

September 2014 -

Well done Blackdown Hills Riding Club you managed to raise so far a fabulous £235 (still counting) for this years annual chosen charity Breast Cancer Awareness.

Many thanks to Kate Baker for gifting us the use of her lovely facilities at The Paddocks Bickenhall, for the above event held on Sunday 21st. September. The Dressage event started at 10.30 am with a class of ten competitors all vying for top marks and a red rosette, however I think secretly, what they were really competing for was the prestigious pink rosettes kindly donated by Clippersharp, for the best turned out competitor in pink. As I looked round the field I could see that there must have been some very busy / stressed mums and dads who had obviously been working into the wee small hours sewing, gluing and then up at ridiculous o'clock plaiting and braiding ponies and children alike, in pink flowers and ribbons. It didn't stop at the children either as many of the adults looked as if they had raided their children's dressing up boxes and local charity shops. I must give them all credit for the thought and effort everyone had put in to get the overall look that would hopefully win them the award, they were all fantastic. Each of the four classes over the day were well attended and so the judges Sally Haddon and Karen Cameron had an entertaining and slightly more complicated job in judging the movements of each competitor as they took their equines around the arena in their various guises. Pieces of pink outfits flew off as horses took the corners whist feathered or flowered hats fell over eyes both on horse and rider causing much jollity amongst the spectators. I had the unenviable task of judging the best pink outfit for each class. This very difficult task, which had the potential of making me very unpopular, took all morning to complete. As I short listed entries from each class and could only make a decision after I had got a close up look of the outfits - who had plaited their own horses? glued all the sequins on themselves? How would the judges on "Strictly" cope? I think I was more of a Len than a Craig and after much agonizing decided the following..

Class 1 1st. Bea Perham riding Bonnie 2nd. Sophie Eckley riding Chloe

Class 2 1st. Amanda Ryan riding Caspar 2nd. Megan Edwards riding Dandy

Class 3 1st. Olivia Hodges riding Lord Percy 2nd. Amanda Ryan riding Caspar

Class 4 1st. Tricia Budd riding Just Gem 2nd. Victoria Pitcher riding Waterford

Behind the scenes Jane Palfrey (committee member) beautifully dressed in a pink Bollywood outfit had done a fantastic job as caterer, providing tea and cakes as well as lunches for the judges. Set up next to Jane was Charlotte who was doing a sterling job selling tickets for the Tombola. There were some super prizes all generously donated by riding club members and friends. Also present was a budding artist 'Chrissie' who at the tender age of 12, spent the day sketching peoples horses and dogs for a small donation the results of her efforts were fantastic and I think she has a good career ahead of her. I can only conclude that the day was fabulous all round. The weather was perfect everyone had big smiles on their faces and many rosettes were won. Thank you to everyone that helped in any way, either through a donation, participating in the competition or helping behind the scenes with the organizing and stewarding.

Pink Dressage – a fantastic day! Results as follows.

CLASS 1 BD INTRO B WALK TROT

1 st -	SOPHIE ECKLEY	CHLOE	M&J
2 nd -	REBECCA SHEARER	MILLY	
3 rd -	JEMMA EDWARDS	JUST GEM	J
4 th -	JILL PERRIOR	GRACE	M
5 th =	MEGAN EDWARDS	DANDY	M&J
5 th =	SYLVIA BENTLEY	MAX	M

CLASS 2 PRELIM 4

1 st -	AMANDA RYAN	CASPAR	M
2 nd -	NICOLA SHAKESHAFT	COCO SPRINGS	M
3 rd -	REBECCA SHEARER	MILLY	
4 th -	SOPHIE ECKLEY	CHLOE	M&J
5 th -	MEGAN EDWARDS	DANDY	M&J
6 th -	STELLA DAVIES	SECRET MISSION	

CLASS 3 PRELIM 14 QUALIFIER

1 st -	AMANDA RYAN	CASPAR	M
2 nd -	KATE HOPPER	SAUBER	M
3 rd -	HEIDI ROSE	BOUBAKER	

CLASS 4 NOVICE 28 QUALIFIER

1st - HEIDI ROSE BOUBAKER
2nd - VICTORIA PITCHER WATERFORD M
3rd - TRICIA BUDD JUST GEM M

(.....and yes, I did get Gem into a pink tutu!)

