



# MEON RIDING CLUB

1968 - 2010

## NEWSLETTER

Hon Sec: Mrs Brenda King  
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## APRIL 2010

A HAPPY EASTER TO ALL MEMBERS, FRIENDS  
AND FAMILIES

We enjoyed an excellent meal at the White Lion, Soberton, to mark the beginning of the Summer season, and it was nice to meet several of our new members. The weather is still making it difficult to get outdoor activities going, so please check carefully with organisers in case arrangements have to be changed at short notice.

### FORTHCOMING EVENTS

#### FESTIVAL OF THE HUNTER QUALIFIER

##### ROCKBOURNE, 18 APRIL

We have entered a team in the Novice class, one Pair and two individuals in the Open class. Good luck to them all. We need one more helper on this day; if you can lend a hand please contact Andrea Bishop, email: andrea@bishes.fsnet.co.uk. tel:01489558322

#### OPEN DRESSAGE DAY

##### PRIORY E.C., 25 APRIL

Schedules for this were sent out last month, so please get your entries in if you have not already done so. Please note the test for Class 5 is BD Novice 39, not 34 as printed on some early versions of the schedule and fliers. Our apologies for this error - please amend any incorrect copies you may still have. We also need some more helpers on this day; please contact Andrea as above.

#### ROYAL WINDSOR HORSE SHOW

##### 12 - 16 MAY

Good luck to Thea Gibbins who will be representing us in the Intermediate Topscore class at this prestigious event. Full details of everything taking place were published in the recent edition of The Rider, which all members should receive.

### NON-RESIDENTIAL CAMP LOWER PEAKE 17 - 19MAY

This event is fully-booked, with three people on the waiting list.

### AREA QUALIFIERS

Response to request to members to put their names down for Club teams has been a bit slow to date. Entries have to be in quite early, so we really need to know who is interested in representing us. There are four main events:-

**Dressage to Music, Sparsholt, 31 May** : classes for Novice and Elementary individuals, and pairs. All tests this year will be in the 60 x 20m. arena.

Contact: Carol Alford email:calford@hotmail.co.uk; tel: 01489 860114.

**Horse Trials, Moreton, 20 June**: Novice, Intermediate and Open teams

Contact: Penny Briggs, email: woolmerlodge@yahoo.co.uk; tel: 01730 892297

**Show Jumping, Pinkmead,-** Novice, Intermediate and Open teams, and Style Jumping

Contact: Rachel Walker, email:rwalker@guildford.ac.uk, tel: 01962 773168.

**Dressage Qualifier, Broadlands, Romsey, 18 July** :- Novice and Open teams, Medium individual and Riding Test team.

Contact:Laura Macarthy; enquiries @macarthy-bridles.co.uk; 01329 234277.

If you are putting yourself forward for a qualifier please check that your 'flu vac. certificate is valid; if you are not certain send a photocopy to the contact person for that event, and we will check it for you. We had to withdraw one of our teams from the Novice Indoor Show Jumping Qualifier because of invalid 'flu vac. certificates, which is not only disappointing for the riders, but a waste of entry fees. If your certificate is not valid there is probably still time to get it put right before this season's qualifiers if you get it sorted **now**.

## TRAINING

**Cross-country training** at Fair Oak planned for 20 March had to be cancelled due to very wet ground. This session will now be held on 11 April. Please contact Rachel Walker as above. Some of those originally booked are unable to make this new date, so there are now spaces available.

**Dressage training** at Ashlands with Rose Seagrave is being very well supported, and so far has not been badly affected by the weather. The next date is 10 April; please contact Barbara Wood if you wish to book a session, or require information of other dates. email: barbara@ashlands.me.uk; tel:01489 877398.

**Show Jumping training sessions** are now moving outdoors to Lower Peake. Details are enclosed together with a booking form.

## NEW MEMBERS

Applications have been accepted from the following:-

Dr. Roger Bradford, Sherwood Grove, West Meon  
Miss Abbeygail Moran, Cedarwood, Fareham  
Mrs. Samantha Fyffe, Waltham Chase  
Miss Jody Davies, Brantwood Orchard, Botley

## SUBSCRIPTION RENEWALS

Renewal forms for email members are being posted out shortly. Subscriptions are due for renewal on 1 April 2010. Please check the details we hold for you on the renewal form and amend them if necessary. This should be returned to the Secretary, with the fee due; cheques made payable to Meon R.C. A prompt return would be appreciated, and is essential if you wish to represent the Club at any of the Area qualifiers this Summer.

## ACCESS

March 30 sees the birth of the South Downs National Park, and the demise of the East Hants. AONB The South Downs in unusual, partly because of its long thin shape, and partly because, unlike other National Parks it is not mainly rock and heath but farmland. Its beauty owes as much to the hand of man, as to nature. Many of us will now live within the National Park, or just outside it, and it is our collective responsibility to ensure its environment and heritage are conserved for future generations to enjoy. A National Parks Authority has been set up, but is keeping a low profile for the first 12 months. Its initial impression seems to be that the South Downs are already pretty good, and they should try and keep it that way, and not make sweeping changes. I have been invited to represent equestrians on the Recreation and Heritage interest group, which will meet next on 1 July,. For some reason I'm not sure about this has been linked for the time being with the Socio-economic group, so I'd like to hear not just from people who ride for pleasure, but from people who work in the horse industry, and who have ideas about how riding in our area could be improved. I'm not making any rash promises, but the first stage of this sort of process is always to set a vision of how we would like things to be in the future. Progress towards this is likely to be slow, and we may never get all the way