



# MEON RIDING CLUB

1968 - 2010

## NEWSLETTER

Hon Sec: Mrs Brenda King  
Whealers Farm, Froxfield, Petersfield  
01730 264178  
www.meonrc.fsnet.co.uk

## AUGUST 2010

June and July have been very busy for competitors with the Festival of the Horse Championship, three Area Qualifiers and our own Cross-Country/Show Jumping event all taking place within the space of little more than six weeks. Our thanks to all the riders, organisers and helpers without whose efforts we could not cope with such an active programme. I am particularly indebted to the team managers who have supplied me with the reports which follow.

### FESTIVAL OF THE HORSE CHAMPIONSHIPS

(contributed by Andrea Bishop)

We were represented by two members who had qualified as individuals; Barbara Wood on Simply Seamus in the Novice class, and Claire Lewis on Beckham in the Open Class. Both had an eventful weekend. Claire is a veterinary student at Liverpool University, and finished an exam. on the previous day at 5.00p.m. She drove to her home in Southampton, arriving about midnight, and then set off again at 6.15a.m. for Aston-le-Walls. Her class was the first of the day, and she just had time to walk the course before competing. Unfortunately she had two poles down in the show jumping, but went strongly on the cross-country, with just a few time penalties, which left them outside the rosettes. Barbara had an extra passenger on the outward journey, as her granddaughter's horse was moving to a new home in Shropshire, and it made sense to take him half-way. She did her usual exemplary show jumping round, and headed out on the cross-country in fine style, jumping beautifully through the step complex at fence 5, which had been a cause of concern. Unfortunately she had a couple of uncharacteristic run-outs further along, which put her out of contention. The novice course was more demanding than last year, but both courses rode well at this excellent venue.

Our thanks to Chef d'equipe Andrea Bishop; I think we also had a couple of helpers present, but sadly do not have any names. We can only compete at these competitions if we supply helpers, so thank you very much if you were one of them.

### **AREA 17 HORSE TRIAL QUALIFIER HELD AT MORETON - 20TH JUNE 2010**

The Meon Novice Team: Sharon Ede – Brandy, Sophia Halder – Condor, Chrissy Hughes – Harry, Ony Rogers – Dollar - WON THE QUALIFIER. Becky Sporne on Grace (aka Moonshine) came 3rd in the Open as an individual and could not have been more pleased with her horse.

Chrissy Hughes reports: With three team members keeping horses within a three mile radius it made sense to travel up together which left Ony to make her own way. Myself, Sharon and Sophia had a good trip arriving safely at 10.30 and settled horses with haynets to go and walk the courses. There was a slight panic when we realised that Ony, who got stuck in traffic, had the declaration form and with only 20 minutes to go before the closing submission time was 24 miles outside Dorchester. Luckily the officials allowed us to take our numbers and submit the declaration when it arrived.

We walked the cross country first and the course was right up to height - 3' -with some looking even larger (no 7 was a large steeplechase style fence on a hill with at least 6" of brush on top!). The course was fairly straightforward but had three combinations of offset doubles which required setting the horses up and throughout the day proved tricky for competitors. They also cunningly had the finish set to the right of the last jump and many missed going through it. Lucky for us Sophia was trail blazer and sent the word back after doing a hand brake turn at the last minute to get to the finish.

The going was hard and although the grass cover was good the arenas were slippery if you did not have studs. All our team put in very creditable dressage tests and we were feeling positive going into the show jumping and cross country. The show jumping was on a surface and they had set a nice flowing course with good BSJA striding which rode very well, though many had the last fence down which was just a simple upright. With three clear rounds and one 4 fault in

the Show jumping the winter training seemed to be paying off. The cross country warm up was very difficult as it was on the side of a hill and the ground was rock hard but the team excelled and had three clear rounds. Sharon retired half way round the cross country feeling that 'Brandy' was struggling a bit with fitness and the size of the jumps. With three scores to count we finished the day on a combined score of 104 qualifying for the Championships - Yipee....five penalties fewer than the Isle of Wight Blue team. We also had individual placings of first place for 'Harry' and I in Arena A and Condor with Sophia were placed second individually in Arena B. We did not get home until 9.30pm Sunday evening, but it had been worth it and the whole team was so excited about qualifying for the Championships which will be at Aston le Walls on 6-8 August.

Our thanks to Gill Sporne who substituted very ably for chef d'equipe Penny Briggs, who had another commitment on this date. Again helpers have been overlooked, though I'm sure there must have been some there!

## **AREA 17 SHOWJUMPING QUALIFIER**

(contributed by Rachel Walker)

The showjumping teams went to Pinkmead on Saturday 26th June on one of the hottest days of the year so far! The day got off to an excellent start with the Style Team (Barbara Wood-Simply Seamus, Chrissy Huhes-Harry, Aimee Barnard-Maverick, Sarah Pook-Top Pride) winning the Style Team competition and Barbara being placed first as an individual, Sarah Pook third and Chrissy sixth.

