

OCTOBER SECRETARY REPORT

Hello to you all, it is Sunday afternoon. The cats and I have the house to ourselves and Gem is enjoying a well-deserved day off after 2 busy weeks of competing and training and another one next week end!

Last week end was our Autumn Show and thanks to Jill Perrior and all her helpers I turned up, poned around for a bit on Gem and then went home again. We did scrub up rather well and thanks to Kate Hopper who got me mounted side saddle, we won the best turned out class. This was the first event that our rosettes with their new colours were seen, personally, I am delighted to get a rosette whatever its colour, but they certainly look very smart. Thanks go to Jill P who suggested the colour change and Jane Brake who made them.

Yesterday Kate Hopper, Denise Woodcock and I spent most of the day at KSEG as it was the West Somerset and Devon Dressage Championships. This is a lovely event and our wonderful horses did their riders and their club proud.

Reports below by our Roving Reporter Kate Hopper – thank you Kate.

• Quiz Night

Some keen quizzers (or disillusioned hopefuls) were to be found at Saraloos' quiz night held at the Catherine Wheel. The rounds were varied & we were told that the questions were easy although I believe that it is not a case of difficulty that matters, just whether you know the answer or not.

Anyway there was much fun to be had by all, quite a bit of groaning when the answers were revealed & great joy (& surprise!) when the prizes were given out.

And for those of you that haven't been to one of Saraloos' quiz nights I can thoroughly recommend it as there is so much more to a quiz night than you might think. Not only will you have the chance to show your brilliance (or in my case, misspent youth) you will get to learn so much about the other members of the riding club!

Apparently some have time to watch daytime telly, others never watch any telly or films, whilst some of our junior members seem to have seen films that they really shouldn't have!!

So next time do come along & support this fun evening, bring family & friends and you might just learn a thing or two - some of no relevance at all!

• West Somerset and Devon Dressage Championships.

Saturday 10th Oct saw Trish Budd & Gem, Denise Woodcock & Coco and myself & Sauber heading off for the Dressage Championships at Kings Sedgemoor.

Trish & Gem arrived so early the gates were still locked & had the unenviable task of riding the first test of the day but put in a solid number (and they won the rosette for the oldest horse so were quite content!) They then had an early time in the prelim class & once again did themselves proud with a nice test - I may have missed your test Trish but I've read your test sheet & you got some good scores & lovely comments from the judge.

Myself & Denise were competing much later so unfortunately missed Trish & Gems' tests but we were greeted by a beaming Trish who now recognises the sound of my horsebox engine (sad?!) who had stayed on to support us through our tests.

This was Coco's first 'big' outing & we weren't sure how she was going to behave so Gem was on hand to nanny her in the warm up arena as we all know what an idiot Sauber can be in there! As it turned out Coco soon settled & even Sauber only had the briefest of lunacy. Both ponies put in lovely tests scoring just over 69% & to the amazement of their owners Denise & Coco came 5th and myself & Sauber came 6th.

All this went to my head & I went wrong, twice, in the novice test but my pony put in a lovely performance - shame about the rider - will have to put it down to a senior moment! Kate H xxx

- **Injured Jockey Fund Dressage** – Sunday 18th October at Paddocks. Everyone welcome, we have some wonderful raffle prizes which will be drawn at our AGM. Joy is still taking entries and is searching for a writer or scorer for a few hours
- **Rising Stars Show Jumping** – Sunday 2nd November- if you would like to represent BHRC at his event, please email me – Tricia with your horses name and which class/es you would like to be considered for and then I can collate teams. Part of the schedule is below, the rest of the schedule is on the Area 12 website and on the West Somerset RC website.

September enews - Hello all, Saraloo here!

Autumn is in the air and as we say goodbye to the flies we welcome the mud! Hah.

I actually like the Autumn for riding out, no flies, softer ground, beautiful colours, so make the most of it, everyone is telling us about the harsh winter that awaits us (Who is this everyone anyway?)

Well, your riding club has been busy throughout the summer with a successful programme of training, a trip to Gatcombe, a Summer Spectacular and of course Camp.

Deana has been very busy organising training (lessons) for anyone that wanted to attend and attend they did, for each session was fully booked. We intend to carry on with the training programme and are hoping to start a few sessions in an indoor school over the winter period. Details of the training up to Christmas are below.

GATCOMBE

At the beginning of August we hired a minibus and took a group of riding club members up to Gatcombe for the Festival of The Horse. The riding club paid for the transport so we only had to pay for our entry, this meant we could sample food and wine, purchase rugs, hats and handbags and at the end of an exciting day, slump into comfy seats knowing that none of us had to drive home.

It was a brilliant day. We arrived early which meant that we were able to go around the retail outlets without crowds and buy our lunch and coffee without queuing. As the crowds arrived we headed out to the cross-country course and found ourselves the perfect spot.....!

From here we could view several jumps with the backdrop of the beautiful Gatcombe House and set up our picnic. It was exciting to watch the riders attempt the water jump and several other huge obstacles. After a lazy lunch we walked part of the course and then made certain we were at the main arena to watch the amazing dressage to music demonstration followed by this years Grand National winner who was proudly paraded around the arena.

Cones were strategically placed in the arena and tennis balls very carefully balanced on the top of them. The first of the Scurry drivers shot into the arena and at the rate they charged around the course I was amazed that out of about six participants only a few of the tennis balls toppled off. The crowds got behind the drivers and with the grooms precariously throwing themselves out either side of the carts to balance the whole outfit, the place turned into a loud mêlée of screaming spectators and noisy wheels. This, the Scurry racing was amazing and quite exhilarating, the drivers sooo brave and the ponies amazingly agile.

Well, 6pm came round all too quickly and we found ourselves heading back to the minibus.

There was a lot of chatter on the way home as we all discussed each other's purchases and our favorite events of the day. We were a little late back as there was an accident on the motorway and thanks to our navigator Mia, her contact near the scene and a very obliging driver we took a detour to avoid traffic queues.

We all made a vow to go again next year, so, if you want to have a great day out next summer, look out for the dates next year - you would be daft to miss it.

CAMP 2015

If you want to know all about how successful and what fun this years camp was then you need to read the latest Ridgeway Rider page 18 – there is a great write up with photos in there and it shows you how we are trying to keep up our profile out there in the equestrian world. I believe you can view online.

DRESSAGE IN AID OF THE INJURED JOCKEY’S FUND:

As you will know by now due to circumstances beyond our control we have had to move the date for this event to October 18th. We are hoping for a good turnout so we can raise a large amount of money for this worthy cause as well as have some fun. Have a look at the schedule (on our website) and enter. There will be prizes for the best fancy dress and prizes will be given out by Brian Barr – a local trainer. We also have the most fantastic Raffle – prizes are as follows

Entry for two at Wincanton Races
Entry for 2 at Exeter Races
£20 voucher for Wychanger Barton Saddlery
Borstiq dandy brush from Clipperssharp
£10 voucher for Golden Hill Pet Supplies
2 clocks with a racing design
1 racing print in a frame
5 headcollars with leadropes
Other small prizes

Raffle tickets will be on sale at the Dressage event, Quiz Night and The AGM when the raffle will be drawn.

TRAINING AT 'THE PADDOCKS' WITH INSTRUCTOR KAREN CAMERON.

All will be afternoon sessions starting at 2pm or 3pm depending on numbers taking part. There will be no more than 3 in the hour sessions and will be £15 payable on the day. Any short notice cancellations will still need to be paid for.

OCTOBER

Saturday 3rd
Wednesday 14th
Saturday 24th

NOVEMBER

Wednesday 4th
Saturday 14th
Wednesday 25th

Please contact Deana Rowland via email deanarowland2@aol.com or by text 07841012410, if there's anything you'd like particularly to work on then please say and we'll do our best to accommodate you.

AGM and Christmas party

Your riding club's AGM and Christmas party this year will be held on Friday Dec 4th. At 7.30 pm. Held at the Catherine Wheel Pub in Hemyock. We will quickly get through the official bits, take a bit of time to hand out all the trophies and then it is your chance to talk to committee members about your club and if you fancy it become a committee member yourself. We will be drawing the raffle prizes at this event and so it will be your last chance to purchase a ticket for one of the fabulous prizes on offer. It is a great social get-together and the last time the committee will meet before the New Year.

Inter Riding Club Rising Stars Indoor Team Show Jumping Competition

To be held at Conquest Equestrian Centre, Norton Fitzwarren, Taunton, TA2 6PN
Sunday 1st November 2015
Commencing with Class 1A at 9.00am
Class 1 - Introductory

Round 1 Fence Height 60cm, Round 2 Fence Height 65cm – NO FILLERS

This class is aimed at young horses/novice riders/inexperienced combinations.

NO pony/horse may be BS registered. Horse/pony must not have BS winnings. Horse /pony / combination MUST NOT have represented their Riding Club or Pony Club at Area at Combined Training, RWHS/FOTH Topscore /Novice SJ / 80cm Eventing or above and MUST NOT have won a show jumping competition at this height or above at close of entries.

Class 2 - Pre Novice

Round 1 Fence Height 70cm, Round 2 Fence Height 75cm

Combination MUST NOT have represented their Riding Club or Pony Club at Area at Combined Training, RWHS/ FOTH Topscore, Novice SJ / 80cm Eventing or above.

Horse/Pony may be BS registered but MUST NOT have winnings.

Each class will be open to Senior, Junior and Mixed Teams of 3 or 4 members from the same riding club (the best three scores count)

If you would like to represent BHRC at this event, please contact Tricia Budd so that she can collate the teams.

QUIZ NIGHT

7.30pm

Friday 9th. October

At The Catherine Wheel Pub

Hemyock

Teams of 4. £8 per team Lots of fun

Interesting / fun questions

Not all equestrian.

Gather up your friends, they don't have to be

R C members and come along for a little entertainment.

We will also be selling tickets for our raffle in aid of the Injured Jockeys Fund.

Prizes for Raffle include Entry for 2 to Wincanton Races, Entry for 2 to Exeter Races, £20 Voucher for Wychanger Saddlery, Borstiq Dandy Brush from Clippersherp, Racing Print in frame, Headcollars and many more.

SECRETARY REPORT FOR SEPTEMBER

DUE TO A SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF CONFIRMED CASES OF STRANGLES AT A YARD LESS THAN 8 MILES FROM PADDOCKS, OUR INJURED JOCKEY FUND DRESSAGE DAY WILL NOW BE ON SUNDAY 18TH OCTOBER . Schedule below.

There are no cases of strangles anywhere else that I know of - certainly not at Paddocks. Kate made the decision to close the yard for 2 weeks as soon as she heard about the confirmed case. Liveries are not allowed to compete until 19th September and no horses have been allowed to visit Paddocks. It is through her swift action Paddocks is, and should stay, free from this truly horrendous virus. Gem is well and although missed our last quadrille as she was "grounded" will certainly be at the next one.

GATCOMBE – a wonderful day, the weather helped but so did the mini bus driver who was a delight, we shall certainly use Knight Bros. coaches again. We all spent too much money, but it was well worth it. I have asked Sara if she would organise it again next year, I suggest you get your names down early. Liz, Pip Williams and I walked the cross country course together. We rounded a bend and there was Gatcombe House in all its glory.

Liz: who lives there?

Me: Princess Anne, that is Gatcombe House.

Liz: well it's not very big, is it?!

SUMMER SPECTACULAR - Following on from our Easter Extravaganza, this was a fun "mini Camp" for junior and senior members held mid-August at Paddocks Equestrian, Bickenhall. The morning started with two dressage to music lessons. The seniors rode to a selection of different tracks and with help from their instructor Karen Cameron, counted their horses strides in walk, trot and canter and from that were able to recognise music that was suitable for their horses. The juniors followed in the

second lesson, some had already ear-marked music they thought was suitable and it was fascinating to see which music worked for them, and more importantly which didn't!

After putting their horses away, the juniors joined Karen for a practical stable management demonstration on "bandages and bandaging." Junior members had been heard to criticise their "grooms" (mums) capabilities in the exercise bandage category. After 30 minutes with Karen they decided it wasn't as easy as it looks and being born with three hands is a help.

After lunch, all juniors at Paddocks joined in for a treasure hunt. Congratulations to Team Edwards who were declared the winners; Team Perham started well but seemed to have treasure that was not theirs, consequently, Team Williams just "pipped" them to second place.

After the excitement, and the consumption of much chocolate, everyone put on their "posh" clothes for an afternoon of Combined Training. Congratulations to Janet Sage who won both dressage sections with Beau and Jet, and to Megan Edwards and Dandy who won the combined training section.

The day ended with a presentation of prizes, rosettes, certificates and afternoon tea.

Many thanks to everyone who helped in any way and an enormous amount of thanks to Karen Cameron for her patience and understanding.

