**RISK ASSESSMENT- September 2017 version 12**

The original **Risk assessment** was carried out in October 2002

All risk assessments are carried out by Rosie G. Lord BHSI, who is the Centre’s director.

**Updates were made :** October 03, August 04, October 05, March 06, September 06, October 07, March , October 08, October 09, October 2010, October 2011, January 2013, January 2014, June 2015, August 2016 & September 2017

All new staff, work experience students, volunteers and livery clients should be taken through the risk assessment on arrival.

All staff should give training to riding school clients where applicable.

ALL should sign a document to confirm they have read the risk assessments.

Various actions have been taken and added through the years as this is a working document.

The NFU has been assigned as the Centre’s advisor on all H&S issues. First detailed meeting was held in November 2012, and a detailed report was issued by the NFU to BRC management to implement. A second meeting was held in August 2016.

**2017 CHANGES**

All in blue ink

KEY: R.S.C. = Riding School Client

L.C. = Livery Client

Reassessments are carried out periodically.

Bi monthly H&S meetings held with staff.

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| **What is the Hazard?** | **Who might be harmed and how** | **Preventative steps already in place** | **Further preventative steps.** | **Action by Whom?** | **Action Date ?** | **Done** |
| Lifting & carrying hay, shavings, feed sacks, saddles, feed and water buckets. Sweeping yard | Staff and  Students  Clients (R.S.C. & L.C.)  Injury to lower back  Falling bales  Dust | By ensuring minimal distance and amount moved, correct instruction, training and supervision by skilled staff , using appropriate handling aids and protective equipment. Ensure sufficient people available on delivery days. Clear instructions regarding how to lift and carry all equipment correctly, using work systems which reduce the risk of back injury. BRC has an automatic water system in place and hoses available if necessary. Provide trolleys, wheelbarrows, steps  Ensure correct boots and gloves worn.  Mule purchased – especially app. drivers  Blower purchased. And training given.  Mule , tractor , blower serviced annually ( Sept/Oct 12)  Large bales only moved by contractor | Reminders at Bi monthly M.  Supervision/training new staff / students  Poster on lifting to be displayed on staff notice board | R.G.LORD  R.G.Lord | Last Wednesday of the month, every other month from Feb 2015  Feb 2013 | scheduled of meeting set up  done |
| Mucking out, bedding down  Maintaining muck heap,  Sweeping yard | Staff and  Students  Clients (R.S.C. & L.C.) injury to lower back  Stab injury from fork  Dust  Handling horses | By ensuring minimal distance and amount moved, correct instruction, training and supervision by skilled staff in manual handling as well as appropriate handling aids and protective equipment available (dust masks)  Lee regularly delivers straw /hay onto yard weekly /10 days  Regular use of mechanical help as appropriate (see above). Daily inspection of tools by staff prior to use to check they are fit for use.  Rubber mats in all stables all stables  No clients allowed to use Mule | Make a note of all staffs last tetanus injections.  Poster on lifting to be displayed on staff notice board  Latex gloves/ face masks available. To be placed in clean special containers, suitably marked on passage way in barn and in main tackroom  Additional dispenser to be placed in main tack room | R.G.LORD  R.G.LORD  Tim Lord  Tim Lord | **Feb 2014**  **Feb 2014**  **May 2013**  **Jan 2013**  **August 2016**  **July 2015** | **May 2013**  **Jan 2013** |
| **Leading / Handling Horses**  catching / turn out  Leading clients  Lunging  Loading | Staff ,students  And  Clients (R.S.C. & L.C.)Blistering or Friction burns to hands  Tread injuries to feet  Bites from horse  Kick injuries, blows | By ensuring correct instruction, training and supervision .regarding methods of restraint and safe handling as well as positioning of handler , horse behavior and suitable restraining equipment. Horse Training.  Protective equipment - gloves, correct footwear, Riding hat.  Night time loading .Lights in car park to be switched on.  Maximum of two horses to be lead to /from field. Obligatory for staff to wear hat/ gloves. Contractual agreement as of 2008.  Restricted access to stables for children (signs displayed)  Only specific trained staff to handle stallions  Gates to turn out areas must be also secured with a rope. | Reminders at Bi monthly M.  Supervision/training new staff / students.  **Staff taking BHS exams** | R.G.LORD | Meeting held every two months | **On going** |