- **Autumn show** – Jill Perrior has everything in hand but could do with some help in the afternoon taking entries. If you contact either Jill or myself and I will pass on any offers.
- **Area dressage** – We have a team but could do with someone to ride Prelim. 18. Contact me – Tricia – with any offers. The schedule is on the BHRC web site/events
- **Rising stars** – we have 2 teams but if anyone else would like to make another team let me know. Again, the schedule is on our web site/events
- **Agm and Christmas party** – Friday 5th December at The Catherine Wheel, Hemyock. Everyone is welcome; you do not have to be a member. After my success last year as auctioneer, I am having another go; we were given 4 paintings by Caroline Cook to sell for our Breast Cancer charity.

August 2014 -

- **Rising Stars Dressage** – we all had a fantastic time! Many thanks to all who competed, held a horse, read a test, made a coffee, ferried daughters and ponies...the list is endless of lovely BHRC people who came and supported us on Sunday. Our fantastic juniors of Megan, Phoebe and Sophie gave the adults a run for their money and the seniors looked calmness personified. Everyone was beautifully turned out and I was proud to be part of the team.
- Results as follows –
- 4th **Blackdown Beauties** – - Megan, Phoebe and Elysse - 3rd **Blackdown Babes** – Amanda, Sophie, Jane and Sylvia - 3rd (afternoon) **Blackdown Barbies** – Deana, Xanthe and Amanda . There were individual awards as well, Amanda won both of her classes, Deana was 3rd in hers, Xanthe 4th , Phoebe 2nd, Sophie 4th and Jane 5th – I think (there were 4 individual classes, I got confused) Photos are on the web site and on our Facebook page. **Rising Stars Show Jumping** is on the 2nd November, schedule to follow

- **Dressage for life** - Hi Tricia,

Please can you convince BHRC to come and support "Dressage for Life " this Sunday - rosettes are fluffier and pink and so are the sashes. Might we see you and Gem? Will accept entries by email with payment by bank transfer or cheques in post. This event is run by WSRC, more details on their web site.

- **Jacket for sale** - Hi Tricia, thanks for your help on Sunday, think we all enjoyed the day. The details of the jacket I told you about are - Pikeur dressage jacket I think size 12/14 although on the label it just says ladies - Epsom - washable, its black with silver buttons, NEVER worn, still has price ticket on of £131.50 I'm not sure what price to ask - but maybe sensible offers? Thanks Sylvia (Contact me and I will it pass on, Tx)

Training Bursaries at Western Counties

Please find attached our Training Bursary details which we offer each year to clients of Western Counties Equine Hospital. This year the two bursaries are for Pony Club and Riding Club members.

Could you please circulate to your members? Thank you for your help

Clare Crocker (Practice Manager) Western Counties Equine Hospital Ltd

Western Counties are awarding their annual training bursaries for this year at our client evening on Thursday 25 September 2014. The Bursaries are open to Western Counties clients (young and old!) and are to the value of £500.00 each, which can be spent with the trainer of your choice during 2014/15

The two categories are Pony Club and Riding Club members

To apply please send a summary of your own and/or your horses achievements and the reasons for wishing to have further training, plus a supporting letter from the Chairman of your Riding Club or District Commissioner of your Pony Club, either by post or email to:

Clare Crocker (Practice Manager), Western Counties Equine Hospital, Culmstock, Cullompton, Devon EX15 3LA

Email: clare.crocker@equinehospital.co.uk

The choice of training can be chosen by the applicant- the only stipulation being that Invoices for the training must be forwarded to Western Counties for direct payment to the trainer/training course.

We would like our winners to write a three monthly diary report on how they are progressing throughout the year which we can then publish in our newsletters and on the website.

The closing date for entries is 8 September 2014 and the entrants will be assessed by an independent expert in each category. Short listed entrants will be invited to the Client Evening on Thursday 25 September when the winners will be announced.

- **X Factor** – our final practise and dress rehearsal is Monday 8th September at Conquest RDA – 6.00 pm – 7.00 pm. Everyone welcome, please come and make a lot of noise and wave a banner around. Many thanks to all who came and supported us on the 18th
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- **Missing dog** - Hi Tricia, I'm beside myself with worry over my missing Jack Russell bitch. She went from Bradford on Tone on Friday 8/8/14. We've been searching and reporting to anyone and everyone. I don't I've slept since thurs and am pretty close to having a full on melt down. I've had Buca since she was born, she is my baby and we've been through so much. I'm not ready for the possibility of never seeing her again)-: Tynka x (A photo of Buca is on the Home page of our web site)
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- **WS&D Dressage Championships.** – I have received and passed on the details of this event to those who have qualified so far. Those of you who qualify on the 21st remind me to give you the details!