Ideas and thoughts for another one can be sent to me, Tricia

- AUTUMN SHOW – schedule below. Jill would be very grateful for any offers of help, and hour or two makes all the difference.

- INJURED JOCKEY FUND DRESSAGE DAY – 18th October, schedule below.

- SARA'S SUPERB QUIZ – Friday 9th October at the Catherine Wheel pub, Hemyock. Start at 7.30 pm. Any of you who remember other quizzes organised by Sara will know they are in for a treat. Teams of 4, everyone welcome.

- HEREPATH – this is still closed with no date for the work to start to open it. I am meeting Councillor Ross Henley on Saturday 19th September at 11.00 am. He has asked that all interested BHRC members come along! Come and join us at Bickenhall Lane – he is well aware of how cynical I have become in my old age and he still want to meet me!

- CONQUEST OPEN DAY – Saturday 26th September.

OPEN UNAFFILIATED DRESSAGE COMPETITION FUND RAISING EVENT FOR THE INJURED JOCKEY FUND SUNDAY OCTOBER 18TH 2015

Held by kind permission of Kate Baker at 'The Paddocks'
Bickenhall. Nr Taunton TA3 6TS

All proceeds to go to the Injured Jockey Fund
Raffle, cakes and light refreshments available.

Each class will be held in an outdoor arena, warm up on grass.

As this is a fund raising event for the IJF, you are encouraged to wear jockey silks. Prizes will be awarded for the best outfits!

Entries to: Mrs Joy Brown, Hidon Mead Cottage, Clayhidon, Cullompton, Devon EX15 3TJ. Tel: 01823 680012. Mobile 07756773010

Postal entries close 14th October. £7 per class, members £8 per class non members

(Late entries – on the field £1 extra per class space permitting)

Times will be on the BHRC Home Page or telephone Joy 01823 680012 for your times – between 6 – 8pm on Friday 16th October

CLASSES:

Class 1 BD Intro. B (Entries restricted to horses and ponies not to have come first in a dressage competition) rosette to all entries.

Class 2 Prelim 4

Class 3 Have-a-Go Dressage2music – open to pairs or individuals. THIS IS A PERCENTAGE CLASS – THE HIGHEST PERCENTAGE WINS. There is no charge to enter this class but a donation to The Injured Jockey Fund would be greatly appreciated. Rosette to all entries.

Class 4 Prelim. 12

Class 5 Novice 28

Have-a-go Dressage to music - as far as we know, BHRC are the only club to run this sort of competition. A few guidelines for you below.

The time allowed is 4 to 5 minutes. All DTM tests are timed from the first halt to the final halt (this has to be on the A - C center line, but not necessarily at D, X or G. You do not have to canter and you can ride to just one track. The judges are looking for music that suits the horse, and a test that covers all the arena and looks "neat", you do not have to perform any set moves, you can do a 16 meter circle, half passes and flying changes. A well-executed walk and trot test will beat an over ambitious test. All BHRC dressage to music tests will take place in a 20m x 40m arena.

The music must be recorded on a standard CD.

It is strongly recommended that each rider has at least one spare copy to hand.

It is very important that a definite signal to start is given. (A BIG wave!)

No more than 20 seconds of introductory music may be played before the entry at A.

August 2015

Summer Camp 2015.

A truly wonderful week end. Lovely people and equally lovely horses. Not a cross word was heard all week end.

Paddocks liveries were very accommodating, not minding at all when their wheel barrow did a detour into a different stable on its way to the muck heap!

Mia Perham became our mucking out fairy – if she saw an empty stable she mucked it out and swept up; the campers faces were a treat when they got back to their stables.

Pat Etherington kept everyone well fed, getting up at 5.30 am on the Sunday morning to make scones for our cream tea! She prepared all the food, even making lilies out of the tomatoes. Most importantly, she kept the tea pot topped up! Thanks also to Tynka, 33 weeks pregnant and bringing us macaroni cheese and garlic bread!

Jane Palfrey took a car full to the pub on the Saturday evening, and true to form, always seemed to be holding a horse for someone. She was also responsible for getting us the wonderful marquee – with bunting!

Karen Cameron taught us, entertained us and judged our dressage tests. She also did a dressage display for us, introducing her lovely horse Vaider to BHRC. Karen gave us an insight into Vaider's (stable name is Darth!) history and explained her training program to us. Darth seemed to love having an audience and certainly played to the crowd. Karen had told us he was quirky; and sure enough, at the end of his demonstration he stood like a rock and acknowledged the applause, and then tried to hide when he saw his presentation rosette!

Joy, Sara, Liz and Pip came over on the Sunday and helped out with the dressage.

By 6.15 pm, Darth was back in his field – our camp site for the week-end – and you would not have known we had ever been at Paddocks, thanks to all the people who helped clear away.

A full report will go to Ridgeway Rider, and I am putting photos on our Facebook page, I have 179 images to choose from!

Summer Camp 2016 is provisionally booked for the 30th & 31st July!

Quadrille training is going well. We now have the wheels, but they need to be adapted. We need someone who is handy with a jigsaw and can weld – any offers?

Summer Spectacular!

Wednesday 12th August 2015

At Paddocks Equestrian, Bickenhall. Taunton

10.00 am – 11.00 am senior's flatwork to music training £15

11.00 am – 12.00 noon – juniors' instruction "how to ride to music."

Our instructor Karen Cameron will go through the best way to formulate a D2M routine, showing you how to get the best from your pony. You are welcome to bring your own music or ride to some of ours.

12.30 – 1.00 pm – practical stable management. Bandages and bandaging

1.00 – 1.30 pm lunch (bring your own packed lunch)
1.30 pm- - 2.00 pm – un-mounted Treasure hunt
2.30 pm – 4.00 combined training – OPEN TO ALL MEMBERS
Dressage in the arena, show jumping on grass
Class 1: Dressage - BD Introductory A (2008) - Walk & Trot

Show Jumping - Max. Height 60cm - £8

Class 1 A: DRESSAGE ONLY - £6

Class 2: Dressage - BD Preliminary 7 (2002)

Show Jumping - Max height 70 cm - £8

Class 2A : DRESSAGE ONLY - £6

4.15 pm, prize giving, drinks, cakes and pack up to go home.

£20 per junior. (Includes free entry to the combined training)

Flat work Training sessions with Karen Cameron at The Paddocks, Bickenhall. Two dates..... Saturday 15th August. Morning sessions. Also Wednesday 26th August, morning sessions.

Contact Deana Rowland if you'd like to join in either by text or email 07841012410
deanarowland2@aol.com

Hour lessons with no more than 3 in each session. £15 each to be paid on the day . You will still be required to pay if you cancel at short notice. Once your name is down I will contact you nearer the date to confirm times.

Jumps for sale – Pat Etherington has a selection of up rights for sale – with cups.

Contact her on 01823 462955

OPEN UNAFFILIATED DRESSAGE COMPETITION FUND RAISING EVENT FOR THE INJURED JOCKEY FUND

Sunday September 20th 2015

Held by kind permission of Kate Baker at 'The Paddocks'
Bickenhall. Nr Taunton TA3 6TS

Includes qualifiers for W.S & D Dressage Championships.

All proceeds to go to the Injured Jockey Fund

Raffle, cakes and light refreshments available.

Each class will be held in an outdoor arena, warm up on grass.

As this is a fund raising event for the IJF, you are encouraged to wear jockey silks. Prizes will be awarded for the best outfits!

Entries to: Mrs Joy Brown, Hidon Mead Cottage, Clayhidon, Cullompton, Devon EX15 3TJ. Tel: 01823 680012. Mobile 07756773010

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(Late entries – on the field £1 extra per class space permitting)

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Class 2 Prelim 4

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*Class 4 Prelim. 12 (Qualifier)

*Class 5 Novice 28 (Qualifier)

Have-a-go Dressage to music - as far as we know, BHRC are the only club to run this sort of competition. A few guidelines for you below.

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The music must be recorded on a standard CD.

It is strongly recommended that each rider has at least one spare copy to hand.

It is very important that a definite signal to start is given. (A BIG wave!)

No more than 20 seconds of introductory music may be played before the entry at A.

NB Classes 3 & 4 will incorporate qualifiers for eligible combinations for WSDD Championships at KSEG on 10th October 2015. Top three eligible combinations from each class to qualify.

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.
 - Rosettes will be awarded to 6th place, with a special rosette to the highest placed BHRC member.
 - 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.
 - All horses will be expected to ridden in correct tack.
 - No refund of fees after the closing date
 - Please remove all droppings and leave the car park tidy
- * WS&DD QUALIFIERS*

Classes 3 and 4 are qualifiers for the West Somerset and Devon Dressage Championships to be held at Kings Sedgemoor E.C on Saturday 10th October 2015. 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.

Preliminary – no BD points, Novice – max. 49 BD points, at the time of qualification. Also, horses are ineligible to compete at the same level or below if they have been WSD Champion or Reserve Champion or placed 1st – 6th individually at any BRC National Dressage Championship in any year. For full details about the rules, eligibility, competition and other qualifiers please visit www.witheridgerc.org.uk

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.

Training grants will be awarded to the overall Champions and Reserve Champions in each class. Warm up classes will be included plus an Elementary Championship. There is no need to qualify for this but combinations must have less than 100 BD points on the day of the event.

AUTUMN IN HAND AND RIDDEN SHOW
ON
SUNDAY 4TH October 2015
AT

HEAZLE RIDING CENTRE
HEAZLE FARM, CLAYHIDON
WELLINGTON, SOMERSET EX15 3TH

INCLUDING QUALIFIERS FOR:
SOUTH WEST PONY ASSOCIATION CHAMPIONSHIPS

Hon. Show Secretary:

Mrs J Perrior
Newtown Farm
Bickenhall
Taunton TA3 6UF
TEL: 01823 480349

Online schedules can be downloaded from:
www.blackdownhillsridingclub.co.uk

Postal entries close 29TH September 2015 (late entries £1 extra)
Three tier rosettes to 6th place in all classes
Special rosette to highest place BHRC Member in each class

Refreshments by: COMPETE & EAT

IN-HAND SHOWING commencing 9.00am
(entries need not be registered unless specified)

CLASS 1 – YOUNGSTOCK – OPEN QUALIFIER FOR SWPA CHAMPIONSHIPS
Yearlings, Two & Three Year Olds - May be split into age groups if sufficient entries

CLASS 2 – MOUNTAIN & MOORLAND QUALIFIER FOR SWPA CHAMPIONSHIPS (M)
To be registered with the appropriate society and shown in accordance with the rules of that society -
May be split Small/Large if sufficient entries

CLASS 3 – COLOURED HORSE or PONY QUALIFIER FOR SWPA CHAMPIONSHIPS (D) To include
Piebald, Skewbald, Spotted, Appaloosa, Palomino & Dun

CLASS 4 – OPEN HORSE QUALIFIER FOR SWPA CHAMPIONSHIPS (B, E, X) Exceeding 148cms
(Exhibitors in this class may not enter class 5)

CLASS 5 – OPEN PONY QUALIFIER FOR SWPA CHAMPIONSHIPS (F, G, H) Not exceeding
153cms (Exhibitors in this class may not enter class 4)

CLASS 6 – FOREIGN BREEDS / ARABS QUALIFIER FOR SWPA CHAMPIONSHIPS (A, T) Any
breed not native to the British Isles and their Part-Breds

CLASS 7 – COBS QUALIFIER FOR SWPA CHAMPIONSHIPS (C)
To include Show, Maxi, Traditional/Gypsy – To be shown unplaited

CLASS 8 – VETERAN HORSE or PONY QUALIFIER FOR SWPA CHAMPIONSHIPS (V) 15 yrs and
over

CLASS 9 – CHILD HANDLER QUALIFIER FOR SWPA CHAMPIONSHIPS (P)

Handlers to have achieved their 6th birthday but not their 18th by the 1st January in the current year -
Class may be split if sufficient entries - No colts or stallions - Hard Hats to the current standard must
be worn for this class

IN-HAND CHAMPIONSHIP

1st & 2nd from Classes 1 - 8

RIDDEN SHOWING not before 1.00pm

(entries need not be registered unless specified)

CLASS 10 – BEST TURNOUT – OPEN

CLASS 11 – NOVICE RIDDEN – OPEN QUALIFIER FOR SWPA CHAMPIONSHIPS (N1, N2, N3)

Horse or Pony not to have been placed 1st in any ridden class – Snaffle bridles to be worn

CLASS 12 – LEAD REIN PONY QUALIFIER FOR SWPA CHAMPIONSHIPS (K a & b) - ROSETTE TO ALL ENTRIES Riders 8yrs & under

CLASS 13 – VETERAN HORSE or PONY QUALIFIER FOR SWPA CHAMPIONSHIPS (V1) 15 yrs and over

CLASS 14 – MOUNTAIN & MOORLAND QUALIFIER FOR SWPA CHAMPIONSHIPS (M1)

To be registered with the appropriate society and shown in accordance with the rules of that society -
May be split Small/Large if sufficient entries

CLASS 15 – COLOURED HORSE or PONY QUALIFIER FOR SWPA CHAMPIONSHIPS (D1) To

include Piebald, Skewbald, Appaloosa, Spotted, Palomino & Dun

CLASS 16 – OPEN RIDDEN HORSE QUALIFIER FOR SWPA CHAMPIONSHIPS (A1, B1, E1, Y1. X1)

Exceeding 148cms (Exhibitors in this class may not enter class 17)

CLASS 17 – OPEN RIDDEN PONY QUALIFIER FOR SWPA CHAMPIONSHIPS (G1, H1) Not

exceeding 153cms (Exhibitors in this class may not enter class 16)

CLASS 18 – COBS QUALIFIER FOR SWPA CHAMPIONSHIPS (C 1 & 2)

To include Show, Maxi, Traditional/Gypsy – To be shown unplaited

CLASS 19 – COMPETITION HORSE or PONY QUALIFIER FOR SWPA CHAMPIONSHIPS (R 1 & 2)

May be split, Exceeding 148cm / Not exceeding 148 cm, if sufficient entries.

