

Dear Members,

I am writing to introduce myself as your new Area 21 Chairman and to inform you of some of the decisions made at the Area AGM.

For those of you who don't already know me, my name is Petra James; I live in Newport, Pembrokeshire where I run a competition/ schooling/livery yard.

Sadly as you will all know Area 21 lost its long standing Area Representative Mr Laurie Punnett due to a short illness. Laurie will be sadly missed as over the years he contributed so much both to Area 21 and the British Riding Clubs as a whole. Judith Allen took on the role as his stand-in in 2009 but has decided not to continue due to other commitments. I would like to take this opportunity to thank her for all her hard work and for taking up the reins at such short notice and doing a really good job.

Area 21 Chairman, Mr John Davies, also decided to retire from his role in 2009. At the recent meeting John was chairing his 31st Area 21 AGM! This is a feat in itself and a very big THANK YOU goes to John for the past 31 years. This great achievement was marked by the committee presenting John with a beautiful limited edition print "Blown Away" by the artist Frederick Haycock.

Sarah Punnett, Laurie's wife, has been Area Secretary for a number of years-(there have only been 2 secretaries in the last 31years). So I would like to also thank her for all her work and quite understand her decision to move on.

So as you can imagine these are 3 huge pairs of shoes to fill, so with new brooms in the cupboard- please bear with us.

At the AGM, on the 22nd October, we were disappointed to see so few club representatives, the minutes of which should have been e-mailed to all club secretaries. With reference to these minutes, I must remind all clubs that your affiliation fee of £25, which we have kept the same, are due NOW and must be paid by December 31st 2009. Failure to do this will result in your club not being able to enter any members to compete at the Area 21 competitions but it will not affect your club being part of the BRC movement.

Hopefully by the beginning of December we will have confirmed all the Area competitions for 2010. We are still looking for a club to run the Festival of the Hunter competition, which involves show jumping and cross country. Unfortunately if we don't find a club willing to take this on, without an Area competition, Area 21 will not be represented at championship level.

In 2010 you will see changes to the Area run Dressage. It has been decided to run the Area Show Jumping at the same venue, on the same day. Due to this we require that all affiliated clubs put forward 1 member to come onto an organising sub-committee in order that we can run such a large competition efficiently. Please forward the name of your "victim" to me by December 31st 2009.

Area 21 are going to get TOUGH. As you well know organising any competition requires an enormous number of volunteers. It is not fair that only a handful of people take on this huge task – Many hands make light work! From now on, and this rule will be strictly adhered to, if your club wishes its members to compete at Area level

1. You must put forward a representative for the sub committee for the Area Dressage and Show Jumping.

2. You must supply the required number of helpers for Area competitions.

Remember these volunteers need not be members of your club or in fact members of BRC. They can be relatives/ friends/partners etc. We just need the help!

There will be no loopholes or excuses accepted. We are starting the way we will continue, hopefully the result being that the tireless few will not become so jaded that they throw in the towel!

If you feel a lot of important decisions have been made without you- please feel free to attend future AGM's and Area Meetings, which are open to ALL members of affiliated clubs, to air your views.

The next meeting is at Carmarthen Quinn's RFC on

Thursday 11th March 2010 @ 8pm

And our AGM is on

Thursday 21st October 2010 @ 8pm

On a lighter note I very much look forward to my new role and working with you all and hope we can keep Area 21 at the high level it is already at. For a small area (in member numbers) we do extremely well at all Championships and in 2009 we had a top 10 finisher in all disciplines which is an excellent result.

As you well know we are all volunteers, so let's pull together and make Area 21 even better than ever!

So we wait the 2010 season with renewed anticipation of sun shine and blue skies!!

Yours faithfully
Petra James

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