

June 2012

Some very exciting information from Karen Jones, Team GB Endurance rider and BHRC member. REMEMBER THE 2011 AGM???!

I have looked at the KBIS Endurance Riding Club Challenge. Look at the link:

<http://www.rcteamevent.endurancegb.co.uk/html/rules.html>. the following is extracted from the website.

A squad can be made up of up to six combinations, choosing a "scoring" team of 3 or 4 combinations with 1 or 2 combinations riding as individuals for each Qualifier entered. The team of 3 or 4 must be declared by the closing date of the Qualifier entered (see below). A team member can be replaced by one of the combinations in the squad any time up to and including the day of the Qualifier provided that the replacement has made an entry to that Qualifier beforehand. The declared team can be different for each Qualifier entered provided that it is made up of combinations in the declared squad.

The qualifying rides are on average, 20 mile courses and have to be ridden within 8 and 15kph, which is seriously achievable. The horse must pass the vet at the end with a heart rate of 64 or below. Teams can enter as many events as they wish so that they can achieve an optimum score, i.e. if the your first ride score is bettered by your second ride, that one goes forward to the league table. The BRC Team Endurance Formula is used to arrive at a score for each horse in the team as follows: $\text{Score} = ([\text{Actual Speed}] - 5) * 100 / ([\text{Final Pulse}] - 20)$ (don't worry about this - just ride!)

I can help with training suggestions and can teach you to trot up your horse for the veterinary inspection to show your horse to the best advantage and I can help teach you to get your horse's pulse down at the end, etc.

Crewing: The rides can be ridden with just horses and riders but the team will find it much more enjoyable if they have a support crew (husbands do quite well with this - you have to fill the crew car with chocolate, crisps and pies (forget the beer till the end) and provide them with a map where they will meet you and and give the horse a drink and maybe slosh them down if it is hot (riders like this too....). Crews have a great time laying in wait for their riders and there is a great feeling of camaraderie when you are a crew. I can personally vouch for the fact that the crew are as important as the riders - effective crewing of the horse can make a huge difference to the outcome at the end of the ride. Think 'Tour de France' style support!

I would recommend that Boconnoc Ride on 8 July would be a good one to aim for. It is only one and half hours from Exeter. If i am correct, it is possible to corral the horses overnight and camp in the beautiful grounds of Boconnoc House <http://www.boconnoc.com/> if people wanted to make a fun 24 hours away. The Venue is situated on a beautiful country estate overlooking the Queen Anne house and gardens, surrounded by parkland, lake and a deerpark. The routes are in the estate and surrounding countryside including woods, farmland and tracks . Estimated % of tarmac: 5%. The entry closing date is 25 June and we would need to declare our team in advance of entering. Only 1 1/2 hours from Exeter – A38/A390/B3359.

If people enjoyed it a great deal or wanted to try to better the score achieved at Boconnoc, there are some other rides not too far away, such as West Moor Ride on 22 July, near Launceston and Brentor

Ride on 2 September at Tavistock, or Barbary Castle on 18 August (there are many other rides we can look at if the dates don't work).

If our Team went forward to the Final Riding Club Challenge, we would go to the Red Dragon Ride at the Royal Welsh Showground at Builth Wells on Sunday 7 October. This is one of my favourite rides with the most stunning countryside and YOU WILL LOVE IT!! I have ridden this ride many times and know it well - Socks came third in a racing finish in the 100 mile class a couple of years ago.

Seriously, BHRC have some brilliant riders and horses and I really think we have a great chance of doing really well. I can help with training suggestions will do what I can to help. If your horse is being ridden 2/3 times a week, we can get it to do a good job at one of these rides. YOU DO NOT NEED AN ARAB AT ALL. ANY OF OUR HORSES CAN DO IT.

What do you think? Karen