

October 2014 -

A DAY AT THE SHOW – By Sara Llewellyn

“Always prepare well in advance and think very carefully before taking two ponies to a show” My own considered advice, but did I take any notice? Not really. I thought about preparing during the week running up to the show but ended up leaving most things to the day before. Granted I had given myself the whole day to prepare and I was lucky as I had sensibly washed travel rugs and boots after the last outing, but of course found myself pushed for time to get the two ponies washed. Its complicated with animals – I couldn’t wash my little grey ponies until the late afternoon, as I was to keep them in over night, not something they particularly liked especially as it meant keeping them apart from their two field mates. All four came in to postpone the inevitable yelling until later and make washing a little easier. I was exhausted after lugging two huge barrels of hot water uphill to the yard and got strange and knowing looks from the ponies, as leaning on the gate I tried catch my breath. Note to self – must go to the gym! I started on the younger of the two as she wasn’t quite so aware of what was about to happen, the older one was now pawing at the gate looking longingly at the field occasionally giving me the evil eye. It always amazes me how I seem to end up wetter than the ponies. The day was rather windy so water was being blown back into my face each time I took the sponge out the bucket. I’m sure the old pony was laughing. I managed to wash the younger one without too much hassel except for the tail of course which always caused excitement and stomping of feet and then the inevitable swinging of the tail flinging water everywhere. She was partially dried and wrapped up warm and cosy in her stable it was now time to start on the old girl. I had a bit of a chase around the yard to catch her, not even a handful of pony nuts was tempting. Eventually I got her tied up, I tried to explain that I was using warm water and it wasn’t going to be that bad. She didn’t believe me and kept swinging her hind quarters toward me in an attempt to show her disapproval. So I started on the tail – how strong is an elderly pony’s tail? I got swung round in all directions and ended up with the entire bucket of water down my wellies. I squelched my way to the front and started on the mane – she stood still, “OH!” she stood still while I washed her entire body. Amazed and pleased I popped back down the hill to the house to fill up the container with warm water to rinse her off. I puffed my exclamation of approval at her on my return when I found her quietly standing broad side to the stables. She looked at me knowingly! She then turned completely around to show her other side The air turned blue and I’m sure the neighbours heard me shriek “Why can’t you be black or brown” She had managed to rub one entire side of her body including head and tail on the stables and was now the colour of creosote and of course had the remnants of the sticky stuff lodged in her mane, face and flanks. GRRrrrrr! An hour later both ponies were washed, nearly dry, wrapped up in ridiculous outfits to try to keep them clean overnight and bedded down in lovely clean straw. The calling started as the other two were let back into the field. Both clean ponies pooped and started walking it into their beds Argh!! I just had to walk away and hope they settled and stayed clean for the morning. It was nearly dark now and I still had my outfit to sort and tack to clean.

The alarm went off at 6am. It was still dark. I left hubby asleep in bed even though he had promised to help, I needed a groom if I was to manage two. A little longer in bed might keep him a little happier, not being either a horsy or early morning person.

I washed the pony’s legs, tails and faces again and managed to keep them away from the stables whilst I gabbled a little breakfast and woke my groom. It’s a good job the ponies weren’t able to see themselves in a mirror as they entered the lorry, nothing in their right mind would want to look like they did – all bundled up in rugs, mane, leg and tail protectors of various colours they were unrecognizable as ponies – the outfits would have to be removed before anyone saw them. We arrived

in good time at the showground and after retrieving my numbers from the very busy secretaries I returned to start preening the pony for my first class. Of course this had its challenges as she had to come out of the lorry to give me some space but caused the one left in the lorry to go totally mad. Staying in view helped and so with husband hanging on to the pony who by now was getting very excited about all the incoming trailers and the rather nice stallion that was two trailers down from us I tried desperately to powder legs and brush out mane and tail whilst continually shouting at the groom (hubby) to stop letting the pony eat grass and concentrate, he was playing with his mobile phone. Grass removed and mouth wiped we trundled down to the ring and waited for the class to start. We were on our own, it was quiet and gave us time to calm and collect ourselves together it was lovely.

