

Secretary report for March

- **Dressage League – 16<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2014, THE PADDOCKS, BICKENHALL.**

It had rained for the last 40 days and nights and I had drawn up plans for an ark, and yes Gem does now have webbed feet! But on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> February the sun shone and we got a reminder of how wonderful this country can be when it is bathed in sunshine. Joy was happy as she had a new room with electric sockets, a table, chairs and a window! (The Paddocks cats were not as happy as that is where they sleep.)

Joy had allocated extra time between the tests so everyone could warm up in the school as well as go for a hack. Parking was “snug” but nothing as intimate as parking at Conquest.....and I was happy as I got to ride my darling Gem in another competition. After the long, dark winter nights it was lovely to put on some “posh” clothes and party!

However, it almost didn't get going at all as 24 hours before the competition, both our judges cancelled. Thankfully, Karen Cameron judged for us or we would have had to make it up as we went along.

Many thanks to everyone who helped out – **The Two Jill's** (King and Perrior) **The Two Jane's** (Jones and Palfrey) and anyone else who helped in any way. Opening a gate, taking photos (send them to me please) or reading out a test helps make a BHRC competition special.

The dressage league (and all our shows) runs on a points system: - 1<sup>st</sup> = 6points, 2<sup>nd</sup> = 5 points etc down to 6<sup>th</sup> place. For the League, it is split further into the member with the most points in W&T, Prelim and Novice classes, and we award 2 Cassie plates, one for the senior with the most points overall and one for the Junior. As you can see from the results below, Deana is leading at the moment for the seniors with 14 points and Phoebe is the leading junior with 5 points.

The next League event is the 23<sup>rd</sup> March. If you can help out please contact Joy (or myself - Tricia) you are welcome to come along and spectate, eat cake or have a nose around!

You will be made very welcome; just one word of warning, if you stand still for too long, Joy will find you a job!

**CLASS 1 BD WALK TROT INTRO A**

1st	MELANIE HASLOCK		MIKIE
2nd	DEANA ROWLAND	M	HECTOR
3rd	EMMA WHITMORE		LITTLE BEACON ROCK A FELLA
4th	EMMA WHITMORE		JUST GEM
5 <sup>th</sup>	MEGAN EMERY		NELLIE

6th	GEORGINA PALFREY	M	FOOLS MATE
CLASS 2A PRELIM 4			
1st	DEANA ROWLAND	M	HECTOR#6
2 <sup>ND</sup>	PHOEBE MANSFIELD	M+J	RUBY DELTA
3rd	MELANIE HASLOCK		MIKIE
4th	GEORGINA PALFREY	M	FOOLS MATE
CLASS 3 PRELIM 12			
1st	KATHY CARD	M	OTTO
2nd	KATY HOPPER	M	SAUBER
3rd	LINDSAY PETERS		LILY
4th	DEANA ROWLAND	M	HECTOR
CLASS 4 NOVICE 24			
1st	KATHY CARD	M	OTTO
2 <sup>nd</sup>	VICTORIA PITCHER	M	WATERFORD
3rd	TRICIA BUDD	M	JUST GEM

- **Spring Show – Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> March at Heazle.** All help gratefully received, many thanks to my mum, Pat Etherington who has offered to take entries. We could do with a couple of stewards and other “useful” people.
- **Rising Stars** – Easter Monday at Conquest. Schedule is on our web site. Contact me – Tricia – to secure your place.
- **Ridgeway Rider** – on almost every page BHRC has a mention (yes, I am exaggerating) but check out pages 30, 32 and 44 of the March edition.
- **Coach trip to Badminton-** XC day Saturday 10th May. Our new committee member, Katy will start to organise it. Prices are as follows. FOR THE COACH - Members £5, non-members £10. It is up to you to buy your own tickets. Details are on the Badminton Horse Trials web site. Contact Katy on [katybower@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:katybower@yahoo.co.uk) to secure your place. Pick up will be the Hemyock, Wellington and Taunton areas – early! This WILL go ahead, we know it will make a loss, but it is a way to give something back to, not only the members, but their “support team”, and also members of the committee who don’t compete.
- **JUNIORS - you have your own page on the web site.** Let me know what you are up to, what you have achieved and any reports on things you have done. Send me photos, your plans and dreams. I can put most things on the page for you, but it has to come from you – my junior days are long gone! As an example, Pip Williams has sent me this poster; look out for it around Somerset and Devon.

