

14/4/13 - Hello all, your extremely chilled secretary here! I have been out of the country for the last 2 weeks without even the sight of a horse (I did ride an elephant though, surprisingly like Gem, but slower)

Having been away for so long and also being incredibly nose-y, I would love to know what you have all been up to. Please email me; if you send pictures I will use them in the next enews.

Dressage League – the final event will be on **Sunday 28th April**. This is where the senior and junior champions and reserve champions with the most points from the 3 events will be presented with their rosettes and the Cassie plates; as yet we have NO JUNIOR POINTS, so kick on juniors and get your entries in to Joy. We also run a have-a-go Dressage to music class, the rules are below. Anyone who would like to help out would be most welcome, we promise a £5 Helpers Voucher and cake!

Sunday April 28th. Dressage League

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

Class 2 Prelim 7

Class 3 Novice 27.

Class 4 Dressage to Music – freestyle, open to individuals or pairs. (Performance to last between 4 to 5 minutes timed from the first halt to last halt.)

Have-a-go dressage to music - BHRC D2M is judged on how the horse and rider perform to the music. You can do **any** movement; you do not need to canter. A well ridden and well interpreted walk and trot test will score higher than an over ambitious test. You have to halt on the centre line at the start and finish of your test, all music must be on a CD. Any more information, contact Tricia.

Class 5 Novice 30 PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF TEST!!!!!!!!!!

Badminton Horse Trials - The coach has been organised, please forward coach payment to Kathryn ASAP. The discounted prices are:- £10 for non-members and £5 for members. Please buy your advance tickets via the Badminton website; they are £24 each in advance, with no discount for coach parties unfortunately.

Kathryn's address for payment is Canalside, Burlescombe, Tiverton, Devon EX16 7JH. Please make cheques payable to Blackdown Hills Riding Club, if the coach is not full by 15th April then we will offer it to other clubs. Pick-ups are predicted to be Hemyock and along the A38.

“Spring” Show - Sunday 26th May 2013

CONQUEST RIDING CENTRE, CONQUEST FARM, TAUNTON. TA2 6PN
including qualifiers for: SOUTH WEST PONY ASSOCIATION CHAMPIONSHIPS

Hon. Show Secretary: Mrs T Budd, 24 Newlands Grove, Ruishton, Taunton TA3 5JJ
Tel: 01823 442597

Online schedules can be downloaded from: www.blackdownhillsridingclub.co.uk Help, as ever, would be greatly appreciated. Contact me, Tricia with your preferred time of the day, hands up anyone who would like to be in charge of parking?!!!!

Would anyone around the Bickenhall area have space in their lorry or trailer for Gem for this event? My Freelander has died (b****y thing, a thousand curses on it) and until I can find another towing vehicle I am grounded. I am happy to pay fuel. Alternatively, I have a trailer, does anyone have something to tow it with! T x

Area 12 training at Bicton, 3rd June (This was in my in-box when I got home – sorry.)

Trainers **Andrew Lovell** BHSI and **Eric Smiley** FBHS and BE Master Coach have been provisionally booked for this training day. Andrew Lovell is well known in the area for his all-round teaching, particularly with the more novice competitors. Eric Smiley is a world renowned trainer, having competed and coached at the highest level. However, he is also respected for getting the best out of all levels of horse/rider and we are privileged that he has agreed to give up a day for Area 12.

It is appreciated that the date is the day after an unofficial ODE at Pontispool but unfortunately this is the only available date which Bicton could offer. This would however, set members up well for the PC ODE at Bicton on 16th June and our **Area qualifier on 30th**.

An indication of interest in this training day would be appreciated ASAP please, so that the trainers can be confirmed (or not!).

The Area 12 training budget will be subsidising the day and costs are likely to be £45 for Andrew and £65 for Eric. 2 1/2 hour sessions; SJ and XC.

Please email helen@bovey2.eclipse.co.uk by 12th April with any comments.