Camp 2014-Laura Moon

So after spending the previous days sorting out and checking that I had got all the right stuff packed and ready, we set off for camp in the morning. (Lots of waterproofs packed just in case lasts years weather decided to come back!)

Once we arrived (the first ones there) I unloaded Echo and went to go to see Trish, who was having a few issues with the marquee after being told it had been blown over into the car park that night/morning! Once that was fully covered in strong tape I met the other riders in my group: Jacqui, Amanda and Jane in which we weren't red squares more like bay squares!

Once we were all ready we had an amazing flatwork lesson with Karen, and it stayed dry!! Unfortunately this was not true for the second group but it definitely wasn't as bad as it was last year!

After lunch and the rain, a group of us went for a short hack which was lovely but very lively and forward going which I think all the horses enjoyed (a bit too much as my pony Echo and Jacqui's pony Finbar were throwing a fair few bucks in through our cantering/galloping).

In the afternoon we had yet another amazing lesson with Karen, jumping this time, and in the evening most of us hacked down to the pub. We had a slightly quieter ride down and all enjoyed a relaxing evening at the pub with the horses!

So as bed time approached myself, Georgina, Ali and Sophie joined Tynka and Leah in their trailer for ghost stories and a sugar feast. As we all went off to our separate sleeping arrangements, much to my delight, I saw a pretty big spider on my bed, in which I didn't really want to sleep with, so thanks to Tynka I ended up squeezing in with her, Leah and Sophie for the night!

After feeding the horses in the morning, we had breakfast (and for lots of people several cups of tea or coffee to wake up), which I should also add there was a lot less empty bottles of wine etc. this year!

Since we had both our lessons the day before we had the chance to do what we wanted so I went for a hack with Echo by myself (which was a lot quieter, whether it was because he was on his own or he had never done so much work in one weekend I don't know) but we had a lovely ride around the Herepath tracks and afterwards went into the field with the xc jumps which he flew over and really enjoyed himself and was his first time actually doing xc jumps!

After another wonderful lunch the competitions were in progress, everyone plaiting and checking no more stains had appeared before completing the dressage test and their clear round. Once all this was finished we finished up with the presentations which I got Instructors Progress Award. Finally it was picture time, (in which the onezies came back out!) and then tidy up time, ready to go home for a much deserved rest!

Thank you to Trish for organising and running camp, Trish's mum Pat for preparing the lovely food, Karen for the amazing lessons, Joy for running the dressage and everyone else who was helping out, as well as all the riders who added to a wonderful weekend. After helping at camp last year it was very nice to be able to join in with my pony and we had a fantastic time. To all members of the club I would urge you all to get out there to any of the events the riding club hold as all help and support is very much appreciated by all the committee and it is a great way to get to know everyone and there is always lots of cake!! Thank you to Trish, Joy and all the committee who arrange and hold such great events.

BZZZZZZZZZ news – August 2014 From our very own Saraloo!

I can guarantee that the above little monster has bitten most horse owners and definitely every horse in Great Britain. Particularly bad this summer it has definitely put a damper on my leisurely happy hacking. Why are they particularly bad this year? Because we had a mild wet winter and previous summer, they bred well and are now very hungry!

My horses have become immune to me flapping around on their back as I try to ward flies off with my crop or a snapped off branch with a good bit of foliage on it. They are used to me slapping them anywhere on their body, even welcoming it as I squash yet another beastie relieving them of the sting and then incessant itching and swelling. One beastie even punctured me through my jodhpurs, I'm still itching now.

The horses happy to make their way through the woods on a hack with me totally off balance as I flay about reaching down slapping a leafy branch around their belly, now expect me to slap the flies as they land on them and will stop in their tracks and indicate to me where the blighter is and won't budge until I remove it. Hacking consists of swish swish - stop slap start, stop slap start and I'm constantly waving my arms around my head thrashing away at the persistent cloud of flies.

YES I have tried every commercially produced fly repellent in all forms, sprays, sticks, gels, creams, feeding garlic and even marmite. I have made up my own disgusting concoction with some incredible

smelling ingredients all recommended by someone out there on the World Wide Web.

DOES ANYTHING WORK?Nope!

According to the experts they are only around until the middle of August, then... oh! Yes the Bot flies take over.