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| **Handling Horses**  Gooming, tacking up trimming, plaiting  washing, clipping | Staff ,students  and clients  Clients (R.S.C. & L.C.)  Tread injuries to feet  Bites from horse  Kick injuries, knocked over by horse, crushed against wall.  Dust | By ensuring correct instruction, training and supervision .regarding methods of restraint and safe handling as well as positioning of handler, horse behavior and suitable restraining equipment. Horse Training.  Protective equipment - gloves, correct footwear, Riding hat.  Current Tetanus,  All staff etc must tie up horse when in stable | Reminders at Bi monthly M.  Supervision/training new staff / students | R.G.LORD | Meeting held every two months | On going |
| Riding and ride & lead | Staff ,students and clients  Clients (R.S.C. & L.C.)Fall injuries | Continual assessment of riding ability / training of rider.  feeding/ turn out/ type of work of horse in question  Correct equipment hat/ footwear/extra equipment for job. Appropriate Supervision by skilled staff.  First Aid bum bag available in office for all to use for hacks.  Rosie to review acc. Book for trends monthly | Review acc. Book for trends monthly.  **All horses to wear neck straps** | R.G.LORD | Meeting held every two months  June 2016 | On going |
| Moving or building Show jumps. Poles. Dressage boards | Staff and students Injury, esp. lower back,  Drop on to foot | By ensuring minimal distance and amount moved, correct instruction, training & supervision by skilled staff, appropriate handling aids and protective equipment.  Ensure sufficient people available – tractor, Mule and trailer used where possible.  Drivers for Mule, Rosie , (car license holders only). All new staff to be given training and monitored.  Only Tim, Rosie and Lee to drive tractor | Poster on lifting to be displayed on staff notice board | R.G.Lord | Feb 2015 | Done |
| Veterinary Treatment  -Worming  -poulticing  -administration of medicines, and disposal of old medicines. | Staff and students  Poisonous  Handling horses | Abide by COSSH regulations ( COSHH sheets in vet cabinet) and Personal hygiene rules,  Yard manager supervision.  Use plastic ,disposable gloves where possible.  Sharps box in medical cabinet.  Yellow waste bags for old drugs available, disposal via vets. | Disposable gloves/ face masks to placed in clean, labeled container in barn passage now also in main tack room | Tim Lord | Jan 2013 | Done |
| Creosote / painting | Staff and students  Burns to skin and eyes  Irritation to breathing | Abide by COSSH regulations  Personal hygiene rules,  Yard manager supervision | Staff to wear glasses ,masks, overall, gloves |  |  | **On going** |

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| Electrical  Boiling Kettles  Radios  Clippers  Powerhouse | Staff ,students and clients Shocks  ( handling horses) | No cable to be allowed to trail across yard, when in use put warning bollards up. Only waterproof cabling to be used. Visible checks to be made to all cables.  Three phase cut out system in place..  All breaker boxes have RDS  Electrical safety regulations complied with, and tested.  Training given on correct use of electrical equipment. | Staff briefing  New extension leads purchased, non-compliant leads disposed of.  PAT testing bi-annually of all portable devices  Total system review every 5 years  All breaker boxes to be upgraded  RDS to be checked monthly and a record kept.  Part of induction | Rosie Lord  Tim Lord  Tim Lord  Tim Lord  Tim Lord  Rosie Lord | Meeting held every two months  March 2017  PAT due Oct 2017.  Review held Oct 2016, next review in 5 years,  November 2016 | On  going  done  On going  On going  Out-standing  On going |
| Cars / working around tractor / lorries  Deliveries | Staff ,students and clients Impact injury /loads falling | Car / lorry ban on yard.  Correct procedures in car park and lorry areas. Loads secured correctly. Keys to be removed from vehicle when not in use | Banksman to be used.  Sign to be put in Mule.  5 MPH signs to be put up  Staff training on mule for new uses, to be documented | Rosie Lord  Receptionist  Tim Lord  Tim Lord | Feb 2013  Feb 2017  Sept 2017 | On going  Done  Done  Done – new staff TBA |
| Care of shavings and hay bales.  Working from a height | Staff ,students Falling bales , dust, falls | Duty yard manager responsibility for opening bales and general tidiness of bar n area, on a daily bases. Keeping bay level. Dust masks available. **Use correct stacking.**  Only Lee to remove bales from New Barn.  Duty yard manager to ensure no blocking of entrances to yard or barns. Also see separate instructions. Follow Indf 125 standards. | Duty yard manager to supervise deliveries and Lee.  Poster on lifting to be displayed on staff notice board  Keep clear signs to be placed on inside and outside of doors | Duty yard manager  R.G.Lord  Tim Lord | May 2013  Feb 2013 | On going  Done  done |
| Horse breaks free and escapes on to a road. | Drivers and other road users crashing into an escaped horse | Back gate kept locked, and when opened the secondary metal gate remains closed.  Gates onto yard – at front and onto car park kept closed.  Is within stable rules.  Staff instructed to comply, ensure others comply and shut a gate if they see it open.  Any one opening a gate must close it immediately after use. Contractors informed. |  | Tim Lord  Yard personnel  Yard personnel  Yard personnel |  | Ongoing  Ongoing  Ongoing  Ongoing |

