



MEON RIDING CLUB

1968 - 2010

NEWSLETTER

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OCTOBER 2010

BLenheim Eventers Challenge - THURSDAY 9 SEPTEMBER 2010

Our team: Steffi Dampney on Speed of Sound (aka Woody), Fiona Emery on Layman, Sarah Pook on Top Pride (aka Hughie), Mike Stone on Prince. They did Meon proud by going as an inexperienced (for the most part) team, eager to have a crack at a very demanding competition. We especially appreciated Mike and Fiona coming in at the very last minute, (Mike had 24 hours' warning and one opportunity to practice the day before the event!) Sue Francis Stukings very nobly and efficiently took on the role of chef d'equipe and made sure the riders knew where to be and when.

Sarah Pook writes:

What a day! I've been hoping to have the opportunity to ride in this fantastic venue for the Riding Club for a few years, and this year I made it. The weather and the going were lovely. We parked up overlooking the dressage warm up and watched Ruth Edge floating around.

The competition was running late so we had longer to shop before our course walk. The course was twisty and up to height with a very tight time this year ... we think they wheeled all the short routes! There were some difficult lines on the cross country section, a challenging course for the younger horses. We were told they had caught up on time so were studded up, mounted and resplendent in Meon gold for our allotted 2.30 slot only to discover they were still 30 minutes late. It proved a tricky wait for the younger horses, who lost a bit of sparkle and got caught up in the atmosphere. The warm up went well as we all jumped the huge practice fences and we went down to the start area. Fiona went first and did a lovely rhythmic clear round, giving us all confidence and a big smile. Mike went second and took the big show jumps in his stride, Prince was showing the effects of the wait and the atmosphere and Mike did well to support him round the tricky parts of the cross country tackling all the difficult fences. I was very pleased to get Hughie round the biggest show jumps of his life to date. He found the turns difficult and we

rolled a few poles but he got his confidence back and flew round the crosscountry. Steffi was our anchor rider and rode a stylish clear on her young horse finishing with a few time faults.

We completed, everyone was smiling with the memory of the fences and the feeling afterwards. We didn't get into the placings, but the photos were fantastic and we each received a huge commemorative rosette.

We had a big support team who did well to keep us calm through the wait. Thanks to them all, and to the Riding Club for giving us this opportunity.

IPING 2010 RESULTS

A big thank you to all those Meon members who provided help with the hunter trial. I was overwhelmed with the offers of help. I emailed and rang just about everyone and even if people could not help because they were away they often said they wished they could have done so or offered help for a future occasion. Even a hunter trial needs 19 jump judges in the morning and again in the afternoon, plus stewards, scorers and starters. Your response was brilliant and made my job so much easier. 43 out of our membership of 110 helped and about another 16 competed which meant about half of you were involved one way or the other. The course was in excellent condition, and rode well. The honours went to:-

Class 1 A: 1* Tom Naylor-Davis	Red Alert
2. Jessica Dando	Kinvarra Castle
3. Jenny Naylor-Davis	Border First Light.
Class 1B: 1. Helen Young	Dolca
2. Penny Ibbott	Mozart
3* Nicky Pilton	Brandy
Class 2A: 1. Kristina Biomead	Dunrath Boy
2. Kate Lock	Taylor
3. Charlotte Williams	Tiger Lily
Best Meon R.C. Member* -Selina Garstin	
Class 2B: 1. Molly Chandler	Sting
2* Sarah Pook	Balfours Bay
3. Sarah Jordan	Mr. Big
Class 3: 1* Becky Sporne	Moonshine

1=Clara Jollands
3. Kate Lock

Old Blue Eye
Ace

placings etc. An interesting idea and if any of you want to try it just check out their website.

After a Summer of disappointing entries, it was heartening to have an increased level of support for this event. Our thanks to Penny Briggs who put in a huge amount of effort to make it a success, and to all the members and friends who supported her.