It appears that one just has to try ones best with whatever one thinks is the most effective for you and your horse. Keep bashing away at the little and in some cases not so little blighters Oh and keep your mouth shut!! Happy hacking!

SUMMMER CAMP August 2nd / 3rd at The Paddocks, Bickenhall.

Well done Tricia Budd, who gave up lots of her time and did a fantastic job organising this now annual event, so those who took part, could have a fabulous weekend playing with their horses. Many thanks to you Trish and your merry little helpers, for all your hard work.

I tipped up at camp on the Sunday to do the scoring for the camp dressage – (oops let me re-phrase that ...) for the dressage event.

The happy campers were excited about the event, some a little nervous as it was their first go, some must have been sporting a dodgy head judging by the row of empty bottles lined up in the ‘pop up’ gazebo.

Actually more like the ‘pop off’ gazebo, as after a very happy Trish, pleased with her uncomplicated assembly of the gazebo, discovered it the next morning upside down on the yard. Now damaged and a total write off it had to be heavily taped to the fencing. The taping worked and it provided an adequate catering center and shelter. Saturday afternoon and rumbles of thunder were heard followed by an incredible deluge that hit the camp. Some of the campers were out on their horses having a lesson and got soaked through. However the sun reappeared not long afterwards and its intense heat meant they soon dried out again. I believe they were smiling through it all, after all they are Blackdown Hill Riding Club members – we are hardy creatures.

Lessons from Karen Cameron (many thanks for all your hard work and enthusiasm Karen) over, the horses were settled for the evening, the campers washed and changed appeared for their well-deserved dinner.

“Isn’t anyone else dressing for dinner?” was the cry from one of the lorries as Xanthe emerged dressed as seen left below - with candelabra!

After a lovely dinner Trish left for her comfy bed at home leaving campers discussing a rather interesting book before bedding down in tents and lorries.

Sunday – competition day - and the sun was shining yet again although a little blowy (Gazebo was amazingly still in position) All horses had been lovingly plaited up and presented properly for such a prestigious event, everyone had their times and were ready to go. There were three sections for the dressage event A, B, C, everyone did really well, I believe there was even encouragement from the judge!!!!

After all the frivolities had taken place a cream tea was laid out in the gazebo for all and whilst people were munching, the prizes were given out. Congratulations to everyone. Thank you to all that attended and helped out in any capacity we can’t hold these events without you. On a personal note thank you to Jane Palfrey for putting jam and cream on a scone for me – I had issues with visiting wasps which led to my scone finishing up on

the floor and a huge dollop of cream plastered all over my shoe. On trying to get a dog to clean it up, found him totally reluctant to enter the gazebo, I was then informed by all that they had been trying to keep him out all weekend and he had only just got the message. Whoops! I believe it was a cat last year.

Well done all happy campers see you next year.

Thank you Sara, the rest is from me.

- **Camp** – A truly wonderful weekend, many, many thanks to everyone who helped out, even for an hour makes all the difference. Karen Cameron and Paddocks are booked for next year! Below are some of the emails I have received.
- *So proud of Leah and Floyd, they really did very well over the camp wkend! Thanks for everything X*
- *Thanks for sending the picture of Calypso and I at the weekend. We had a great time thanks to all your hard work, food was lovely. Can't wait til next time. THANK YOU!*
- *Hello again! Thank you for photo. I hope you have a warm gloweeee feeling for making so many bodieees have such a wonderful weekend. Thank you from the bottom to the top of my heart and a big one for your Mum too and all the other elves. **What a lucky club we are.** Hope you have had a couple of easy days.*

Achievement Award – Sarah Eustace and Tilly

Progress Awards – Laura Moon on Echo and Jacqui Sparks on Finbar

Instructors Award – Xanthe Smith and Maddie

DRESSAGE RESULTS

Section A – Juniors

1 ST - PIP WILLIAMS	JACK
2 ND - SOPHIE ECKLEY	CHLOE
3 RD - MEGAN EDWARDS	DANDY
4 TH - LAURA MOON	EVERY LITTLE ECHO
5 TH - LEAH BINDING	FLOYD

Section B – Up-and-coming!

1 ST - ALI CHAMPION	FILLY
2 ND - JAQUI SPARKS	FINBAR
3 RD - JANE PIPER	CALYPSO

9.30 am – members start to arrive, everyone is happy with their stable – phew! Cyril and Floyd are happy with their field! I do a double take as my trailer follows Deana’s truck into the field, and then remember Deana collected it last night.