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| General movement about the property contd. | Staff ,students and clients Slips, trips, falls | Keep all areas properly brushed and clean  Riding surfaces regularly harrowed and clean.  All equipment put away.  Droppings cleared immediately in stables, yards, arenas and fields.  Wear correct PPE and foot wear at all times, no **high heels or open toed shoes.**  Ensure all horses are correctly shod / trimmed at all times.  No running on the yard.  Carry tack correctly. Use wheelbarrows etc. for hay and shavings.  Ensure fences and equipment put away after use.  Warning notice put up at entrance to yard warning of uneven surfaces, and flat shoes to be worn.  Regular maintenance of concrete areas as required  Warning sign that agricultural machines sometimes operating | Uneven signs  On going  Warning sign | Tim Lord  Tim Lord | Oct 2012  Feb 2013 | Ongoing  Done  done |
| Possible illness due to eating or drinking having touched horses | Young persons in particular, also adults | Hot water now available in lavatories, main tack room and both offices.  Soap and disinfectant foam available in key locations | Sign put above sinks telling people to was hands with hot water and soap before eating or drinking  Replace with HSC design | Tim Lord  Tim Lord | Dec 2012  June 2015 | Done  Done |
| Ensure keys are not left in the ignition of the two yard vehicles | Children, untrained and unauthorized persons could easily start the vehicles | Policy that vehicle keys are always removed from the ignition and put into “glove box”., whenever the vehicle is stationary. | Label placed on mule dashboard as a reminder  Part of written Mule policy signed by staff | Tim Lord | Feb 2013  Sept 2017 | Done  done |
| Ensure only limited quantities of petrol are held on the yard. | Fire risk | Main diesel and petrol supplies are kept in a metal shed away from other buildings. Only two 5 liter petrol containers for the blowers are held on yard | Place blower petrol in a locked, metal, fuel box. | Tim Lord | Jan 2013 | Done |
| Winter Ice | Staff ,students and clients Slipping etc. | Salt/ grit kept on yard in yellow bin, 3 months supplies to held  First person on the yard to salt all critical areas as needed |  | Tim Lord | On going | Done |
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| Legionella Control | Staff and clients | Review of facilities to identify possible risk areas (with Bracknell Council).  Only use sprinklers to wet surface in indoor school when people are not around.  Blow out underground drainage pipes in to ditch every two years | Cycles set for 12am  Empty out and power wash large tanks every other year | Completed  Tim Lord  Tim Lord | October 2013  On going practice  Mid 2014  Next date May 2017 | Done  Completed  Done  outstanding |
| Tree maintenance | Staff, horses and clients by falling branches | Tree surgeon over last 15 years has trimmed trees and removed at risk branches.  FYI no TPOs on all trees. | Initiate a study and action plan on all trees in property where clients, staff or horses have access.  Implement recommendations  Reviewed with NFU H&S expert to update policy. | Tim Lord  Tim Lord | Jan 2017  March 2017  Q3 2017  Q2 2018 | done  done  done |
| Dust Control | Staff & Clients | Annual spring clean & painting  Replace indoor school surface  Replace external client watching area in indoor school  Complete cleaning of barn roof every 5 years | Ongoing, spring clean  Replace & ensure surface kept moist  Replace surface as needed  Refurbish every3 or 4 years | Rosie Lord  Tim Lord  Tim Lord  Tim Lord | summer  daily watering every night.  Indoor school surface replaced 2015, refurbished Sept 2017  2020 | Done  Ongoing  Done  done |
| Driving Kawasaki Mule | Staff & clients  Dangerous driving | Any driver must hold a UK driving license and be a minimum of 18 years old.  New employers are briefed on how to use the Mule.  No one allowed to stand on the Mule whilst in movement.  No more than 3 people to sit in Mule at any one time  Mule is serviced By Oak Brothers annually. | Develop a Mule driving policy and ensure all who drive the Mule sign a copy.  Ensure seat belts are used. | Tim Lord | **Sept 2017** | **Completed**  **Discussed with NFU H&S expert.**  **In policy** |
| Hot water boiler in stable (gas). Installed 2016 | Staff & Clients | Gas boiler installed by gas safe engineer.  Annual checks will be held.  Gas bottles stored outside of barn with an automatic cut out in case of problem.  No naked flame, including pilot light  Water turned off after each use.  Staff trained |  |  |  | Done  On going  Done  Done  On-going |
| **What is the Hazard?** | **Who might be harmed and how** | **Preventative steps already in place** | **Further preventative steps.** | **Action by Whom?** | **Action Date ?** | **Done** |
| A fall due to misuse of ladder, or poor-quality ladders | Primarily staff  By a fall | Only industrial quality ladders used.  Discussed with NFU H&S experts  Small steps are provided in the tack room to help put saddles away, to clean gutters and to help access hay.  Regular checks of equipment (ladders)  All work at a height will be carried out by contractors using their own equipment.  Follow HSE guidelines for working at height | Develop a ladder policy | Rosie Lord | 2017-year end | First draft final pending |
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**Storage of Hay, Straw and Shavings**