And remember, everything we hold is for juniors AND seniors – including camp (but that is another story)

- **The Highway and you** – a small and select band gathered for this very informative talk on the 27<sup>th</sup> February. Run by Rosemary Scott-Jennings from the BHS, who had previously spent 17 years riding police horses for the Metropolitan police, she could certainly tell us a thing or two! We also had local policeman Adrian Hopper who popped

in and gave us tips on how to keep our things safe and how bike riders view other road users. He also suggested ways to protect your property with tracking devices. **Pin Point Pal** being one of them.

- **Don't Be a Dark Horse -- Safety Tips for Road Riders**

As the days draw in and the weather is dull, riders need to be sure that they can be seen when riding on the road by wearing bright fluorescent and reflective clothing.

According to British Horse Society figures, every year there are over 3,000 accidents on the roads involving horses--eight a day. These figures include several fatalities, and many horses die of their injuries. Many accidents could be avoided if car drivers would hold back, and only pass, wide and slow, when the road is clear. However accidents often occur because motorists fail to see the horse and rider until too late, and this is something that riders can easily remedy.

Riders need to be aware of how invisible they can be. Wearing wax jackets with dark hat and jodhpurs, usually on a dark bay horse, they too often blend into the shadows.

BHS head of safety, Sheila Hardy, said, "Riders should develop a responsible attitude towards road safety and realize that when on roads they become 'road users' like everyone else. We urge horse riders to adopt the lead of the police in the way that they dress by wearing fluorescent and reflective clothing. Visible attire should be worn as a matter of course by riders, summer and winter, at any time of day."

The British Horse Society recommends the following:

- A fluorescent belt with reflective strips will catch drivers' attention in all weathers and visibility.
- a fluorescent hat cover or a hat with reflective patches—these can often be seen over the top of hedges and give the driver advance warning that there is a rider up ahead.
- Fluorescent "boots" with reflective bands around the horses' fetlocks show up particularly in conjunction with the movement of the horse's legs.
- Lights--there are some particularly effective LED lights, showing yellow to front and red to back, which can be seen at 1,000 meters. They fasten very quickly and easily by means of Velcro strips to an arm or leg.

Rosemary is happy to come and do an informal Road Safety day with poles, cars and other obstacles in a field for us to practise and get some hints and tips on how to stay safe on the road. I will liaise with Rosemary later in the year.

- **Our very own Sara Llewellyn** has been fighting breast cancer for the last 10 months. Sara is a honorary member of the BHRC and has given hours of her time to the club. It is no coincidence that one of our charities for this year is Breast Cancer Awareness and we are also holding a dressage day later in the year with a pink theme. Below is an email from her son Josh who has also put many hours into the club, even though he does not ride. Many of us still remember him on the Bicton quad bike at the Area Horse Trials last year. A bit like The Stig but across country!
- **Email from Josh Llewellyn -**

I don't know if you heard, I am taking part in a challenge called the 3 Peaks Challenge to raise money for the Breast Cancer Campaign for my mum. The 3 Peaks challenge is where I will be climbing Ben Nevis in Scotland, Scafell Pike in England and Snowdon in Wales under 24 hours.

The dates I have set are 5th to the 6th of July.

I have set up a web-page on a web-site called JustGiving where if people would like to sponsor me, they can do so by looking at the web-page. If you could spread the word/link around the riding club I will be very grateful.

This is the Link: <http://www.justgiving.com/JoshLlewellyn>

Thanks again. Much love and kisses, Josh Llewellyn



In the last 6 months we have had numerous requests to put on Trec Taster Days for various riding clubs and some livery yards. We have done these in the last few years and everyone seems to have enjoyed them - but - very few riders have actually come back and had a go at a competition. So we got thinking....

This year to try and encourage more people to try TREC we are organising two team competitions. (One near Sidmouth May 18th and one near Ilminster July 28th - fingers crossed) The team competition is a level one event (the easiest). The team will consist of three or four riders with the best three scores to count. The main difference is that riders will be able to complete the POR (orienteering) phase together ...so in theory only one map reader is required!

The team does not have to be a riding club team - it can be pony club, friends, families or livery yards - all are welcome and the emphasis is on fun.

We have a series of taster days planned - including one at the Sidmouth competition venue on May 4th. We will be organising one in Somerset as well but ...we need dry land first!

We would be most grateful if you could spread the word amongst your riding clubs.

For more information please see our website; [www.trecsouthwest.com](http://www.trecsouthwest.com) or contact Julie Brand at [trecciemad@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:trecciemad@yahoo.co.uk)

- **Email from Sarah Hancock** - Endurance GB South West,

I am writing to you on behalf of Endurance GB South West, I was wondering if you minded pinning our Pleasure Ride poster to you events section on your website for anyone who would be interested in participating in the many pleasure rides we are offering this season. If anyone has any further questions about a ride then they can visit the endurance GB south west website which will provide all the necessary details.