Juniors - a very successful **Performance & Style** clinic with Gemma Hallett at Comeytrove was held last Thursday. I believe it was great fun. Unfortunately only four juniors took up the opportunity, although an adult would have liked to if we could have made up another group. The four are keen to repeat the experience. Liz is proposing to arrange another clinic for BHRC members of all ages but we would need greater interest to be shown early.

Welcome – to our new members for April. Thirza Ashelford, Jill Perroir, Hannah Chase, Anja Walker, Lesa Morley and Laurie Morley. We look forward to meeting you and your equine friends at our events, don't forget to collect your free lapel pin from Tricia.

By the end of this month EVERYONE should have their 2013 membership cards (assuming you have renewed your membership) some clubs are reporting large chunks of their membership list having not received their cards. As no one has contacted me and told me otherwise, I am assuming everything is tickety-boo with our members.

I have just ridden Gem after her 2 week holiday. At 22 I wondered if she was going to tell me that she is happy to retire now, having enjoyed her 2 week holiday so much. We did our 25 minute hack in 15 minutes and as anyone around Paddocks yard at our return will testify – Gem is not ready to retire yet!

Back at
the yard I commented on how nice it was to be mucking out again, they thought I
was joking!

Nearly everyone set off in lovely sunshine a true spring morning, we the organisers even had the secretaries table outside and were enjoying the sunshine. Sadly this was short lived, as a nasty looking cloud dumped its rain upon us as we moved all the tables and took shelter in a stable. We were the lucky ones (even though we were now freezing) we were out of the weather. By the time everyone had safely returned they were all red faced and wet, having experienced, wind, rain, hail, thunder and in some areas fog – all in the space of a few hours. Many thanks to Pat Etherington who did the catering, you have got to try her flapjack – sublime!

We had a good turn out so well done you brave souls, hopefully next year will be warmer.

DRESSAGE LEAGUE - The second event in the league was held last Sunday March 24th at the Paddocks. I take my hat off to all those that turned up on the day to compete. The temperature didn't get above freezing all day (we know that as we the judge and writer, kept checking in the car). Some rather excited, chilly horses entered the ring with many of the riders dressed in the correct manner for a dressage class – brrr they looked freezing. At the end of their test they all had bright red noses and cheeks. It was difficult to keep everyone warm and so we whizzed through the tests as quick as possible to avoid hanging around.

Our secretaries were hold up in a stable with a fan heater and a kettle and it was very difficult to recognize anyone as they were so wrapped up against the wind and cold.

Well done to everyone that competed and especially to all the helpers – we wouldn't be able to put on these events without you. Extra thanks to Deana who managed to juggle riding a test and scoring and a huge thanks to Xanthe who took over from Deana and stepped in to help with everything.

Let's hope for a little warmth at the next dressage event in the League – date for this is April 28th.

DRESSAGE LEAGUE 2013 Results so far-

24th February 2013

Class 1 – Walk And Trot

- 1. Sarah Gillard – Pumpkin**
- 2. Kathy Card – Mr T (M)**
- 3. Deana Rowlands – Just Gem (M)**
- 4. Xanthe Smith – Grace (M)**
- 5. Vicky Brown – Tolly (M)**

Class 2 – Prelim. 1

- 1. Sarah Gillard – Pumpkin**

2. **Tricia Budd – Just Gem (M)**
3. **Xanthe Smith – Grace (M)**
4. **Kathy Card – Mr T (M)**
5. **Jill King – Shulas Arista (M)**

Class 3 – Novice 30

1. **(Joint) Victoria Pitcher – Waterford(M)/ Tricia Budd – Just Gem (M)**
3. **Jill King – Shulas Arista (M)**

Class 4 – Novice 34

1. **Mel Northwood – The Paint Job**
2. **Victoria Pitcher – Waterford(M)**

24th March 2013

Class1 – Walk and Trot

1. **Karenza Frear – Scooby Doo**
2. **Kathy Card – Mr T (M)**
3. **Jill Acheson – Holly (M)**
4. **Deana Rowlands – Just Gem (M)**

Class 2 – Prelim. 13

1. **Tricia Budd – Just Gem (M)**
2. **(joint) Kathy Card – Mr T (M)/Nicky Lumb – Dante Espirit**
4. **Cordet Smart – Constacia Crackerjack**

