

Leighdale Equestrian Centre Committee of Management



Meeting details

Meeting title:	Committee of Management
Date:	30 th July 2025, 7.30 pm
Location:	Leighdale Equestrian Centre

Attendees	Title
Kirsty Blake	Casual User Rep
Rhiannon Coyle	Leighdale Pony Club
Kate DiLecce	Assistant Secretary/Barwon Hunt
Frank DiLecce	Barwon Hunt
Tanya Goldsworthy	General Committee
Christa Jones	GDCD
Trevor Jones	GDCD
Emma Judge	Inverleigh Riding Club
Louise Lawson	Casual User
Ally Marendaz	Casual User
Tom McCann	President
Suzanne Mowat	Inverleigh Riding Club
Alicia Mummery	Secretary
Mark Mummery	Treasurer and Maintenance Officer
Emily Caldwell	BTRC
Lee-Anne Rigby	BTRC
Kerrie Sawyer	Casual User Rep
Anna Treloar-Tanner	Leighdale Pony Club
Rod Ward	Golden Plains Shire
Apologies	Title
Rachael Black	Leighdale Pony Club

Opening/apologies – Moved ATT Approved

Minutes of previous meeting – 2nd July 2025 moved by

Changes proposed by LAR Suzanne not at meeting to be reflected in minutes. Di should be an apology, (not so as she is on a leave of absence). Quote for indoor lights was not approved. No details about motion moved for poll felt should have been 250-300 trial of an undercover. Discussion about the confusion of the pricing and what was included in the motion. Vote on whether the pricing should be included in the motion. Accept minutes as read.

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President Report Committee,

Firstly may I request ratification for the interim pricing of indoor lights, as we had not officially established a charge on completion of lights. Issue is post last meeting, rate of charge had not been established and approved. The decision put up was that we would not charge until such time, ratified by ATT, unanimous.

Thank you to Kerrie and co for the construction of arena.

Early July there was an unauthorised usage of the club rooms with unsupervised children in the facility. A reminder to all people with keys that they are to facilitate club related activities. All usage of the facilities must be requested and as per our usage agreements.

This incident was discussed and clarified.

I request that anyone who is personally or otherwise gaining from the usage of our grounds and indoor facility financially or otherwise, states this clearly to our committee. We currently have a situation where a member who has represented themselves at our meeting strongly on pricing and lighting of the indoor is receiving free lessons valued at \$100 for their own benefit. I also believe that members have received lessons for family members through the running of similar pseudo clinics. I feel this is a conflict and also quite disrespectful, given that our volunteers will still be expected to harrow.

Discussion about this

A reminder to all committee that their conduct and social media usage reflects on the integrity of the centre and its committee, may damage the grounds reputation. There have been several incidents where committee members have publicly stated inflammatory and misleading information. This is damaging to not only committee but its members reputations and negatively promotes our grounds and its usage.

Please refer to consumer affairs model rules section 45. 4
Committee members must exercise the members powers and discharge the members duties in good faith in the best interests of the Association.

In light of recent communicative issues, I request that we discontinue the usage of the messenger group, and respect the rights of members to "disconnect". I had previously requested that its usage be minimised, and feel with regret, that this did not happen. We meet on a very regular basis, and any urgent business can be reasonably dealt with by the president, executive or special purpose meeting in between the times, with it then to be ratified at the next meeting. We have had many people leave the messenger group due to its over usage and constancy and it is no longer an effective means of internal communication.

LAR requested a reasonable timeframe, TM suggested 5 working days. RW when working with AFL and if someone criticized they were suspended and if they continued they were excluded. New Code of Conduct will be stricter. KS an acknowledgement email would be sufficient.

I also wish to clarify why the meetings have been closed to committee only. At the last meeting there were several attendees that unbeknown to us at the time were not even currently users of the grounds. We, in our meetings discuss sensitive financial issues and I feel it is extremely inappropriate to have unrelated attendees

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having influence over decision making. This response is only made for this meeting, and I request the committee to decide on a reasonable course of action moving forward.