MRC HOLIDAY AT WELLINGTON RIDING- TUES 19-FRI 24 SEPT. 2010

Thirteen of us booked in this year for what seems to have become our annual holiday – 2 were specially invited (Derek Amesbury, who came last year, and Vicky Lewis as she is Jenny's cousin!). The rest were Meon members – Keri Barnjum, Selina Garstin, Sophie Halder, Joy Daborn, Renaye Hawes, Kate Latchem, Jenny Martin, Shirley Medgett, Steve Readings, Ony Rogers and me. Nearly all of us have been away before and knew what to expect – not least a very hilarious time and excellent company.

We arrived at Wellington on the Tuesday afternoon and quickly settled the horses into portable stables set on the edge of part of the xc course. Next was settling in the humans. Everyone knew not to expect a 5* hotel – just as well as there were two 'dorms' each with 6 bunk beds (sleeping 12) -strictly segregated! Jenny had the single supervisor's room – as an ex head teacher this was very appropriate. We had supper at the Wellington Arms, excellent food but a bit pricey.

Day 2 everyone prepared to ride – my horse, Trigger, is being sold so I hired a Wellington horse. Most of the time I rode a really sweet little 15hh TB – just my sort! Everyone did 1.5 hrs flatwork in the morning with three top notch instructors – the Chief Instructor, David Sheerin, a very sexy Spaniard called Roland Bellido, who made Selina's legs turn to water when he called her 'Seline' in his Spanish accent, and Danielle. There was 1.5hr. jumping, either xc or sj in the afternoon but I opted for a private flatwork lesson. Then we had a wonderful demonstration by David of loose jumping young horses in the arena. On Thursday again there was a mixture of flatwork and jumping, and I rode a 16hh horse who was sweet but a little large for my taste. Keri was riding Stanley who she had had for 6 days and whose education was extremely limited. He took to everything like a duck to water and also behaved beautifully, apart from a couple of bucks in the xc. Joy, Keri, Ony, Sophie and Shirley also had young horses. On Friday some did more jumping while 4 of us did the Dressage Anywhere competition where you do a videoed test which is sent to the organisation to be judged and viewed on line – with

On Wednesday evening we had a dressage demonstration with two young girls on high class horses – one rode so beautifully still she was great to watch. Nereide Goodman, who set up Wellington in the early 80's, is a list 1 judge and 'big' in the dressage world, asked the girls to run through movements and discussed these with us. She was an incredibly charismatic and lovely lady who we all warmed to – she was interested in every level of rider and every type of problem so you could ask any question without feeling silly.

The facilities at Wellington were terrific – 2 indoor schools – one huge and the other a decent size, the outdoor International Arena and the xc course which is in two parts and has many schooling fences. Apparently the larger course is 2 minutes through the woods so although we did not venture there we could do so next time. The food was fine but the cook, Steve, had his own way of doing things and a sense of humour which we did not always understand. However, like everyone at Wellington, he put himself out for us, laid a special table so we could sit together, remembered who had ordered what and allowed us to take in our own drinks although he ran a bar.

I think we all agreed that the really special thing about Wellington is the people. All members of staff were incredibly helpful and friendly. The place is run on such a professional and efficient level that there is slack in the system to accommodate any problems. No request was too much trouble and we always got undivided attention and expert help. Keri borrowed saddles for Stanley, Derek asked one lunchtime for help over striding for grids and David (not the chief instructor but a brave Irishman up for riding anything) took the trouble to get some paper and spent 15 minutes of his lunchbreak explaining. Sadly Joy had a nasty fall from Miller on the cross country but again Wellington stepped in, sending her off for a nice warm bath (not a luxury we had in our cabins) and sorting out her horse.

The evenings saw a great deal of laughter – especially when Sophie explained very clearly shoulder in and Jenny demonstrated it sitting in her chair! Wine flowed and we all had a terrific time. I immediately booked us in to go again next year and the dates are Tuesday 20 – Friday 23 September 2011 so put this in your diaries!