RIDDEN CHAMPIONSHIP

1st & 2nd from Classes 11 – 19

SOUTH WEST PONY ASSOCIATION CHAMPIONSHIPS

QUALIFYING RULES

This show is a qualifier for the South West Pony Association Championships to be held In September 2016, at The David Broome Event Centre, Crick, Gwent.

THESE CLASSES ARE OPEN TO EVERYONE.

However, if you qualify and wish to go the Championships you need to be a member and meet the qualification criteria of the SWPA

To qualify for the Championships:

1. Enter one of the qualifying classes – 2. be one of the two highest placed exhibits not already

qualified within the first four and receive a qualification card signed in the ring –
3. Complete the entry form on the qualification card - 4. Return the card to together with any registration fees due within 14 days of this show. (Registration fee for 2015 is £25 to include all members of the family and equines owned by the family.)

ENTRY FEES

BHRC members £6 Non-members £7

Entries on the day £1 extra

NO CHEQUES WILL BE ACCEPTED ON THE DAY OF THE SHOW

The full schedule is on our "Events" page

June 2015

From our very own Saraloo!

Hello all,

I'm still giggling from last weekends' event – Rising Stars Dressage. I can't help myself; I often look for the funny side of things, especially when I look at myself. Anyway moving on - we managed to conjure up two teams for this event which was held at the Conquest Centre Sunday June 14th. Well done to West Somerset Dressage, who organized the whole event and I have to say did a brilliant job. The day went off without any hitches and was a calm and happy event.

Our teams comprised of...

TEAM 1

Karen Jones, riding Serin Hanau, otherwise known as Norman
he he! (My hubby's name) she competed in the walk trot class. Section A
Samantha Davis on Bell Isla Pigeon – walk trot class sec B
Bea Perham Bonnie on Queen Bee - walk trot sec B

TEAM 2

Jacqui Sparks riding Finbar - Prelim 4
Gary Sparks on Winston - Prelim 4
Samantha Davis on Bell Isla Pigeon - Prelim 14
Deana Rowland riding her new horse Indiana - Prelim 14

I had been designated Chef de Equipe for the day and with my two trusty helpers Jill and Joy we set off – to guide, encourage, cajole and applaud our riders.

My duties started first thing in the morning with the arrival of Karen and Norman (horse) who amusingly does a little tap dance in his trailer. I stuck my head through the jockey door to take a look at this Norman, as I had a human one at home. I then dutifully followed instructions when the lead rope was handed to me “Can you hold this for me please Sara?”

I happily held the end of the rope while chatting and admiring the handsome Norman when suddenly Norman decided to evacuated the trailer with some gusto, no one else appeared to have hold of him... it was when I nearly disappeared into the trailer through the jockey door that any of us realised that I was still at the end of the lead rope. Ha ha I saved the day!

“Oh jolly well done Sara – Norman was obviously on his way home”. Encouraging words from Karen as we all realized that a slight catastrophe had been averted. I was beginning to discover what this ‘Chief-ing’ was all about.

Next task! Find a suitable place for Karen to mount. We wandered off considered a few logs that were lying around but Karen had her trusty friend who was with us and clutching a plastic mounting block. A nice flat position was found and as I hung on to bouncing Norman we successfully got Karen on board. Norman bounced his way over to the lady with the clipboard for a tack check only to be told that Karen would have to dismount to have her hat checked for its legal status. “Oh!”

Note to self. Get everyone to the hat checker before they tack up. So tacked up and ready to go, Jill offered to read for Karen and off she went. Norman settled and focused on his job and managed an individual 2nd much to Karen's surprise as it was his first time out and she was convinced that he was

going to be dancing on the ceiling. Not only did Karen come second she also got a rosette for the highest placed individual not in the winning team and a team rosette. The whole team came fourth. Bea Perham – our only junior in the teams put on a great show and although not placed earned herself a very well deserved Best Turned Out Award and a fab rosette.

Sam Davies steadied the nerves and got a very well deserved individual 6th on her lovely and new little mare Pie.

Our riding club donated the individual rosettes for the event and I found myself being asked to hand out the rosettes. I was useless at this task, as being a rather breezy day and already struggling with a handful of rosettes and dressage sheets managed to loose most of them, thankfully the horses were very good, didn't leap about in fear and looked on at me in despair as I grappled with papers and rosettes.

After a lunch break the afternoon proceedings started and I went over to the carpark to check on our riders and their equines – all was well, Jacquie and Gary had arrived so, having learnt from the morning I suggested that they took their hats over to be checked before they mounted their steeds. They bumbled over to the lady with the clipboard (sorry didn't get her name). I then found my two assistants and we headed off to find Deana who had just parked up her trailer.

I have realised that assistant Chef'd Equip's are a must at an event because although us women are good at multitasking we cannot physically be in two or three places at once and I was checking that Sam was ok, that Jacquie and Gary were getting their tack checked another note to self – try to get your teams parked up close to each other – less running that way!

I'm now going to blow a trumpet here.

I'm proud to say that as a riding club we try our very best to have a committee member on the ground to help and encourage our team members at nearly all our team events. It was a little sad to see other teams there without any one to cheer them on or give them praise. Us BHRC helpers praised the other team members too as they looked a little lost at times.

Sam was our first to go. I only caught the last part of her test as I was trying to calm and encourage our other riders, warming up outside.

Pie spooked a little this time and I think there may have been a few more nerves as well but Sam finished on a good note.

Jacquie was second to go. She was doing quite well until her nerves got the better of her, her mind went blank and she momentarily lost her way. The bell was rung and the very kind judges put her back on track. She then completed the test and finished with a very good halt.

Gary was next in the arena on the giant Winston. It wasn't the pairs best performance and having lost their way a couple of times the judges commented on the entertaining performance and the rapport Gary had with his horse. Afterwards Gary commented that he knew exactly what he was doing but Winston (Horse) obviously hadn't read the test before he entered the ring.

Deana was the last to go and was very nervous as she was competing on her very new acquisition, Indie. She needn't have worried because Indie was great. He got in the arena soon settled and put in a good show coming 5th overall and getting a rosette for his efforts.

The whole team managed to get a 5th placing and so everyone that took part came away with a rosette of some description.

I think everyone did a great job – there were a lot of very nervous people but they had a go. That's what matters. Afterwards they were really pleased they had taken part and would go again. Well done everyone and thanks for representing our club.

If you think you could give it a go in whatever discipline you choose then have a go. Next time we ask for competitors to come forward to represent the club, be brave put your name forward – we will be there to help and guide.

Photos on website.

GATCOMBE FESTIVAL OF THE HORSE:

Wow this is an amazing day out – look on the website to see. They hold a one-day event on each of the three days – this means you get to see dressage, x country and showjumping all on the one day. All the top riders take part over the three days with their different horses, all riding to the amazing backdrop

of the beautiful Gatcombe House – home to HRH Princess Anne.
This year there will be two main rings where the following will take place.
A demonstration of dressage to music
Shetland Grand National heats for Wembley,
Stunt riders to entertain you
Dog agility and Fly Ball.
When you are all horsed out then drift off to the many stalls and have something yummy to eat or spend all your money on your horse or yourselves at the many fab stalls. If none of that interests you then you're nuts!

GUESS WHAT! Your lovely riding club has put on FREE transport for members. YES THAT'S FREE TRANSPORT:

We have paid for a minibus to take you there on Sunday 9th. August. We will be leaving Taunton at 7.30am and Leaving Gatcombe at 6pm to get a full day at the event.
There are only 16 places so you need to get in quick. I need to have your name and a contact number so I can arrange pick up points with the driver and so I know exactly how many spaces we may have on the bus.
Please make a committed decision, as we don't want to have spaces on the bus that others could have taken up.
Tickets on the day are £20 per person under 12s go free. You can purchase tickets on the Internet for £18 per person. It will be your responsibility to get your own ticket.
Please contact me Sara Llewellyn at saraloosmenagerie@talktalk.net or ring 01823 421891 eves. I need names, contact details and numbers.

Thank you Sara, the rest is from me – Tricia

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 EX15 3XA 01823 680021 deanarowland2@aol.com

- **CAMP - 1ST & 2ND AUGUST** - Camp is now full, all deposits are paid. If, however, you would like to put your name on a waiting list let me know. Karen Cameron and her lovely horse Darthy are going to do a dressage display for us on the Sunday at approximately 12.30 pm, everyone is welcome. I watch Karen and Darthy schooling at Paddocks and it is magical to see, Karen is going to put on her top hat and tails and ride to some music – a rare treat. She is then going to judge us in the afternoon!

- We are hoping to put together a second/junior quadrille, I already have the music and half a routine. This training will be done at Paddocks, starting in August and training will be at the week-ends to suit. It will be a walk and trot quadrille and a slightly easier routine (you will not be expected to train you horse to lie down!). It doesn't have to be just juniors, we can make up a team with seniors as well, or we can train pairs and individuals. I am confident we can get a quadrille together in 4 sessions plus a Dress Rehearsal at Conquest! Training for this will also be £5 per session. Let me know if you are interested as I have booked Paddocks on Saturday 29th August at 11.00 am with this training in mind.

- **CALLING ALL JUNIORS** – we have booked Paddocks for the Summer Spectacular on Wednesday 12th August.

Blackdown Hills Riding Club

Is pleased to announce its members only

Summer Spectacular!

Wednesday 12th August 2015

At Paddocks Equestrian, Bickenhall. Taunton

10.00 am – 11.00 am senior's flatwork training £15

11.00 am – 12.00 noon – instruction “how to ride to music.”

Our instructor Karen Cameron will go through the best way to formulate a D2M routine, showing you how to get the best from your pony. You are welcome to bring your own music or ride to some of ours.

12.30 – 1.00 pm – practical stable management.

1.00 – 1.30 pm lunch (bring your own packed lunch)

1.30 pm- - 2.00 pm – un-mounted Treasure hunt

2.30 pm – 4.00 combined training – OPEN TO ALL MEMBERS

Dressage in the arena, show jumping on grass (Gem’s field!)

Class 1: Dressage - BD Introductory A (2008) - Walk & Trot
Show Jumping - Max. Height 60cm - £8

Class 1 A: DRESSAGE ONLY - £6

Class 2: Dressage - BD Preliminary 7 (2002)
Show Jumping - Max height 70 cm - £8
Class 2A : DRESSAGE ONLY - £6

4.15 pm, prize giving, drinks, cakes and pack up to go home.

£20 per junior. (Includes free entry to the combined training)

£15 senior training

Dressage only £6

Combined training £8

Clear Round mini cross country - £2 per round – Body protectors are a must for this.

• **CALLING ALL SENIORS** – if you would like to join in with the above you are very welcome.

• **SUMMER SHOW JUMPING LEAGUE** – This has turned out to be rather successful! Help would be gratefully received, either putting up, putting away or scoring and taking the money. Friday 24th July 2015 and Friday 14th August 2015 (6.00 pm – 8.00 pm)

• **TEAM NEWS** – Rising Stars Show Jumping is on 1st November – at Conquest RDA. Area 12 Show Jumping and dressage is on Sunday 5th July at Chard Showground. Area Horse Trials is 28th June at Bicton Arena. Below is part of the dressage and show jumping schedule. The entire schedule can be found on the Area 12 web site and on our web site on the “Events” page. Let me know if you would like to compete. **Please note – once you have represented BHRC at Area your horse cannot compete at Rising Stars competitions.**

Dressage - Open to All

Class 1 Preliminary 4 (2002) Warm Up. Space Permitting

Class 2 Preliminary 18 (2002) Warm Up. Space Permitting

(Please submit entries for Class 1&2 on separate entry form)

Dressage - Area 12 Championships & BRC Qualifiers only

Class 3 BRC D1 (2014) (Preliminary) (Junior Team)

Class 4 BRC D3 (2014) (Preliminary) (Junior & Senior Prelim Team)

Class 5 BRC D2 (2014) (Preliminary) (Junior Team)

Class 6 BRC D10 (2014) (Novice) (Junior Team)

Class 7 Novice 24 (2010) (Senior Open Team)

Class 8 Novice 30 (2006) (Senior Open Team)

Class 9 Novice 34 (2009) (Senior Open Team)

Class 10 Elementary 45 (2010) (Senior Open Team & Jnr Ind.)

