

NORTH LANCS BRIDLEWAYS SOCIETY

Minutes of the meeting held on 10th July 2007

1. Eve Hall, Chairperson, opened the meeting and welcomed all new members as follow:- Vicky Graham (Burton), Denise Close (Warton), Phil & Nadine Butler (Over Kellett), Steve & Linda Hobson (Ulverston), Sue Gill (Cartmel), Megan & Julie Hartley (Bolton-le-Sands), Juliet Coates (Clapham), C. Moore (Walney), Elaine Middleton (Wesham), Sara Weightman (Blackpool), Charlotte Brigden (Preston), Kate Uttley (Preston), Judith Burrow & Simon Leach (Ulverston), Tricia & Katherine Yates (Galgate), Elizabeth Banks (Milnthorpe), Katie Towers (Scorton), Janet Taylor (Lytham) & Elaine Hunter who has re-joined.
2. Apologies for Absence:- Sheena Robertson, Pat Hodgkinson, Chris. Evans, Liz Davidson & Vicky Lowe.
3. Minutes of the meeting of 8th May 2007. These were accepted and signed as a true and accurate record.
4. Matters arising other than those on the agenda:- Hannah Watson, who had offered help with the website, has since heard that she is expecting twins, so Sarah Harper has offered to help instead!
5. 10th Anniversary of NLBS:- a discussion of ideas took place, and it was decided to hold a barn dance/ceileidh later in the year. Diane Richmond was volunteered to organise the event. See later comments.
6. Pleasure Rides:- successful rides have been held at Arnside Knott and Nicky Nook. Full reports can be found on the website, along with details of forthcoming rides. Thanks to Sue Clowes & Janet Bebbington for organising these rides.
7. Meeting held about Routes in AONB:- Eve organised a meeting with various agencies to discuss developing new horseriding routes in the Arnside/Silverdale AONB. On the day only Nick Osborne attended from the Countryside Agency, but Eve intends to pursue the issue.
8. Clearing Bridleway in Bolton le Sands Woods:- this has been cleared very promptly after Eve reported it to the authorities.
9. Tack Sale:- this famous event is to be held again this year, on 28th October Helpers are needed to set up tables & chairs on the Saturday night, also sandwiches and cakes required on the day.
10. Any Other Business:-
 - i) There is talk again of extending the Millennium Path through to Wray and Hornby. Please give your views via the Lancaster Guardian website www.lancasterguardian.co.uk
 - ii) Hincaster village is holding an open day on 28th July in aid of RDA. There will be cream teas, driving displays etc so please come along and support it.
 - iii) Barbara Hartley reported that not all members have paid their subs which are now overdue. Also, would 'E. Cooper' please contact her to give her details.
 - iv) There are changes proposed for the Highway Code to prohibit riding 2 abreast on certain roads. A petition is available to lodge your protest and Barbara will circulate details. See later comments.
 - v) Eve will be attending the BHS AGM at Bath on our behalf. Members agreed to pay her travelling expenses.
 - vi) Sheena has produced another wonderful newsletter and was thanked at the meeting. It is available on the website for anyone who hasn't seen a copy.

The evening continued with a presentation by Paul Wardby, Equine Dentist. It soon became evident that Paul has strong views on various issues, such as whether dentistry should be carried out by vets, qualifications for equine dentists, and the need for sedation, which he claims is not a substitute for horsemanship ie knowing how to handle horses.

Paul explained there are 2 reasons for a horse to see a dentist regularly (at least every 6 months) – health and performance, with health always being paramount. A horse needs to be able to eat and chew comfortably, and much depends on whether it is kept in or out, its diet etc. The condition of a horse's teeth can determine the movement of the whole horse, and chewing is very important in order to get the best out of a horse's feed, with forage being crucial. Paul explained numerous interesting facts, demonstrated on 'Shergar', his horse skull and jaw.

Members were certainly educated and entertained by Paul's talk.

Date of next meeting 11th September 2007 7.30pm at Hest Bank Memorial Hall.

We are hoping to welcome Ann Hull, who shows and drives heavy horses, to speak at this meeting though she is proving to be quite elusive. You may remember that she was due to come to a previous meeting but her visit did not materialise. Hopefully we will have the chance to meet her at our Sept. meeting.

Everyone welcome and please bring a friend.

Additional information

Regarding Item 5 – Diane is already putting in a lot of effort towards organising the TREC competitions & the Adult Camp so the idea of a Barn Dance seemed a bit formidable, especially when we had no volunteers to organise the event. We would like to celebrate our 10 years of NLBS but, as we have had several ideas put forward but no volunteers to organise, the latest suggestion is a celebratory meal, possibly in November, with a contribution from the Society to cover drinks. We would like as many members as possible to participate & it would be nice to have a venue which we had to ourselves for the evening. Please think about this before the next meeting. If you have any comments about the type of celebration, the venue or an offer to organise an event, please come to the next meeting, e-mail your comments to Batmillhouses@aol.com, contact Eve, 01524 824205 or pass on your ideas to any other member that will be at the meeting. It is quite an achievement to reach 10 yrs. old with well over 300 members (if everyone will pay up!!) **Please take this seriously & do your best!**

Regarding Item 10 iv - an item in Horse & Hound in July concerning BHS advice over this issue appears to say that whatever we do now, the amendment to the Highway Code will go ahead. However, the BHS, in this article, infers that it will not be detrimental to our riding practices on the road, that the Highway Code is only advisory (!!) and that the amendments will only confirm safe practice. For further info. see www.horseandhound.co.uk and click on News for July 2007.

After reading this article, my enthusiasm for the petition waned somewhat but the internet address for the petition is <http://petitions.pm.gov.uk/Horseriding/> if you wish to register you're your name.

Rides etc.

Sun. Aug 19th. - Fun Day in the Park – Towneley Park, Burnley, 11.00a.m. to 3.00p.m. – a couple of hours horsing about! – Lead Rein ride, Gymkhana Handy Pony etc. Contact Miss C. Towneley, 01282 831832

Sat. Aug 25th. – Fylde Coast Bridleways Society - Nateby ride, near Garstang. Contact Janet Bebbington Janet@inj.eclipse.co.UK or tel. 01995 670887

Sat. Sept 22nd. – Holker - June Chapman e-mail Junechapman1@hotmail.com or phone no. 01229 716479

Membership

Thanks to all those who have renewed their membership once again. Still just a few from whom I am waiting to hear. Please don't desert us – we **do** work hard for **all riders in the area** and we need your support.

Horses/ponies

WANTED - Well-mannered horse/pony 14.00hh– 15.2hh Must be reliable and 101% in traffic, as this older rider no longer seeks additional challenges in life! Kind experienced home (live as family!) with paddocks, stables and companion pony. Would prefer to buy, but permanent loan considered. Gill Stephenson 01524 27425 gillhstephenson@btinternet.com

FOR SALE - Is any one wanting a good little horse? About 15 / 15.1 Can e-mail you photos Just north of Carlisle. Called Henry. Arab but no papers. Has a passport though. Tel. 07879468660 Doug.