10 or 20 miles marked routes

MARCH - 2nd St. Just, 9th Colquite, Bodmin , 23rd Wadebridge, 30th Ladock, Truro

APRIL - 27th St. Meubreds, Cardinham

JUNE - 1st Minions, Liskeard , 21st & 22nd Boconnoc, Lostwithiel , 29th St. Morwenna's, Bude

JULY - 13th Clinton Estates, Bicton, 27th Penpont

AUGUST - 24th Brentor, Dartmoor

SEPTEMBER - 13th Holne, 21st Camelford

For more details call 01579 370680 - [www.endurancegbsouthwest.com](http://www.endurancegbsouthwest.com)

Thank you in advance, Kind Regards, Sarah Hancock, Training Co-Ordinator

- **Training at Comeytrove with Helen Griffiths** – personally, mention the words “BD Trainer” to me and I go into meltdown, I am just not a BD sort of person..... or so I thought until I went along to this training – on foot. Helen came across as normal and

members I recognised were riding around the arena at Comeytrove - smiling! One thing I did notice was how beautifully everyone was turned out. Having been brought up in the "old" days when you were expected to wear a hacking jacket, shirt and tie (and other things!) I always try to put on some beige jods (if I can get into them) and my boots.

This was very popular training and I know Liz has been asked to organise some more with Helen. Contact Liz Williams for more information.

- **Training at Paddocks**– Karen Cameron will be holding a polework/gridwork session at the Paddocks on Saturday 8th. These sessions are aimed at the less-than-confident jumping, young horses or new horse/rider combinations but everyone is welcome to have a go if they wish. For anyone that does not know Karen's style of teaching - she is very patient and sympathetic and will work with you and your horse to achieve the best results. You will be grouped according to ability and whether you want to do just poles or work towards jumping a grid. An ideal opportunity to get you and your horse back jumping after a horrible wet winter!! Please contact Jill on 01823 421375 or email [jill.beechesfarm@gmail.com](mailto:jill.beechesfarm@gmail.com) to advise which day you would prefer and what level you would like to work to. £15 per person
- **BHRC flatwork/dressage training** at Paddocks with Karen Cameron on Saturday 15th March, contact Laura Pring for this one. £15 per person. 01823 270663      [supralau@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:supralau@hotmail.co.uk)
- **Laura is also happy to organise training at Paddocks during the week, just let her know what you would like.**

**Dressage2Music training – Monday 14<sup>th</sup> April at Conquest. 6.00 pm – 7.00 pm. A FREE session!**

**Help, advice and witty banter guaranteed!**

**BHRC SUMMER CAMP – 2<sup>ND</sup> – 3<sup>RD</sup> AUGUST 2014 (MORE DETAILS AND AN ITINERARY NEXT MONTH)**

Secretary report February 2014

WELCOME!! Especially to our new for 2014 members – Katy Monk, Sylvia Bentley, Lorraine Beesley, Elysse Gray, Leia Bower, Katy Bower, Phoebe Mansfield, Shona Reed, Kym Reed and Genna Snow. We all look forward to meeting you at events. Your details have been sent to Head Office so you are definitely members, but as yet I have not received my

membership card so do not panic if you have not got yours. When mine arrives I will check with you all again.

**Area Combined Training** – 2<sup>nd</sup> March at Pontispool. The Schedule is on the Area 12 web site and Sophie McCullom is going to organise it. Email from her as follows.

I am happy to be a contact again and organise teams. It's 2 members to a prelim test and jumping 75cm (2'6) and 2 members to do a novice test and jump 85cm (2'9)

Sophie can be contacted on - [david@upottery.demon.co.uk](mailto:david@upottery.demon.co.uk)

**Riding and Road Safety talk** – Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> February at the Catherine Wheel pub, Hemyock. 7.30 pm start. This event is being organised by Rosemary Scott-Jennings from the BHS. Contact Rosemary on [scottjenningsr@gmail.com](mailto:scottjenningsr@gmail.com) for more details.

**Area Dressage** – To say it rained, is to say it can get a little chilly in the Arctic! I waited for it to be cancelled, but we were told under no circumstances would it be. Therefore imagine my delight at driving through flood water to get to Gem. I groomed her, put her travel outfit on and hitched up the trailer....and then reversed all my actions! I was seriously concerned that if I got out, I would not get her back home again. Visions from 3 years ago when we had to be rescued by the fire brigade came back to me, I couldn't put either of us through that again! So Gem continued to munch her hay, and I set off for Pontispool alone. As I arrived, Sophie and her mum Andee were just leaving; they put their thumbs up so I assumed all had gone well.