Penny Briggs
(Pictures on Facebook and Meon website)

RWHS ROUND 1 TOPSCORE QUALIFIER

Not surprisingly, Chilworth R.C had to cancel this competition which was scheduled as part of their

show jumping day at Braishfield on 2 October, due to torrential rain. It will now take place on Sat. 16 October, conditions permitting. Entries will be carried over; if you have to withdraw please contact Michelle Hancock 01794 517763. Entries have been re-opened until 11 October, and will be accepted on the day if space available, subject to a late entry fee of £2. Schedules and entry forms are on the Chilworth website, or send an sae to Mrs. M Hancock, 56, The Thicket, Whitenap, Romsey, SO51 5SZ.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 20 OCTOBER

MEON HALL, 7.15P.M.

Meetings papers for the AGM are enclosed/ on the MRC website. Please take the time to go through them; the decisions made at this meeting will affect what the Club does in the next year. We can only continue to deliver the activities you want if we have enough Members on the Committee to take on the organising. If you could help with this, please sign and return the nomination form.

Item 9 on the agenda is to discuss opportunities to take part in new activities. Official competitions are defined as qualifiers for the BRC National Championships, so does not include classes such as the Teams of 3 Show Jumping at Hickstead, or the Blenheim Eventers' Challenge. Many other venues are now offering classes for BRC members, and the Committee would like to set up some guidelines about the degree of support we should give to these. A new individual competition is being introduced at the Festival of the Hunter:- the Combined Challenge which consists of a Riding Test and Style jumping. The BHS is also promoting interdressage competitions for affiliated clubs.

Area 17 receives a training grant from BRC each year, and it is always difficult to find ways of spending it which benefit large numbers of members. This year a small amount of money is being made available to Clubs to try and encourage members who have not previously ridden in Club teams to put themselves forward. Three training sessions are proposed in the East, Central and West parts of the area, so we need to know how many members would be interested, and what form of training would be most useful.

If you can't get to the AGM, but would like to comment on any of the above, you can do so through email, our Facebook site, or snailmail.

The Committee will be providing a buffet supper for

this evening; extra contributions are welcome, though we do seem to have a surfeit of quiche. Please bring drinks for yourself and friends.

The Club quiz has become an eagerly-awaited feature of the AGM evening, and we are grateful to Ewart Wood for compiling a new one for us this year. He finds a fresh twist every time, so you need a team with as many different talents as possible. Guests are welcome.

There is no charge for this meeting but I propose to make a collection for the Mark Davies Injured Riders Fund 21st. Anniversary Poundcatcher campaign which was launched recently at Burghley Horse Trials. The MDIRF offers help to riders who are seriously injured in horse-related accidents. They have become experts in supplying the most appropriate forms of rehabilitation, mobility aids, and simply coping with life-changing events, including re-training for a new career. Fortunately only a small minority of falls have long-lasting consequences, so it only needs £1 from each of us to help out the unlucky ones. Please come prepared!

UNAFFILIATED INDOOR SHOW JUMPING

11 DECEMBER, CROFTON E.C

At last we have managed to get a date in the Christmas period! Your schedule is enclosed/on the website, so please get as many people as you can to join us in celebrating the festive season. We have a little sponsorship in hand from Westbourne Feeds and Meadowlea Saddlery, so hope to give extra Christmas presents to members who make up Meon R.C teams.

TRAINING

Training is often a bit slow to get going in the Autumn, and we have spaces in almost all sessions at the moment. The session with Cheryl Bezants at Quob on 8 October has been cancelled through lack of support, but others will go ahead as per the training sheets published last month. If you want to join in any of the show jumping sessions please contact Penny Briggs, tel:01730 892297; email:woolmerlodge@yahoo.co.uk. For Dressage with Rose Seagrave at Ashlands on Wednesdays or Saturdays contact Barbara Wood; tel: 01489 877398, mobile 07974566638; email: Barbara@ashlands.me.uk.

Non-members are welcome to come along for a taster session, but will be expected to apply for membership when the new Club year starts on 1 November. Application forms for membership for 2011 will be put on the Club website after the AGM.