Then it was the turn of the Intermediate Team (Sam Fyffe-Late Edition, Fiona Emery-Layman, Keri Barnjum-Clancool Rose) and they finished third as a team and Fiona went on to be placed first as an individual.

As the day got hotter it was the turn of the Novice Team (Sharon Ede-Brandy Snap, Chrissy Hughes-Harry, Aimee Barnard-Maverick, Jackie Rixon-Colour Me Danny). They were among three teams with a zero score and went through to the jump off. After much team discussion, taking into account the weather and ground conditions the team decided that they wouldn't jump off and instead take third place.

So all in all Meon had a very successful day. Thank you to everyone who took part and came to support the horses and riders. Next stop the Championships at Lincoln on 11th September, so good luck to the Style Team, Barbara and Fiona.

Thanks to chef d'equipe Rachel Walker

Full results are available on the Area 17 website

## **DRESSAGE QUALIFIER, BROADLANDS**

(contributed by Laura Macarthy)

Just a brief note to express my huge personal thanks to all – riders and helpers - for all of your effort, time and contribution to the dressage area qualifiers on 18 July.

The results stood out for themselves, and amongst the shining stars of Meon Riding Club, were the following winners:

Senior Novice Dressage Team:

4th overall for Meon Stars – Fiona Emery,(Layman) Aimee Barnard(Maverick), Sally Beves(Elegant Lady) and Helen Vernon (Top Pride).

6th individual for both Sally Beves and Helen Vernon

Senior Riding Test Team:

5th overall – Sarah Pook,(Balfours Bay) Debbie Dean(Chablis Z), Aimee Barnard and Veronica Wilson;(Betty

4th individual placing for Veronica Wilson in the Riding Test 11 – on a cracking 75.5%

Senior Open Dressage Individuals:

4th placing for Helen Denton (Silver Samurai) in the Elementary 45 test;

6th placing for Sam Fyffe (Late Edition) in the Novice 34 test.

Pairs class;

3rd placing for Sarah Pook and Jenny Martin(Duncan) in what can only be described as an elegant, stylish and smooth pairs test – it put a smile on our faces for all of the right reasons!

Alongside those winners were some great examples of exemplary dressage and team spirit:

Jenny Martin breezed in with what looked like an effortless and accomplished 67% Novice test;

Alice Macgregor sat a magnificent and cheeky buck from Hi Hopes and continued with great calm in the Prelim 12;

Chloe Emmerson managed an extremely stubborn Dolly, who had a fine form of attitude, with great calm and composure in the Prelim 12;

Fiona Emery ignored with great grace Layman's fine attempt at ring escape having noticed something of great interest beyond the hedge line;

Barbara Wood bounced back to put in a great Elementary performance having just realized she had been practising the wrong test!;

Jane McGibbon hit back at Mac's apparent bad mood to get through a good Novice test;

Meg Taverner glossed over some quite showy examples of napping in the Prelim 12 – well done to her!

A heartfelt load of special thanks goes out to those fabulous helpers on the day – Oonagh read a whopping 12 tests for the club, Ellen ran her legs ragged as our club helper, Carol's expertise of proceedings and the more advanced dressage was a life saver, and of course all of the others that turned up, please pass on my thanks to those whom I have forgotten.

It was very encouraging to see lots of new faces, alongside the more experienced – I really hope you will all consider volunteering again for any future club dressage events.

I have lots of rosettes and sheets to post out to people – please bear with me, as we are in the process of opening new premises for our business this week, so I may be a little waylaid.

Please forgive me if I have forgotten anything important – my horse welcomed me home tonight with a mere 30 metres of trashed fence, all of which had to be repaired before getting home for a hot bath and food – just a wee but tired!

Thank you again, I think you all did Meon Riding Club proud.

Our thanks to Laura Macarthy who put in an enormous amount of hard work on this event, and found time to write such a comprehensive report when she has so many other demands on her time.

### **SHOW JUMPING/CROSS-COUNTRY, FAIR OAK**

Fair Oak is less affected than most venues by very hot, dry weather, but entries are always slow coming in under these conditions. The organisers had some nail-biting moments, until numbers slowly crept above a sustainable level. Some new jumps have been added to the cross-country over the Winter, so we were able to vary the course this year, though the new obstacles were quite straightforward and didn't cause major problems. The honours in the Senior classes went to:-

#### **Minimus**

- |                           |              |
|---------------------------|--------------|
| 1. Jacqui Young-Ballinger | Deno         |
| 2. Sarah-Jane Wright      | GhostTilly   |
| 3. Shona Stewart          | That's Magic |

\* Best member: Shirley Medgett Harry

#### **Novice**

- |                  |                    |
|------------------|--------------------|
| 1* Alison Colton | Woodstocks Morocco |
| 2. Sarah Jordan  | Mr. Big            |
| 3. Helen Denton  | Silver Samurai     |

#### **Intermediate Open**

- |                    |                 |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Katherine Smith | Artana View     |
| 2. Anna Bruce      | Oscar           |
| 3. Katherine Smith | Canando Pushkin |

Congratulations to them all.