The door opened and out came the ponies from the previous class all jumping the imaginary monster that was obviously lurking in the doorway. Anni was no different and leapt into the arena with great pizzazz. We were first in but right behind us was the beautiful stallion that she had taken a fancy to and so for the entire class she made low nickering sounds aimed at him. She behaved herself and possibly having the stallion behind her gave her the edge and she showed herself off very well. The arena was huge surely we weren't going to be using the whole of it. Yes we were! Another note to self – must include some running in my new scheme to get fit. At the end of the run up, ring craft requires one to acknowledge the judge with a nod and then walk sedately to your original place in the line up and stand in a manner to show off all the good points of the pony. I was so knackered and sweat was pouring off me I managed a cough and a nod and then used the pony to support me back to my position in the line up, I leant against her to get my breath back I couldn't help it, I thought it might look a little better than to be doubled up! Luckily the judge's attention had gone to the next in line. I wasn't the only one doubled over at the end of the run up and we looked at each other laughing one competitor mouthed to me What are we doing? I couldn't believe it when I got called out first, I had won the class the first time ever with this little pony how exciting Then the judge said "well done, now do a lap of honour" WHAT! I took a minute to get my breath back before heading back to the lorry.

There was some commotion in that general direction and I realised that groom (hubby) had taken the other pony off the lorry and was now being swung around by her on the end of a rope. I appeared in front of him to be told in no uncertain terms that he had been pushed and shoved and stood on by her, she confirmed this by giving him an almighty shove just as he was off guard I could only giggle as did the passers by. As I passed the secretaries on my way to my next class I asked, that if there were any spare bodies around, if they could send someone to help hubby, as he was getting very frustrated with the pony that was left behind. I knew most of the people and they knew my hubby so there was a possibility that Mafeking would be relieved. After another exhausting run around the arena I excitedly left with a second placing and the potential to be deaf, due to Anni screeching a reply to the pony at the lorry who I could hear yelling her head off outside. When I got back to the lorry I was amazed to find five people all fussing around my veteran pony who had been gladly handed over by hubby. My plea for some help had obviously worked. All classes finished hubby disappeared off to bin some rubbish and with ponies on board and quietly munching on hay I sat in the back with a cup of tea and two friends to chat about the show. After about half an hour we realised that my groom had not returned and so we thought we had better go looking for him. We didn't have to go far. We went to the cab to lock up and saw a pair of feet sticking out the door, on closer inspection we heard snoring and there he was, my groom spread across the front seats, legs out the door fast asleep. He must have had a tiring day.

I had a super and successful day; it was worth all the hard work. Many thanks to everyone who helped in any form especially Jane and Charlotte who 'rescued' hubs and the pony and all those that organised such a lovely little show. We are very lucky to have such wonderful people in our riding club

that make the day run smoothly and with such a lovely atmosphere. For all those that couldn't get there look out for the Spring Show next year and come along – you will enjoy yourselves. Oh and thanks to whoever put my photo up on Facebook and apologies to all that have seen it – I look like a combination of an old schoolgirl and an Ewok!!!! Ha ha

.....and then there was Gem and I. We arrived late morning to avoid the in-hand classes because I know how unfit I am and how much running a sadistic judge will expect! (I was also fresh out of Vetwrap!)

Foolishly, I had bathed Gem the night before and stabled her, therefore the next morning she waltzed out of her stable with a smug expression on her face and an entirely green leg. She would have been cleaner if I had left her overnight un-rugged in a ploughed field! Armed with Fairy liquid and a hose pipe I scrubbed until her leg was tinged yellow and hoped it would dry clean.

Heazle was packed! All seemed very calm, Jill and her team were taking entries, Sylvia was stewarding and Norman was looking stressed! Despite the yellow leg I decided to enter the best turned out class. My daughter/groom arrived with her new boyfriend in tow, said "hello" and went out to lunch at the local pub leaving me with an untacked, almost clean horse. Luckily for me I spied Jane Palfrey and Charlotte Gaskin – one of our junior members - across the showground and bellowed "help." I am not usually quite so pathetic but you try to get Gem tacked up with a side saddle that has 3 girths, into a new bridle that she was wearing for the first time, me into a (tight) side saddle habit mounted on Gem AND keep all of this clean!

