



# MEON RIDING CLUB

1968 - 2010

## NEWSLETTER

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## FEB./MARCH

### AREA QUALIFIER RESULTS

The Winter Qualifiers this year were both real frostbite affairs! Fortunately the worst of the snow and ice had been cleared, so travelling was not a problem.

#### **Dressage and Riding Test**

The new venue at Hamstead Marshall proved satisfactory, and no doubt will become part of the regular fixtures list. We entered two teams for the Team Dressage class, but although they gained some individual placings they were not quite good enough to get into the ribbons. Our thanks to our riders who were:-

Meon Stars:-

Jackie Rixon	Colour me Danny
Helen Vernon	Monaco Finale
Helen Denton	Silver Samurai (4th.)
Carol Alford	Beejay Two (6th.)

Meon Diamonds:-

Liz Skeats	Samuel
Jane McGibbon	Molly
Debbie Dean	Chablis Z
Sarah Pook	Balfours Bay (2nd.)

Individual placings in brackets.

Carol Alford and Beejay Two were our representatives in the Royal Windsor Horse Show Round Two Riding Test qualifier. They did a really good test, but were narrowly beaten into third place. This does not automatically qualify them for Round Three, but high-scoring competitors may still be invited to compete if spaces are available, so we'll keep our fingers crossed for them.

We had a great squad of helpers and supporters for this day. Jan Desty and Laura Macarthy shared the chefs d'equipe duties, and Michelle Keeley was our obligatory organisers steward. Rose Seagrave and John Dean assisted the riders, and commanded tests where required. It really helps the teams having this back-up, so a big thank you to all of you. Photos. by Oonagh McGibbon are on the Club website.

### **Novice Teams Indoor Show Jumping**

We also entered two teams for this qualifier, which we hosted at Crofton, but were only able to field one on the day. They started well, being one of only three teams with a clear score-sheet at the end on the first round. Sadly the poles began to drop in the second round, and they finished the day in seventh place. Our thanks to our representatives who were:-

Jackie Rixon	Colour me Danny
Lindsay Berry	Doon Dancer
Claire Lewis	Perriland Leonardo
Sue Bridgewater	Applejack

We were not the only Club to have trouble raising teams, as the Senior entries were the lowest we have ever known. Juniors were slightly up, and were bolstered by a couple of schools teams, which enabled us just about to cover our costs. In the Royal Windsor Horse Show Round Two Topscore class as well barely half the 20 Round One qualifiers made it to the starting line. Congratulations to our representative, Thea Gibbins on Alvescot Pretty Woman, who won the Senior Intermediate section easily, and goes on to Round Three. Our thanks to chef d'equipe Rachel Walker

Our thanks to all our volunteers who helped on the day, including a couple from Hampshire Rural R.C. We had enough people to divide the day into four shifts, so nobody had to stay outside in the biting cold wind for too long. Due to unforeseen circumstances we were unable to build the course the night before, so a special thanks to the members who turned up before dawn on the show day to get everything ready. Special thanks too to Janet Irving and Ewart Wood who spent all day in the judges' box, Dick King who combined secretarial duties with keeping the scoreboard up-to-date, and Official Steward, Peter Buist. The medical services were kept busy too, but I'm pleased to say the four people they treated are all recovering well, the worst injury being a badly-sprained ankle.

Full results for both these competitions are on the Area 17 website,

## **FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

Our programme for 2010 is enclosed/on Club website. The details are correct at the time of publication, but may be changed later so please check with your Newsletter or the Club website as each event comes round. Meetings for the next couple of months are:-

### **PRE-SEASON DINNER, 13 MARCH**

#### **THE WHITE LION, SOBERTON**

The menu for this is enclosed/on Club website. Please choose what you would like, including selection for any guests you wish to bring, (remember to put names at top of each column!) and return with your cheque made payable to Meon Riding Club. The White Lion does excellent food at a reasonable price, so I'm sure this will be a popular evening. Parking space is somewhat limited, so please share transport as much as possible.

### **FESTIVAL OF THE HUNTER CHALLENGE**

#### **QUALIFIER, 18 APRIL ROCKBOURNE**

Schedules for this are on the Area 17 website. Please note the maximum height has been raised to 90cm. If you would like to be considered for a Club team, or would like to represent us in the Pairs class, please contact Andrea Bishop, tel: 07917 098377; email: andrea@bishes.fsnet.co.uk We shall probably also be required to supply a couple of fence judges - any volunteers?

Barbara Wood is organising a schooling session over this course on 27 March; see enclosed training sheet/website. The preliminary entries have to be in before this date, so please don't wait to inform Andrea of your interest.

### **OPEN UNAFFILIATED DRESSAGE**

#### **25 APRIL PRIORY EQUESTRIAN CENTRE**

We were unable to book a suitable date at Crofton for this event. Priory is a lovely quiet venue with good facilities, so please don't be put off if it's a bit further to travel. Members in the north of our area will of course have a shorter journey! Your schedule is enclosed/on the Club website. Please tell all your friends about it, and help us keep up our entries at this new location.

## **TRAINING**

**Show Jumping** training is going well. Details of the current sessions were sent out last month, or contact Penny Briggs Tel: 01730 892297; email: woolmerlodge@yahoo.co.uk if you are not on her email list but would like to be added.

**Dressage** training has been affected by the weather, but it's good to see some new participants at Ashlands. See enclosed sheet/Club website for complete list of dates.

**Cross-country** training; Rachel Walker has organised a session at Fair Oak on 20 March with BE accredited trainer Ella-Louise Mayhead BHSI. A booking form is enclosed/on Club website. For further details you can contact Rachel by: tel: 01962 773168; email: rwalker@guildford.ac.uk

## **NEW MEMBERS**

Applications have been accepted from the following:-

Mr. D. Searle, Meadowsweet, World's End.

Claire Grant, 5, Crundles, Petersfield.

Mrs. K. Reid, 18, Moorlands Rd., Swanmore.

## **ACCESS**

Gates should only be used on bridleways if they are necessary to control stock. Many gates do not comply with the required standard, and some of the latest self-closing gates are positively dangerous. If you have an accident involving a gate on a public right-of-way, please inform the BHS Access department; tel: 01926 707814; email: access@bhs.org.uk If you are injured in a gate-related accident, then you should inform the Health and Safety Executive, either via their website, or by telephone 0845 300 9923. You must be prepared to give full details of the incident and its consequences; photos are helpful. Evidence is needed in order to get action taken to remove these hazards.

Members in the Titchfield area may have noticed that Witherbed Lane between Barnes Wallis Way and the industrial estate has been beautifully cleared. Our thanks to HCC, who are the landowners, and Solent Groundworks who carried out the work. An order to record the whole length of Witherbed Lane (approx. 2 miles) as bridleway or restricted byway will be made soon. It is hoped to connect this to the greenway through Whiteley and onto Whiteley Pastures in due course. If you ride in this area please go and explore, and if you have any ideas for extending the network further contact me at wheelers.farm@btinternet.com.