Class 3 – prelim.18 (WS&DD)

1. **Tricia Budd – Just Gem (M) Q**
2. **Jill King – Shulas Arista (M) Q**
3. **Debbie Turner – Kocoona (M) Q**
4. **Pat Etherington – Bibi Lou (M) Q**

5. Nicky Lumb – Dante Espirit
6. Cordet Smart – Constacia Crackerjack

Class 4 – Novice 28 (WS&DD)

1. (joint) Jill King – Shulas Arista (M) Q/Rebecca Turner – Favel (M) Q

Class 5 – Elem. 42

1. Rebecca Turner – Favel (M)
2. Zoe Paramore – Atinado

The final phase of the league is Sunday 28th April when the highest point- scorers will receive their trophies and rosettes.

AS YET, WE HAVE NO JUNIORS WITH ANY POINTS

Sunday April 28th.

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Class 4 Have-a- go-Dressage to music – freestyle open to individuals or pairs. (performance to last between 4 to 5 minutes timed from the first halt to last halt.)

Class 5 Novice 30 PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF TEST!!

All entries in by April 20th. to Joy Brown Please ring for times between 7pm and 9pm on Friday April 26th.

BADMINTON HORSE TRIALS X COUNTRY DAY

As we had so much fun at the Horse of the Year Show, the committee has decided to organize a trip up to Badminton this year, on X country day. This will be open to members and their friends. Members will have the cost of the transport subsidized so reducing the cost of the day (more money to spend at the stalls). If we have enough interest we will be able to cut the cost on entry as well, as group bookings have cheaper rates. A 29 seater coach or 16 seater minibus has been booked **for Sun 5th May (XC Day)** – Cost per person is £24.00, children – 12 and under are free.

These are all pre-booked prices. If you pay on the day it is more go to www.badminton-horse.co.uk if you want to check it out. We need you to register an interest so we can make a decision on

coach or mini bus. If you are at all interested then please contact Kathryn Smith – ktscanalside@yahoo.co.uk asap.

We will be booking soon so please contact Kathryn now so you don't miss out

Training with Gemma Hallett - Thursday 11th April starting at 4pm and if sufficient interest one at 5pm and 6pm so this will include any adult riders if required. It will be an hours slot broken down into some training and then a small competition involving style as well as performance, chocolate surprises for all! The cost will be £12 per person for the hour and at Comeytrowe. contact Liz Williams for more details

A bit about Gemma - UKCC level 2 trainer specializing in show jumping, with my record including wins at HOYS and competing nationally for Somerset. I have trained and worked with many international riders such as Blair Wilmer, Lucinda McAlpine, Mandy Frost and Ros Morgan. I have a fun and holistic approach to horse and rider development. , specializing in children, novice horse/riders and working on common problems taking the stress out of training properly.

BHRC SPRING SHOW - SUNDAY 26th May 2013 AT CONQUEST FARM, A358 - NORTON FITZWARREN TAUNTON - SCHEDULES AVAILABLE FROM:

**Hon. Show Secretary: Mrs T Budd, 24 Newlands Grove, Ruishton, Taunton, TA3 5JJ.
Tel: 01823 442597. S.A.E. Please**

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

Ridden & In-Hand Showing Including qualifiers for: South West Pony Association Championships

REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE

SUMMER CAMP - Hello Campers!

August 3rd / 4th. Blackdown Hills Riding Club Summer Camp – at The Paddocks.

Spend a weekend with your horse – training, pleasure / pub ride and BBQ

More details to follow – just make sure you keep that weekend free!!!!

Quiz question answer – Justice fingers !!!!