**Duty yard manager designated responsible for this area on a daily bases**

**All must insure the following:**

1. **Collect all string and plastic and it put in a bag daily and throw away weekly, replace bag.**
2. **Anticipate needs on day off, and leave everything ready.**
3. **Clients not allowed to open hay bales.**
4. **Any moldy hay thrown away immediately**.
5. **Rake up passage way and hay pile, throw away immediately**.
6. **Only Lee may remove and stack the hay or straw, duty yard manager to supervise and act as banksman.**
7. **No clients allowed on yard during muck removal or large tractors/delivery lorries on yard- yard manager to enforce.**
8. **Bi-monthly staff meeting on H&S briefings/ issues.**

**When opening bales the following precautions to be observed:**

1. **Two people to be present, when climbing on the hay stack.**
2. **Only use safety knife / scissors provided**
3. **Where necessary use the step ladder or ladder ( someone must hold the ladder)**
4. **Only throw two slices down at a time and stack the mule carefully.**
5. **Use your common sense and report any problems.**
6. **ONLY ROSIE , TIM OR LEE TO MOVE THE LARGE TRACTOR.**
7. **Do not allow shear sides, use the stack in steps.**
8. **Members of staff who hold a current driving license and have had training**

**and formal permission may use the Mule.**

**Exercising horses off Berkshire Riding Centre Ltd facilities.**

## No member of staff……

1. **May ride off the premises without proper riding hat and boots correctly fitted.**
2. **May ride off the premises without fluorescent bib, to be found in the tack room.**
3. **May ride off the premises, without prior consultation with a member of staff, and without leaving a route plan, and approx. time of hack.**
4. **Where possible please carry a mobile and leave the number with a member of staff.**
5. **Do not ride out within one hour of dusk if you are not carrying appropriate lights etc.**
6. **May ride off the premises in poor weather conditions e.g. fog, icy conditions, low clouds etc.**
7. **May ride off the premises ALONE.**
8. **A medical bum bag is available to take at riders discretion.**

