



NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2022

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● Chairs report -

This has been another difficult year for many of our members with the loss of their beloved four legged friends. Hopefully those of you affected have found friendships amongst the club to get you through these times and we will see you out and about next year.

We had a tremendously busy year which saw the introduction of the very popular show jumping league. I can't stress enough how grateful we are to all of those who volunteer their time to help out at these events - we really can't do it without you. Just a little reminder; when you sign up to join us, you are also signing up to help out at one event a year. If everyone does this it really would spread the load and we don't ask anything too taxing of anyone - you might actually enjoy seeing the other side of things.

To this end, myself and Trish recently attended the Area 12 AGM and it is only a matter of time before we will be hounded to run an area event. This is a whole different ball game and not one we are keen to take on, however if we can offer some helpers at some of the events organised by other clubs we may get away with it. So look out for those pleas of help and don't be shy in coming forward.

You will be aware that Trish has very kindly set up a training bursary and those that have helped over the past year will be benefiting from this bursary, so if incentive was needed for our helpers here it is!

Our committee members volunteer their time and expertise to keep your club running smoothly. From the training and events, to the website, on-line competitions, newsletters, risk assessments, health and safety and accounts - they do it all. It still baffles me as to why they do it and myself and Trish were asking ourselves exactly that as we headed off to the Area 12 meeting on a particularly foul evening a few weeks ago - not only was the drive there treacherous, but we knew the reception from the other clubs would be somewhat frosty too!

You will also have seen in the latest newsletter the massive increase in BRC fees. Just so you are clear; when you are handing over your hard earned money, this sadly is not going into the Blackdown Hills RC pot. £20 goes to BRC to cover their running costs, which does also include public liability cover for members whilst at an event.

Please note you do NOT have public liability cover at any other time.

We also have to pay affiliation fees, which are the club's insurance, and the more members we have the more we have to pay! Fortunately Deana has said we can hold our membership fees for next year, but we will need to work hard to fill the coffers to make up the shortfall.

As always if there is anything we can do for you as a riding club please let us know and we will do our best.

I will take this opportunity to thank you, our members for all your support and our fantastic committee for all their hard work making everything run so smoothly. We wish you all a Merry Christmas and hope to see you all in 2023 for a very happy, healthy new year.

● Secretary Report -

Secretarys AGM speech; December 2022

And 11 months later; here we are again! Welcome everyone to the second BHRC AGM this year. Hopefully, now things are almost back to normal, the turmoil of the last 2 years is behind us and we can continue to enjoy our horses without too many restrictions.

Club Membership increased this year and we ended the year with 70 members. BRC have put up their affiliation and insurance costs but they have assured us it is still very good value for money!

We are a fairly unique club in our Area and as we seem to have a system that works for our members, we shall continue in our own sweet way into next year. We really do have our member's best interests at heart and if you have an idea for an event or social activity that you feel would benefit the club, we will certainly try to organise it.

Huge thanks to the committee again this year. Committee meetings have been well attended all year and we have been able to put into place extra show jumping events thanks to the dedication of the committee and our wonderful helpers. Please do not underestimate how much your time is appreciated. As a committee we can organise many events, but without your help, very few would get off the ground. Thank you all.

We said goodbye to 3 significant riding club horses this year. Karen Court's DARTH, Jill Perriors Grace and my own Gem. We all have our special memories of them, they were very different from each other, but they all had one thing in common; they thoroughly enjoyed riding club life!

Plans are already afoot for 2023; it will be the club's 10th anniversary of our annual summer camp. Karen has already started to twitch and after the success of the orange T-shirts this year; a whole new range of possibilities is open to me next year.

Our showing shows go from strength to strength due to Jill's' excellent PR and organising skills. We have plans to hold our Dressage League and Show jumping league plus some additional show jumping and clear round. We have been invited back to Star Andalusians next year to cuddle some foals and the Just Gem bursary will be holding training events over the coming year.

And if that is not enough to keep us busy, I have additional reasons to keep the club successful and prosperous for many years to come. I may not have mentioned it very much, but I have bought a foal called Topaz!

Thank you everyone for your continued help and support. With a newly refreshed committee, we will start again next month.

● AGM -

It was lovely to see so many of you at our AGM last week. Below is the full list of awards. Sadly, 4 people did not return their trophies to us; this is a less than gentle reminder to those four to get them back to me NOW!