Class 11 Medium 61 (2002) (Senior Medium Ind.)
Class 12 BRC Preliminary Riding Test (2014)
Class 13 BRC Novice Riding Test (2014) (Senior)
Class 14 BRC Pairs 5 (2014) (Senior and Junior)
BRC Tests are available (free) as PDF downloads from

www.bhs.org.uk/enjoy-riding/british-riding-clubs/brc-downloads

Show Jumping - Area 12 Championships & BRC Qualifiers

Ring 1

Class 15 Open Show Jumping

Class 16 Intermediate Show Jumping Senior and Junior

Ring 2

Class 17 Novice Show Jumping Senior and Junior

Ring 3

9:00-10:00 Clear Round (1-1.10M) £4.00

10:00-11:30 Clear Round £4.00

Please bring correct change for clear round

Class 18 Style Jumping Junior & Senior (75cm&85cm)

Time Permitting we will continue with Clear Round after this class

Entry Fees:

Dressage £12.00 per individual, £48.00 per Team.

Pairs - £20.00

Show jumping £15.00 per individual, £60.00 per Team

Please add First Aid Cover @ £2.00 per person

Entries for the Summer SJ and Dressage Qualifier

Entries for the summer SJ/Dressage qualifier have been extended to 29th June. Please notify your members as entries are currently rather low.

<http://www.brcarea12.org.uk/summer-dressage>

Body Protectors – A Message from HQ

Following the inquest last week into the fatality at Nunney International Horse Trials last year the HM Coroner for that area highlighted the importance of checking that safety equipment listed in the rules for the competition meet those standards as published. Sadly the rider involved was not wearing a body protector that met the standard as published in the rule book for British Eventing competitions. It could not be established if this contributed to the fatal injuries sustained but did highlight the need to check.

British Riding Clubs have a well-established method of self-declaration of hats & body protectors prior to the competition both at qualifying level and at championships in order that below standard equipment can be withdrawn and advice to the rider given prior to them being mounted ready for the Cross Country phase, it is vital that this continues and we remind those charged with checking the importance of this action. Clubs running XC elements must also follow these guidelines.

The above email was sent to me last week. The BRC rule book can be found on the BHS web site and can be downloaded (all 178 pages!) With that in mind and with the new hat rules due out in January, for the next couple of months I will copy some of the dress and tack appendix. I have started with the dressage. **All BHRC members competing either as an individual or as part of a team at a BRC event are expected to follow these rules.**

APPENDIX 4: Dress Guidelines - Dressage and Riding Tests

DRESSAGE & RIDING TESTS

(Including dressage phase of Horse Trials and Combined Training)

Hats

(Must be worn to at least this standard with a harness properly adjusted and fastened - Skull caps must be worn with a silk).

All Hats must be

BRC tagged British PAS 015:1998 or 2011, BSEN1384:1997 or 2012 European EN1384:1996

American All SEI, ASTM F1163:2004a, or 04a SNELL E2001

Australian & New Zealand All SAI AS/NZS 3838 2006

Jodhpurs & Breeches White, cream or beige breeches or jodhpurs

Boots Plain black or brown which may also be top boots or jodhpur boots. The boots should be a traditional style. Gaiters may be worn providing they are of identical leather to the boots and have no decoration of any sort. Suede chaps may be worn providing they are of identical colour to the boots and have no decoration of any sort.

Jackets, Shirts & Body Protectors Jacket may be dark blue or black with white stock. Tweed jacket with coloured stock or collar and tie. White stocks, white American collar or white shirts with collar and tie may be worn. Body protectors may be worn. If worn, it should be fitted and worn as per the manufacturers' guidelines.

Helite Air Jackets are permitted.

Hair & Jewellery Hair must be neatly secured and MUST not hang lower than the shoulder line when standing normally. Any item of jewellery or alternative medical treatment wrist bands must be covered up by clothing or gloves, if they cannot be removed, at the riders own risk.

Gloves Gloves must be worn.

Whips Whips are permitted for horse trials dressage, combined training dressage and all other dressage and riding tests. Whips must not be used in a way or be of a length that disturbs other riders and may not be picked up if dropped during a test.

Spurs The band round the heel must be smooth. Comb spurs are not permitted and any shank on the back of the heel must point towards the rear and the end must be clearly horizontal to the ground or pointing downwards. Dummy spurs are permitted as are swan neck spurs subject to the above restriction. Rowels must be free to rotate. Rowels which have points must have rounded edges. Shanks must be made of metal. Spurs are compulsory for Medium Dressage. For the horse trials, spurs must not exceed 4cm measured from the back of the boot/inside of the spur.

Quarter marks Quarter marks, if used, must be simple with no glitter or colouring. Diamante plaiting bands may be used.

At the discretion of the judge, competitors may be permitted to ride without jackets in excessively hot weather, but a suitable shirt that fastens at the neck (not bright or multi-coloured) with a tie. American collar or correctly fastened stock must be worn. Short sleeved shirts may be worn at the discretion of the organiser. Plain, dark coloured waterproof coats may be worn in wet weather.

APPENDIX 5: Tack Rules - Dressage and Riding Test

TACK: The following ARE permitted:

- English type saddles
- Preliminary, novice, teams of six, teams of four and riding tests - snaffle bridles only
- Micklem Bridles with permitted bits only
- Elementary and medium tests – ordinary snaffle or double bridles
- Nosebands are obligatory (drop, flash or cavesson with a snaffle and a cavesson with a double bridle)

- Discreet padding of the bridle at the poll or noseband
- Nose nets that are discreet and cover the nose only, leaving the mouth and bit visible
- Breastplates
- Neck straps – at any level
- Anti-fly impregnated brow-bands or fly repellent discs
- Discreet fly fringes, gauzes or ear covers (outdoors only)
- Numnahs and saddle cloths (logos must be no more than 14cm x 14cm)

- Sponsors logos on clothing (see FEI website)
- A stallion disc MUST be displayed on each side of a stallions bridle at all times
- Side saddles (Dressage only)

The following ARE NOT permitted:

- Martingales
- Bit guards, tongue guards and tongue straps or tying down the horses tongue
- Grackle
- Boots and bandages except in warm up
- Substitutes for conventional shoes, except in warm up
- Elasticated reins
- Saddle covers and seat savers, except an unobtrusive saddle coloured gel pad seat saver, unless the rider has dispensation from BRC office
- Market Harborough's, side, draw, check or running reins
- Hackamores and other bit less bridles
- Blinkers or hoods
- Ear plugs (Spot checks may be carried out – evidence of use for sound muffling may incur elimination)
- Fine wire, twine or cord around the horse's mouth
- Full faced fly shields
- Sheepskin cheek pieces or any other attachment that may affect the horse's vision

EQUIPMENT:

- Whips are allowed in all competitions including the Championships but must not be used in a way or be of a length that disturbs other riders
- Comb spurs or spurs with necks set on the inside of the heel, roughened or cutting edges serrated spurs with or without necks are NOT permitted
- Swan neck spurs are permitted as long as the curve of the neck is directed downwards
- Seniors may wear smooth rowels not exceeding 1cm in diameter
- Spurs that have a smooth rotating rubber, plastic or metal ball on the shank are permitted, but all shanks must be made of metal
- Spurs are compulsory for medium dressage tests
- Spurs are permitted for dressage and riding tests
- Cruppers and balancing straps are permitted
- You may not warm up in equipment not permitted in the actual test

enews#18

Hello all, from your Roving Reporter Saraloo!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

It's that time of year again – Badders! And after last years unprecedented escapade I have made the safe decision to stay at home and watch from the comfort of my chair. Well that is if I can find anything, as it appears that normal TV coverage has been shrunk to a few measly highlights on Sunday. I have searched each channel, read every TV magazine and pressed every red button on my remote (still don't know how that really works) how frustrating! My friend who has SKY, may find me moving in for the weekend he he! Anyway by the time you will be reading this it will all be over and I will possibly have one less friend and square eyes. I hope the weather is kind for all the riders; I heard a competitor on the radio, who in reply to a silly reporter asking her if Badders is posh and for posh people, replied with a retort about the amount of mud she was ploughing through and it was just the first day. You see we all have to put up with these conditions. Ploughing through mud we actually didn't have a problem with at both our open showing show and the last winter dressage league competition.

The Spring Show held at Heazle, so well organized by our committee member Jilll Perrior, was a great success and brought in a large number of entries. Several classes had to be split and the judges must have been exhausted by the end of the day. What luck we had with the weather, it was very cold and where I was stood rather blowy, but no rain. I manned the door to the indoor arena and horse followed horse, pony followed pony there seemed no end to the number of people all vying for a rosette and a chance to qualify for Cricklands later in the year. I didn't hear a single bad comment or

come across one disgruntled person, we even had several people come and thank us for a lovely day and to pass on thanks to the judges as they had been so good and gave explanations for their decisions in the ring.

There were one or two incidents – a young horse put her head through the roof of the box she was travelling in – yes, I did say put her head through the roof – perhaps an area of the horse box that we don't give an awful lot of thought to – no one was hurt and the youngster found herself showing off in the showing ring again before making her way safely home (amazing how useful duck tape can be)

Then a riding club member couldn't get her car to start (flat battery) so thinking I could rush to her rescue, as weirdly I had noticed that morning jump leads in my car, I drove over to where she was parked, threw open my back door to reveal only the black half of the jump leads the red ones nowhere to be found. OH!

Jill came to the rescue and we duly shoved the connectors onto the batteries. I started my car let it run and then we tried the broken one..... the alarm went off at quite an alarming pitch! I looked around the few horses and ponies standing close to us just shot us a disgusted look, hay in mouths they were obviously used to such noise. We couldn't stop the alarm – perhaps the reason the battery had gone flat in the first place and we couldn't start the car. A chap in a car near us was watching (probably making comments about us in his head) he didn't come out to help until it was obvious that we were really struggling. He sauntered over to us fiddled with the connections told us to try the car again, nothing happened he shrugged and left us. We decided that it just needed a lot of juice and so I kept my foot on the accelerator for 5 mins then tried again – yeah she fired up and off I went back to my now new post of entry secretary.

We didn't finish until quite late, but didn't have much clearing at the end of the day and so had some energy left. It was a lovely day even for the helpers who we thank profusely as always without you we couldn't put these events on.

Many thanks to Chris and Jane Brake for the use of their facilities and to the judges and their stewards for doing such a good job. The next showing show will be 4th October.

DRESSAGE LEAGUE – our major winter event and it always surprises me just what a chilled day this is. I think it must be down to the fantastic organizing powers of Joy Brown who always delivers and although panics on the day, is always pleased with the results. We have a few riders who battle it out for the beautiful and coveted 'Cassie Plate' a lovely trophy donated to the club and event by Joy in memory of her beloved horse Cassie, with who she competed in many a dressage event.

At each event we see new people often newcomers to dressage and giving it a go, only to discover that they are ok, even if its just calming the nerves that they are ok about, they enjoy themselves and are surprised at how well they do. So..... think carefully about joining us next year for the 'Winter Dressage League', we welcome everyone and try to cater for most levels.

The last event of this league was not a disappointment and with a good turnout there was a lot to play for. Sadly Gem, (Tricia's horse) was a little stiff from an injury and couldn't participate but Jill King on her lovely Bryony were in great form and put in a couple of very good tests which meant she came away with enough points to take first place and win the Plate, well done Jill.

Then came my favourite event (Have a go) 'Dressage to music' you have no idea how excited I was.....

Last year at the end of X Factor Dressage to music, our dear faithful music system curled up its toes and went PHUT! How sad; however, it did mean that we had to purchase a new and as it turned out all singing all dancing machine. WOW it's got a microphone – Karaoke dressage came to mind (very excited face)....

The microphone has been removed (sad face) Anyway I was allowed to play with said machine and it was my responsibility to press the play button for each competitor of which we had five. I apologize to all competitors on the day for the delay in the start of the music as I discovered that the new machine weirdly has no play button. We got there in the end and the standard of the tests that we saw were amazing. Some of the riders had never done anything like it before. Everyone had obviously put a lot of work in to their tests and did a splendid job. I sang and danced anyway, even though I was confined with the new machine to the back of my 4x4 as the weather decided to turn nasty and pour with rain. As the 4x4 rocked and I mimed we were all in awe of the fantastic displays we saw in front of us.

