

May 2012

Hi All, at last the sun is shining!!! Woooppppeeee!!! Might be able to get my legs out! Frightening thought I know- especially for those poor souls that saw them at the dressage! Sorry about that!

Few notes from the committee team...

Don't forget the last Winter Dressage League is this Saturday, all entries should now be in, but I am sure Joy would appreciate any helpers or supporters on the day!

Any member wishing to secure their place on the SJ Teams please send a cheque for £12 (Payable to BHRC) to Tricia ASAP- all entries have to go on the one form – We will be doing Senior and Junior-non-qualifying teams!

Any "Rising Stars" need to get back to Tricia by the end of the week so that entries can be in on time! Get your skates on as times running out, the Rising Stars is a great opportunity to represent the club for those new to competing!

Thanks folks! Good luck to everyone competing over the forthcoming few weeks, fingers crossed it stays nice and dry.

ENEWS! April 2012

Blackdown Hills Riding Club Spring show: 7th April at Conquest. The new showing schedule - would it be a success? By 9.30 am the answer was - **YES!!!**

Ponies in the morning – horses in the afternoon – simples.com! The schedule just had a bit of a revamp -we added new classes & tweaked a few to accommodate as many competitors as possible, making sure a minimum of two classes could be entered, in-hand or ridden – I can't be the only who hates plaiting for just one class - am I?? The idea of ponies & horses being split was mainly for safety reasons. I've competed at shows at all levels since I was eleven (Yep that was a long time ago!) and it's often a concern whilst handling or riding excitable young, often big horses, trying to avoid potentially harming little people and ponies or visa versa, as my very tall novice mare is quite afraid of ponies cantering near to her at the moment, she'll get over it!

When I arrived, Tricia was already busy taking additional entries - whoop, whoop! I was then introduced to **Tilley, Rebecca and Laura**, my fabulous three junior helpers. **Deana** joined Tricia to help with entries. There were lots of classes with record entries. **Mandy Cooper** was judge steward for the morning, one of my 'fab' three – Laura, did her first stewarding until **Vicky Goody** took over for the afternoon. **Victoria Pitcher** took over entries whilst Tricia hot-footed it back to her yard to collect Gem. Everything seemed to be running OK – I was practising my vocals in the lorry/trailer park and I had my own clipboard! **What do I have to do to get a badge?** After muddling around and reading instructions to get the speaker system working- I still needed a man! **Adrian** was at hand, thank you Deana for lending your husband, he got it working, I got a badge and it also meant I had a microphone!! I began reading out the results and was even marked 9 out of 10 by a spectator for enthusiasm on one of the results!

Big congratulations to members **Pip Williams & Jack the Lad** for getting a first and three 2nds – they'd also been in the Rising Stars team 2 days before. Also **Sue Johns & Black Jack** for being well

placed in the classes they entered. The Pony Championship was won by Sarah Leaver & Buckland Sylvester (New Forest) ridden & Reserve was Miss Oldham & Mystery (ridden).

Then there were the overs! Firstly I must mention **Gem & Tricia** (note the celebrity is the lead name) – Gem was entered in 3 in-hand & 3 ridden classes. They won three 1st's, one 2nd a 4th & a 5th -6 out of six. Brilliant & not bad for mature ladies! **Sophie Mccollum and Rosie Future** are back competing, whilst Andee and David babysat at the ringside – 1st, 3rd & a 5th – rosette in each class entered, well done. **Jack Thompson-Moodie** with Josh and **Zoe Williams** & Edward - you both had a great day as well – lots of rosettes. Championship – Grace Edward & Flightline Intuition – Ridden Hunter & Reserve – Elyse Gray & Fox view Peace of Mind –In-hand competition Youngster. All three judges commented on how high the standard was that day. On behalf of the Riding Club I would like to thank **Hilary Cope, Jan and Helen** for being such wonderful judges and help making our day a success. Also a big thank you to our helpers on the day plus those behind the scenes and a massive thank you to all the competitors. **Mandy Summers BHRC's Roving Reporter!**

