



West Somerset & Exmoor Bridleways Association

Affiliated to the British Horse Society

Annual General Meeting Wednesday 17 November 2010

At the Moorland Hall, Wheddon Cross at 7.30pm

AGENDA

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of the AGM held on 21 October 2009
3. Chairman's Report
4. Treasurer's Report
5. Appointment of Committee for 2010/2011
6. Any other business

The meeting will be followed by a talk on **WESTERN RIDING by LISA JOHN.**

Lisa is an Approved Western Instructor and UKCC Level 2 coach and lives locally near Taunton. Western Riding is the fastest growing equine discipline in UK today and many riders are now realising the advantages of its techniques and skills that produce a calm, well mannered horse, which gives a smooth and obedient ride. There is far more to Western Riding than putting on your Stetson, cowboy boots and saddling up with a Western saddle – Lisa will enlighten and entertain you!

Light refreshment will be available.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS WANTED ! Please can you read this!

“Peaches and Cream”????

Horse riding and bridleways go together like the old cliché says “peaches and cream”! We all use our bridleways to get out and about to enjoy the countryside and to get us away from the increasingly busy roads.

Public bridleways have a legal status and cannot be stopped up or removed from the Definitive Map without a rigid legal procedure. However we all know that on many occasions major or minor obstructions can occur along any path at any time. Regrettably, in some areas riders are intimidated by dogs attacking their horse, or the riders may receive offensive verbal abuse from surly landowners who wilfully fail to understand the true meaning of a PUBLIC bridleway!

So why do we need a Bridleways Association in this day and age?

It is for just some of the reasons above that we need to have a strong and vocal association that represents its local riders. The old saying “united we stand, divided we fall” is so true when it comes to Rights of Way matters! WS&EBA members are extremely lucky that many of their bridleways fall under the remit of the Exmoor National Park Authority which does sterling work in keeping the 400 miles of bridleways open and useable and are willing to help sort out any path difficulties or anomalies on the ground. The ENPA look to WS&EBA as an organisation that represents local riders and is always keen to take on board our comments and suggestions. WS&EBA is officially consulted on any proposed bridleway diversion, both by ENPA and Somerset County Council. As we are affiliated to the British Horse Society we also have a ‘national’ voice which is vital for lobbying over Government policies and any future legislation.

BUT more committee members are needed if we going to be able to carry on.

Maybe **YOU** might consider helping by giving a little of your time to attend meetings (usually four times a year at Wheddon Cross) and to give your views on local bridleway matters and to help out with a very small, but necessary amount of administration work .

We are now looking for:-

SECRETARY, this person will be asked to email around the meeting agendas, to take the Minutes and then send them round to the committee via email.

TREASURER, who will also be responsible for keeping the Association’s accounts, taking membership subscriptions, keeping an up to date list of members and producing a financial statement at our committee meetings and an annual report for the AGM.

WEBMASTER, who will keep our useful and informative website up to date.

Can you help us out? Please do see if you can give a little something back for the hours of riding you enjoy.