Horses just seem to enjoy moving to music and pick up the rhythms and move freely, making them look as if they are dancing.

**Results for the seniors – Champion - Jill King on Shula's Arista,
Reserve Champion Tricia Budd on Just Gem.**

The Junior Plate went to Pip Williams, who on her lovely new ride (The Max Factor) managed to ecrue enough points to win without her being present at the last event. Pip who was away competing left the challenge to a couple of youngsters who tried their best to gain enough points to (excuse the pun) pip her to the post but didn't quite make it. So the result for the juniors is –

**Champion - Pip Williams on the Max Factor,
Reserve Champion went to Alice Major on Arthur**

Congratulations to you all.

Well done to everyone who took part in our league and every single person who helped us either writing for judges, scoring or just stewarding you are all very valuable to us and we are eternally grateful Also a huge thanks to Katie Baker and the Paddocks liveries who make us so welcome each time as we invade their stable yard, their rug room and their toilet!
Many thanks to our sponsors Horse&life who supplied all our rosettes

WINTER DRESSAGE LEAGUE – 3 MAY 2015
The Paddocks Bickenhall kind permission of Kate Baker

CLASS 1 BD WT INTRO B

1st SYLVIA BENTLEY MAX M
2nd REBECCA SHEARER MILLY M
3rd STELLA DAVIES SECRET MISSION M
4th MARY REED MOLLY M
5th ELLIE WAKEHAM TREVOR M J
6th LISA GANE BORIS

CLASS 2A PRELIM 1

1st REBECCA SHEARER MILLY M
2nd= ELLIE WAKEMAN TREVOR M J
2nd= JACKIE PARRIS DAISY DEE
4TH MARY REED MOLLY M
5TH THERESA ALLISTONE EVITA

CLASS 3 PRELIM 14

1ST TRISHIA SAINTEY EL CYD
2ND ALANNA SKUSE LUCKY

CLASS 4 DRESSAGE TO MUSIC 'HAVE A GO'

1ST KATE HOPPER SAUBER M
2ND JILL KING SHULAS ARISTA M
3RD ALANNA SKUSE LUCKY
4TH STELLA DAVIES SECRET MISSION M

PAIRS

1ST KATE HOPPER SAUBER M
DENISE WOODCOCK COCO M

1ST JILL KING SHULAS ARISTA M

We will be putting teams in for the X Factor dressage to music again this year to be held on 15th November. We will be hiring the Conquest Centre on Monday evenings from June to practice. If you would like to have a go please join us at the next practice. Monday 29th June 6.45 – 7.45 pm

Thank you Sara, the rest is from me – Tricia

I want to say a HUGE thank you to the committee. March and April have been manic for BHRC and they have put in many hours for the good of the club without a cross word to be heard – thank you “girls”, I have chocolates for the next committee meeting!

- **X Factor Dressage 2 Music** is being held at Conquest RDA on Sunday 15th November (note to self – wear woolly vest! We have – in theory at least – a quadrille of myself, Kate Hopper, Kathy Card and Deana. HOWEVER knowing horses as we do, Gem and Otto both being out of action recently, (and we were very lucky last year that Kate’s painkillers were strong enough for her to ride Sauber) if anyone would like to come along and do some training with us with the chance of being in the quadrille if one of us pulls out, you are very welcome. We pay £5 each per session. If you come to the first training session which is Monday 29th June at 6.45 pm you can find out more. We also welcome any members who would like to know more about what we do and plan their own D2M routine. We are lucky enough to have a complete support team – and they have the T-shirts to prove it!

- We are also hoping to put together a **second/junior quadrille**, I already have the music and half a routine. This training will be done at Paddocks, starting in August and training will be at the week-ends to suit. It will be a walk and trot quadrille and a slightly easier routine (you will not be expected to train you horse to lie down!). It doesn’t have to be just juniors, we can make up a team with seniors as well, or we can train pairs and individuals. I am confident we can get a quadrille together in 4 sessions plus a Dress Rehearsal at Conquest! Training for this will also be £5 per session. Let me know if you are interested as I have booked Paddocks on Saturday 29th August at 11.00 am with this training in mind.

- **CALLING ALL JUNIORS** – we have booked Paddocks for the Summer Spectacular on Wednesday 12th August. The format will be similar to the Easter one but I would like you to tell me what you would be interested in doing, then I will organise it. If you don’t tell me, I will still organize it, but they will be my ideas, not yours! We will start with some instruction, Karen had suggested “turns for the jump off”, but we could do dressage-2-music, or quadrille practise just as easily. We will then do a stable management session, (bandaging, shoeing, feeding....) I will organise a treasure hunt followed by a competition in the afternoon. We can do clear round jumping again, or a Combined Training (dressage and show jumping) competition with the option of making it into a mini ODE.

- **CALLING ALL SENIORS** – if you would like to join in with the above you are very welcome, let me have your thoughts and ideas.

- **CAMP - 1ST & 2ND AUGUST** - I now have 10 deposits! As an extra bonus, Karen Cameron and her lovely horse Darchy are going to do a dressage display for us on the Sunday at approximately 12.30 pm, everyone is welcome. I watch Karen and Darchy schooling at Paddocks and it is magical to see, Karen is going to put on her top hat and tails and ride to some music – a rare treat. She is then going to judge us in the afternoon! If you want a place at camp, please email me beforehand to see if I still have a space.

- **SUMMER SHOW JUMPING LEAGUE** – this was my idea so if it goes wrong it is my fault! Help would be gratefully received, either putting up, putting away or scoring and taking the money. Friday 15th May 2015, Friday 12th June 2015, Friday 24th July 2015 Friday 14th August 2015 (6.00 pm – 8.00 pm)

- **TRAINING** – Deana has booked more training sessions with Karen Cameron at Paddocks. Saturday 30th May is the next one. Pole work AND flat work (on the same day). Contact Deana to book your place and tell her which training session you would like.

HOWEVER, I HAVE A MOAN TO MAKE!

- (Deana is too nice to moan – but I am not!) If you book training, you are expected to attend. We run our training at a loss and we are always oversubscribed. Deana had FOUR MEMBERS CANCEL with less than 24 hours to go on the 9th May, not giving her enough time to fill the spaces. We accept that horses being what they are, they can go lame at the drop of a hat (Gem being a prime example) and we will be sympathetic and re-book you on another training session. BUT “as the sun is shining I am going to Badminton” is NOT a justifiable reason!

- **TEAM NEWS** – Rising Stars Dressage is on Sunday 14th June and RS Show Jumping is on 1st November – both at Conquest RDA. Area 12 Show Jumping and dressage is on Sunday 5th July at Chard Showground. Area Horse Trials is 28th June at Bicton Arena. Rising Stars schedule is on our web site and part of it is below.

Inter Riding Club Rising Stars Indoor Team Dressage Competition

To be held at Conquest Equestrian Centre, Norton Fitzwarren, Taunton, TA2 6PN

www.conquestcentre.org.uk

on

Sunday 14th June 2015

Commencing at 9.00 am

PRELIMINARY ENTRIES CLOSE Sunday 3rd June 2015

COMPLETED ENTRY FORM AND PAYMENT TO BE RECEIVED BY Wednesday 6th June 2015

Refreshments by Office Perk's – Vet on call (Western Counties) – Outdoor Fibre Sand Warm Up Arena

Individual 1 – 6 place rosettes in each section kindly provided by Blackdown Hills Riding Club

Class 1 Introductory -

Dressage Tests : - BD Introductory A 2008

BD Introductory B 2009

This class is aimed at young horses/novice riders/inexperienced combinations.

NO pony/horse may be BD/BE registered. Horse/pony must not have BD/BE points.

Horse/ pony/combination MUST NOT have represented their Riding Club at any level Dressage or Horse Trials or Combined Training (including RWHS/ FOTH Qualifier) or represented their PC at Area Dressage or HT or qualified for the second round of the PC Dengie Winter League Dressage or scored 55% or above in BD Affiliated Prelim.

Class 2 Pre Novice

Dressage Tests :- BD Preliminary 4 2002

BD Preliminary 14 2006

Combination MUST NOT have represented their Riding Club at any level Dressage or Horse Trials or Combined Training (including FOTH Qualifier) or represented their PC at Area Dressage or HT

or qualified for the second round of the PC Dengie Winter League Dressage or scored 58 % or above in BD Affiliated Prelim. Horse/Pony may be BD/BE registered but MUST NOT have BD/BE points.

Each class will be open to Senior, Junior and Mixed Teams of 3 or 4 members from the same club (the best three scores will count). Mixed Team entries will only be accepted from clubs unable to field complete Junior/Senior teams. Junior/Senior/Mixed Teams will be judged together.

In Class 1, two competitors will ride Intro A and two will ride Intro B. In Class 2, two competitors will ride Prelim 4 and two will ride Prelim 14. Teams of 3 must elect two riders for one test and one rider for the other.

ROSETTES:- To first 6 teams in each class & to all in Class 1. SASHES to winning teams

Special rosettes – kindly donated by Leighton Ormerod Electrical Services (01984 – 624812) to the “highest placed individual not part of the winning team “ in each section of Class 1 and Class 2 and “to the best turned out horse and rider combination “ in each class – kindly donated by Exmoor Physiotherapy (Karina Collins) Chartered & Veterinary Physiotherapist 07766 340822

- None of the other schedules are out at the moment but I will put them on our web site when I get them. As always, we will support as many teams and individuals who want to compete. Just note; once you have represented the club at Area level, your horse cannot do Rising Stars. The Area 12 web site has more details about competitions in our Area.

May Secretary Report

- EASTER EXTRAVAGANZA – this turned out to be a wonderful day with sunny weather and lovely helpers. The junior members had a lesson with Karen learning how to ride correct turns to ensure they gave their pony the best chance of jumping a clear round. Then they put their ponies away and Karen gave them a plaiting lesson while my mum and Sara hid Easter eggs. After lunch everyone disappeared, either to put up the clear round course, hunt for Easter eggs or marshal the hunters in case they wandered off to Castle Neroche! We all met up and enjoyed an afternoon of clear round jumping, the juniors putting into practise what they had learnt with Karen in the morning. We ended the day with the most wonderful Easter egg cakes baked by my mum and prizes and certificates presented to the juniors. After the success of this we are organizing a Summer Spectacular on Wednesday 12th August.

- CALLING ALL JUNIORS – after the success at Easter, we have booked Paddocks again for the Summer Spectacular. The format will be similar to the Easter one but I would like you to tell me what you would be interested in doing, then I will organise it. If you don't tell me, I will still organize it, but they will be my ideas, not yours! We will start with some instruction, Karen had suggested “turns for the jump off”, but we could do dressage-2-music, or quadrille practise just as easily. We will then do a stable management session, (bandaging, shoeing, feeding....) I will organise a treasure hunt followed by a competition in the afternoon. We can do clear round jumping again, or a Combined Training (dressage and show jumping) competition with the option of making it into a mini ODE. Let me know what you would like to do, even if you don't think you will be able to attend – I can use your ideas another time.

- CALLING ALL SENIORS – if you would like to join in with the above you are very welcome, let me have your thoughts and ideas.

- CAMP - 1ST & 2ND AUGUST - I already have 7 deposits, so only 5 spaces left. As an extra bonus, Karen Cameron and her lovely horse Darthy are going to do a dressage display for us on the Sunday at approximately 12.30 pm, everyone is welcome. I watch Karen and Darthy schooling at Paddocks and it is magical to see, Karen is going to put on her top hat and tails and ride to some music – a rare treat. She is then going to judge us in the afternoon!

- SHOW JUMPS – our new show jumps have arrived and are superb. Not only are they colourful and robust – they are extremely light and as they have integral cups they are easy to adjust. They made their debut at Easter and will be used throughout the summer at Paddocks.

- SUMMER SHOW JUMPING LEAGUE – this was my idea so if it goes wrong it is my fault! Help would be gratefully received, either putting up, putting away or scoring and taking the money. Friday 15th May 2015, Friday 12th June 2015, Friday 24th July 2015 Friday 14th August 2015 (6.00 pm – 8.00 pm)

- SPRING SHOW – beautifully organized by Jill Perrior and her wonderful helpers. I was appointed Chief Poo Picker, which meant I spent a lot of my time gossiping, drinking tea and taking the “official”

photos. Thank you one and all for all your help, not a cross word was heard all day! The Autumn Show is already booked for 4th October, schedule to follow.

- DRESSAGE-2-MUSIC RALLY – it seemed a good idea at the time to give Sara a microphone (although I got more use out of it, I just didn't sing!) Five horse and riders met up the day after the Spring Show and danced the night away to a selection of music from Bollywood to Marc Bolan and everything in between. The idea was to put into practice some routines for our Have-a-Go dressage-2-music on 3rd May. Time will tell whether we were successful or not, but we had a lovely time meeting up with old and new friends (horses and riders) and I had a wonderful time playing with our new music system.