Full results can be seen on the MRC website.

Our thanks to Fiona Emery, Helen Vernon and the numerous members of their team who helped to make this day possible.

## **FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

### **NOVICE SHOW, POLLY GLOVERS FARM**

#### **BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY 30 AUGUST**

Your schedule for this is enclosed/on the Club website. This has been based on the Festival of the Horse schedule, as few members get a chance to compete at this, and we thought some of you would like to have a go, perhaps at a less-demanding level, and certainly without the pressure of an Area qualifier. So please get your entries in and encourage all your friends to come as well, and make this a fun day. If your horse has already had a busy season and you have covered yourselves in glory at the Area Events, then we shall as always need lots of helpers, so why not give your horse a day off, and come and lend a hand to other members? We not only need volunteers on the day, but there will also be quite a lot to do on the previous day, as this is a bare field site so rings have to be put up, and courses built. Volunteers please to the Secretary, tel:-01730 264178; email: wheelers.farm@btinternet.com

### **BLenheim EVENTERS CHALLENGE, 9 SEPT.**

We have entered a team for this, though the final selection has not yet been made. If you are going well at the moment its not too late to come forward - contact Penny Briggs, tel: 01730 892297; email: woolmerlodge@yahoo.co.uk

This is one event for which we do not have to supply volunteers to help, but its a good day out for anyone who would like to go along and support our riders.

### **OPEN HUNTER TRIAL, IPING 18 SEPT.**

Your schedule for this is enclosed/on the Club website. Please get your entries in early - if you withdraw before the closing date your entry will not be processed, so you have nothing to lose by entering beforehand, and it reduces stress on the organisers. Hunter Trials need a lot of volunteers, mostly as fence judges, so if you haven't done your bit this year, this could be your final opportunity. Contact Penny Briggs, as above.

### **RESIDENTIAL HOLIDAY, WELLINGTON**

#### **RIDING, HECKFIELD, 21-24 SEPTEMBER**

A new venue for this popular activity this year. A bit closer to home, so even more members are going. Have a great time!

## **NEW DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

### **MEON R.C. AGM**

Please note the Meon Riding Club Annual General Meeting will be on 20 October at The Meon Hall, Meonstoke. If you have any items you wish to be included in the agenda, please notify the Secretary by 5 September. After the business of the meeting has been completed we shall have our usual end-of-season celebration, and would like as many members to join us as possible, so please keep this date free.

### **AREA 17 LIAISON COMMITTEE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MON. 25 OCTOBER**

The Area Liaison Committee is responsible for organising Area Qualifiers, and, through our Area Representative, maintaining a link between Clubs and the BRC management. All British Riding Club members in Hampshire are entitled to attend the Area 17 AGM, and raise any matters they wish to discuss. The meeting is held at The Jubilee Hall, New Road, Timsbury. It follows the Liaison Committee meeting, so will probably start about 8.30p.m.

## **ACCESS**

### **COUNTRYSIDE STEWARDSHIP**

The ten year agreement on the Countryside Stewardship Scheme at Corhampton Farm is nearing its end. This provides about 12km. of fantastic chalk grasslands paths within hacking distance of riders in the Bishops Waltham and Exton to Droxford areas of the Meon Valley, so I'm delighted to confirm that this agreement has been extended for a further ten years, although it will now be known as Higher Level Access. Cuts being imposed on government departments mean it is unlikely there will any money for schemes like this for several years to come, so we've been really lucky to get this through! This has been a real success story, and a lot of credit must go to the riders who have shown great appreciation of this scheme, and used it with care and consideration for other users, the environment, and, most importantly, the land-owner, Keep up the good work!

## **SAINSBURYS**

Sainsburys has recently published its proposals for a supermarket adjacent to the Old Station roundabout at Bishops Waltham. This site is valued for the opportunities it provides for informal recreation, and a disused railway line runs along one boundary of it. A project is underway to convert this into a multi-user path for riders, cyclists and pedestrians, eventually extending to Botley station. We want to ensure that any development which is permitted on this site does not have an adverse effect on non-motorised users; indeed we hope that it could improve access. If you live, or keep your horse within about a three mile radius of the proposed development, please take the time to look at the plans.

You can find them online by going to [www.winchester.gov.uk](http://www.winchester.gov.uk), and following the planning portal links to planning application 10/01650/FUL. Of course you can make any individual comments you want to, but it would help me to protect and improve access if riders could tell me how they might use this end of the Botley-Bishops Waltham Trail in the future. I would like to know where you keep your horse, what road-crossings you would have to use, the points where it would be easiest for you to join and leave the trail, and any other rights-of-way you would use to make a circuit. Maps would be helpful.

This may sound like an impossible dream, but quite a lot of it is now in the local plans, and government policies have changed in our favour. It won't happen though unless riders take an active interest in the process, and make sure their voices are heard. Don't dwell on the difficulties -look for the possibilities!