RW at council if someone who is not an elected wants to come along, they need to contact in advance. LAR feels all casual users should get their own vote. They get reps who can vote each meeting, and the casual members can all vote at AGM. Are getting clarification from Harwood Andrews in a new Code of Conduct. EG sought clarification that her votes had not been taken into consideration. This is correct.

I request that all clubs are afforded reasonable time to make payments and return paperwork. I request that the committee reinstate the BTRC rally dates. It is more than reasonable to assume that our rally days are in stone, unless both parties agree on a move or exchange of dates. I found myself not fully informed of the recent situation and believe what has transpired is unreasonable, and, it did not carry the support of the committee and/or executive. General discussion, decided that a two month leeway would be appropriate. Going forward at AGM fees for following calendar year be set. This would mean that invoices can be sent out earlier in the future.

FD moved a motion that BTRC are given their original dates back. AM voted against. Carried.

TM at last meeting, when we are talking to people, careful not to attack character personally. Kirsty was attacked and told she was unapproachable. Ask that everyone uses a bit of censorship and restraint.

Thank you All
Tom McCann

Treasurer Report – Attached

TM made everyone aware that we made commitments last meeting of approximately \$10,000 and a lot of our cash has been spent already. KB requested there also be a table added of anticipated income eg IRC Golden Spurs from 4/1/25 etc. It was also discussed a table of promised spending be added et money for XC, defib etc. Moved FD, carried.

Secretary Report and Booking Officer Update – Correspondence Attached

Discussions about General Committee members and how the LEC committee is structured. RW will depend on what is agreement with new constitution. If committee so desires to increase number of members. Rhiannon asked because she felt that she had something to offer and wants to help. Clarified that people can come to a meeting. FD move motion that committee stays as it is until AGM. No Rhiannon, Leanne and Emily. Carried.

Discussion on how casual users can come to meetings RW explained how it works at council. Emily requested that clarification be set at the start of the meeting. ATT can clarification be put in print.

Emails from LeeAnne read by TM. Suggest use of Minute Taker? TM has recently had to be impartial in being defensive of people. Have never used a casting vote. FD you cannot point fingers and not have substantiation.

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Lighting email. TM takes blame for not telling people to not use lights. Presumed that nobody would use them. The key had been left by the electrician and taped for his use on Monday on completing job. LAR had no permission to use the lights. EJ backed up. Rhiannon key should not have been left there where kids could find them. AM read LEC posts about the electrician. TM assumed that noone would use lights until authority had been given. Agreed the key should have been better hidden. KB wanted to thank council for lights and Stack Electrical for the good work.

RW said LAR's emails are inflammatory. Disappointed that these had been sent after his comments at last meeting.

TM re indoor and its usage. There are two riding clubs that use the facility, the only clubs locally with indoors. Have you seen increased membership. The usage was supposed to be better. When the plans were first put forward there weren't many indoors in the area. We need to look at clubs and their reps. KB Casual User survey did think around trying to get measurable results, is it something you want to use all the time or just occasionally. KS fee is a guide only. In results, not many said they would pay.

Casual Users – The reps put the survey out and it's as a guide only. The questions were not voted on. It was requested a survey go out and that was what occurred. One submission per person, closes after 30 days and will report back next meeting. KS and KB spoke to the data that they are collecting. ATT proposed that we have a private FB page of casual users. Which is to be updated every year. Unanimous.

BH Report – Barwon had our annual Hunt Ball on Saturday which was a lot of fun and made a bit of money. We have reorganised our shed to allow for the harrows to be stored in there until a permanent solution can be found. Thank you to Pony Club who kindly gave us the use of some racking which made this a lot easier. Thanks to Frank and Mark for installation. We have our Freshman's at Leighdale this Saturday. Nice to do something different for a change.

BTRC Report - Bannockburn Teesdale Riding Club recently held a successful rally, with Justine Greer teaching dressage and Rachel Black running poles and cross country. Everyone who attended gave very positive feedback.

We're looking forward to our August rally, where Karen Blythe will be instructing. Everybody at BTRC including instructors will be pleased to finally see the removal of arena rake from undercover space as it was a liability.