- WS&D DRESSAGE QUALIFIER – those qualified so far are :-
DENISE WOODCOCK and COCO - prelim
KATE HOPPER and SAUBER – prelim and novice
TRICIA BUDD and JUST GEM – prelim and novice
JILL KING and SHULAS ARISTA – novice

The championship will be held a KSEG on Saturday 10th October. We will hold another qualifier in September.

- DRESSAGE LEAGUE – THE FINAL! Sunday 3rd May. Joy has told me off because I always put my entries in late!

- TRAINING – Deana has booked 2 more training sessions with Karen Cameron at Paddocks. Saturday 9th & 30th May. Pole work AND flat work (on the same day). Contact Deana to book your place and tell her which training session you would like.

- TEAM NEWS – Rising Stars Dressage is on Sunday 14th June and RS Show Jumping is on 1st November – both at Conquest RDA. Area 12 Show Jumping and dressage is on Sunday 5th July at Chard Showground. Area Horse Trials is 28th June at Bicton Arena. None of the schedules are out at the moment but I will put them on our web site when I get them. As always, we will support as many teams and individuals who want to compete. Just note; once you have represented the club at Area level, your horse cannot do Rising Stars. The Area 12 web site has more details about competitions in our Area.

- THANK YOU to all the kind people who have asked about Gem. After all that, we never really did find out what she had done to be so lame. It wasn't an abscess, it seems she may have twisted a fetlock in her field and had a touch of rheumatism in her hock. She missed the Spring Show but is hacking out and enjoying the spring grass. Fingers crossed she will be at the Dressage League final.

April Secretary Report -

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 EX15 3XA 01823 680021
deanarowland2@aol.com

- Dressage League – it was a bit draughty! Many thanks to everyone who braved the elements, results as follows –

CLASS 1 BD WALK TROT INTRODUCTORY B

1st PHOEBE OWEN ALTONEIRA

2nd STELLA DAVIES SECRET MISSION

3rd AMY CHAMBERS STORM J

4th JASMINE GILL AMADEUS J

CLASS 3 PRELIM 18 QUALIFIER WS&D
1st DENISE WOODCOCK COCO M Q
2nd KATE HOPPER SAUBER M Q
3rd TRICIA BUDD JUST GEM M Q
4th JILL KING SHULAS ARISTA M

CLASS 4 NOVICE 28 QUALIFIER WS&D
1st KATE HOPPER SAUBER M Q
2nd= JILL KING SHULAS ARISTA M Q
2nd= TRICIA BUDD JUST GEM M Q
THE LAST IN THIS SERIES IS SUNDAY 3RD MAY

OPEN SUMMER SHOW JUMPING LEAGUE 2015. Held by kind permission of Kate Baker at 'The Paddocks' Bickenhall Nr Taunton TA3 6TS

Phone Tricia after 4.00 pm on 07883631354 if the weather is looking doubtful

- Friday 15th May 2015,
- Friday 12th June 2015,
- Friday 24th July 2015
- Friday 14th August 2015

6.00 pm – 7.30 pm clear round jumping (a maximum of 4 rounds per horse*)

7.30 pm – 8.00 pm pair's. (Weather permitting) If you do not come with a pair, the organizers will try to pair you up with another competitor (a minimum of 2 pairs for this class to go ahead)

NO HORSE MAY JUMP MORE THAN 5 ROUNDS IN ANY ONE EVENING (INCLUDING THE PAIRS CLASS)

Clear round - £2.00 per round / Pairs - £5.00 per pair

For every clear round jumped, horses will earn 1 point towards the championship.

The maximum points any horse* can get in one evening is 10 points.

Over the course of the league the maximum points a horse* can get is 40 points

*by horse we mean any equine regardless of height.

RULES

- THE COMPETITION WILL BE RUN UNDER BRC RULES for show jumping. A copy is available at the event or can be downloaded from the BRC web site.
- All classes are open to adults and juniors
- Points system for the pairs class – 1st. = 6points, 2nd. = 5points, 3rd.= 4points, 4th. = 3points, 5th. = 2points, 6th. = 1point.
- Rosettes will be awarded to 6th place in the pairs class, Trophies' will be awarded to the BHRC members with the most points accumulated over all classes in the four events. Trophies will be awarded at the AGM in December.
- Competitors may be allowed to ride without jackets in excessively hot weather, but a suitable shirt must that covers the arms must be worn.
- The championship will be split juniors/seniors if we have enough entries.
- No responsibility can be taken by the organizers for any accident to competitors, horses, spectators or property. Competitors will be expected to abide by any Health and Safety rules on the day
- (The judge's decision is final.
- All competitors will be expected to wear the current and correct riding hats. Body protectors are recommended for all jumping.
- Please remove all droppings and leave the car park tidy
- Practice fence and clear round jumping in the arena.

- Each course will start at approx. 1 ft, 6” (46 cm) but can be lowered or raised at the organizers’ discretion. The pairs class will be approx. 2 ft (60 cm)

- Show jumps – we have purchased a new set of plastic show jumps to replace the wooden ones we sold last year. They will be making their debut at the Easter Extravaganza
- Easter Egg-stravaganza – anymore? Contact Tricia ASAP
- Spring show – Jill Perrior has this under her control. Many kind people have offered to help out on the day, if you want to pop along and give someone a break we would love to see you
- Dressage to music – Monday 20th April 6.00 pm – 7.00 pm at Conquest. If you want to ride, contact Tricia and book your place, this event is FREE to members. If you want to come along and get some ideas you are welcome. Our new CD/PA system will be making its debut, a professional piece of kit which if we turn the volume up at Conquest, Paddocks liveries will be able to hear it!
- Flatwork training – Saturday April 11th and 25th with Karen Cameron at Paddocks. These sessions have been oversubscribed each time so contact Deana to book your place.
- Polework training – Wednesday 8th April at Paddocks. Contact Tricia to book this training
- Members only clear round jumping at Paddocks 2.30 pm – 3.30pm. Wednesday 8th April.

BHRC Summer Camp at Paddocks Equestrian

1st & 2nd August 2015

£100 per person. A deposit of £50 is required to reserve your place. We take a maximum of 12 at camp therefore the first 12 to pay their deposit will have a place.

Saturday 1st August

9.30 am onwards - arrive

10.00 – 11.30 am Squares flatwork lesson

11.00 am –all others arrive and get horses settled in their stable

12.00 – 12.30 lunch

12.45 – tack up

1.00 pm – 2.30 - Triangles flatwork lesson (Circles Squares, hack, SJ or XC)

2.30 – 2.45 - drinks and snacks

2.45 – 4.15 –Circles flatwork lesson (Triangles and Squares, hack, SJ or XC)

4.15 – 4.45 – afternoon tea

4.45 – 5.45 – Squares SJ lesson (Circles and Triangles hack, SJ or XC)

5.45 - 6.00 – drink and snacks

Evening hack to the local pub (Farmers Arms) followed by a barbeque

Sunday 2nd August

7.00 am – feed and muck out horses

8.00 am breakfast

9.00 – tack up

9.15 – 10.15 – Triangles SJ lesson (Circles and Squares hack, SJ or XC)

10.15 – 10.30 – drinks and snack

10.30 – 11.30 - Circles SJ lesson (Triangles and Squares, hack, SJ or XC)

12.00 – put horses away

12.30 – lunch

1.30 – 3.30 - competitions (dressage and clear round jumping) open to ALL members

4.00 - presentation of prizes and afternoon tea

4.30 – muck out stables and box up to go home

FAQ’s and questions you may not have thought to ask!

- Your stable will be ready from 9.30 am
- You are welcome to arrive at Paddocks from 9.30 am on the Saturday, lunch is served at 12.00 noon
- You are welcome to come to Paddocks on the Friday to find your allocated stable. You can move your horse into your stable on Friday night if you wish but you will need to pay Kate an extra £20.

- You can put up your tent on the Friday evening.
- Most stables are on shavings
- You need to provide your own hay, please make sure the hay doesn't get mixed in with the bedding.
- You do need to provide hard feed for your horse.
- You will need water buckets
- You do not have to bring mucking out tools as there are plenty but you may wish to bring your own broom and shavings fork
- All YOUR food is provided but you may wish to bring a cake or crisps to share
- You will need to provide your own alcohol!!!!
- If you are vegetarian or have a food allergy, please make sure we are aware of it
- You must wear a body protector for cross country, (no matter how small they are!) and it is recommended for show jumping as well

MEMBERS ONLY DRESSAGE COMPETITION

Sunday 2nd August 2015 Held by kind permission of Kate Baker at 'The Paddocks' Bickenhall Nr Taunton TA3 6TS

ONE CLASS - Prelim.12, but it will be split into 2 or 3 sections depending on entries.

The competition will be held in an outdoor arena, warm up on grass.

Entries to : Mrs Joy Brown, Hidon Mead Cottage, Clayhidon, Cullompton, Devon EX15 3TJ. Tel: 01823 680012.

BHRC MEMBERS ONLY SUMMER CAMP DRESSAGE ENTRY FORM

Name

Address:Tel No:.....

I hereby agree to abide by the show rules and conditions

Signature.....Date.....

Equine Car Boot Sale - Saturday 11th April 10am-1pm
Southwoods Farm, Culmstock, Cullompton, Devon, EX15 3JX

Entry FREE to buyers
£5 per table - call to book: 01823 681076
sales@clippersharp.com

Cakes, bacon and sausage baps, tea, coffee and soft drinks available and shop will be open.

The Showing Register are offering discount rates to RC members for their showing register clinics, one of which is being held at Clippersharp on 10th May. The contact details are Sarah Chapman and her email is: the showingregister@yahoo.co.uk

It is also a talent spotting day leading to the pathway to HOYS for those that are selected to go through to the finals. Her emphasis on these clinics is to help the grass roots rider to get an insight into schooling and training and producing their horses for the show ring and with the possibility of even getting to HOYS with their help from the clinics.

I hope this may appeal and generate interest for riders in our area, so that they can benefit from advice from top judges and producers. Please feel free to contact Sarah Chapman directly or link to the Showing Register's website?

If anyone wants to come along but not actually participate with their horse, spectators will be welcome and can take part in watching the show prep demos that will also be going on too. Spectators are £5 on the day and it will be running for most of the day

Drive/ride Shetland and his companion, looking for a long term loan home.

Due to work commitments I no longer have the time to give to these 2 lovely Shetlands, Jaffa and Mac. Jaffa I have owned for 4 years and is rising 8, he was broken to drive last year with no issues at all, in his past with me he has been used for equine assisted learning and is quite happy to do lead rein. He has, as t

he photos show, been ridden off the lead rein although this was a couple of years ago now. Jaffa is such a cool dude, he will have a go at anything and really tries to please, he has even been led from my 16.1hh horse without issue, he is the first to come and say hello when you get to the yard and has never kicked.

Mac is a rescue that I have had for the past 18 months. When he came to me he was a very scared little pony with a very unpleasant history. Having been rescued from a previous home where he was beaten, he was frightened of people, had to be sedated for feet trim etc and would not let you get close to him, yet alone catch him. I have worked very slowly with this little chap using all my natural horsemanship knowledge to bring him to the point where he can now be caught, led out, tie up and will have his feet trimmed although this will depend on their approach to him. He is a really sweet pony who despite been very scared has never kicked, his response to stressful situations is to take flight. Mac will never be suitable for a job as such but I am hoping by offering him with Jaffa the 2 can remain together with Mac purely been a companion. Due to Mac's past I am looking for a home that understands horsemanship, or at least appreciates his past and that he needs a calm energy or you won't get near him!! .

If the right home was found I would be happy to let the trap and harness, bridle etc to go with them. Both ponies have never had laminitis but both do have sweet itch, although I have never had a problem managing it in the past, I have found using a cream to soothe and deter the midges blighters works a treat!! They have never worn sweet itch rugs.

If you can offer these 2 ponies a 5 star home, then please contact Clare Sharland on 07859 811654 or email claresharland@btinternet.com or behind the counter in Unicorn Saddlery. Thanks for reading

Un-mounted Easter egg hunt – Wednesday 8th April. 1.30 at Paddocks. Open to all friends and family of BHRC. £2.50 per person, contact Tricia to book your egg!

March e-news

Hello again, anyone else fed up with mud? Think I must ask this every year. I generally think that by the time we reach the end of February that everyone feels the same way. There is a hint of spring in the air, the buds are straining to open and the birds have changed their tune. Its all there just waiting for a little more warmth to filter through, then the fields will start to dry, the grass will start to grow and we will (start worrying about laminitis) really get going with our horses. Not so for our riding club we have been very active with the dressage league and training sessions all through the wind, rain and sleet. For anyone interested in improving their riding skills at any level and with a young or older horse there are training sessions happening, kindly organised by Deana Rowland – if you are interested then please look on our website for dates and contact numbers. As for the Dressage league, that has been happily chugging along with a few stalwart attendees each month and a few new riders. We welcome you all and cater for all levels, so come along and give it a go. Next competition is on March 29th. and will also include qualifications for W & D Dressage Championships. Please spread the word, again details are on our website.