Easter Egg Ride Good Friday 2012 - The EasterEgg Ride was restarted 3 years ago after a few years break, leaving from the Gallops, riding into the Blackdowns and then galloping around afterwards if we wished, it seemed just about perfect, but having lost the Gallops, how could we continue the tradition? **Kate Baker and Paddocks Equestrian of course!** Situated next to the Here Path, it was going to be easy – except we had such a wide choice of routes we were spoilt for routes to take. Therefore the week before, Saraloo, Deana with Peter Pan and myself with Gem met at Paddocks with maps and a general idea of where we wanted to go and what sort of time we needed. Accompanied by Deana's dog, Tyler, we set off, going at a leisurely pace we planned our route, took note of gate and road crossings, good going and stony ground.

The 6th of April was a lovely warm day, such a contrast to the previous day where I had been at Conquest shivering into my many layers and encouraging our Rising Star's show jumping teams. Thirteen of us set out at 11.00 am, with two of Kate's liveries to show us an alternative 2nd part of the ride. It was lovely to meet up again with old friends and new members. Kathy Card's Mr T was there, he can still buck! Xanthe and Conrod opened every gate for us, Xanthe leaping back on like a teenager! Victoria Pitcher was there with Waterford, 2 members whom I had not met before, Lesley Brookes accompanied by her husband Simon and Kate Hopper on her pony, Sauber, who won all our hearts. He may only have little legs, but he gave the big boys a run for their money! Kate saved him from a one way journey to the lions of Longleat, he is absolutely adorable!

Deana stayed up at the front with Peter, and Gem and I brought up the rear with Karen Jones and her lovely Arab Hermione. Those of you who came to the AGM will remember that Karen knows a bit about endurance riding, Gem and I know a bit about it as well now! Lesley Brookes had kindly offered her husband to us (which is something horsey women tend to do) Simon was an absolute star, by the time we got to Staple Hill, he had propped open the 2 gates and stopped all the traffic, I felt like royalty; believe me, **no one** would have argued with Simon in that coat! He met us again at The Greyhound pub, again to help us across the road, and then took photos of us for the web site – many thanks Simon!

Sadly for Deana, Peter had lost a shoe whilst playing racehorses with Sauber, luckily, at the pub was Saraloo dressed for a beautiful spring day, and Norman, dressed for a beautiful spring day – **in the arctic!** Norman had literally just got off a plane from Dubai, and thought the Ice Age had descended on Taunton. Deana got a lift back with them, with strict instructions to put the kettle on for our return

and Gem and I led Peter back. The rest detoured off with Kate's liveries and had a wonderful time crossing woods and fields and got back about half an hour after Peter, Gem and I.

We put the horses away, and all congregated in the stable yard, where Kate had fired up the barbeque, with flapjack made by my mother, drinks and burgers, and lots of cats to tickle, it really was the perfect ending with everyone getting a rosette and an Easter egg to take home. Kate had organised a raffle and she raised £26 for Help for Hero's. This was a truly wonderful ride, one I intend to repeat one evening during the summer.

Karen Jones has offered to train members for the Riding Club Endurance Challenge and Kate Hopper has given me details of a beach ride she does once a month. **Details below.**

Neither Deana or I will be putting our names forward in a hurry, however. We sat taking entries at the Spring Show the following day and groaned at each movement we were forced to make!

This is Tricia Budd reporting for The Blackdown Hills Riding Club!

From Kate Hopper - If anyone is interested in a beach ride I try to go to Berrow & Brean Sands once a month. I avoid weekends & school holidays so usually it's a Monday. The parking fees for horse boxes/trailers is £12 @ Berrow Beach (Unity Farm) - this is the most accessible - or £5 @ Brean Down (there is quite a ramp to go down but it is doable!) - April - October. You can get a season ticket - I'm currently trying to find out how much. I don't go for a mad gallop as I don't want my little fella thinking that's what you do on the beach but we do have a good canter. If anyone wants to join me I'm happy for them to contact me. **(Contact me triciabudd24@gmail.com and I will pass your details on to Kate)**