

**CENTRAL NEW ENGLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETING  
MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
JULY 7 2007**

Today's council meeting was held in conjunction with the Mandatory Championship Prep meeting. While the Quiz qualifiers practiced upstairs, council members met downstairs in the First Aid room. In attendance were Deb Titus (Rockingham), Curtis Renner (Worcestershire), Wendy Johnson (NVPC), Helen Robinson (Overlook), Joyleen Seymour (Wentworth), Shelly Patrick (Squamscott), Iris Realmuto (GPC) Lisa Doyle (GPC), Marci Murray (Jordan Stables), Julie Koss-Stephany (Apple Valley) and Betsey Reeves. Eight clubs and one Center were represented.

The meeting started with a discussion of the regional bank account, balance sheet and check allocations. It appears that some checks have been allocated to the wrong categories. Curtis will reallocate those checks and check with Audrey and the coordinators to verify accuracy. Also, there were expenses listed under "UL testing" that need to be confirmed and Curtis still needs to include income from some of the rallies. It was suggested that he email the master list of written checks to the appropriate coordinators prior to council meetings so they can confirm the proper check allocations.

After the discussion of regional finances was concluded, the group formally introduced themselves, since there were a few new faces at the meeting. Betsey encouraged clubs to continue introducing parents to the regional organization, and for DCs to look at their clubs to see if there are any potential volunteers at the regional level since it is difficult to continue asking just our DCs for help.

The C3 and UL coordinators were not present so Betsey gave a quick update of both programs. The UL camp went very well at New Gait Manor. Along with our own B and H/HA candidates, there were several members from neighboring regions participating. It appears there will be several candidates taking the B at UNH in August, and one candidate taking the H in New Jersey this weekend. The other three H/A candidates plan to test in November.

The C3 prep camp also went well with a record number of attendees at Apple Knoll in May. Out of 29 possible candidates it looks like approximately 20 will be rating this weekend at either Apple Knoll or Kent. Most want to rate before the new tests take effect on August 1. Lelo Reeves Curtis will be working with the new C3 starting with the HB testing in August.

Betsey continue will a brief discussion of the rallies held so far. There were a number of qualifiers for Eventing, Games, Show Jumping and Dressage. Two riders qualified for Tetrathlon at an out of Region rally. Betsey is concerned about Games Rally and would like to continue discussions as to what we should do for next year. There were many teams from out of region and she wonders if we should limit the rally to CNE teams only.

Also, there was concern about too many parents in the rally area, and the large number of young and first time ralliers this year. Maybe we should consider just having a one day Games rally again. Someone suggested that we have a mock rally next year for the HM Clinic and this might help some of those younger competitors to prepare. Also, possibly having a Mini Games rally for the younger kids so they can get the feel of games prior to the qualifying rally might help. Someone suggested that we could have an assistant HMJ seminar at the mock rally as well.

A similar comment was brought up about the number of inexperienced, confused younger competitors at SJ Rally. There was a discussion about possibly having some D level rallies early in the season next year, such as a D show jumping rally or a D dressage rally, using older kids as C advisors to teach the younger ones how to rally. This might result in fewer younger competitors at the Qualifying Rallies. For Show Jumping, possibly the Mini ring could be eliminated in that case. We just need to have clubs step up and volunteer. As an aside, Betsey mentioned there are significantly more, mostly younger, members now due to the influence of our two riding centers and it makes sense to re-assess some of our rallies.

Dressage Rally went very smoothly and Betsey felt the implementation of the new championship qualifying requirements worked well to determine our Championship qualifiers. She also relayed a comment made by the Chief Horse Management Judge, Laurie Chapman Bosco. Laurie said she was impressed by the “blurring of clubs” with regards to teams, ratings, and age of competitors. She said that it was sometimes hard to differentiate between some of the teams except for their pinney numbers because there were so many teams helping other teams and individual participants helping each other, regardless of their various clubs. Betsey pointed out that Central New England is an awesome region!

Deb Titus confirmed that there were 46 competitors for Championship. We agreed to keep the \$20 price for extra shirts and saddle pads would also cost \$20 for mounted competitors. As always, each competitor gets one free shirt and pin. Stable Managers would be able to buy a saddle pad as well if they wished. The extra pins are on order and will be delivered as soon as they arrive or at Championships. Shirts will be distributed at the Championship BBQ following the Council Meeting.

Next on the agenda was a discussion of policies regarding reimbursement for assistant HM judges at rallies. Lara had expressed concern about inconsistencies from rally to rally regarding payment to judges. At Games Rally one current pony club judge had not been reimbursed for mileage because she drove in with another pony club judge. It was agreed that at this point she should be reimbursed the same as the other judges. Someone mentioned that active pony club members were not supposed to be paid but could receive “gifts” for their services. Betsey wanted to make sure that all assistants get thanked “appropriately”. There was further discussion about non pony club HM judges and whether they should be compensated at a flat rate, just compensated for mileage, and not compensated if they have children participating in the rally. It was agreed that we need to have more clubs present to continue the discussion.

A quick Annual Meeting update-we are moving along nicely. Next on our agenda is firming up the banquet menu and writing the registration booklet for the National Office to publish. We have written to Michael Matz, (graduate B pony clubber, Barbaro's trainer, an Olympic rider and a national hero) to see if he will agree to be our key note speaker. Finally, we need to start gathering auction items as this is our big fund regional raiser. All Championship competitors will hopefully contribute items, and it would be great if each club could submit an item as well. Leonora Giguere has finished painting several items for the auction and I was given an original water color painting of Barbaro's last race for the live auction, which I hope to have autographed by Michael Matz as well.. Please contact Lisa Brem to coordinate your items. We will be recruiting Champ competitors and our club members to wear their regional shirts and help volunteer at the annual meeting. Betsey would love to see all our kids gathered on stage at the banquet, dressed in their pony club shirts, as a reminder of what pony club is all about.

The next Council meeting will be on Saturday September 15<sup>th</sup> at the Tubing Park. It is important that we have full attendance so we can wrap up discussions and prepare for the upcoming Annual Meeting. The Annual Business Meeting will be held on November 17 at 10:00, tentatively at the Tubing Park. The meeting adjourned at noon.

Respectively Submitted,

Wendy Johnson  
Regional Secretary