All thanks to Jane and Charlotte, Gem and I won the Best Turned Out. Charlotte continued with me for the rest of the day, taking rosettes from me and giving Gem Polo's, thank you Charlotte. By 5 O'clock all was finished. Jill and her team (Pat, Joy, Sylvia, Victoria and Jane) had done a fantastic job which meant I had the chance to ponce around on my darling Gem. As I trundled home in the still behaving Freelanders I reflected how lucky I am, a lovely horse, great friends and a lovely club, Thank you BHRC

- **WS&DD Championships** – in the end, our only representatives at this championship were Victoria with Waterford and Gem and I. A lovely atmosphere and lovely weather made this a very enjoyable day. Gem did 2 lovely tests, just outside the ribbons but we did win a rosette for the oldest horse and a trophy for being the highest (and only) BHRC member in the prelim class. Tor and Waterford came 6th in the Novice, 3rd in the elementary and got a rosette for being the oldest horse and a trophy for being the highest placed BHRC member.
- **Area Dressage** – and we do it again this Sunday! Tynka and I are doing the Prelim and Kate and Tor are doing the Novice. Times will be out soon, it would be lovely to see some BHRC members coming along to support us.
- **Rising Stars Show Jumping** (2nd November) – we have (in theory at least) 4 teams. I will be contacting all at the end of this week and getting a final head count as we always have a hitch the week before, then I will send in the entries. Feel free to contact me offering either help or ability to fill in a space on a team.

- **AGM and Christmas Party** – Friday 5th December at the Catherine Wheel, Hemyock – everyone is welcome, you do not have to be a member. Come along and enjoy. We have a free buffet, an auction of paintings by Caroline Cook and loads of trophies to give out.
- **Trophies** – on that note – ALL trophies need to be back with a committee member by the AGM, this includes the cups and trophies won at the Open Show last year (but not the Dressage League plates) I have you on my list!
- **Training** – the committee are aware that training has been a little lapse for the last couple of months. If you email me with your thoughts, ideas, preferences and opinions I will pass them on to the committee and I will try to get some things set up.
- **Dressage League** – it is that time of year again! Paddocks is booked, the tests are chosen and we have a new sponsor – horse&life.co.uk – a new online company based in the Blackdown Hills.

OPEN UNAFFILIATED DRESSAGE LEAGUE COMPETITION 2015

Held by kind permission of Kate Baker at ‘The Paddocks’ Bickenhall Nr Taunton, TA3 6TS

Includes qualifiers for W.S & D Dressage Championships. provisional

Each competition will be held in an outdoor arena, warm up may be restricted if the weather is bad.

Please check the prospective weather conditions before hand and only ring the show secretary the evening before to check the event is going ahead if the weather is in doubt.

IN THE EVENT OF A CANCELLED EVENT, DETAILS WILL BE POSTED ON THE FRONT PAGE OF OUR WEB SITE AND ON OUR FACEBOOK PAGE

Late entries on the day will be taken at the discretion of the secretary.

The ‘Cassie Plates’ will be awarded to the winner of the Senior and Junior league and a special rosette awarded for winner and runner up. Horse & Life are also donating a rug to each winner of the league (1 senior and 1 junior)

Entries for each event to : Mrs Joy Brown, Hidon Mead Cottage, Clayhidon, Cullompton, Devon EX15 3TJ. Tel: 01823 680012. Times will be on our web site on the Thursday evening before the event, of phone Joy on the Friday evening after 7.00 pm

(Trophies will be given to BHRC members with the highest number of points for each of the W&T, Prelim and Novice classes. To be awarded at next year's AGM)

WS&DD QUALIFIERS – no decision made at time of print

Classes 3 and 4 are qualifiers for the **West Somerset and Devon Dressage** Members of **Witheridge, North Devon, West Somerset, Exeter, Quantock, Sid & Otter and Blackdown Hills Riding Clubs** are eligible to enter, provided they meet the eligibility criteria.

The top 2 eligible combinations from each qualifier will be invited to the Championships, plus the highest placed eligible junior if not in the top 2 at Preliminary level. The option to invite the 3rd placed combination will be reserved to the organiser.

Many thanks to Horse & Life who are donating most of the rosettes for the 2015 Dressage League

Sunday February 1st -

Class 1 BD Walk Trot – Introductory A (2008) rosette to all entries (Restricted to combination of horse and rider not to have been placed 1st in any dressage event)

Class 2 Prelim 4 (2002)

Section 'A' – restricted to combination of horse and rider not to have been placed 1st in Prelim. or higher

Section 'B' – Open

Class 3 Prelim 12 (2005)

Class 4 Novice 24 (2010)

All entries in by January 20th to Joy Brown Tel: 01823 680012. (see front cover for address)

Times will be available on BHRC website

Sunday March 1st -

Class 1 BD Walk and Trot Introductory A (2008) rosette to all entries (Restricted to combination of horse and rider not to have been placed 1st in any dressage event)

Class 2 Prelim 1 (2006)