Pontispool was heaving! Lots of horses warming up, most looking thoroughly unimpressed by the wind and rain. 20 minutes before her test, Kate and Sauber arrived having been given some dubious directions by a man and his dog (of course I wasn't panicking Kate!) Janice and I got Kate and Sauber into the warm up arena exactly 5 minutes before their test.

Those of you who know Sauber are aware that he is a pony; not at Pontispool he wasn't! He was a 16.2 HH dutch warmblood, he looked fantastic – and he has a wonderful extended trot! They went into the arena and did the test of their lives, it was lovely to watch, what a star he is.

By now I was on my 3<sup>rd</sup> dry coat and headed off home, meeting Victoria who was just arriving, on my way out. I wished her well and told her to enjoy every moment. Waterford is 22 and my Gem is 23, we are both aware of how lucky we are to still be competing on such wonderful horses. Below are the emails they sent me later that evening.

- I had a good day - I was so pleased with Warty -he rose to the occasion, and gave me a good warm up test of 64.64%. He then went back in the box while it rained - and I checked I knew Novice 30 inside out! He gave me some lovely moments and I came out of the arena with a smile - I don't think we could have done any better - we had an 8 for our walk and overall 63.85% more important I did not go wrong!
- Despite the weather really enjoyed it! I know now to only work him in for 5mins - which will be a relief for all those using the warm up area with us! Many thanks for coming down, getting soaked & supporting. Much appreciated.
- First test went better than the second! This is not normally the case but then with the atrocious weather anything could happen. We saw bucking in the arena and people going wrong and lots of withdrawals so at least we made the effort and it wasn't a disaster! We were finished by 10 o'clock and saw you coming in on the lane.

Another person to thank is Sarah Eustace who volunteered to test write, and then had serious second thoughts! Below is part of her email.

- Thoroughly enjoyed writing, I was with Sarah Jane Prew. Learnt a lot.

Without Sarah we could not have sent a team as organisers insist on a named helper with the entries. Sarah has earned a £5 Helpers Voucher (it's on its way Sarah, I ran out of stamps) for her troubles and gained a lot of valuable knowledge about what a judge is looking for. If you get the chance, offer to do a bit of test writing, at least you get to stay in the dry – Thank you Sarah – you star! **Results are still not out 5/2/14**

**Rising Stars** – and the following Sunday we met at Conquest! This lovely team event is always well supported and BHRC always do well there. This time was no exception as our first team of Laura Moon, Deana Rowland and Charlotte Wear came 5<sup>th</sup> out of 10 teams. Our second team, consisting of Jill Acheson, Pip Williams, Deana and Charlotte came 6<sup>th</sup>. I know they greatly appreciated all the support they received from the “ground crew” of Georgina Palfrey and her mum Jane, Leia Bower and her mum Katy, Victoria, Clare Sharland (our official BHRC photographer) and our very own Karen Cameron. I have been on teams when no one from a club has turned up, so thank you all for giving up your time. At least this time we stayed dry! A few comments from our “girls” Laura, Charlotte, Deana and Jill below.

- I really enjoyed today, the sun was out and I dodged the rain (bonus!!) It was run really well with good timings and it was good fun! After 30mins of trotting in the practice arena Echo finally thought he had got all his prances and bucking out of his system and he was a good boy in the arena!!

- I don't think that we disgraced ourselves and will look forward to the next time. Thank you for organising us!
- I'd just like to say..... A huge thank you to all that come along + support us at events, I am a bit of a one man band in that I'm lucky enough to be able to keep my horse at home, none of my family at home are 'horsey' so it's generally just Hector + I, it's quite daunting entering, travelling + arriving at an event alone when your fairly new to it all, there's allot of 'what if's' going through your mind. So seeing friendly faces and getting emotional + technical support is a huge relief to me and makes the day so much more enjoyable. As it happens Hector was very well behaved in the chaos of the parking area, strutted his stuff beautifully in the warm up arena and on entering the indoor arena, head up + did every pace at high speed! My arms ached from holding him back. We decided a bell ringing instead of a horn sound confused him into thinking he was in the jump off, (previous life for Hector) rather than in a dressage test. Now looking forward to our very own Dressage League. Thanks again to you all. Deana.
- Having thoroughly disgraced ourselves at the last Rising Stars in August (Holly definitely didn't like the judge sat at a table at C!) I was more than a little apprehensive about representing the club again. However, not to be outdone by my four legged friend - I enlisted the help of Karen Cameron and we armed ourselves with tables and practised trotting down the centre line with a 'judge' (Trish and Emma Whitmore) sat at the end doing all kinds of scary things and have got the dear darling immune to humans flapping bits of paper (although we still had to have a peek as we go past!) A practise run on Wednesday evening produced some promising results - so full of confidence we set off for Conquest on Sunday afternoon. The parking was a little 'intimate' to say the least - once I was in there was no way I was going anywhere until the masses evacuated!! Holly was her usual calm self in the trailer having her plaits adjusted, tail brushed and final flick over with the brush and stood patiently whilst my shaking hands attempted to get a bridle on!! We walked down to the warm up arena and went in and immediately an ex-racehorse went into orbit and a little grey pony took off at 90 miles an hour round the arena - to my utter amazement she completely ignored them and set about the job in hand - I allowed 45 minutes to settle her, but she was like an old pro and within 10 minutes was working softly, listening to me and very chilled. This was just too good to be true. I was almost willing her to misbehave so she got it out of her system!! With a bit of time in hand I went to the collecting ring and chatted to a couple of other competitors one of whom was about to go in but thought her horse was lame so I volunteered to go in early to keep the ball rolling. I saw the look of horror on Helen Hewitt's face when she saw Holly - no introduction was needed there - the last 3 times Helen has seen Holly she has waved at her!! I trotted round the arena - daring not to breath, the bell rang and