So... what happened with the league last Sunday? Well we had a few new faces, which was lovely to see. They were so pleased that they were able to “have a go” in a quiet and supportive atmosphere, which helped the confidence of both horse and rider – comments we received afterwards. We have to thank the organiser Joy and all the helpers, especially Tory who stepped up to the mark and kindly wrote for the judge. Joy always gives the event a relaxed feel and is happy to allow the nervous and young a little extra time to settle – in fact she was sooo relaxed that she thought the last class of the day was novice 24 and brought those sheets with her. In fact it was Novice 34 that the riders had all carefully learnt as was kindly pointed out by Trish. We were busy adding up the scores in the car and suddenly a little panic set in as we realized that we had indeed got the wrong sheets with us. Well we are Blackdowners – there is always a solution. “I have a copy or two in my bag in my car” words from ever-organized Trish who was stood by us “I will go and look” and off she trotted. “I’m sure Trish has a Mary Poppins bag” commented one of our committee members who was in on our moment of panic, we all laughed at this and immediately dubbed Trish as Mary. Well she did indeed have said sheets and so between us all, we cobbled together new sheets that worked a treat.

Thank you Karen for judging in the afternoon and putting up with our relaxed moment! Also a big thanks goes to our morning judges Michael and Mavis who come as a pair and did a splendid job, we hope to see you again. The day finished just before the heavens opened and we got bombarded with hail – good timing! We have been very lucky with this winter’s league as we have had sponsorship from ‘ HORSE & LIFE ‘ This website can be easily found on your computer and is worth a look. The owner of this company Hannah Dyke gave us the beautiful black and gold rosettes that we were able

to hand out to our fantastic winners. She popped over to see us and was able to take a range of photos as well as award the rosettes to the winners in person. Many thanks Hannah for your support you have been marvellous.

WINTER DRESSAGE LEAGUE 1 MARCH 2015

THE PADDOCKS BICKENHALL BY KIND PERMISSION OF KATE BAKER

CLASS 1 BD WT INTRO A

1st	ALISON TOMLINSON	NUTMEG	
2nd	ALICE MAJOR	ARTHUR	J
3rd	AMY CALLOW	BLUE	
4th	SYLVIA BENTLEY	MAX	M
5th	SUE TYDD	FASSY	M
6th	ELLIE WAKEMAN	TREVOR	

CLASS 2A PRELIM. 1

1st	ALICE MAJOR	ARTHUR	
2nd	AMY CALLOW	BLUE	
3rd	ALISON TOMLINSON	NUTMEG	
4th	LUCINDA VAUGHAN	POWERS ON ICE	

CLASS 2B

1st	TRICIA BUDD	JUST GEM	M
2nd	JILL KING	SHULAS ARISTA	M

CLASS 3 PRELIM 7

1st	PIP WILLIAMS	THE MAX FACTOR	M	J
2nd	JILL KING	SHULAS ARISTA	M	
3rd	LUCINDA VAUGHAN	POWERS ON ICE		
4th	PAT ETHERINTON	BI BI LOU	M	

CLASS 4 NOVICE 24

1st	PIP WILLIAMS	THE MAX FACTOR	M J
2nd	TRICIA BUDD	JUST GEM	M
3rd	LAINY WHITWORTH	BAILEY	M

Horse Horoscope.... I found this and as it states that it is the first sign of the zodiac, I thought it would be good to put in now rather than January. A bit of fun: when was your horse born? Find out and read its characteristics.....

Sun in Aries

(March 21 – April 20)

Aries is the first sign of the zodiac, so a horse born under this sun sign likes to be first and is a natural leader. Aries is a cardinal fire sign and is ruled by the planet Mars. The Aries-sun horse is therefore extremely energetic by nature, as well as competitive and decisive. This horse shines when it is given challenges, as it needs to test itself in competition. Whilst an Aries horse needs to be given space mentally and emotionally within the partnership to take some initiatives, you do need to teach this horse to think before it acts. The Aries-sun horse's impulsiveness can otherwise lead it into difficulties! The Aries horse also needs physical space to do its own thing each day, as it is such a bundle of energy and loves to be busy and active. It needs to run free in a field and challenge itself against other horses by playing dominance games and testing its physical strength. As Aries rules the head, this horse may have something about the head, which attracts attention. For this reason, many Aries-sun horses have a noticeable feature or a cut or scar somewhere

Help required at the next Dressage League Competition – If you are able to lend a hand in any capacity we would be very grateful. A morning or afternoon would be great; you don't have to give up your whole day. We could do with a writer and a steward. Please contact Joy Brown joyirenebrown@gmail.com many thanks. Help required at our up-coming Spring Show. To be held at Heazle Riding Centre on April 19th. If you can help in any way please contact Jill Perrior jillperrior@yahoo.co.uk I think stewards and runners are required.

It's nearly that time of year again when we will be starting to get together our 'Quadrillers' for the X factor competition. We need some new riders. We are also hoping to have a Junior team this year. If you are interested JUNIORS and SENIORS please contact Trish asap triciabudd24@gmail.com

- **Rising Stars Show Jumping** at Conquest RDA, Easter Monday – 6th April 2015. If you would like to be on a team please let Tricia know and she will start to collate horses and riders.

Spring Show at Heazle Arena. 19th Jill Perrior has this organized in her capable hands. Again, she would be delighted for some offers of help. The schedule is at the end of this report – thank you Jill!

Dressage-2-music rally. Monday 20th 6.00 pm – 7.00 pm. This is a free event and aimed at members who would like to be considered for the quadrille (we are hoping to enter senior and junior quadrilles at this year's X Factor!) or are competing at our D2M competition on the 5th May. However, everyone is welcome. Please let Tricia know in advance if you would like to attend. You can either bring your own music or ride to a selection of ours.

Training – with Karen Cameron at Paddocks –21st March and 11th & 25th April (am) . .

Contact Deana to book your place.

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 EX15 3XA 01823 680021 deanarowland2@aol.com

- **Dressage league** – Sunday 1st March 2015. The ground is drying out now so hopefully we will be able to warm up on the field. We may also be able to park the trailers on the field, but not the lorries if my memory serves me well from last year! Joy would be delighted for some offers of help – even an hour or 2 – and I have promised to make cake as the lot I bought from Asda for the last DL were not up to much (although Paddocks cats wolfed the lot down)

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Training – with Karen Cameron at Paddocks – 21st February (pm) 21st March and 11th & 25th April (am). .

Contact Deana to book your place.

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Blackdown Hills Riding Club

Is pleased to announce its **members only**

Easter Egg-stravaganza

Wednesday 8th April 2015

At Paddocks Equestrian, Bickenhall. Taunton

11.00 am – 12.00 noon – instruction “how to ride a correct line in show jumping.”

Our instructor Karen Cameron will go through the best way to ride a correct line in a show jumping competition. This is not about jumping huge fences but going over the centre of the poles on the ground correctly. Helping your pony to enjoy jumping and giving it the best chance of going clear when you get to your afternoon show jumping round!

12.30 – 1.00 pm – practical stable management. How to plait using needle and thread

1.00 – 1.30 pm lunch (bring your own packed lunch)

1.30 pm- - 2.00 pm – un-mounted Easter egg hunt

2.30 pm – 4.00 clear round jumping (1 free round then £1.50 per round)

4.15 pm, prize giving, drinks, cakes and pack up to go home.

£20 per junior.

Parents are welcome to stay but there will be lots of committee members around so if you would prefer a couple of hours shopping (or just peace and quiet) we will look after them and try to keep them out of mischief!

This rally is aimed at our **Junior members** which is why we are running it during the Easter holidays but I know some of our **SENIORS** may also like to join in.

For them I suggest the following - **10.00 am – 11.00 am instruction as above. £15 per person.** Then you can go for a hack, have lunch with us, do some clear round jumping (£1.50 per round) or just go home.

Look out for our “Summer Spectacular” in the August Holidays.

SPRING IN-HAND & RIDDEN SHOW - ON - SUNDAY 19th APRIL 2015

**HEAZLE RIDING CENTRE, HEAZLE FARM, CLAYHIDON
WELLINGTON, SOMERSET EX15 3TH**

**including qualifiers for: SOUTH WEST PONY ASSOCIATION
CHAMPIONSHIPS**

Hon. Show Secretary: Mrs J Perrior, Newtown Farm, Bickenhall, Taunton TA3 6UF

Tel: 01823 480349 Online schedules can be downloaded from:

www.blackdownhillsridingclub.co.uk

Postal entries close 13th April 2015 (late entries £1 extra)

Three tier rosettes to 6th place in all classes, Special rosette to highest place BHRC

Member in each class

Refreshments by: COMPETE & EAT

IN-HAND SHOWING

commencing 9.00am

(Entries need not be registered unless specified)

CLASS 1 – YOUNGSTOCK – OPEN Qualifier for SWPA Championships
Yearlings, Two & Three Year Olds - May be split into age groups if sufficient entries

CLASS 2 – MOUNTAIN & MOORLAND Qualifier for SWPA Championships (M)
To be registered with the appropriate society and shown in accordance with the rules of that society - May be split Small/Large if sufficient entries

CLASS 3 – COLOURED HORSE or PONY Qualifier for SWPA Championships (D)
To include Piebald, Skewbald, Spotted, Appaloosa, Palomino & Dun

CLASS 4 – OPEN HORSE Qualifier for SWPA Championships (B, E, X)
Exceeding 148cms (Exhibitors in this class may not enter class 5)

CLASS 5 – OPEN PONY Qualifier for SWPA Championships (F, G, H)
Not exceeding 153cms (Exhibitors in this class may not enter class 4)

CLASS 6 – FOREIGN BREEDS / ARABS Qualifier for SWPA Championships (a, t)
Any breed not native to the British Isles and their Part-Breds

CLASS 7 – COBS Qualifier for SWPA Championships (c)
To include Show, Maxi, Traditional/Gypsy – To be shown unplaited

CLASS 8 – VETERAN HORSE or PONY Qualifier for SWPA Championships (v)
15 yrs and over

CLASS 9 – CHILD HANDLER Qualifier for SWPA Championships (p)
Handlers to have achieved their 6th birthday but not their 18th by the 1st January in the current year - Class may be split if sufficient entries - No colts or stallions - Hard Hats to the current standard must be worn for this class

IN-HAND CHAMPIONSHIP
1st & 2nd from Classes 1 – 8

RIDDEN SHOWING

not before 1.00pm

(Entries need not be registered unless specified)

JUDGE:

CLASS 10 – BEST TURNOUT – OPEN

CLASS 11 – NOVICE RIDDEN – OPEN Qualifier for SWPA Championships (N1, N2, N3)
Horse or Pony not to have been placed 1st in any ridden class – Snaffle bridles to be worn

CLASS 12 – LEAD REIN PONY Qualifier for SWPA Championships (k a & b) - *Rosette to all entries Riders 8yrs & under*

CLASS 13 – VETERAN HORSE or PONY Qualifier for SWPA Championships (V1)
15 yrs and over

CLASS 14 – MOUNTAIN & MOORLAND Qualifier for SWPA Championships (M1)
To be registered with the appropriate society and shown in accordance with the rules of that society - May be split Small/Large if sufficient entries

CLASS 15 – COLOURED HORSE or PONY Qualifier for SWPA Championships (D1)
To include Piebald, Skewbald, Appaloosa, Spotted, Palomino & Dun

CLASS 16 – OPEN RIDDEN HORSE Qualifier for SWPA Championships (A1, B1, E1, Y1, X1)
Exceeding 148cms (Exhibitors in this class may not enter class 17)

CLASS 17 – OPEN RIDDEN PONY Qualifier for SWPA Championships (G1, H1)
Not exceeding 153cms (Exhibitors in this class may not enter class 16)

CLASS 18 – COBS Qualifier for SWPA Championships (C 1 & 2)
To include Show, Maxi, Traditional/Gypsy – To be shown unplaited

Class 19 – COMPETITION HORSE or PONY Qualifier for SWPA Championships (R 1 & 2)
May be split, Exceeding 148cm / Not exceeding 148 cm, if sufficient entries.

RIDDEN CHAMPIONSHIP 1st & 2nd from Classes 11 – 19

SOUTH WEST PONY ASSOCIATION CHAMPIONSHIPS QUALIFYING RULES

This show is a qualifier for the South West Pony Association Championships to be held on 5/6/7 September 2015, at The David Broome Event Centre, Crick, Gwent.

These classes are open to everyone.