However, we would like to raise a few urgent concerns:

1. Yearly Fee and Rally Fee Structure

The yearly fee account was sent out at the end of June with no due date listed on the form. Additionally, the current rally fee structure also appears to have no specified payment deadlines. This lack of clarity is very concerning—particularly as all of BTRC's rallies were suddenly cancelled without any explanation or consultation. Who gave the authority to do this? When was it discussed

2. November Rally Date Change

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We had kindly agreed to move our November rally to accommodate a 4-day clinic. However, that clinic has now been rescheduled to late November. We then checked the calendar and saw our usual weekend was vacant, so we emailed on 13 July to have our original rally date reinstated.

To our surprise, all of our rally dates had been removed, and our original date was given to another user group (Carts). This date should have immediately been offered back to BTRC, not allocated to another group without consultation. This is extremely disappointing and poor form by those who made this decision—especially considering we had cooperated in good faith.

3. Lack of Response to Communications

As mentioned above, our email regarding the November rally date was sent on 13 July, and we have yet to receive any reply. It is becoming increasingly difficult to operate as a club when communications are not being acknowledged in a reasonable timeframe.

4. Electrical Safety Concerns

We were never informed about any hazards relating to the lighting, despite there being serious safety concerns raised about the electrician not securing the worksite. This poses a significant risk to our members and is unacceptable.

5. Newsletter Tone, Content, and Professionalism

BTRC is extremely embarrassed by the tone and presentation of the recent newsletter. It came across as unprofessional, emotionally driven, and at times difficult to read. The defeatist undertone was inappropriate and disrespectful to members who expect constructive, transparent communication. We would like to know who approved this version and why it was deemed suitable to distribute to members. Furthermore, we are disappointed by the unnecessary and shaming paragraph about kangaroos—this matter had been discussed and resolved, and it did not warrant inclusion in a public communication. It felt like an attempt to target or humiliate, rather than inform.

Additionally, the reference to chalk drawings as “graffiti” is completely inappropriate. Chalk drawings are not vandalism—they are temporary, harmless fun by children. Referring to them in that way was both unfair and needlessly negative.

BTRC has always made efforts to collaborate respectfully and in the best interests of our members and the community. We expect the same in return. We respectfully request:

- An explanation regarding the cancellation of our rally dates
- Clarification on why our previously approved date was not returned to us
- Transparency around how newsletters are being approved and distributed
- More respectful and accurate communication across all platforms moving forward

GDCD Report – GDCD held their AGM recently and our new Delegates for the club are Christa and Trevor Jones. They will be representing GDCD for the forthcoming term.

We thank our previous delegates for their work. Pixie Heath

GDCD held a successful Indoor/Outdoor carriage driving event on the weekend of 26/27. We were

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lucky with the weather and 18 drivers completed the 3 phases of dressage ,cone and obstacles. The kitchen and club rooms were well utilised with lunches and evening meals being prepared and consumed.

It was a wonderful warm and friendly space to relax to have a cuppa and mingle.

Thank you to Alicia for coming on Sunday afternoon to show several members on how to use the indoor rake.We now have registered members to use the rake

Christa Jones
LEC rep

LPC Report – Rachael Black will not be able to attend due to a work commitment in Melbourne. Tina Perkins will stand in on her behalf as a Pony Club representative.

We wish to express our concerns regarding the current governance and decision-making processes within the LEC committee. We do so with the intention of fostering a more inclusive, transparent, and collaborative environment for all user groups and members. It has become increasingly evident that key decisions are being made outside of formal meetings, without adequate consultation or communication with all committee members. This lack of transparency undermines the integrity of the committee and removes trust among the broader membership.

We are concerned that some user groups are being excluded or penalised and we are asking to see improvements to the way things are done. Seeking change should not result in poor treatment. Constructive feedback and open discussions are essential to the health and sustainability of any community organisation. Additionally, we wish to highlight that the official channels of communication requested by the committee, specifically, emailing the secretary have resulted in lengthy delays or, in some cases, no reply at all. This further contributes to a sense of exclusion and frustration for our club.

We wish to raise a concern about a recent casual user newsletter which was poorly worded and carried a passive-aggressive undertone. Communications of this nature do not foster goodwill and instead risk further alienating members who are genuinely trying to engage and contribute positively.