10.00 am – **Karen Cameron**, our instructor and judge for the entire weekend, rounds up Squares; **Amanda, Jane, Jacqui and Laura** and they go off for their flatwork lesson.

11.00 am – my mother, **Pat Etherington**, arrives, organises all food, prepares salad, fills flasks and hands me a cup of tea as I am suffering from lack of caffeine due to aforementioned gazebo.

11.30 am – Squares return from their flat work lesson, Karen smiles sweetly and murmurs “sitting trot,”

12.00 noon – **lunch**. Squares sit gingerly down on the softest chairs they can find, everyone else sits on hard chairs and pour over either a Herepath map or Prelim 12.

1.00 pm -**Triangles flatwork lesson, Deana, Xanthe and Sarah** prepare for the worst, little do they know that an hour of sitting trot is the least of their worries. Dark clouds appear, thunder rumbles. With a feeling of de ja vou, Jane, mum and I look at each other. 365 days ago at exactly the same time we also had a thunder storm. Luckily, the rain only affected Triangles and Karen, so we ignored them and sheltered under the (still standing) gazebo.

1.30 pm – the rain stops and the sun comes out, don’t know what all the fuss was about.

1.45 pm – mum and Jane wash a mountain of plates, cutlery and make more tea

2.30 pm – Triangles finish their lesson, Deana is photographed for a national Wet T shirt Competition, Xanthe declares to all she has wet knickers, Sarah keeps quiet!

2.31 pm – we all have a cup of tea.

2.45 pm --**Circles flatwork lesson**. I am worried. I have just picked up poos in my field and can hear laughter from **Tynka, Leah, Sophie and Ali**. Has Karen finally lost the plot, are BHRC responsible for her break down?

4.15 pm –**afternoon tea**, Circles return subdued, Karen is still smiling sweetly, promising to continue with them tomorrow, Circles try not to catch her eye, we have a cup of tea. Then put up jumps in the arena, just for a laugh put them up to 3 ft. 6”.

4.45 pm –**Squares SJ lesson**. Overhear Karen say, “Yes, I am going to put them down” as Squares back nervously into a corner.

5.45 pm – must be time for a cup of tea.

6.00 pm – **cars and horses go off to the pub**, no one thought to take their map with them, Jane and Georgina drive to the Farmers Arms, some set off for The Greyhound, some to the Nags Head, Jane herds them up and points them in the right direction.

6.15 pm – I turn Gem out, she eyes the show jumps up in her field and knocks the first one down with her nose, she then rolls, she still has that glint in her eye!

6.30 pm – a gathering of Paddocks Liveries in the still standing gazebo, we drink tea, Bea cleans Phoebe's tack, we pass the time drinking more tea and eating cake. Karen goes home, I contemplate asking her to sign in blood she will return tomorrow, don't know whether to use her blood or mine

7.30 pm – I light the BBQ, as this year I remembered the matches! Mia organises me as my mother has also gone home, I forgot to ask her to sign anything concerning tomorrow but she did promise to bring a cucumber

8.00 pm – all is well, everyone has returned (I counted them out and I counted them in again) things are cooking, drink is following, horses have been put to bed and are happily munching on their hay nets. Xanthe arrives dressed for dinner in a onesie carrying a candelabra, the rest of us feel underdressed. Some disappear and put on their own onesies to keep Xanthe company. Squares are still walking a little strangely but smiling, we discuss the merits of a neck strap for sitting trot, we discuss who should wear a neck strap, the rider or the horse, and we discuss Fifty Shades of Grey! The juniors have long abandoned the "oldies" and are retelling ghost stories. We drink more wine, I drink more tea.

10.30 pm – I smile smugly and wish everyone a good night, I am going home to my warm bed, I soak in a warm bath, I drink tea. Life is good!

Sunday 3rd August 2014

6.30 am – Polly the cat meows in my ear demanding to be fed, I nervously check my phone for messages concerning an escaped gazebo, all is quiet.

6.45 am - cats fed, taken tea to still snoring husband, pack car with competition clothes for myself and scones for the afternoon tea. Sit in the conservatory sipping cup of tea and enjoying the sunshine.

7.15 am – **arrive at Paddocks.** Karen's car is in the car park; contemplate blocking her in so she can't escape. Jane is tidying up wine bottles, Tynka is searching out sugar for her coffee, and I irritate everyone by trilling "good morning." There is a distinct lack of juniors around. Have a cup of tea

7.45 am – horses are mucked out; juniors are loudly roused from their beds and bleary eyed make their way towards breakfast.