Senior Achievement	Sylvia Paine
Junior Achievement	Maddie Cooper
Most Enthusiastic Member	Alison Harris
Senior Newcomer	Sara Smyth-Ribero
Junior Newcomer	Alexa Kavanagh
Flatwork Training Award	Lisa Gane and Alison Harris
Good Ambassador	Vicky Henderson
Senior Helper Award	Sarah Ambridge
Junior Helper Award	Maisie Henderson
Most Improved Senior	Clare Lewis
Most Improved Junior	Maddie Cooper
Best Combination	Baya Birrane and Laurie
Senior Exceptional Turnout	Clare Lewis
Junior Exceptional Turnout	Baya Birrane and Laurie
Waterford veteran	Deana and Murphy
Area 12 Award	Maisie Henderson
W and T Dressage League - AGM	Sylvia Paine and Clare Lewis
Prelim. Dressage League - AGM	Sarah Ambridge
Novice Dressage League - AGM	Sarah Ambridge
Autumn Show – Members Only - AGM	Alexa Kavanagh
Spring Show - Members Only - AGM	Alexa Kavanagh
Photography Award	Debbie Friedlander
True Spirit	Tricia Budd
Online Quiz Award	Maddie Cooper

Chairs Award	Tricia Budd
SJ League 40cm	Maddie Cooper
SJ League 50cm	Maddie Cooper
SJ League 60 cm	Rachel Vokes
SJ League 70 cm	Gemma Smith

• Monte's Diary -

It's been a while since I gave you an update on Monte so I thought I would end the year with a roundup of how things have been going.

As I thought, he is quite complex and a long term project but having gone right back to the start with him, with Karen's guidance, we are making progress. There is still a long way to go but we seem to have ironed out the worst of the temper tantrums! I'm sure they will always be there but they are becoming fewer and more manageable.

He is now learning to work in a longer, lower outline, which he finds difficult when he doesn't have the correct muscles to maintain it, but he also shows signs that he has been told off for lowering his head, so he has to overcome fear too.

So far all his work has just been in walk and trot, which may seem incredibly slow going, but he really has needed all this time to establish balance before we could start to look at his canter, which we are just starting to tackle. He is now having to learn to canter from a 'different' place - long and low rather than up and short - at the moment he isn't quite sure what to do with his legs!

Hacking wise he is not the bravest and certainly not a country boy! He doesn't like sheep, hates pigs and has had to overcome a fear of water and puddles quite quickly this last month! He is good in traffic but has a terrible sense of direction.

Travelling him has been a real challenge. He loads well and if you can keep moving with no noises he is fine. I now travel him with acoustic ears as he doesn't like the sound of rain or branches on the horsebox or motorbikes and other noisy vehicles passing us. Lots of short journeys and he is getting more confident.



This all may sound like an absolute nightmare but he really is a lovely horse and I'm confident that next spring all the hard work will be paying off.

Kate

• Merchandise -

Gillet's £42.50

Polo t-shirts £17.50

Long sleeve Polo's £22.50

Rugby shirt. £25.00

Hoodie £22.50

Bum bags £9.00



ALL ORDERS TO DEANA, PLEASE.

• Training -

All details are on our website - blackdownhillsrc.co.uk/events.

Training Cancellation Policy

Full Payment is required to confirm your place, and must be received 1 week before the rally date please.

Later entries will be accepted if space allows.

Payments via BACS or cheque posted to organiser. Payment online - please quote your surname and date of the event/training you are paying for.

There will be NO refunds for withdrawals unless the space is filled from a waiting list or a late entry

● Membership -

Please allow 2 weeks for your details to be added to the BRC database as this is when the BRC insurance is activated. I usually do it within 48 hours of receiving your membership form and I try to acknowledge all members once I have processed their form, but mistakes do happen and I have been known to go on holiday the day before a membership form has reached me. I don't take the database with me on holiday!

The BHRC year runs from the 1st January - 31st December

● Dressage Restrictions

From September 2021, the following will be put in each BHRC dressage schedule -

“RESTRICTED: Combination of horse and rider not to have been placed 1st **where there were** 1st - 3rd placings or more”

● Contact numbers

Chairwoman – Kate Hopper, Pleasant House, Clayhidon, Cullompton, Devon.
EX15 3TS. 07707815610 huskykate4@gmail.com

Secretary – Tricia Budd, 24, Newlands Grove, Ruishton, Taunton, Somerset.

TA3 5JJ. 01823 442597 triciabudd24@gmail.com

Treasurer – Deana Rowland, Coombe Hill House, Symonsburrow, Hemyock, Devon. EX16 3XA.
01823 680021 deanarowland2@aol.com

● Data Protection -

If you have ticked the box on your membership form - '**I do not give consent**' - for your photo to be used on our Facebook page, website and newsletter, please can you introduce yourself to the organiser at each BHRC event you attend. Whilst every effort will be made by

BHRC not to use your photo, images of members in backgrounds may at times be unavoidable and BHRC cannot take responsibility for third parties taking and using images.

● Making a BHRC payment -

It would help Deana, our treasurer, enormously if you included the following information on your BACs payments.

- ❖ If you are paying for flatwork training try to include 'flat/date (of the event)/surname'
- ❖ If you are paying for jumping training it is 'jump/date/surname'
- ❖ Lectures are 'lecture/date/surname'
- ❖ Rallies - 'rally/date (of the event)/surname'
- ❖ Membership - member/surname

● Health and Safety -

If you travel alone to events with your horse, we suggest you download something like the form below and put it in a prominent position in your horsebox/car whilst you are riding. Due to data protection laws, committee members cannot readily access your details from the BRC database. We also suggest you consider wearing a medical armband, especially for cross country training.