We feel it is important to note that the role of the Chair is to remain professional, impartial, and to facilitate fair and respectful discussions. Unfortunately, this standard is not currently being upheld. A bias from the Chair undermines the committee's ability to function effectively and fairly, and contributes to a culture of division rather than collaboration. This current approach reflects poor governance practices and further alienates the very members who are committed to the long-term success of the grounds and its user groups. We urge the committee to review its principles and include fairness, openness, and respect for all voices, whether they speak with you or against you.

We respectfully request:

- 1.That all decisions affecting user groups be made transparently at meetings and documented appropriately within formal meeting minutes.
- 2.Where decisions are required out of session, the secretary or chairman will email all committee members for a vote on a proposed motion, no action is to take place until votes have been received.
- 3.That all user groups be given equal opportunity to contribute to discussions and decisions.
- 4.That a review of governance practices be undertaken to ensure alignment with best practice and community expectations.
- 5.That communications with user groups is increased, via a monthly email, due to a

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lack of oversight of happenings at the grounds due to decisions being made outside of committee meetings.

Leighdale Pony Club remains committed to working constructively with the committee and other user groups. We believe that by addressing these concerns, we can build a stronger, more united committee for the benefit of all.

Leighdale Pony Club Committee

IRC Report - Going well

Grounds Maintenance Update

Grounds will be closed for two days next week for spraying, weather dependent on which days. Will put a post up as soon as possible. ATT arenas look great. Thank you

General Business

Access fence to indoor – Tristan is back, not too far away

Space to Co Procedure Manual – AM did anyone click on the video on the newsletter? Our new rep at Space to Co has made some changes. The rep has made a video. Home Users will be made a regular hirer. This will make it fully automated. Next financial year the renewals will be sent out in May to regular users to put in their own dates.

Latch Replacement – Tom has removed the horse shoe from the gate latch to the indoor as a noted safety concern

Fence around club rooms - Silky Finch update. Kirsty has touched base with her to get a gauge of the type of support she is keen to offer. She thought she would be able to do more than the defib relocation and we are currently liaising about the potential for them to complete the works or at least supply materials around the clubrooms to replace the fence. If this falls over Mark will continue with Matt Parker's quote but atm we may have a better financial gain for the grounds utilising silky finch's offer. KB proposed we go ahead with Silky Finch sponsorship of fence with Matt Parker doing work. Carried

Permanent Arenas – TM Can the hats be weighted? TM to try to work something out.

Undercover Surface – good

Geohex – LAR they will donate the heavy duty FRP sheep grating geohex type product. AM – GDCD happy to have geohex at both ends.

Defib MM is organising for it to be put in a secure box outside at a cost of 590. MM proposed to now be funded by LEC, unanimous. Mr T doing the work as it's a council facility.

Arena Rake Relocation – temporarily in Barwon's shed. Discussion about future shed or drive through car port.

New Harrows - to Replace existing harrows with Red Back harrows. \$2,200 + GST KB proposed. Carried

OTHER BUSINESS

Constitution – RW spoke to questionnaire and policies which will be put in place. Trying to move forward, been going to meetings for years and the last two LEC have been the worst he's ever been to. If we want to move forward as a club for the benefit of the venue it has to stop.

Emily can letters be put up in the indoor? KS to investigate options for a removable system for next meeting.

KB people have been asking are we doing a pro rata fee? Traditionally it's been

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September/October. EJ moved a motion that as of 1 September casual users get a pro rata of 50%. KB to put it on facebook page giving one month notice.

Mounting block to be left in the corner of indoor. It belongs to IRC, if it goes missing, LEC to replace it.

Storage – KB had provided Shed pricing and then we had discussed shipping containers. Where are we up to? KB to investigate potential grants. KS – was approached by nutrien which has grants, will put grant application in for another grand ridge arena rake..

LAR clarification that the heavy 3PE equipment be left outside. Discussion about where it can be put.

MM moved a motion to spend no more than \$300 for a new first aid bed. Carried

Next meeting 27th August 2025 at 7.30pm