

# MINUTES OF THE DC MEETING

MAY 1, 2004

The May DC meeting was held in Westford Mass at the Nashoba tubing Park on May 1<sup>st</sup> 2004. Attendees included Audrey Zwicker, Iris Realmuto, Steve Realmuto, Louise Hara, Jackie Jacobs, Deb Maietta, Curtis Renner, Kathy Burroughs, Debbie Power, Lisa Brem, Betsey Reeves, Lara Hubner, Esther Short, Wendy Johnson and Tammy Erickson.

Betsey opened the meeting at 9:30 a.m. by greeting the members and giving a brief overview of all the activities going on in the region right now. She acknowledged the excellent performance by our Games Team at the Prince Phillip Cup. In the interest of time each regional coordinator gave a brief update of their activities.

Jackie Jacobs mentioned that only one person was interested in doing a quadrille so far. Opening day for festival entries is May 1<sup>st</sup>. Any upper level kids interested in Barn Fair should contact Jackie to coordinate. She will send out an email to let them know about this opportunity.

Betsey opened a discussion regarding the focus groups. The topic of the last meeting was Championships. Some excellent ideas were tossed around. Today's focus group will be the last meeting for the summer and will cover Horse Management. In the fall Betsey will see if DCs want to continue with the discussion groups. Suggestions for future topics included Fundraising in September, Unmounted Programs-how to keep your instruction program on track- with Louise in October, Riding Camps with Lisa and Deb in November, and Disciplines and Scoring in January and February.

Louise Hara submitted her report as the RIC. Nationally the RIC job description has changed. Louise would like to meet with each club individually, perhaps attend a mounted meeting and see if everyone is on track or needs her assistance with their instructional programs. There are scholarships available to the Region and ponyclubbers. Kathleen Long's family would like to set up a lecture series. The Region just needs to pick a topic and organize. It was suggested that the RIC do one clinic a year and focus on the D3 C1 levels leading up to the C3 and UL programs. It was suggested that a Standards Clinic be held in the fall and Lisa Brem has agreed to host it.

Lara Hubner gave a quick summary of the HM Clinic and had very good feedback about the mock rally approach. It was suggested that every other year the HM Clinic be held as a Mock rally alternating with the stations format used in prior years. Overall, Lara felt the Clinic was a great learning experience. Lara would also like to urge all HM apprentices to email her as soon as possible. The mandatory HM clinic for Championship qualifiers will be on July 10<sup>th</sup> at Shepley Hill. She will have a vet present to discuss preparing the horse for a long haul. Louise and Lara will work on that agenda.

Our Treasurer Curtis Renner passed out an updated Budget. He also mentioned that the new tax-exempt form should be used. A copy will be mailed directly to each DC. Quiz Rally made an excess profit although not all expenses have been calculated. A discussion needs to be held to decide what to do with rallies that earn too much, donate to the general funds, refund to those participants, or contribute to Championship fundraiser?

Deb Maietta submitted an Upper Level update. She had very positive feedback on the various clinics and thanked Laurie Chapman Bosco for doing an excellent job. So far two C2s have signed up for the July clinic. The ULs are trying to organize an informal get together to ride and swap horses. On August 11-13<sup>th</sup> she will need horse holders and helpers (age 14 and up).

Iris Realmuto reported that the regional mailing lists are temporarily out of order but should be up again soon.

The next DC's meeting was planned for September but those in attendance agreed that this is too long to wait since there is so much going on during the next few months. It was agreed that a DC's meeting would be held at Shepley Hill on July 10<sup>th</sup> during the mandatory Championship Prep.

Next, Betsey announced the 2004 Nominating Committee-Steve Realmuto, Belinda Barbas and Esther Short. Deb Maietta moved to accept, Lara Hubner seconded and the nominations passed unanimously.

Eventing Qualifying Rally will be held at King Oak Farm Horse Trials with 2 Novice Teams and a Training team. Games Rally appears to be filling with several teams from out of region also attending.

The next discussion was funding for Championships. \$150 /team has already been allocated for coaching according to our policy. It was proposed that the Region pay the entry fee for all qualifiers. Ted/Pete moved to accept the motion, Audrey seconded and the motion passed unanimously. A November fundraiser, possibly a silent auction was suggested, to be held in the Nashua NH area. Each club will hopefully fill tables and clubs will be responsible for providing 1-2 items to be auctioned off. Wendy Johnson will work with Lisa Brem and Molly Springer, but also, we all signed up on a sheet for helping with the fundraiser.

A second motion was made to have Regional fundraisers during the next two years with earnings going to repay the money spent on Championships. Louise moved and Lisa seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

After lunch, other miscellaneous topics were discussed including the 2005 Leadership Training Seminar. It was suggested that we sponsor it in November of 2005. Western NE Region has mentioned having a "mega rally". The general consensus was that we would need to think about this before we make any commitments. Sponsoring a booth at the Equine Affaire met with enthusiasm-perhaps offering bandaging demos, games demos etc. The 2007 Annual Meeting could be held in Boston if we felt as a region that it could energize rather than burden us. More discussion to follow. Denise, Audrey and Jackie will coordinate shirts for championships. Audrey has ordered pins. Insurance is all set for rally locations but any location not listed is not covered. 3-4 C3 activities are not covered yet. Forms are available online for ads for Festival. There is a contest for the region that sells the most ads. Remember the reunion at Groton House II.

Lisa Brem reported that for Show Jumping Rally, there will be concurrent rings, which will make the rally run quicker, and they won't be referred to as the qualifying rings.

Ted/Pete has agreed to email all DC's to see if there are any suggestions/requests for updating the Regional policy and will report back at the next meeting.

Tammy Erickson mentioned that the C3 clinics are going along nicely.

The meeting adjourned at 1:40.