



MEON RIDING CLUB

1968 - 2010

NEWSLETTER

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JUNE 2010

NON-RESIDENTIAL CAMP

(CONTRIBUTED BY PENNY BRIGGS)

Twenty members enjoyed three very enjoyable (but hard working) days in good sunshine at Lower Peake. Although it had not rained much the ground was better than last year and there is now quite good grass cover in many areas so working on hard ground was less of a problem. We had our usual four fantastic instructors - Cheryl Bezants, Mark Riley, David Thomas and Elaine Wilson and we were in groups of 5 per ride. As usual things improved for everyone daily, confidence increased and the horses definitely went better. After a sociable break for lunch the instructors gave demonstrations or lectures on getting a horse fit, pole distances and tack fitting. On the last day the Twin Photographic sisters spent the day with us and lots of us bought some good photos. Our thanks to Penny for organising this very popular activity. She's now busy organising a residential camp at Wellington Riding, Stratfield Saye from 21-24 September. Its already well-booked but she could probably squeeze in one or two more. If you are interested please contact Penny; tel:01730 892297; email: woolmerlodge@yahoo.co.uk.

DRESSAGE TO MUSIC QUALIFIER RESULTS

REPORT BY SARAH POOK

Our three competitors had an interesting day! Poor Jenny Martin was disqualified from the qualifying class by a 'flu vac. irregularity, but scored over 65% in the non music Novice. Jane McGibbon and Haywood Mac blazed a trail in the music with their cowboy themed test and came 5th on 64.7% in the Novice class. Sarah Pook and Balfours Bay had great fun in the elementary with their new Fred Astaire music and scored 64% finishing 8th against some rather tough competition. Well done to all of them! We do not have full results, but will put them on Area website when available.

Our thanks to Carol Alford for acting as chef d'equipe.

ROYAL WINDSOR HORSE SHOW RESULT

Our representative in the Intermediate Topscore Championship, Thea Gibbons jumped a good round, finishing in 9th, place. Well done!

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

FESTIVAL OF THE HORSE CHAMPIONSHIPS

ASTON-LE-WALLS, 5 JUNE

Our two individual qualifiers, Barbara Wood (Simply Seamus) and Claire Lewis (Beckham) are in action for the Club this weekend. Best wishes to them both.

AREA 17 QUALIFIERS

Club entries for the Horse Trials at Moreton on 20 June and the Show Jumping at Pinkmead on 26 June have now gone in, but entries for individual non-qualifying classes are still open. Schedules are on the Area 17 website.

Lots of people have come forward for the Area Dressage at Broadlands on 18 July. Team entries will be decided soon, as they have to be in before the end of the month, but BRC members can also make their own entries.

COMBINED CROSS-COUNTRY AND SHOW

JUMPING, FAIR OAK, 4 JULY

Your schedule for this was sent out last month, so please get your entries in. This type of event needs lots of helpers, so if you are not competing please lend a hand. The showground has to be set up on the Friday morning, so that the course is ready to walk by 2.00p.m., so a work party will be there from about 10.00a.m. Its not hard work - Fair Oak does most of that for us- just lots of signs and notices to put up. More fence judges and stewards on the day would help to lighten the load for everyone. Even if you can only spare a couple of hours to give someone a break it all helps. Volunteers please to Fiona Emery tel:01243 371368; mobile:07810 834398.

CLUB SHOW, POLLY GLOVERS, 30 AUGUST

The schedule for this will be based on the BRC Festival of the Horse schedule, including Eventers' Challenge classes. It is intended for novices, so if you have won something in the last five years, please try a more difficult section, or something different altogether. We need to retrieve the Club trophies, which were last presented at Thorney Island in 2008. If you have a Meon Riding Club cup in your trophy cabinet (apart from any presented at the last AGM) please contact the Secretary to arrange for its return Tel:01730 264178; email: wheelers.farm@btinternet.com.

TRAINING

Rose Seagrave will be at Ashlands on 9 & 23 June, & 9 July. If you would like a Dressage session with her, please contact Barbara Wood, tel: 01489 877398; email:barbara@ashlands.me.uk

FACEBOOK

Meon Riding Club is now accessible to all on Facebook. The 'Friends of Meon Riding Club' group is an open group on Facebook, which anyone can join. It is a place for informal chat about all things to do with Meon Riding Club, and for networking with like-minded horsey people. You can share your photos of Meon Riding Club events, start discussion topics, post updates on the wall or just throw something out there for feedback. Please find us on Facebook and join in the fun! A big thank you to MRC member Michelle Keeley for setting this up on behalf of the riding club.

If not already on Facebook, go to www.facebook.com and register. You will be asked for an email address and your birth date (make sure you check the box to block all seeing this if you are security conscious). In the search box at the top of the screen, enter 'Friends of Meon Riding Club'; or enter following in your browser: <http://www.facebook.com/?ref=home#!/group.php?gid=120029654674761&ref=ts>

You should be aware that the default setting on Facebook is complete openness, so that anything you post on the site can be accessed by anyone. Not everyone out there is your 'friend', and may use this information for undesirable purposes, so you are advised to choose your own security settings, and the amount of profile information that you give.

Laura Macarthy will be monitoring this site, and will remove anything which she considers damaging to the Club, its officers or individual members. If you see anything you consider offensive, please contact her on tel:01329 234277; email: enquiries@macarthybridles.co.uk. She would also be pleased to have your suggestions for improving the site.

And don't forget the Meon Riding Club website is still there to keep you up to date with all of our events, training sessions and qualifier information - always your first stop for finding out about what we have going on.

WELFARE

I was contacted earlier this year by some horse-lovers who were concerned by the conditions in which some horses near them were being kept. They were distressed that approaches to national horse welfare organisations had met with no response. This is understandable as these organisations receive thousands of calls from well-meaning but ill-informed members of the public, and cannot possibly respond to them all. A familiar one at this time of the year is 'the poor little pony in a bare paddock with nothing to eat', though I heard a new one recently about a horse which had been turned out 'with a blindfold on'. It turned out to be wearing a fly-fringe! We are lucky in Hampshire that we have five BHS Welfare officers who will sort out minor problems, which can be dealt with locally with a bit of advice. With more serious cases, which thankfully are rare, they will contact the national organisations, who know that anything forwarded to them through this channel really needs their attention. If you are a BHS member you will find contact details of the Welfare officers in your Yearbook, but if you are not I will be happy to pass on your concerns. Tel: 01730 264178; email: wheelers.farm@btinternet.com

BHS REHOMING SCHEME

The British Horse Society receives many requests for help from horse owners urgently seeking new homes for their horses. For most, the prospect of parting with their horse is heartbreaking but unavoidable. As many equine rescue centres are running at, or near to, capacity, finding a safe, experienced and knowledgeable home ^ and doing so quickly ^ is not always easy. The BHS has therefore established a rehoming scheme to help existing owners find suitable new homes for their horses.

If you are currently looking for a new horse there is also the opportunity to register your details with the BHS. This can either be for a ridden or companion horse or pony. The BHS will then aim to match up a horse wanted with those in need of a new home.

For further information on the scheme please contact 01926 707791 or e.hannelly@bhs.org.uk