7-3-13 - enews. Hello all, **ONLY A WEEK AWAY - QUIZ NIGHT - Friday March 15th at the Catherine Wheel Pub, Hemyock – Prizes!**

There will be a special RED NOSE DAY Category

7.30 start – open to members and friends. Teams of 4 – subjects will include a little local knowledge, music and a few equestrian questions – a little something for everyone young and experienced. Buffet will be provided and included in entry fee of **£16 per team of 4, or £4 each**. Most importantly it will be a fun evening with lots of laughs a little light entertainment to help us forget about the mud for a few hours. I have 5 possible teams at present – we could do with a few more. *Please will you email Sara with the name of you team, as we have to work out how many we are catering for. If you are not part of a team, you can turn up on the night and either **join** in with others, form your own team, or just come for the buffet!*

PRE – EASTER EGG RIDE – SATURDAY March 16th. This year it will be a traditional fun ride, open to all and not an escorted ride as in previous years. Starting from Paddocks, Capland. Departing between 10.00 am and 12 noon. You will be issued with a map and sent off in small groups to collect “treasure” along the way! An Easter egg and a rosette for all, refreshments afterwards plus prizes for the most treasure collected in the shortest time. Help would be greatly appreciated on the day, either marshaling or serving refreshments. Contact Tricia, Sara or Deana.

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Training

Juniors – Liz Williams will be organizing some rallies during the Easter holidays, probably at Comeytrowe with Gemma Hallett, Contact Liz Williams for more details lizandpip@hotmail.co.uk

Cross Country – BHRC are running the XC part of the Area Horse Trials on 30th June at Bicton. Jane Palfrey will be organizing XC training at Both Pontispool and Bicton for anyone who would like to participate. Contact Jane for more details ramseyfarm@tiscali.co.uk

Flatwork – training continues at Paddocks twice a month with the ever popular Karen Cameron. There is training this Sunday, for more dates, contact Laura Pring supralau@hotmail.co.uk

Show Jumping – this very popular training has been twice a month at Heazle on a Friday evening. Kathryn has more dates booked so contact her for more information. ktscanalside@yahoo.co.uk

Dressage league, 24th February – a lovely day was had by all. Not only was it nice for the humans to meet up and catch up on the gossip, but the horses enjoyed it too! Gem was delighted with her “hack”

to the end of the drove with Jill King and Shulas Arista, Gem kindly pointing out where all the lions hide! Many thanks to Joy, Sara and Deana plus our 2 fantastic juniors Laura and Tilley. We ended the day eating cake and drinking tea, a BHRC tradition. We are doing it all again on 24th March. Get your entries in soon and come and catch up with all the gossip

Horse trials – as mentioned earlier, BHRC are heavily involved with the Area 12 horse trials. We are looking for helpers on the day, we need to provide a jump judge for each team we enter, we also need stewards, people to tack check (you would not believe some of the things we saw last year!) runners (in a car) someone to drive around the course with tea and coffee. Helper's vouchers will be given to everyone who turns up to help. This year, Tricia will be in the marquee. She will send you in the right direction!

Area SJ – to be held at Heazle on August 11th. BHRC will send as many teams as we can. Laura and Kathryn will get together and collate the teams nearer the time but for now put the date in your diary.

Rising Stars - Walk & Trot Test By Kathryn Smith and Sunny

“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.”

This is the class I entered with much trepidation on Valentine's Day. My team members were one from West Somerset Riding Club with Amanda Champion and Georgina Palfrey. I found that when the times were given out, my two BHRC team mates were in the afternoon so I was on my own in the morning. The sun shone and as I was early there was lots of parking. The horse I took was very inexperienced and had lots of 'issues'. He was very excited about all of the Conquest ponies and the horses that were going around in all directions in the warm up. So excited in fact, that he thought he was on the set of Zorro and did a lot of going in every direction except forward. A lovely lady from another club said that she didn't think those particular moves were in the test! So it was with some doubt as to whether I would even be able to enter the indoor arena we made our way inside. Strangely, he behaved well, and the judges were more than reassuring, as they could tell the adrenalin levels were high (me). He did his test quite well, and I am so pleased I took the plunge – literally – as it is all a learning curve.

I would recommend to anyone who is nervous about having a go, to do this Rising Stars competition, as we are all in the same boat, the scores all came out pretty much the same. The horse at the end was very relaxed and meandered out of the arena standing outside for a while and enjoying the atmosphere.

Well done Kathryn, the first team event is always the worst; we look forward to meeting Sunny at lots more BHRC events.

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