a go' feel to those grassroots competitors to experience one of the less manic Championships.

ROR Dressage at Prelim and Novice which will be Pick a Test unless entries suffice. Horse must be registered with ROR to compete.

Veteran Horse and Veteran Rider – due to the popularity at Lincoln these classes will also be at the DTM.

All of the above will not be music classes, they will be pure dressage and run in the outdoor arenas.

Unfortunately due to the lack of entries for the last three years (only 2 teams), the Team of 6 will no longer be running at Lincoln. Teams of 4 will remain as are still very popular.

New Classes

We are going to introduce a new Pairs Dressage to Music class for 2018. The current Pairs class will be renamed the Novice Pairs Dressage to Music which will remain the same as it is, then a new Pairs Dressage to Music class will be introduced which will be an elementary level test but with Advanced

Medium eligibility which will allow those competitors competing at the higher levels currently unable to enter the Pairs the option to have a go. This is direct from member feedback. Competitors may do both Pairs classes provided they are eligible.

New Championship

I hear some of you sigh....

We would like to take advantage of Arena Eventing specifically as the classes that a few BE events are now running for BRC members such as Blenheim as they are super popular.

The BRC Arena Eventing Championships will take place in 2019 at Aston Le Walls for the first year either end of Feb/early March. Qualifiers will commence 1 October 2018. As with all qualifiers they are not compulsory but please do look at ways to run the competition whether with another area, or approach a venue that already runs the competition (as many now do).

The classes will be 70cm (mixed), 80cm split senior and junior, 90cm split senior and junior, 100cm mixed for teams and individuals. Details of rules etc. will be included in the 2018 Handbook ready for the qualifiers. The 70 and 100 will be mixed at least for the first year as we do not know how popular these classes will be as most of our entries are usually at 80 and 90.

I hope you will support this exciting new opportunity for members.

Quadrille we are concerned about the dropping numbers, if you could promote to your area to support this opportunity as we do not want to lose the competition! We are bringing the entry date forward to 2 January and they will close on 2 February just in case we do not get the numbers. We really do not want to have to cancel but there will be a stipulation in the Handbook that if there are not enough entries it will be cancelled. Obviously we really do not want to have to do this so please try and drum up some support, or even if the clubs do not want to enter then come and support it at the Selection Trial. We are just finalising details for next year but will have something in place before the entries open so clubs will have the details before they enter.

Volunteer Leagues – from 1 January there will be three Volunteer Leagues which will be at Club, Area and National Level for volunteers helping at BRC activities, so for example at club level anyone volunteering with gain 1 point per hour helped. I realise many of you have amazing volunteers in your area or at club/area level that BRC may not be acknowledging/thanking as I don't see them at Championships for various reasons.

The leagues will run very similarly to the BRC Grassroots League where a volunteer will fill out the points card, get this signed and send off to BRC each month for recording. There are some rules to everything so I will be sending the details out shortly to you all once I have finalised them. Hopefully we can encourage a few more people to get volunteering with BRC and be rewarded in the process.

There will be rosettes to 10th in each league and also a prize to 1st place in each. (Team volunteers will also count at the relevant level as I know some areas will ask for team volunteers so they would be eligible for the Area league etc.).

The BE League, we are hoping to expand to Intermediate as well as Novice but we are just awaiting confirmation from BE for the go ahead.

In regards to the Winter Dressage competitions we are looking at all of the entries and results coming in to see whether there is a problem as raised in the June development forum. As the eligibility changed mid-way through qualifiers last year we were not sure of the full effect of this had made. So this is being monitored presently.

Finally I am in full swing on amending the Handbook so if you have spotted anything please do let me know.

BD rulebooks for 2018 are in the office and will be posted out to you either this week or next. Two rulebooks, so the 2nd one you can give to your 'lieutenant' in the area.