8.00 am – we sit in the beautiful sunshine and eat, learn our test and watch the horses. Karen joins us and tells us we need Vetwrap for sitting trot (boys, you have no idea how easy you have it.) there follows a discussion on how much Vetwrap each of us would need and how best to remove it afterwards.

8.45 am – finish cup of tea and catch Gem. She has excelled herself, bay all over. There is a queue for the hose pipe so I put her in her stable threatening to return later, she promptly closes her eyes and goes to sleep.

9.15 am - Triangles SJ lesson. I am picking up poos in Gems field and watch Deana and Hector jump 3 huge fences beautifully, brought a tear to my eye. Spend the next hour trying to find jump cups to fit the practice fence. Give up, have a cup of tea.

10.15 am – Laura and Echo jump some cross country fences, **Xanthe and Rosie the Boxer** go for a hack and find their way back again, **Amanda** is trying to plait **Caspar's** mane, takes them all out again, borrows my solo comb, goes for a hack, plaits Caspar's mane. I have a cup of tea in preparation of bathing a bay skewbald.

10.30 – Circles SJ lesson. I remove Gem from her stable and admire the way she has managed to grind grass stains into her knees. I turn on the hose and grab some purple shampoo for “dirty” horses, get slightly carried away and end up with a lilac tinged skewbald, decide she will dry white and put her back in her stable daring her to poo and then lie down. Have a cup of tea and a left over croissant.

11.00 am – my mother arrives with an enormous cucumber and some tomatoes. Jane and Georgina go to get some “fuel”, they are away almost an hour, goodness knows where they went as there is a fuel station 2 miles away, the traffic must be really bad.

11.30 am – Circles finish their lesson, we put fences away and put up the dressage arena, Laura and I do a Laurel and Hardy sketch trying to get the boards straight, in the end Laura stands at a corner and we do a “left a bit, right a bit” routine.

11.35 am – Georgina and Jane arrive back looking shift; I send them out again for cheese.

12.00 –horses are groomed, preened and plaited to within an inch of their lives, many gallons of Show Shine have been used, and Gem is still clean although damp.

12.15 –Jill Perrior arrives as she is our writer for this afternoon, we all tuck into bacon, cheese and beef rolls for lunch, Jacqui and Jane track down my mother as she has promised profiteroles for pudding. We drink tea and horses are tacked up for the competitions. **Saraloo** arrives as she is our scorer; we tell her she is in charge of the dressage and exit quickly in case she does a runner.

1.30 pm – Karen and Jill are in Karen's car in the arena and the first competitor – **Kate Hopper and Sauber** start their test. **Jane** is stewarding, opening and closing the gate, removing brushing boots, checking tack and reading out tests.

1.45 pm – Gem sparkles in the sunshine, no hint of lilac to be seen. My test is at 2.38 pm so I have plenty of time. I paint her toes, tack her up and struggle into some very tight jods (the croissant may have been an unwise move)

1.55 pm – Georgina, Phoebe and Bea organise the clear round, everyone is smiling and lots of rosettes are fluttering in the breeze.

2.00 pm – start to warm Gem up and realise how bad the ground is, walk around forming a cunning plan, as soon as the previous competitor comes out I will go straight in and warm up in the arena. I stand and talk to Deana. Jane tells us they are ahead of time. I continue to talk to Deana; Gem falls asleep next to Hector. Amanda and Caspar finish their test, Jane tells me I am next! A quick trot up and down the path and as we enter the school. Gem notices Karen's car at “C” and goes into Valegro

mode. Gem makes it perfectly clear that the only reason we won't be awarded all 10's is due to the rider she is saddled with, not through any lack of effort on her part.

2.26 pm – as the horn goes for us to start our test I realise I may well have drunk too much tea. With a full bladder, no neck strap and not a roll of vet wrap in sight it will be rising trot all the way!

2.30 pm – Gem does a lovely test. She does a near perfect final halt and for all I know blows Karen a kiss. I reflect again how incredibly lucky I am to be able to share her life.