before I knew it Holly was calmly trotting down the centre line - towards the judge with her rider smiling for joy. The test seemed to flow effortlessly - ok a couple of 'technical' hitches (leapt into canter and snatched the rein in free walk) but hey at least we were going forward instead of up!! When we had completed our test and done our final salute both Helen and her steward remarked how nicely she had gone and we got some very positive comments on our scoresheet. Rising Stars is great for young horses/new rider and horse combinations and anyone who wants to have a go at dressage without feeling 'inadequate'. I have on more than one occasion thought about taking up knitting instead of horses but with the help and support from the Blackdown Hills Riding club and the wonderful Karen Cameron we have worked through this and got my 'moody mare' on my side and given me the confidence to have a go. If you want to do it then crack on - you'll be in safe hands with us!! Thank you BHRC and Karen

**Show Jumping** is next on Easter Bank Holiday Monday (21<sup>st</sup> April) Schedule to follow although it will be similar to last time. £10 entry fee to me – Tricia – will secure your place.

- **Dressage 2 Music rally** – Monday 14<sup>th</sup> April 6.00 pm – 7.00 pm at Conquest RDA. This is a FREE rally, either bring your own music or ride to some of mine. I need to limit the numbers to 8 so please let me know if you want to attend. The perfect chance to practise for our D2M class on May 11<sup>th</sup>.
- **X Factor D2M** is 14<sup>th</sup> September so the Quadrille will start training soon and I can book other dates for individuals or pairs who would like to compete.
- **Training** – we have had our first training session of the New Year at Paddocks, this was very well attended. More will be offered as the weeks go by. **Jane and Georgina** are organising XC training at Pontispool and **Pip Williams** is contacting all the juniors and organising all sorts of things for them. Feel free to contact any of us and put in a request and we will try and arrange it.
- **Liz Williams** has arranged a dressage clinic with Helen Griffiths on the **21st February**, contact Liz on [lizandpip@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:lizandpip@hotmail.co.uk) for more details; provisional numbers would be handy!
- **Juniors** –our new Junior Representative is **Pip Williams**. She has lots of ideas for fun things for juniors to do this year. If you would like a specific venue, training or event organised, contact either Liz or Pip on [lizandpip@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:lizandpip@hotmail.co.uk) or Georgina Palfrey on [widget259@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:widget259@hotmail.co.uk)
- **Dressage League** – 16<sup>th</sup> February at Paddocks. Guaranteed laughs as this is always a friendly event with a great atmosphere. Cake and hot beverages provided. If you stand still for too long, Joy will find you a job!

- **Coach trip** –we are going to Badminton, on XC day Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> May. Our new committee member, Katy will start to organise it. Prices are as follows. FOR THE COACH - Members £5, non-members £10. It is up to you to buy your own tickets. Details are on the Badminton Horse Trials web site. Contact Katy on [katybower@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:katybower@yahoo.co.uk) to secure your place. Pick up will be the Hemyock, Wellington and Taunton areas – early!

<b>Personal</b>	<b>Admission</b>	
Wednesday	£5	£6
Thursday	£13.50	£16
Friday	£13.50	£16
Saturday	£25	£27
Sunday	£11.00	£13
Season (whole event)	£48	n/a

- **Spring Show** – is booked for Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> March at Heazle Riding Centre, Clayhidon, Devon. Right in the heart of the Blackdown Hills. Schedule to follow, last years is being “tweaked”.