

WVRC TEAMS & SELECTION POLICY

WVRC is always pleased to support senior and junior members who volunteer to represent the Club to compete in teams. There are lots of opportunities to do so, both at local “friendly” team events, and at both British Riding Clubs (BRC) and London & South East (L&SE) Riding Clubs Area Qualifier competitions and Championships. In 2022 we were proud to have 55% of riding members representing WVRC in team competitions with 39% of these members qualifying for BRC National and/or L&SE Championships.

WVRC pays all BRC team Pre-entry fees for Qualifier competitions but team members pay their own competition entry fees. If WVRC teams qualify for, and attend, Championships, WVRC then pays the full competition entry fee for all team members and one nights stabling, if required. Individual members may also be subsidised, but priority is given to members representing the Club in teams.

How are members selected to represent WVRC in teams?

The Club’s first consideration is whether people volunteering to represent WVRC are good Club members! For example, do they help in the administration of the Club? Do they offer help at 2 Club events as they are aware that this is a requirement of their Club membership? Do they attend Club training and /or competitions? Do they come to social events and the AGM? WVRC aims to attract and encourage people who want to be active members who take part in ALL aspects of the Club; not just turn up for team events and see it as a way of competing for a reduced fee.

The next stage of the team ‘selection’ process is to look at people’s riding ability and their competition record alongside feedback from their instructors/coaches, especially at Club training sessions. It is therefore desirable that members attend and support these events so we can meet and get to know them and see how each horse and rider combination is progressing. It is also very important for members to keep their horse details up to date on the website. We need to know what level are you competing at and details of any BD, BE, BS points or winnings that your horse has gained. Team Managers need to refer to these records all the time to check horse and rider eligibility for certain competitions and ensure members are entered in the correct teams. Please remember that as you go out and about during the year and gain experience, winnings and points, you need to update your horse’s records on a regular basis and check your eligibility to compete in Appendices 2&3 of the BRC rule book on the BRC website www.bhs.org.uk/enjoy-riding/british-riding-clubs/brc-rulebook

A good way to start competing in WVRC teams is in the Area 11 ‘Friendly’ or non-qualifier team competitions, as the Area Qualifier competitions are for more experienced competitors. If there are lots of volunteers for Area Qualifier teams, we will try to ensure that one of the teams is made up of our strongest horse and rider combinations, so that the Club has every chance of continuing its successful record. We may then make up other teams and/or enter individuals, to ensure that as many members as possible have the opportunity to represent the Club in both Area and National BRC competitions.

WVRC hopes this makes our teams policy a bit clearer and, more importantly, transparent! We aim to be as fair and open as we can so that WVRC Teams are never seen as elitist or clique in any way. We will always try to be a friendly, welcoming Club to any new team members and enjoy meeting you at Club events.

More information on teams is available in **WVRC TEAMS: What YOU Need to Do!**