However, if you qualify and wish to go the Championships you need to be a member and meet the qualification criteria of the SWPA

To qualify for the Championships:

1. Enter one of the qualifying classes – 2. be one of the two highest placed exhibits not already qualified within the first four and receive a qualification card signed in the ring –
2. Complete the entry form on the qualification card - 4. Return the card to together with any registration fees due within 14 days of this show. (*Registration fee for 2015 is £25 to include all members of the family and equines owned by the family.*)

ENTRY FEES

BHRC members £6 Non-members £7

Entries on the day £1 extra

No cheques will be accepted on the day of the show

February 2015 - Happy New Year from Saraloo!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Brrrrrrr!

We have been very lucky compared to most places. It was however very cold for our first **DRESSAGE LEAGUE** competition held on Sunday February 1st at the Paddocks Bickenhall. Thanks Kate.

Amusingly we were all trying to work out who was under the many scarves, wooly hats and mitts. A few people crept up behind me to say hello and I found myself peering hard, to work out who was hidden behind the 'Michelin Man'. Of course wearing so many layers has its problems as one of our organisers found out when she went to the loo. Having put on a variety of layers including a new pair of thermal leggings, thought that she pulled everything necessary down only to discover that she forgotten about the one vital item under the thermals and as a result found herself damp in places

she rather not mention. (Oh how we laughed) Of course the weather causes mishaps with inanimate objects too, like doors. The door to the 'small yet perfectly warm room' that we had set up for the secretary, was stuck shut – so with six of us inside and the one person at the door trying to get out, we spent several moments working out who was the smallest and most agile amongst us to post through the window. Luckily someone came in so the emergency was averted. Later the same door stuck again – This time we had a child with us – so working on 'the child up the chimney' basis, we gave no thought to anyone else - the child was to be posted. Then I opened the door ha ha you just had to pull!!!!!!!!!!!!!! The only conversation I seemed to have was "Brrr isn't it cold" But hey, It didn't rain, the sun shone, we had a good turn out what more could we want? The wind blew hard, a great excuse for horses coming down the central line off piste! The day was calm and as always well organised by Joy Brown, who sensibly kept herself wrapped up and tucked away in my 4x4, overseeing proceedings and when her frozen fingers were working added up the scores. Thanks Joy. Thanks to Trish who set up the arena for us and then participated in two of the classes and did – well (pretty well actually.) I went from scorer to writer and back again, then cleared up the arena at the end, which was a blessing as by the time I had finished I was beginning to feel my feet. It was, as always a lovely event. It was so good to see some riders we haven't seen for a long time participating and doing well in their tests. Congratulations everyone and many thanks to all that helped and competed in such 'raw' conditions. Results will be posted up on our website. In my wanderings around The Paddocks whilst collecting scores, coffee and checking for competitors I couldn't help notice the number of hubby helpers there were, all snuggled up in their Michelin man outfits shuffling from one foot to the other whilst waiting for things to 'happen' I have to say a big thanks to you the PHOWWE's amongst us.....
Do you qualify as a P.H.O.W.W.E?

Partner / Husband Of a Woman With an Equine.....

So what qualifies you?.....

After over 33 years of living with me, I feel that my hubby qualifies! Does yours? If he casts his mind back – His life before equines was peaceful, lazy, free and solvent. So what happened? The horse happened – the four-legged creature that like the woman he doesn't understand. Like children, the horse eats, spends all his money and creates a lot of mess.

Has your other half become a PHOWWE? Does he frequent the Gym in an effort to boost his stamina and 'manliness' as he has discovered that the woman he lives with has developed more muscles than he has?

Does he find it useful NOT to have a sense of smell? – Living with the continuous aroma of damp horses and wet rugs is an everyday occurrence. In fact my man has become such a P.H.O.W.W.E that he actually missed the smell of horse on me after I had 'apparently' had a rare indulgence – namely that of a bath.

His skin is leathering up nicely in response to wearing clothes that are covered in hair, drool and small sharp pieces of straw and hay?

Has he learnt to walk away from an argument? – Because even if he feels he had a victory he may suffer the consequences – strange how his underwear finds its way into the washing machine with the horse's rugs – itch for days afterwards – not very dignified!

Is he able to hitch up a trailer, help load, drive carefully, reverse it and take care of the 'precious' – then able to entertain himself on some lonely bleak moor for hours whilst I am off on the horse enjoying myself? Has he had so many meetings with the bank manager he is now like a brother to him - the moths have long gone? It's amazing how many visits by the vet, dentist, chiropractor and farrier he pays for under the guise of 'miscellaneous' on the cheque stubs. How many times has he entered a tack shop with me to buy a £1 bucket and left with a rug for £150? However hard he tries, his car, smells strange, is full of hay, dust, ropes, mud and unrecognizable often sticky things that means when he enters an office for a meeting his suit has something embarrassing attached to it.

He is often abandoned holding a dangerous looking creature that treads on his feet, drools over his back and sleeves then snorts in his face while I go off to chat to my mates. If any of the above sounds familiar then you can join the order of the PHOWWE's Well done and many thanks to all you partners and supporters who were there on Sunday freezing your off we do treasure you really, because behind a successful horse woman there is usually a PHOWWE! He he

FREE to a good home... A black female cat, age unknown but she looks quite young. Excellent mouser and very friendly. The cat turned up at the Paddocks with three kittens, (she has now been spade). Her Kittens have been homed, the cats protection league have no room so couldn't take her so a home is required. If you can offer her a place to mouse, please ring Kate at the Paddocks.

Thank you Sara, the rest is from me – Tricia

Rising Stars – the previous week-end we all met up at Conquest for the RS Dressage. This lovely event was very well attended and both our morning teams came = 6th. Our Afternoon team came 7th, sadly we had to withdraw one of our team mates so we only had 3 in the team. Well done to Sophie and Chloe who came 5th individually in section B, Megan and Dandy who came 5th in section A, and Deana who rode my beloved Gem to come 4th in Prelim 7 with an impressive 67% (I was like a proud mummy!) well done to –

Class 1 Blackdown Bunnies

Intro A Sarah Eustace on Northern Genes – Megan Edwards on Dandy

Intro B Georgina Palfrey on Billy – Leia Bower on Chloe

Class 1 Blackdown Boffins

Intro A Chaorlotte Lacey on Chocolate Champion

Intro B Sophie Eckley on Chloe – Sylvia Bentley on Max

Class 2 Blackdown Bobbies

Prelim 1 Georgina Palfrey on Billy

Prelim 7 Deana Rowland on Just Gem – Amanda Ryan on Caspar

A date for your diary - Rising Stars show jumping is on Easter Monday.

Dressage league – THE RESULTS –

CLASS 1 BD W&T INTRO A

1st	SAM DAVIES	BELLE ISLA PIGEON	M		
2nd	SYLVIA BENTLEY	MAX	M		
3rd	SUE TYDD	FASSY	M		
4th	NAOMI MOON	ECHO	M		
5th	MEGAN EDWARDS	DANDY		M	J
6th	BEA PERHAM	BONNIE QUEEN BEE		M	J

CLASS 2A PRELIM 4 RESTRICTED

1st	JILL PERRIOR	GRACE	M		
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2nd	KAREN DAVIES	FLOOD		
3rd	MEGAN EDWARDS	DANDY	M	J

CLASS 2B PRELIM 4 OPEN

1st	TRICIA BUDD	JUST GEM	M	
2nd	JILL KING	SHULAS ARISTA	M	
3rd	PAT ETHERINGTON	BI BI LOU	M	

CLASS 3 PRELIM. 12

st	JILL KING	SHU		
LAS ARISTA	M			
2nd	AMY MIDDLETON	ANISEED	M	

CLASS 4 NOVICE 24

1st	TRICIA BUDD	JUST GEM	M	
2nd	AMY MIDDLETON	ANISEED	M	

Coach trip – we are going to Olympia this year on Saturday 19th December! More details to follow but Katy is on the case – just don't mention Redwoods to her!

Charities – the committee have decided to give £150 each to Parkinson's and Brooke Horses charities this year. Our fund raising Dressage day in September will be for the **Injured Jockeys Fund**, which means Gem and I can dress up as jockeys.

Instruction - Training at the Paddocks. Deana is organising flat work training, with the option of dressage training for our Dressage League if you would like to run through your test etc , to be held at the Paddocks with Karen Cameron. The lessons will be no more than three horses and will be £15 each. Please email Deana if you'd like to join in deanarowland2@aol.com or text her on 07841012410 Saturday 7th February from 10am - Saturday 21st February from 2pm

She has also booked dates in March and April.

Merchandise – you know how easy it is to spend someone else's money? Well I have gone a little overboard with the ordering of merchandise. I promise you, I have it in your size! Contact me if you would like an item or 2 because the rest of the committee won't speak to me until I have sold it all!**New members** – welcome to Amy Middleton, Sue Tydd, Charlotte Lacey , Denise Woodcock,

Bea Perham and Mia Perham. It has been lovely meeting you, keep in touch and come and see us at either the training or the next Dressage League.

Secretary's update January 2015

Happy New Year to you all! I hope you had a good Christmas and now the festivities are over it is time to start thinking about enjoying more time with our equine friends. Gem and I went for a hack Christmas morning in the most beautiful sunshine, now 24 she skipped along like a 4 year old! We have not had a committee meeting yet so below are just a few dates and reminders. I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome our new members – Harriet Lacey, Naomi Moon, Heather Stones, Emily Giles and returning member Sam Davis (nee Tolley) Welcome to you all and I hope to see you all soon. Membership cards will come from BHC Head Office at the end of the month.

- **Rising Stars Dressage – 25th January at Conquest RDA.** I have had lots of tentative replies but I now need to know who would like to represent the club, which horse you are riding and

- Which class/es you want to enter. When I have the names I can allocate dressage tests. Please check the schedule and also ensure your tack meets the BRC criteria – the rules are on the BHS/BRC web site. I need to put entries in to WSRC by Friday 16th
- **Dressage League** – 1st February at Paddocks – the added incentive of black and gold rosettes this year thanks to our sponsor **horse&life**. Warm-up could be limited but Joy always leaves time before each test for us to have a canter in the arena, also there is a 10 minute hack you can do along the Herepath. We are doing light refreshments and tea and coffee so come along and join us shaking off the winter cobwebs. Any offers of help would be gratefully accepted – and you will get a “helpers voucher”
- **Summer Camp – 1st & 2nd August at Paddocks** – I have had several enquiries about this already. Paddocks and Karen Cameron are booked; the format will be very similar to the last 2 years probably with a thunder storm at 1.30 pm on the Saturday!
- **Congratulations** to committee member Georgina Palfrey who passed her driving test just before Christmas. Horse box next Georgina! Congratulations also to our Treasurer Deana who became a Granny for the second time just before Christmas. Nicole hanging on until after Olympia!
- **New Hat Standards**

The European Commission have made changes to the EN1384 hat standard (this also includes BSEN1384) and it will no longer be recognised as an acceptable standard for riding hats in the UK. However, in order to phase out the use of EN1384 and/or BSEN1384 hat standards, the BRC 2015 / 2016 hat rules will be changed as follows:

- There will be no changes to the accepted hat standards for 2015 and hats will continue to be tagged with the BRC blue hat tags.
- However, **from 1 January 2016**, ALL hats must be checked and tagged with a new ORANGE BRC hat tag. All hats which only meet the standard EN1384 or BSEN1384, and do not comply with another standard off the above list, WILL NOT be accepted and therefore will not be permitted for any BRC competition. Hats which bear EN1384 or BSEN1384 along with another standard from the above list will be tagged. For example, BSEN1384 & PAS015 (1998 or 2011) along with the Kitemark, would be acceptable, but not BSEN1384 on its own.
- From 1 January 2016, no hats with a peak of any description will be permitted for the XC phase of any BRC competition. Hat covers and silks will be permitted.

TEAM CHALLENGE!!

I know a lot of people worry about letting their team down (will I forget the test, jump the wrong jump, fall off, swear, laugh, cry....the list is endless and you can only prepare for so much.) There is a famous saying that you win your rosettes at home, you just collect them at the competition and I always say you can only do your best, the unexpected **can** happen. The photo below is of Gem and I representing BHRC for the very first time. I had left nothing to chance. I got to the venue (Taunton Racecourse) hours early to allow for any delays. I knew my test backwards and Gem was washed and trimmed to within an inch of her life. A quarter of the way through my test I was aware Gem and I were not alone – we were surrounded by a swarm of bees! Not knowing the correct etiquette for riding a test with bees, as I passed the judge I shouted “they’re bees” he promptly closed his window so I assumed I carried on. None of the bees stung Gem and they left us by the time we finished our test. I just love the expression on her face!

So expect the unexpected with these wonderful animals.

And the moral of this story? Take your own swarm of bees to your next test; I got considerably better marks than expected that day!

