



"Your club, your voice"

NEDTL ZOOM MEETING NOTES FOR MEETING

Date - Wednesday 12th June 2024 at 7.30pm

Previous meeting - Saturday 10th February and minutes for this meeting are on the website.

It is Your Club, so this is a chance for you to ask questions and for the Club to share information about events, rule changes and any BC updates. Please provide feedback so we can improve.

Club News

- We have just had our first 2 day outdoor event at Feedale Farm and it was lovely to see everyone competing and enjoying the dry, sunny weather. Feedale is always a great event with a warm friendly welcome from Terry and Elaine.
Unfortunately, we did have an incident where some people drove their vehicles where they should not - please remember to stick to the marathon path between obstacles.

2024 season

- Reminder that in 2024 the club will be offering VSE classes at events which is a 4km marathon and 4 obstacles which we hope that this will encourage the VSE's to come along and enjoy the outdoor season.
- The next event is Nidd which is the Novice Qualifier, on the weekend of 22nd & 23rd June. On the Saturday night, there will be a quiz with the and also some games organised for the more energetic of us with prizes so please come and join in. Thank you to Quiz Master Bill and Neat for agreeing to do this, we hope this will get people together and socialising rather than sitting on their own.

It's also the longest day so plenty of daylight to enjoy walking the cones/obstacles and of course relaxing with friends.

Also, Angela Flanagan (UKCC level 4 coach) is completing some on foot help/training at Nidd to walk through your dressage test and cones or obstacle walks. Tommy Thomlinson (TD) will also be available to help). If you are interested, then let me know. This will take place on Friday and Saturday afternoon/evening. And it is FOC

- At Allerton Park on the 13th & 14th July there will be a Hog roast on the Saturday night. Pat Cooper will be organising that so remember to contact her closer to the time to get your ticket. Pat will be putting a message out to remind everyone.
- At every event this year there will be a caterer, please support as if you don't then we may not be able to get them back next year. If there is any feedback on them (good or bad) please let us know so we can improve or feedback.

- The Tow Bar unfortunately will no longer be attending events due to lack of support and not making it viable for them to attend.

Facilities

- In an effort to better utilise facilities at events, we are going to trial a 'toilet dump' at Nidd and Allerton Park to allow people with their own toilets to have a place to empty cassette toilets/waste, together with a bin located in the disabled toilet for sanitary waste etc. please use these as we hope this will improve the facilities for people who do not have toilets in their camp. *This was confirmed by Amanda Axe and other it is a good idea and if all that can use the facility do it will make it nicer for those who don't.*
- There will also be a bin in the disabled toilet for any sanitary waste and other pads as there was a few occasions last season that the toilets where full of these so blocked them.

Safety

The clubs H&S Policy has been updated, please have a look on the website and review as some things have changed - Yes, it is a bit daunting and full "if's", "Don't do...." or "You must...." but we have your safety in mind and some of it you may need, so please have a read through. Any questions please ask.

Action: Penny Hartley offered to provide hard copies of the Competitor notes and they will be available at Nidd. Christina Simpson, Amanda Axe and Kathryn Smith requested a copy.

Here is a link on the NEDTL website to the documents to the Competitors Notes

<https://www.nedtl.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/GUIDANCE-NOTES-ON-HEALTH-AND-SAFETY-FOR-MEMBERS-AND-COMPETITORS.pdf>

The full H&S document link is here

<https://www.nedtl.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/NEDTL-Health-and-safety-policy070324v1.pdf>

Communications/rule changes from BC

There have been a few changes in this years BC rulebook. The first one is to split the rulebook to make it easier for competitors to find the information which is important to them –

1. Rules for competitors
2. Technical rules

If you want to see all of the changes to the BC rulebook look on their website.

As a club we will not be adopting the new "Neutral Zone" and for our events we will still have a Section A, Transfer, Halt and Section B. The short format and VSE classes don't use the "neutral zone" so not applicable.

The main one which we feel you need to know is the following as this is being adopted by the club –
The Drivers and Grooms Section 11

In the event of a potential Head Injury an assessment (HIA) of groom or driver must be made. A 10minute hold-up of the competitor on course for an HIA. This hold will take place without penalty other than any incurred during the initial incident.

- a. No Substitution is allowed.

Club Communications

- The newsletter was sent out on 6th June, I hope everyone received it and found it useful.
- A reminder to use the NEDTL website, as this is where you will find any news and multiple documents on there, including dressage tests and entry forms, but there are also other relevant documents you may find useful under the “info” page.
- Hopefully everyone has now connected to the new NEDTL CHIT-CHAT Facebook page and are enjoying the communications. You can now share suitable photos of carriage driving events, post questions which the Club members may be able to help with and share any carriage driving news.

It's your club to let us know your thoughts.

40 Club 2024

As you know we are running the 40 Club again this year club members in aid of club funds. There are 5 draws left (one at each of the Two-day Events), each with a first prize of £50 and 2 runners up of £25. The tickets are £5 a draw or £25 for the remainder of the season. Please contact Pat Cooper to get your lucky number - £5/number/draw. You have to be in it for a chance of winning it!

