

## MINUTES OF THE CNER REGIONAL MEETING April 30, 2005

The spring council meeting met on April 30<sup>th</sup> 2005 at the Nashoba Valley Tubing Park. The meeting commenced at 10:20 with the following members in attendance: Debbie Power, Wendy Johnson, Louise Hara, Betsey Reeves, Judy Pelis, Iris Realmuto, Elizabeth Cole, Curtis Renner, Karen Marcotte and Kathy Burroughs.

First topic on the agenda was the leadership camp which is planned for November 19 and 20<sup>th</sup> in Nashua NH starting on Friday night. Betsey will be participating in a conference call and asked about areas of interest. We may send around a survey to members. We all agreed that inviting Liz Toukey would be on our wish list. Betsey will find out during the call which other regions are actually going to participate with us. New York/Upper CT will not be participating since they plan to hold their own seminar. NER, WMR, SNER and CNER may be sharing this weekend. More info to follow.

Rally scoring, the topic of our last focus meeting, was next on the agenda. At the focus group we talked about the need for a generic rally form and Karen Agule had put together a sample entry form. While there is already a form on the website most rally organizer's said they were unaware of it. The need for two forms-one for the DC to send with the team entry and one for the rally organizer to send to the DCs for distribution to the participants. Rally organizers need to get that individual entry form and the rally information out to the DCs 6 weeks ahead of time so the DCs can get the entries back from the kids and submit a club entry to the organizer 4 weeks ahead of the rally. Everything can be emailed to the kids and club form can be emailed to the organizer and followed up with the rally release form and activity information form. Having blank forms that can be filled out and printed online was a big factor.

A question came up as to whether the Tetrathlon Rally could use Betsey as the TD. She is qualified, close at hand and priced right. Tetrathlon is a specialized discipline and there are not too many qualified Tet TDs available. Karen Marcotte did not see a problem since no Nashoba kids planned to compete and the TD is not directly involved in judging. Also, Elizabeth Cole asked about the use of so many ribbons since each phase of the Tetrathlon awards ribbons for junior/senior for both boys and girls divisions. It was

suggested that they buy medals for each phase so that all the ribbon supply is not depleted and just use ribbons for overall placement.

Karen Marcotte reported that Games Rally was still looking for a chief and might have to use an in-region Chief if there is no other choice.

Next we discussed the Equine Affaire and Betsey asked for suggestions for the November event. One of the suggestions made was to have a demonstration of each discipline in pony club, showing the differences in the disciplines, possibly showing a younger and older rider and demonstrating the unique aspects of each discipline while having an UL member narrate. Also possibly showing the games demo again as this seemed to be very popular last year.

As we continued with the meeting, the question arose as to whether or not we should require a mandatory vaccination for strangles in the region. The general consensus was that we could recommend that horses sleeping over at camps, clinics and rallies be vaccinated, but that the only time it would be mandatory is if the facility itself required the vaccination.

T shirts for championships was next. We agreed to keep the blue but change the logo and remove the horseshoe. The kids will use their own saddle pads and the region will supply a CNE patch as part of the championship package so kids can velcro them on to their own saddle pads.

We are looking for a cordless microphone. Does anyone have one that might belong to the region? Otherwise it was suggested that we purchase one to use at regional functions.

The next DC meeting is set for Saturday July 16<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 at Nashoba Valley Tubing Park. At 12:00 all championship qualifiers will meet for a mandatory organizational meeting and at 2:00 will have a pot luck BBQ at the park with all Championship kids, parents and DCs.

While we do not have an official ribbons chairman, Ramona has already purchased this year's ribbons. She does not mind preparing them but would like to have Betsey as her liaison. So if rally organizers will email and speak with Betsey, she will coordinate with Ramona regarding ribbon count, pick up and delivery etc. Organizers still need to remember to add in the cost of the ribbons in their budget but we agreed that Curtis can just have one

accounting line for the ribbons under regional expenses rather than break it down for each rally.

The Junior Board was not represented at the meeting so we agreed to shelve any discussion of their plans until they can meet.

Next topic was the Standards Clinic. After informal discussions it was thought that we should not hold another one until 2006 unless we held it in the fall. In the meantime we need to think of some better ways to improve attendance, possibly making clubs accountable, vary the clinicians, more central location for clinic, promote as a benefit for Ds as well as Cs or require attendance by UL and C3 candidates. Everyone agreed that the more enthusiastic and supportive the DCs are, the better the turnout will be.

Regional funding for the 2005 Championships was next on the agenda. After lengthy discussion a motion was made to pay the entire entry fee for the qualifiers again this year. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously. Some of the discussion leading up to the motion included the fact that many of the kids that worked the fundraiser won't be around 3 years later to enjoy the benefits. Also, it was agreed that we had enough money to support the competitors and felt that it was unfair to subsidize the kids on certain years but not others. A second motion was made to readdress this issue every year at the February meeting. It was seconded and approved unanimously. DCs should advise their potential qualifiers as it may make a difference for someone who might not be able to afford the trip otherwise. The next regional fundraiser is scheduled for fall of 2006.

Should we host the Annual Meeting in 2008? This was the next big topic on the agenda. Karen Marcotte has done some research on the topic and has a full report of the various responsibilities we would have as host if anyone would like to read it. Locations were discussed and a strong case was made for the Center of NH in Manchester NH. Karen is going to continue looking into the logistics of our region hosting the event. It was emphasized that a huge amount of manpower would be needed but that various responsibilities could be delegated to either individual clubs or to other regions if they want to share the hosting with us—they would also share any profits made on the auction and other areas. Betsey needs to contact the other RS's to see what interest there is among our neighboring Regions, especially NY/Upper CT.

A discussion about the Lendon Gray Clinic and Dressage group was shelved as there were no representatives at the meeting. We will need Deb Maietta to fill us in at the next meeting.

Rumors were squashed regarding specialized ratings-it is still in discussion and nothing will happen in the near future.

A reminder to DCs....rating updates need to go to the National Office as soon as possible as this is critical for Championships. Also please send rating updates via email to the RIC, Louise Hara to update her records.

Louise Hara discussed the Kathleen Long Education Fund proposal. There is \$1000 in the fund and she is targeting October for an educational kick-off program. Deb Maietta and Peggy Knight will work on it with her.

Rounding out the agenda, there was a discussion regarding using in-region clinicians at preps if there is a problem with cancellation of clinicians etc. and everyone agreed that there would be no problem since we need to consider the benefit to our kids.

Finally a motion was made to reimburse judges, clinicians etc for mileage based on \$.40/mile. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

With no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy Reed Johnson  
Regional Secretary