Section 'A' – restricted to combination of horse and rider not to have been placed 1st in Prelim. or higher

Section 'B' – Open

Class 3 Prelim 7 (2002)

Class 4 Novice 34 (2009)

All entries in by February 20th to Joy Brown Tel: 01823 680012. (see front cover for address)

Times will be available on BHRC website

Sunday March 29th -

Class 1 BD Walk and Trot Introductory B (2009) rosette to all entries

(Restricted to combination of horse and rider not to have been placed 1st in any dressage event)

Class 2 Prelim 13 (2006)

Section 'A' – restricted to combination of horse and rider not to have been placed 1st in Prelim. or higher

Section 'B' – Open

Class 3 Prelim 18 (2002) Qualifier for W S & D Dressage Championships (provisional) **Class 4** Novice 28 (2008) Qualifier for W S & D Dressage Championships (provisional)

All entries in by March 20 th to Joy Brown Tel: 01823 680012. (see front cover for address)

Times will be available on BHRC website

If declaring an entry for a W S & D D qualifying class, please write on entry form the name of your riding club. To qualify you must be a paid up member of a riding club at the time of competing. (See qualification rules below)

Blackdown Hills Riding club are proud to be associated with horse&life.co.uk

Sunday May 3rd -.

Class 1 BD Walk and Trot Intro B (2009) rosette to all entries (Restricted to combination of horse and rider not to have been placed 1st in any dressage event)

Class 2 Prelim 1 (2006)

Section 'A' – restricted to combination of horse and rider not to have been placed 1st in Prelim. or higher

Section 'B' – Open

Class 3 Prelim 14 (2006)

Class 4 Have-a-go Dressage to music – freestyle, open to individuals or pairs. **Free entry to this class but a donation to club funds would be appreciated**

(Performance to last between 4 to 5 minutes timed from the first halt to last halt.) **Class 5** Novice 30 (2006) The rules for this class are on our website/events

All entries in by April 20th to Joy Brown Tel: 01823 680012. (see front cover for address)

Times will be available on BHRC website

- The Just Gem trophy will be awarded to the highest placed BHRC member in class 4 (individual).
- 2 trophies will be awarded to the highest placed BHRC pairs in class 4
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- Signature.....Date.....
- I hereby agree to abide by the show rules and conditions
- Tel No:.....
- Address:
- Name
- BHRC WINTER LEAGUE DRESSAGE ENTRY FORM
-

ClassAnd section	W.S & D D Name of club	Date	Name of Horse/ pony	Name of rider	BHRCMember?	Fee

TOTAL.....

RULES

THE COMPETITION WILL BE RUN UNDER BRC RULES FOR DRESSAGE

- All classes are open to adults and juniors
- Entry form should be sent to the Show Secretary (Joy Brown) together with the correct fees £7.00 per class BHRC members £8.00 per class non-members. Cheques to be made payable to The Blackdown Hills Riding Club.
- Late entries for classes will incur a £1 surcharge per class and are at the discretion of the secretary.
- Points system – 1st. = 6points, 2nd. = 5points, 3rd. = 4points, 4th. = 3points, 5th. = 2points, 6th. = 1point.
- Rosettes will be awarded to 6th. place, with a special rosette to the highest placed BHRC member. The 'Cassie Shields' will be awarded to the riders (one senior and one junior) with the most points accumulated over all classes in the four dressage events.
- No responsibility can be taken by the organisers for any accident to competitors, horses, spectators or property. Competitors will be expected to abide by any Health and Safety rules on the day (to be posted up on the day)
- The judge's decision is final.
- All competitors will be expected to wear the current and correct riding hats.

- No refund of fees after the closing date
- Please remove all droppings and leave the car park tidy
- NO HORSE MAY COMPETE IN MORE THAN 3 CLASSES

November 2014-

Probably the last one this year.

