



MEON RIDING CLUB

1968 - 2009

NEWSLETTER

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JUNE 2009

CHAMPIONSHIP WIN FOR MEON

Our team had a fantastic day at the Festival of the Hunter Championship, winning both the teams of three and teams of four trophies in the Novice section of the Festival of the Hunter Challenge class. Congratulations all round! I am indebted to Ony Rogers for her first-hand account below:-

At the last minute poor Debbie Dean's horse Jacob went lame, so reserve Ony Rogers and Dollar were drafted in to the team. Helen Vernon kindly agreed to chauffeur them, leaving late so that Ony could squeeze in a day's work!

The team met up on a beautiful balmy evening at Home Farm in Priors Hardwick, about 3 miles from the showground. Good airy stables and clean straw were provided. Chef d'Equipe was Andrea Bishop, and the other members of the team were Helen Vernon (Kreischim), Barbara Wood (Simply Seamus) and Rachel Walker (Brown Bear). Barbara was accompanied by ever supportive husband Ewart who towed their caravan, freeing up their lorry for Ony and Andrea to sleep in. Rachel was accompanied by husband Zac and 2 year old Montgomery, who constantly amazed everyone with his immaculate behaviour!

After a delicious meal in the local pub and a comfortable night, Saturday dawned bright and breezy and finally we were ready to set off for the competition. Helen's lorry wanted a lie in though, and refused to start. Not a whisper did it utter. Nothing for it but to transfer all Ony's equipment (she was first to ride) into Barbara's lorry. Barbara then undertook a shuttle service to ferry all the horses to the showground. A lorry doctor was summoned.

The show jumping course was tight and twisty, with lots of interesting fillers, complete with wooden fox and hounds! The striding was fine, but the going was rather hard, despite good grass cover.

Ony and Dollar clocked up 8 faults showjumping. Being really her daughter's horse, he had had quite a busy time with Pony Club events over half term, and she felt he might have been a bit tired. They were held up for about 15 minutes after her show jumping round, and they managed quite a good clear round over the cross country course. The course was a straight-forward 85cm course, the main problems being a water jump at no. 2 and a corner to a

brush on a very short 3 strides as the last fence. They ended up with 11 penalties, (3 time penalties XC). Rachel was next to go, and her BSJA experience shone through, and she flew round in a flawless round, galloping round the cross country with no time penalties. Barbara again showed the wealth of her show jumping experience with one of the fastest clear rounds on the day, and clear cross country, with 5 time penalties. Helen was last to go, and Kreishim was feeling the ground, but nevertheless the adrenaline kicked in and he flew round both courses clear, with just 2 time penalties.

The team finished on 7 penalties, and after a run in with the scorers, who tried to give Kris 9 time penalties, which Chef d'Equipe, Andrea, hotly disputed it was announced that Meon had won and Rachel was placed a well deserved 5th individual. We were also awarded the trophy for the top team when all four scores were counted (which made me feel a bit better!)

The venue was fantastic, but the ground was not very forgiving. We had fabulous weather, warm but breezy, and we were beautifully looked after by Andrea, who must have lost a stone in weight with all the running around she did! Thank you Andrea for all your hard work.

NON-RESIDENTIAL CAMP. LOWER PEAKE

The weather stayed fine, and, after two wet summers, the grass has grown thick enough to prevent the ground becoming too hard. Everyone had a wonderful time, and was most complimentary about the organisation and the instruction. Our thanks to Penny Briggs who put in a great deal of hard work to ensure everything ran smoothly, and made this such a great activity for all the participants.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

AREA 17 SHOW JUMPING QUALIFIER, 21 JUNE, PINKMEAD FARM, BOTLEY

We have entered teams in all four qualifying classes - Novice, Intermediate, Open and Style. This has left us a bit short of reserves, so if you are jumping well and are free on this date Keri Barnjum would be pleased to hear from you. She also needs four helpers to do a half-day each. You can ring Keri on 07825 181513 or email: keribarnjum@btinternet.com.