Entering Events

We know everyone leads busy lives, but we would appreciate if people can get their entries in before the closing date (ideally a couple of weeks before the closing date) as having the number of competitors before helps us decide on a few things –

- How many judges do we need for dressage
- How many arenas do we need
- How many toilets to order
- Do we have sufficient number of competitors to run the event.

If we decide to cancel the event, we have to do within 14 days of the event to prevent charges in most cases so would really help.

As you will appreciate the events cost a lot of money to put on and a lot of prework goes into running them so knowing numbers really helps.

If you think you may have an issue, for example the lorry may not be back from the garage, still enter and then if it's not back withdraw before 12 noon, the Monday before the event for a full refund as this would help us.

Off Road Driving

Feedale Farm – some people may not know that Terry and Elaine allow us to use their brilliant facilities for a small charge, but you are able to drive at an off-road location. Please contact Terry to arrange.

Unfortunately, Escrick Park is no longer offering a discount day rate to NEDTL members for day drives or rides. They are offering a discount to the annual membership of £110, normal price £145. Please contact Melody Jones or Charmian Haigh for the contact email address to request the discount code. Remember to book online if you are going to Escrick Park.

Help

As you know the club is run by volunteers and at every event there are a very small army of people who put the events on.

- Course builders
- Grass and tree cutting
- Course markers
- Cones course builders
- Scorers
- Safety officers
- Event secretaries
- First aiders
- Dressage arena, cones and marathon course clearers
- Packing away the trailer
- Stewards
- Even if you want to become a judge (cones/dressage) or TD we can help.

If you are interested in helping or training on any of the following, please contact a member of the committee who will put you in contact with the relevant people. In all the above cases you will be trained and not left on your own, it may be that you can help for half a day at an event near where you live, but every bit of help helps!

Please let us know as would be great to spread the workload and knowledge.

BC/Club Zooms

- Every other month committee members join the BC club meeting where information is shared. If there are any questions which you would like to be asked at these meetings, please let us know.

Q&A session. Items sent in for the meeting and from the floor

Question: Janet Carter offered to compile a list of people who can backstep for drivers if they do not have one. She said will ask drivers as to whether they would find this useful and compile a simple list with the experience, height, weight, when and where they can attend this way any potential drivers who are struggling could then contact Janet and ask if there are any grooms on the list which fit there requirement. This was confirmed as a good idea by Laura Wray and Amanda Axe. **Action: Melody to check with the committee if this is alright.**

Question: Kathryn Smith asked about the requirements for the Novice Qualifier. To compete in the Nidd qualifier a competitor needs to have had their competency card signed at 2 full marathon events by the dressage judge and the TD, and not be eliminated. This must have been submitted to BC office and accepted, so if you do not have this then you cannot enter this year's qualifier. From 2024, NEDTL will not be running a qualifier as BC are changing to 2-day nationals and we have no plans to run one.

Novices with their competency card signed, can enter either a 2 or 3 day National and if they win will have qualified for the National Championships. Competency card form is available on the BC website, if you cannot find there are copies in the event secretary.

Short Format classes do not count towards the competency unless it is the VSE class as the 4km marathon is the correct length to qualify. Gateway classes do not need competency cards

Question: *Steve Hoyle asked if different dressage judges could be used during the indoor season as it has tended to be the same judges. Depends on if the Club can get different judges for the events.*

Both Amanda Axe and Christina Simpson said that they may know of some ridden judges who may be interested in judging. Was unsure of the criteria for judge's qualifications and Patti Atkinson confirmed that ridden dressage judges can judge indoor and outdoor driven events.

Action: *Melody to ask the indoor organiser if this could be looked into. Amanda and Christina to ask their contacts to see if this is something they would be interested in.*

Question: *Wendy Mason asked if the closing date for outdoor events be moved to 10 days before the event i.e. the Wednesday, without causing issues for the Entry secretary. It may reduce the number of withdrawals. Action: Melody to discuss with the committee but ideally the Event Organiser needs to know the number of entries to determine how many dressage arenas, judges and stewards are needed.*

Question: *Brian Cairns asked why he could not collect his dressage sheets before he left Feedale at the end of Saturday and was only entered for the day. The TD said he would have to wait for the Technical briefing. He has been able to at other events. Action: Melody to ask the TDs and hopefully this will not be a problem in the future if it is please raise to a member of the committee.*

Question: *Amanda asked if it was worth proposing that competitors carry out a duty at events to help the Club or it goes on the entry form?*

Penny explained that in the past it has been a struggle and better to ask at the briefing to see if people can help.

Mary Longbottom mentioned that at Chester event they tell you when & where your duty is to be done over the weekend. You have no choice.

Janet Carter suggested a list of tasks on a whiteboard near the event secretary where people can write their names against e.g. put up the table & chairs in the marque.

Action: *Melody to discuss with the committee and some proposals will be put forward*

Everyone agreed that the day and time for the Zoom meeting was acceptable.

Thank you for attending and I hope you enjoyed and found it useful.