2.45 pm – we wander back to the stables; I untack Gem and thank her again. I give her some feed and struggle out of my still very tight jods (Lycra, pah!). Go back to the still erect gazebo where my mum has put out afternoon tea. Eat cake, drink tea, present prizes. The shifty look from earlier is explained – I am given a beautiful orchid (which is now in my conservatory)

6.30 pm – **everyone has gone home**, Paddocks is immaculate, you would not know that it had been our home for the last 2 days. Gem is in her field rolling and getting grubby, I wish her well – she will scrub up again another day. I stand looking at her munching and smile, what a wonderful weekend, lovely horses, funny, friendly people and lots of food!

Thank you BHRC and everyone associated with you, I had a ball!

See you all next year! Tricia B x

- Those of you at camp will have noticed Georgina Palfrey hobbling around on crutches, she landed awkwardly dismounting. Georgina works for Brian Barr Racing and with “sick leave” forced upon her; she has written this piece for us. I am reliably informed Georgina is going back to work tomorrow – her mother is delighted!

Brian Barr Racing is a small yet successful yard with 8 horses in full training racing over hurdles and is currently in the process of going from permit trainer to a licensed trainer, so he will be able to train for owners.

They have just had a brand new straight gallop put in and are preparing to have 16 brand new internal stable put in.

The past month has been a quiet one, with only two horses going racing at Market Rasen, Lincolnshire on the 19th July.

We travelled up on the Friday 18th July with Castlemorris King and Norfolk Sky. It took a good 6 hours to get there, once there we unloaded the horses and got them settled in and went and walked the track, the ground was perfect for both horses.

Saturday we got up and went and sorted the horses and then got ourselves sorted. 20 minutes before the first race it tipped it down with rain for about 20 minutes including thunder and lightning, with the amount of rain we had, the ground became soft, which we didn't want. Castlemorris King was our first runner of the day in a big listed race; he ran brilliantly considering the ground conditions and

came home in the 6th.

Our 2nd runner of the day was Norfolk Sky, this was her first run back since she fell in her last race, she came home 2nd and also won best turned out, after an eventful couple of days, we loaded the horses and made our way home.

This month is a busy month with 6 runners over the next 3 weeks at 3 different race courses.

Rising stars – Sunday 17th August at Conquest. We have 3 teams, come along and support **Amanda, Sophie, Sylvia, Jane and/or Jacqui, Megan, Jill, Elysse, Phoebe, Deana and Xanthe!**

X Factor Dressage-to-Music – this year BHRC are remembering the very important role the horse played in World War One (an estimated 8 million horses died on the battlefields of Europe). We have practices on the 11th & 18th August and the 8th September at Conquest 6.00 pm – 7.00 pm, please come along and make as much noise as possible.

- **Trophies** – from the Open Show are due back in August. I have your name on my list! They can be given to a committee member or left for me at Paddocks.
- **Breast Cancer Charity Day** – Sunday 21st September at Paddocks. Gem (and I) have a pink tutu each! Many thanks to Clipperssharp for providing the rosettes for this event, Jane Palfrey is running the Tombola and the cake stall, all contributions gratefully received.
- **WS&D Dressage Championships** – Saturday 18th September at KSEG, Greylake. We have another qualifier at our Breast Cancer Charity day. This is a lovely informal championship with nice organisers and a lovely friendly atmosphere. BHRC are offering several prizes, so try to get there.
- **Autumn show** – Sunday 5th October at Heazle. Many thanks to Jill Perrior for organising this. Many thanks to my mum (**again!**) for offering to help out with entries – anyone else free that day?
- **Area 12 Winter Dressage qualifier at Pontispool** - *Hi Tricia, A date for the diary!*
Just to let you know the qualifier for the winter dressage championships are being run on the 26th October at Pontispool. Regards, Hilary, Chair Brent Knoll RC – schedule to follow, but I already have 2 interested. This is October half term so I may not be around, anyone fancy being Chief d'equipe?

- **A.G.M and Christmas Party** – Friday 5th December 7.30 pm at The Catherine Wheel Pub, Hemyock. A chance to meet up and celebrate the fantastic year BHRC has enjoyed. Lots of trophies to be awarded and a free buffet! Put the date in your diary now.

- **Photographer** – sadly, KGB Photography has ceased trading, Kenny provided us with a lot of our publicity photos. Does anyone know of a small outfit who would like to come to our events, we don't have enough competitors for the big companies. Alternatively, please take lots of photos at our BHRC events and email them to me. I have just re done the slide show on our web site. If you send me LANDSCAPE photos I can add them. You can send me portrait photos which I can use on other pages, but the slide show distorts them.