

**MINUTES OF TEAM CHASE ANNUAL CONFERENCE  
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 2<sup>nd</sup> MAY 2012  
AT CHELTENHAM RACECOURSE AT 2.30PM**

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence had been received from Mr G Goring, Mr F French, Mr R Cope and Mr D Selby.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

The Minutes of the AGM on 4<sup>th</sup> May 2011 were approved.

**3. COMMITTEE REPORT FROM THE CHAIRMAN**

The Chairman reported that there had been 2 meetings of the Committee since the last Annual Conference. A summary of the Minutes of the meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> November 2011 had been published on the Web Site and there had been a further meeting immediately before the Annual Conference.

This time last year the Committee had voted that for 2013 the Championship would move to the Heythrop who wanted to take on the role. This season, it had been suggested that the Heythrop were not up to the same standard as the Fernie and a number of issues had been raised. James Buckle has walked the Heythrop course with the organisers and having discussed the matter the Committee are confident that the issues will be resolved and the Heythrop will produce a fantastic event. Comments were invited from the floor and there were none.

**4. NATIONAL SPONSORSHIP**

George Goring and the Goring Hotel have decided not to continue their National Sponsorship, having stepped in at the 11<sup>th</sup> hours to jointly sponsor last year with Material Change. There was a vote of thanks for George's support of the sport over many years. Material Change are happy to continue at the same level of £9,000 this year and are very flexible about co-sponsors. We need to raise additional sponsorship – this could come from one or more sponsors. JB spoke to about 10 companies last year none of whom ruled out the possibility in the future – he will revisit this. We have a brochure for sponsorship which will be circulated.

Coombe Farm Wines are happy to continue sponsoring the Leagues and Rosie Vestey was thanked for her continued support.

**5. LEVELS OF COMPETITIVE INTEREST IN THE SPORT**

There remains a lack of Open Teams participating It was suggested that we need to get more youngsters involved and engage with the Pony Club, possibly having a special prize at the Championship for top Pony Club team. We would still like to encourage intermediate teams to go up into the Open but it is accepted that a lot of people do not want to take that step. It was suggested that Open riders could assist by mentoring intermediate teams, although this already happens on an informal basis.

**6. PROMOTION OF THE SPORT**

Jane Carley has been working to involve event organizers more in obtaining publicity for the sport in the local press and had been issuing press releases in advance of each event hopefully this is encouraging entries and spectators. There have been articles in Central Horse News, Farmers Guardian and Horse Deals and she has focused on the equestrian magazines with who she has a good relationship on issues such as health and fitness and welfare.

The use of social media and forums are important going forward in particular the Horse and Hound Forum and Facebook .

It has been agreed that we will upgrade the Team chase website as the existing site is focused on competitors rather than the sport generally and is not therefore attractive to sponsors.

Mick Hawkins has indicated that he does not wish to continue running any new site and feels it is time to hand over the reins when the new site is up and running but is more than happy to assist in the redevelopment, handover and launch of the new site. There was a vote of thanks for Mick for all his work on the website and his very significant input to getting it to the stage we are now at.

We have obtained 3 proposals for building a new site which were circulated for feedback from the committee in the next week or so and it was agreed to proceed to select and purchase the design and build of the new site with a maximum budget for this combined with the purchase of the existing site of £10,000. It is hoped this will be up and running before the start of the autumn season

Victoria Ricketts offered to assist with the administration of the new site and will liaise with PC regarding this.

## **7. OPEN AND INTERMEDIATE LEAGUES**

These have both run successfully this year and are now being sponsored by Coombe Farm Wines.

William Grant has kindly agreed that Fox Grant would sponsor a quarter page advert in Horse and Hound the week before the Finals at the Cotswold with full details of the leader boards.

## **8. THE RULES**

No changes to the Rules are proposed.

## **9. MEDICAL, VETINARY AND SAFETY**

It has been agreed that we should provide hat tags similar to BE to show that hats have been checked and comply with the appropriate standard.

Philip Cowen is to chair a committee consisting of himself, Jonathan Clissold from the BE Safety Committee, Mike Felton a senior Point to Point Steward and one other experienced course builder member to look specifically at course and fence design with a view to minimizing the risk of fatalities in the sport. The focus of the committee is on the type of fences in particular considering the use of frangible pins, tyres, wings and ground lines. They will also consider the guidance for the layout of courses depending on terrain, incorporation of ridge and furrow and the length of the course. The committee will meet to address these issues over the summer and report before the start of the autumn season

## **10. RECOGNITION FEES, COURSE INSPECTION FEES AND SPONSORSHIP LEVY**

The current rates are Recognition Fee £100 for Open events, £60 for others; Course Inspection Fee £60, with re-inspection an extra £40; levy £5 per team. These are to remain at the same levels

## **11. MFHA TEAM CHASE ACCOUNTS**

The accounts were tabled and approved.

## **12. PROPOSED DATES FOR SEASON 2012 -2013**

Autumn 2012 dates have been agreed as follows:-

9<sup>h</sup> September – Warwickshire (Non Qualifier)

16<sup>th</sup> September – Belvoir (Non Qualifier)

23<sup>rd</sup> September – Atherstone

- Berkeley (Non Qualifier)

Sat 29<sup>th</sup> September - Meynell and South Staffs

7<sup>th</sup> October – Bicester  
14<sup>th</sup> October – Pytchley  
21<sup>rd</sup> October – Grafton  
28<sup>th</sup> October – Cotswold  
4<sup>th</sup> November - Essex and Suffolk

The Spring 2013 dates are still under discussion.

**13. REPORT ON COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS FOR 2012 - 2013**

Netty Nevill and Tony Berry been reappointed for a further 3 years. Bryan Allen, Charlotte Alexander and Reg Hopkins were nominated as new members of the committee and were all duly elected.

James Buckle has confirmed that he did not propose standing for re- election as committee Chairman on retirement at the end of his 3 years in 2013

**14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

It was suggested that Open Teams should run in reverse order depending on their position in the League at the Championship in order to make it even more exciting – this is to be considered at the November committee meeting..

**15. DATE OF 2012 ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

Next Annual Conference to be May 2013 at Cheltenham Racecourse on the afternoon of the Hunter Chase evening – date not yet confirmed.