Hector.....Stainsby Irish Mist My beautiful boy Hector passed away on the 16th September 2014. Hector + I found each other in May 2013, Hector has been an active competition pony all his life, being successful everywhere, he, I was told started out life with the Whitakers, which would make sense as he was ridden successfully by Joe Clayton who is 2nd cousin to Michael Whitaker, although not owned by either from what I can gather. 2002 2nd British Novice Championship, 2003 3rd Junior new Comers, Coming 1st + a 4th in the Blue Chip winter Championship in 2006, along with a 2nd in the Pony of the Year show, Talent Spotters Grand Prix also in 2006. Most of this I've researched since he died, I bought Hector at 17 years old they were looking for a riding club home rather than a competition home, his success in show jumping is not why I bought him, jumping terrifies me, his flat work was amazing, the sale didn't run smoothly but it must have been fate as he became mine in the end. I've had an absolutely fantastic time with him, although way too short, I've never had or ridden such a powerful, talented, gentleman of a horse as Hector and I probably never will again. We've had so much fun + I personally feel I achieved so much with him. Hector wasn't himself, but didn't make a fuss, I noticed he was yawning allot at times + did appear to be a bit tired, lazy even, then almost appeared to be dizzy, although eating drinking + moving fine all along, I called a vet in who took blood tests which confirmed his suspicions of organ failure, his liver, I was devastated + so worried for him, the vet reassured me although serious, he wasn't in pain + had every chance of turning a corner, recovery may be slow but possible, this conversation carried on between the vet + I for the next 18 hours, him repeating those words, 'recovery is possible', about 3.30am his breathing changed, I knew this wasn't good, I knew he wasn't winning, unable to think about that too much I stayed positive telling him how much fun we were going to have once he was better. The vets words changed to 'No hope of recovery' when he examined him later that morning, his heart + lungs were also failing, those words were crushing and still wake me up at night now. It was almost exactly 48hrs from the vets 1st visit to the final one; I stayed with Hector to reassure him through his passing by injection, supported by my husband Adrian and my sister Jo. Also by my good friend Nisi whilst Hector was collected a bit later on. Thank you to you. It's got to be the hardest thing you can ever do for your beloved animals. Hector died of liver failure, with only two days obvious illness, Hector's ashes have been returned to me, in a very grand but fitting chest....I will spread his ashes on his field, although haven't yet. The chest will become his memory box, the animal cremation service I used are very dignified and very good at they're job, no fuss just understanding, Debbie the owner

took it upon herself to return Hector's tail to me along with his ashes beautifully washed + plaited, banded at each end, I wasn't expecting this + was a bit of a shock but, I guess nice. I'm glad his remains are home but still struggle in believing it's all I have left of future plans + dreams together.

Being a member of the Blackdown Hills Riding Club, has brought me so much care + support from so many fellow members, I want to say a huge thank you to you all, especially in times of need so many of you were there for me with offers of company for my distraught mare, the messages of support are so welcome at such a time of sadness, Megan, who is perfectly happy with her new playmate, a Shetland called Chelsea, continues to be happy healthy 28year old, you really wouldn't know she is that age to look at her. I will in time hopefully find another equine friend to help fill the massive hole that Hector's death has left in my life.

Hector became a friend to us all in the riding club. Gem and Hector went for hacks together and dozed contentedly next to each other during competitions when Deana and I were catching up on the gossip. I remember their last dressage test in the Rising Stars in August, they did their best test ever. Deana gave Hector the very best last 2 years of his life – they were perfect for each other and I struggle even now to see Deana without her beautiful boy. Tricia

- **Area dressage – Tynka on Cyril, Kate on Sauber, Victoria on Waterford and myself on Gem.** I had tried to get out of riding in this event as I was sure there were other members who would like to do it and be better than Gem and I. However, after others had dropped out due to a broken finger and a double booking, 9.30 am on Sunday 26th saw Gem and I as the first competitors to go. Gem was her usual brilliant self, and did a lovely test; it was so early on in the day that I didn't appreciate how good it was until the end of the day when I realised we were the highest placed BHRC team member, what a star she is. On the plus side, we were so early she was turned out in her field by 11.30 am! Tynka and Cyril also did a lovely test, Cyril is only just 5 and this time last year was still a race horse. He found the warm-up quite intimidating but was a very good boy in his test, another one for next year's team I think! I went home and checked on husband and children, one was on the computer, one was watching football and the other was still in Plymouth recovering from a night out. As all seemed calm and no one needed feeding, I left and went back to Pontispool just in time to watch Sauber do his Danish warm blood impression in the warm up arena! However, he calmed down and did a lovely calm test; we dared anyone to whistle The Last Post as he came down the centre line for the last time! After a quick cup of tea, we all sat in a row on the bank and had a grandstand view of Victoria and Waterford; they also did a lovely test and we gave them a rousing round of applause as they finished, much to Victoria's amusement. A lovely day was had by all. We were out of the ribbons but we had such fun, in no small part thanks to our **Ground Crew of Pat Etherington**, who was our Chief d'equipe and **Sara** and **Sue** who came along and cheered us on. As a competitor, it is so lovely to have someone on the ground and I know the other team members felt the same. Thank you girls!