OPEN ONE DAY EVENT, **28 JUNE, FAIR OAK, ROGATE**

Its lovely to see our teams being so successful, but it does mean we need to raise lots of money to be able to continue to support them to the extent we have done so far. Open competitions are our main form of fund-raising so we need help from all of you to make them successful. Schedules for the ODE were sent out last month, and can also be obtained by sending an sae to the Secretary (41, Westbourne Ave., Emsworth, PO10 7QT) or downloading from the Club website (www.meonrc.fsnet.co.uk). Some help would be appreciated on Saturday morning to set up arenas, build show jumping course and other odd jobs. If you are competing you can combine this with walking the course, so please come over in the morning if you can. We could also do with some help with collecting cross-country scoresheets on the day; if you have a trailbike/quadbike you could bring over to help then please let the organiser know. Petrol money will be paid.

AREA 17 HORSE TRIALS QUALIFIER **6 JULY, LARKHILL**

We have entered teams in each of the Senior classes - Novice, Intermediate and Open. We are also running the show jumping phase of this competition, so its going to be quite a busy day. We would be grateful if competitors who have completed their rounds could come over to the show jumping arena and lend a hand, particularly at the end of this phase when all the jumps have to be loaded on a trailer. If you can bring anyone with you who could help out as well, please let Penny Briggs know. Tel:01730 892297; email:woolmerlodge@yahoo.co.uk

AREA 17 DRESSAGE QUALIFIER **18, JULY, MORETON, DORSET**

We have not had as many volunteers for this as expected, possibly because of the long travelling distance involved. We have just enough to enter a team in each of the Novice and Open classes, and one individual in the Medium. If you are doing well at Prelim. or Novice level and would like to be considered for a team its not too late to give your name to Jan Desty - tel: 01489 877209; email: jandesty@btinternet.com

TRAINING

Helen Vernon has arranged a further training session with Elaine Wilson. This will start with an hour of schooling in Elaine's arena at Milland, and then continue over the cross-country course at Iping. Participants should be jumping confidently up to 3'0". Bookings please to Helen (6, Othello Drive, Waterlooville, PO7 8LA) accompanied by cheque for £42, made payable to Meon R.C Training a/c.

NEW MEMBERS

Miss Hannah Warren, 12, Glenthorne Meadow, East Meon

ACCESS

Thanks to the members who supported the Ride for Access from Roughay Farm, Upham on 31 May. We enjoyed a lovely hack in perfect weather. Our route took us around the perimeter of Marwell Zoo, but fortunately we didn't encounter any carnivores! Three of the paths we used are recent additions to the definitive map - Red Lane and Roughay Lane, which are now restricted byways (no motorised vehicles) and a new bridleway from Horsham Copse to Lower Farm, which gave us the opportunity to have a nice canter. Our thanks to Harry Trigg for allowing us to park in his farmyard, and also to use some of his private paths to avoid as much roadwork as possible. We are also grateful to Carol Alford who led the ride.

Roughay Lane has a special significance for us as it was the first access issue which was raised by the Club. Although it is an ancient highway, it had been blocked-off, a hedge had been grubbed-up and the land ploughed-up and made part of the field. It took over thirty years to get it re-opened to riders, and a few more to complete the lengthy process of recording our rights so that it cannot be obstructed or ploughed again. It is now a pleasant and well-used ride.

There are many other ancient routes which are used by riders but not recorded. Under the Countryside and Rights-of-Way Act 2000 we have until 2032 to claim these, or they will be lost forever. We are quite lucky in Hampshire that we now have a large number of volunteers searching the archives for historical evidence, and five map review officers in HCC Rights-of-Way department carrying out the legal work. But they still need help from the people who actually use the paths! If you regularly ride on a path which either has no sign at its junctions with metalled roads, or is signed as a footpath please let me know (Tel; 01730 264178; email:wheelers.farm@btinternet.co.uk). To identify the path correctly it is helpful if you can supply a map, or grid references.