A rider wearing a ROYAL BLUE arm band is hard of hearing - page 32 BRC handbook

RED - Red ribbons signify a horse kicks.

GREEN - A green ribbon means that the horse is inexperienced.

BLUE - It is helpful for stallion handlers to put this colour ribbon in their horses' tail, especially if you have a mare as it warns you to stay away.

WHITE: White ribbons are helpful for letting others know that this horse is for sale.

I.C.E.

In Case of Emergency

My Name is _____ Age _____
Home Address _____

Medical Information

My Family Doctor _____ Phone # _____

Medications I take

In Case of Emergency PLEASE Notify

Name _____ My _____ Phone # _____

Name _____ My _____ Phone # _____

Name _____ My _____ Phone # _____

Name _____ My _____ Phone # _____

Name _____ My _____ Phone # _____

Name _____ My _____ Phone # _____

Name _____ My _____ Phone # _____

ETIQUETTE FOR RIDING IN AN ARENA and WARMING UP AT

ALL BHRC COMPETITIONS.

1. Pass left shoulder to left shoulder (thus, a horse on the left-rein on the track has right of way).
2. A slower moving horse (walking) keeps to the inside track. When walking or halting, do so 5m off the track in order to keep the track clear for faster moving horses (i.e. cantering horses).
3. A horse doing lateral work has right of way.
4. A horse doing more advanced work (tempi changes, extended trot, etc.) has right of way. If you would like to use the diagonal or centre-line, please announce it in a clear voice (ie "Diagonal please!").
5. Be aware of stallions, they can be unpredictable and should be treated with respect.
6. Be aware of your fellow riders and ride considerately:
7. Try not to stop suddenly and don't deliberately cut across someone else's path,
8. Don't obstruct the entrance/exit, or the track,
9. When entering the riding arena, make sure you do not get in the way of approaching riders. If the entrance or view to the entire arena is obstructed, announce in a clear voice "Door/gate please", before entering, in order to prevent accidents,
10. Give riders ample room when passing them so they don't get pushed up against the railings of the arena, whether passing from behind or in front.
11. When passing, make sure your whip does not inadvertently touch the other horse.
12. Don't gallop past riders in the arena.
13. If you have a fractious or young horse, use the riding and lunging arenas to settle him but not at the expense of everyone else's safety. Also, if you see a young or fractious, horse, try not to upset them
14. Instruction from the side of the arena is allowed, but not at the expense of distracting other riders or to the detriment of the image of our sport - instructors and riders are encouraged to use microphones and earpieces in order to minimise distractions.
15. Make sure which tack is allowed in the warm-up ring at competitions, as it can lead to elimination.
16. Only the person competing can warm up the horse in the arena.
17. Practice fences must be flagged in order that they are jumped in one direction only. Red flags on the right, white flags on the left.
18. The height and spreads of practice fences must not exceed the maximum dimensions allowed for the competition in progress.
19. No pole or other articles of any kind are to be held by hand for the horse/pony to jump
20. It is the BHRC committee's duty is to protect the sport and ensure safe and fair warm-up experience for all competitors. Their decision is final: if you are reprimanded or warned, obey graciously and learn from your mistakes.



Membership Form 2023

Website – blackdownhillsrc.co.uk

Completed membership form to be sent to: Mrs Tricia Budd, 24, Newlands Grove, Ruishton, Taunton, Somerset, TA3 5JJ. triciabudd24@gmail.com

Contact Name

Address and Post code.....

Telephone.....Email.....

Senior - £28, Junior - £23 (age from 6 to 18 years)
For 2 members of the same family, £5 discount.

First Name	Surname	New member?	Riding activities	DOB if junior

I ENCLOSE CHEQUE/CASH FOR £..... payable to BHRC OR I HAVE SENT A BACS PAYMENT OF £.....ON..... (Date) WITH REFERENCE (Surname)

NatWest – sort code 60-23-05, account no; 74506439 Blackdown Hills Riding Club

Volunteering: We depend upon the support of our members in order to function as a club. We request all members to help out on **one** occasion each year. By joining BHRC, you consent to us contacting you in relation to volunteering.

Data Protection: I agree to data relating to my membership being held by BHRC. I agree that this data may be disclosed to British Riding Clubs. Please tick here if you DO NOT give consent for your photo to be used. Whilst every effort will be made by BHRC not to use your photo, images of members in backgrounds may at times be unavoidable and BHRC cannot take responsibility for third parties taking and using images.

I agree to data relating to me being held by BHRC and passed to BHS British Riding Clubs.

I agree to my contact details being released to the committee or other members for the purpose of riding club activities

I agree to help at one event or club run activity during the year

I agree to abide by BRC rules

Signed.....Date.....