Rising Stars Show Jumping – and the following week end we met at Conquest! I arrived at Conquest and after shoehorning myself into a vacant gateway went to find the BHRC crew. Sure enough, they were all there with huge smiles on their faces competitors and helpers alike. I walked the course, not sure why because I don't jump but it made me feel part of the team! There are always last

minute hitches and this was no exception, Mandy Ryan still had a broken and very sore finger, so her beautiful 17.2 hh horse Caspar was given to her 12 year old daughter to ride. Sophie rode him beautifully and it seems Mandy now needs to find another horse. Our first team of **Megan on Dandy, Sophie on Caspar and Jacqui on Finbar** came equal 6th, which as there was only 3 in their team; all their scores had to count. Our other team of **Tynka on Cyril, Leah on Crown Jewel, Georgina on Didi and Jane on Calypso** won, they didn't even have to go to the jump off and they finished on a zero team score!.

We all calmed down; some went home and others arrived and we walked the course for class 2. After 2 rounds it was extremely close; both our BHRC teams and Polden RC finished on a team score of 4 faults. Therefore all three teams had to jump a 3rd jump off round. I gave up trying to keep up with the scores, or indeed the course, but when the final results came out I was overwhelmed. Our Bright Sparks team of **Gary on Winston, Sophie on Chloe, Tynka on Cyril and Georgina on Didi** came 3rd and our Boffins of **Sophie on Caspar, Leah on Crown Jewel, Pip on Jack and Deb on Tikkia WON**. Our Ground crew of **Charlotte, Kate** and her daughter **Leia, Sylvia, Sara, Sue, Claire, Deana and Adrian**, to name but a few were a fantastic support. It is so kind of people to give up their time to support us and the teams really do appreciate it, thank you all so much.

Rising Stars dressage is Sunday 25th January and **Rising Stars Show Jumping** is Easter Monday. Schedules to follow but if you won a sash this time, you can't compete in the same class again – you have risen!

A note for anyone wishing to represent BHRC in team events - This is to try and explain the entering of team competitions and what is on offer for everyone throughout the year.

Area 12

Most area competitions can either be entered as either a qualifier for the national championships (1st and 2nd normally qualify) or as a non-qualifier where you will just be entering the area championships. All competitions are for senior and junior members but may be held on different days at different locations. All entries must go through the BHRC secretary who will also organise teams. We do not 'select' teams, just organise them and we will always send as many people who want to compete as teams or individuals, area competitions are just a riding club competition and are supposed to be FUN!

If a **qualifying** entry is made, all horses must have up to date flu vaccinations and the BHRC secretary (Tricia) will require a photocopy of your horses' passport which needs to be sent off to prove this. Qualifying entries must be in 3 clear weeks before the event.

Tricia will also send out reminders about upcoming competitions throughout the year and is available to answer any questions, but please let her know as early as possible if you might like to be involved.

Up to date information and schedules are on the area 12 website throughout the year www.brcarea12.org.uk under the events section. Organisers will often run open unaffiliated classes alongside the main riding club classes as warm ups or at a higher level.

Rising Stars

These competitions are run by West Somerset RC and are held at Conquest RDA, Taunton. They are team events; you cannot enter as an individual, although there are some individual awards in each section. They are for teams of 3 or 4 with the top 3 scores to count.

Dressage is held around February and August; class 1 is usually a walk and trot test and class 2, prelim tests.

Show jumping in May and October, there is a warm up class, followed by class 1 at approx.. 60 cm, followed by a jump off. Class 2 is approx. 70 cm, going up to 75 cm for the jump off.

The BHRC secretary will send out reminders and schedules for these events, again, we will send as many teams as we can, you can either contact Tricia with a readymade team of 4, or give Tricia your name and she will put you together with other BHRC members to make a team.

Teams can be made up of juniors, seniors or mixed teams of both juniors and seniors. As in Area competitions, entries need to go through the BHRC secretary.

Again, the emphasis is FUN!

The criteria for RS competitions is for novice/new combinations. Therefore, if your horse represents ANY Riding Club in an Area event, it is judged to be too good for Rising Stars and therefore not eligible.

RIDGEWAY RIDER PAGE 30 – you can access this online.

- **AGM and Christmas party** – we have been given 4 pictures by Caroline Cook to auction. The pictures are far better than my camera makes out!