

## Chairman's Speech

### Liaison Annual General Meeting

Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2008

Another year has gone and it must be said I believe a very successful one.

As Liaison we held a number of competitions and qualifiers during this year and all have been well supported by all clubs. Sadly we lost one club Upminster from liaison and as time went on it became apparent we were going to lose another that club being Runningwell.

As a small area within Liaison we have been very successful at all the Championships. I must admit when looking up who did went and where they finished there is too many to mention. It is fair to say that at every championship one of our teams or individuals was placed. My congratulations to everyone who qualified and competed and did us proud. And it shows that as small as we are compared with other area's we can hold our own.

I would also like to thank everyone who has competed at all our competitions this year for their time effort and enthusiasm. I would also pass on my thanks to the parents friends and other half's of the competitors for the support they have shown Liaison this year.

I will go through the competitions we held briefly.

#### Winter Indoor Show Jumping Qualifier.

This was the first competition of the year all clubs entered teams and supported the day well.

#### Great Westwood Park.

We decided that we wanted to run our own Hunter Trials Qualifier this year. And I can say it was a very good day. I would like to thank Suzanne

and Clair who organised the event and put a lot of work into the day to make it the success it was and to everyone who helped on the day. The official stewards who

attended praised us for how well the event was run and for how friendly all that took part and helped were. That to me is one of the biggest compliments we could get.

Milton Keynes.

This being Horse trials Qualifier we decided that it would be too big for us to run on our own. We joined in this event with another area. Again all clubs supported our Liaison very well. And the day went well for all those who took part. The end of the day was the downside as many many mistakes had been made by various people none of which were from our Liaison. We were then unable to do the team positions and present the rosettes as the disputes became more and the time got on. I have to say a big thank you to Lotty who through all the confusion upset and heated discussions that took place while scores and places were sorted out time after time took control and got things sorted out. She was there for many hours after most of us left. However she did sort it out and the placings were out to everyone within 24 hours and rosettes were given at the next liaison meeting. I thank everyone who supported us that weekend and for the way they conducted themselves in the confusion at the end of the day.

We do intend to take part in another qualifier this year again with another area but we have learned our lessons and things will be done differently from our side. This event convinced me the way we run events is very professional and there is not a lot more we could do to get it right.

Towerlands.

Over the last years we have split this qualifier over two weekends Juniors and Seniors. This was a lot of work for all concerned and took up a lot of time. It was decided that we would put them back together on one weekend. A lot of work and preparation went into the organising of this event and I thank all on the committee for the work they did and to all those that helped over the 2 days.

I must admit I was very nervous about this event and as it approached had a few restless nights where if and what if came into my mind. I found out that I had worried for nothing the event went very well. We did have hiccups but I expected to, but it must be said the hiccups we had were not our fault but that of the people who ran

Towerlands not setting things up as had been asked and arranged. This happened because of a change in managers and staff and plans not being passed on. The other thing that was against us that weekend was the weather which we had no control over.

I did have a number of persons from various clubs thank myself and the committee for some used brilliant most used very good weekend. To me that said it all we did well and all the hard work was worth it. We must have enjoyed it as at the next liaison meeting we voted to do it again this year.

#### Cross Country Clinic.

I could not attend this event but having spoken to some of the trainers and riders who took part on the day they all enjoyed themselves.

#### Show Jumping and Dressage Friendlies.

These two competitions were held in November and December 2007 and again all clubs supported them well. I thank everyone for this.

Normally at the AGM we announce the clubs who have won the points trophies and they presented at the Winter Indoor Qualifier. This year we were not able to do this as the AGM has been held after the event. I will be asking Jan if we are in a position to announce the winners tonight.

There is a downside and that is the COST of running events this year we have seen a large increase in what we have had to pay for hiring locations and First Aid cover. This is reviewed at every meeting we hold. We all realise that we want to keep the cost of entering the competitions as low as possible but my aim is that we should try to break even at events we hold.

Lotty will give the Treasurers report but the last year I do not think we have done to badly as the support at all events has been good.

Thank you is such a small word but I cannot think of another to use for the following.

I wish to say thank you to everyone on the committee for the hard work they have put in during the year. I believe this year has been the most challenging we have undertaken since I have been chairman. And as far as I am concerned the year has been a total success. I ask that this report is taken back and put before your own club committees and chairman so they realise how much work you do for them and how much of your own time you give up to represent them at Liaison. I remind them that without your drive enthusiasm and dedication then none of the above would

happened. Thank you to you all and congratulations for the work you have done.

I would now like to give a personal thanks to the below persons.

Sian who has singly represented Runningwell during the year. She has not had the backing or help from many persons from within the club or its committee. This has been for various reasons and as stated Runningwell are leaving liaison and winding up as a riding club. I thank her for continuing with Lotty to sort out all the dressage competitions and being involved. I have spoken to her on many occasions and although she had been feeling low at not being able to enter teams and not getting the support her enthusiasm has never dwindled. I understand she has now joined another club within liaison and we will continue to see her. Well done Sian and thanks for everything you have done.

Jan Taylor what can I say. All I can say is thank you for all you have done. Without Jan I would have been lost on a number of occasions.

Thank you Jan.

Lisa Maxim. Lisa took on the role of jumping secretary. I thank her for all the work she has done. Lisa cannot be here tonight because she is in Israel working I am told. She has told me she will be representing West Essex on the committee for the next year and she has asked if she can carry on as jumping secretary and press liaison.

To me that sums up her enthusiasm and I thank her for all she has done.  
Lisa thank you (but try to get to the meetings on time).

Lotty what can I say or more to the point where do I start. Lotty has come to my rescue on a number of occasions and jumped in at the deep end when things have gone wrong and sorted them out. She is always there on the phone to guide me and help me and others from the committee no matter what time of day or night. She always jumps in and helps out at the events even when she has had to take her children to things they have been going to. This also applies helping out at shows when she and her family are going on holiday that evening or early hours the next day. All this and competing as well when she has found the time. As I have said Lotty has also been the organiser of all the dressage events with Sian this year. But let's not also forget she is also the Liaison Treasurer.

Also Lotty, Simon and the children put up with the committee in their house when we hold meetings during the year.  
Thank you Lotty.

Terri for the work she does as Liaison Rep.

Gail I thank her for the support she gives others within liaison and for the support she gives me. She has reassured me on a number of occasions that everything would go well and as normal she was right.

Thank you for your help and being there for me.

I wish to say thank you to Lynn Hilkene for all she has done. Sadly she is standing down from liaison. I wish her all the best not only from myself but all the committee and hope we will still see her at events.

I have been informed that we 2 clubs who want to join liaison which is good. I want to get things under way so that they can join us as soon as possible.

In closing I am proud to have been part of liaison and having you as a committee. I hope your clubs are proud of what you have done for them

As I am of you for what you have achieved over the past year. When I took over as chairman the words used were we must go forward. We have gone forward in leaps and bounds. WELL DONE.