**Training:**

**BHS “Ride safe” Exams organized 3 or 4 times a year for Staff, Clients and others.**

* **obligatory for staff**
* **recommended for clients**

**The above precautions are STRONGLY recommended for all clients as well.**

**Staying visible on the roads:**

**Staying visible on the roads is important to avoid, often fatal, accidents.**

**This is particularly important during winter months and at dusk.**

**Florescent tabards are available.**

**Do not go out when it is dark**

**Individuals encouraged to “** MAKE IT YOUR RESPONSIBILITY – BE SAFE- BE SEEN “.

**CONTAINMENT POLICY( 16th OCT 2002 )**

1. **All gates / doors to / on the yard must , be kept closed at all times, specifically:**

* 1. When riding in any of the arenas the gates must be closed.
  2. After turning out or bringing in horses the gate to the car park must be kept closed.
  3. Close stable doors while horses are out, or if a horse is tied up in the stable.
  4. If you see a door open / gate open please close them.
  5. Keep all field gates closed after leading horses through them. If you have a problem it is your responsibility to go back and close it.
  6. Feed room , tack room, rug room , barn doors to be kept closed at all times.
  7. Back gates onto Winkfield Lane to be kept closed – if open the second metal gate must be kept closed.

1. **Tying up of horses**

* Assemble all equipment prior to tying up and insure all gates onto the yard are closed.
* No horse may be left tied up for any reason on the yard unless 100% supervised.
* Do not become distracted, all your attention must be focused on your charge, no social chatting or other chore may remove you from the animals side, please insure there is a safety zone around your horse at all times.
* If you are called away you must put the horse back in its stable first.
* Staff trained to not leave a horse unattended when tied up

1. **No one may ride on the yard alone** ,

A member of staff or another client must know when someone is riding riding and be checked every 30 minutes. Members of staff must stagger their breaks and lunch hour to provide cover when necessary. After 5.30 it is the clients responsibility to ensure someone knows that you are riding and where. Clients may not come to the yard nor ride if the yard is unattended.

**BRC’S STAFF and STUDENT PRESENTATION POLICY**

1. Staff are required to dress appropriately for the work they are expected to carry out, to look presentable and professional and to use company clothing.
2. Only Company Shorts may be worn.
3. Where possible use the BRC uniform – Polo or Rugby shirt, gillet and jackets.
4. Riding hats, of the correct standard and correctly done up and gloves must be worn at all times when leading, holding or riding. Correct dress must always be used when riding.
5. Correct PPE equipment to be used for the job.
6. NO drinking whilst working or during designated breaks, no smoking on the yard and no drugs.
7. Smoking is only allowed on the porch of the Groomery or in the back car Park.
8. Mobiles may neither be carried nor used on the yard.
9. Hands must be properly washed frequently throughout the day, but especially prior to eating or drinking and after using the bathroom.

**This Applies to all Staff member, trainees, and assistant helpers**

1. Bullying / harassment policy written up and staff awareness put in place ( July 2011)
2. Accident procedures updated (Oct 2011)
3. Restricted access for children and parents in stables (notices on doors)
4. Tops should not be of the single strap variety but sleeveless tops are permitted.
5. Footwear should be practical and protect you from injury, trainers are not appropriate.
6. Jewelry and perfume should not be worn. Stud earrings and watches are acceptable.

**Children , vulnerable young persons , Volunteers Risk Assessment**

**The main risk with young people on the yard are as follows:**

1. **Lack of knowledge of hazards, risks and dangers around the facilities.**
2. **Lack of technical knowledge and Industry standards.**
3. **Lack of physical fitness and strength.**

**This also frequently applies to parents.**

**Staff at the Centre must take extra care to enforce BRC rules and industry standards and ensure supervision at all times.**

1. BRC risk assessment applies to all people working on the yard.
2. All volunteers, work experience, apprentices **must** sign the BRC young person’s risk assessment document.
3. All Apprentices must be signed up to Haddons – robust policy in place.
4. All Qualified Instructors on BHS register of Instructors which means they have done a child protection course , are DBS checked and have done a two day BHS Equine specific first aid course.
5. All young people must be working towards pony club or BHS qualifications (Badges or progressive riding tests), and are only allowed to perform tasks unsupervised when they have been trained to do so and have achieved in their certificates.
6. ALL must wear suitable PPE and appropriate clothes for the weather conditions
7. ALL must take suitable breaks and eat and drink at appropriate times.