Following the Survey Monkey sent out to members, the Committee recently met to discuss and consider the responses.

There were 70 members completed the survey and the vast majority were happy with all that the Club does.

We had a small number of requests for a larger variety of instructors. However, we have now got Carol Stanley, Julie Speirs, Hamish Cameron, Shonagh Stark and Shelagh Steven as our core instructors and are hoping to add Toni Graham to this list too. We also bring in visiting instructors such as Diana Zajda, Martin Arnott and Trish Harvey a couple of times a year so the Committee feels that we are offering a wide range of instructors as it is.

There was a request to change the Dressage Leagues so that the Novice League rode two Prelim Tests, the Intermediate League rode Two Novice Tests, etc but the Committee feel this does not lend itself to progression through the levels.

We had a couple of members saying that they felt that the instruction was not geared at the lower levels. As we start with cross poles for the jumping and prelim for the flatwork, this is definitely not the case. There is actually less for the higher levels than for the lower levels.

We had a few requests for more working hunter/natural fence training and competitions and the committee have agreed to look into this. We already offer training in the Spring and the Autumn with a competition in the Autumn alongside our Showjumping Show. However, we will look to add at least one other training day and another competition in the Spring/Summer.

Two members asked why the prices of the Instruction had gone up when we have money in the bank. The instruction has risen by £1 and when the proposal was made at the AGM there were no objections to the increase. We feel that £15 still offers very good value for money. The money in the bank will be used for replacing and buying equipment, the upkeep of the field, subsidising Camp and training.

We had a couple of requests for the 3’6” (105cm) Showjumping class to be counted as a League. The Committee felt that this would encourage members to move up and have therefore agreed to this.

As the Area Qualifiers will now include the Intro Dressage tests, we have agreed that the Intro Dressage classes will now be a competition and rosettes will be awarded although they will not be included in a league.

We were asked if the Nursery Novice (formerly the Mini) Showjumping could be held on a different day. As we are a Club run by volunteers, this would mean trying to find even more helpers when we struggle anyway.

Following a long discussion about the Nursery Novice Showjumping, it was agreed that this would remain the same in the Winter (training not a competition) and follow on from the Main Leagues. Those that took part in the November outing really appreciated the fact that they were not being rushed and we had time to spend with them. This would not be possible if it were held first. We have agreed however, to hold a 2’ (60cm) Clear Round class before the first League class in the Winter. In the Summer, we will run the NN (1’9”/55cm and 2’ (60cm) first and it will be run as a competition with rosettes awarded but this will not be part of the leagues.

The Committee thought that it might be an idea to let members know that businesses such as Govanhill, Brechin and Inchcoonans cater for people wanting to do poles on the ground, cross poles, etc. They hold regular competitions and we would encourage members to make use of these to gain confidence jumping.

At the moment, the Committee run a full and varied calendar of events and instruction. However, some of these are not well supported and we are afraid it will be a case of use it or lose it. If events do not get sufficient attendance we will have to consider dropping these from our calendar.

We had one member saying that we need new faces on the Committee. We were joined by India Dorsie, Chris Evans and Marie Ramsay at our last AGM and the year before by Eve Beveridge, Meghann Thow, Leona Owen and Emma Martin. We struggle to get people to join the Committee as it is a big commitment and involves a lot of hard work.

We had a request to run Power Cross but as Inchcoonans do plenty training and competitions, it was felt that this was not something the Committee wanted to organise.

We had one member request that we organise hacking groups. With most people having access to social media, it was felt that it would be easy enough for members to organise this with friends themselves.

We have also agreed that we will leave a box out with paper and pen at all of our Instructions so that members can give feedback. Please take the time after your lesson to drop a wee note in the box. Any feedback will be reviewed by the Committee and will be addressed.

We have also agreed to dig another, smaller, shallower ditch at the Club field.

We, the Committee, hope that you are happy that we have considered all the requests even if it wasn’t always the outcome you wanted to hear but we would ask you to bear in mind that we are all volunteers and work very hard to provide the best possible instruction/competitions for our members.