

ENEWS! All the gossip! Who's been doing what? What's coming up and what's being planned! I hope you all like the new method of getting the news to you? If there is anything you would like putting into the enews report, if you have been to an event and could manage a few lines or a photo of what it was like, how you and your horse did that would be great, please email; Samantha.tolley@btinternet.com Our aim is to email out the enews about once per fortnight, although occasionally it may lapse or work takes over! Pesky day job!

**Training;** those that have been to the flatwork or SJ training have all thoroughly enjoyed themselves, if perhaps ached a little the next day! Or was that just me?? Having training so early in the year is great for getting us all out from under the dark depths of the duvet and get those last few mince pies worn off! I was fortunate enough to attend Rachel Struel's dressage and flatwork training on Sunday 12th, I must say I was quite anxious before going, this winter we have been on a few Sunday hacks but my focus has been elsewhere! So for me this was a great way to dust off the bridle and get out. Rachel was fantastic, it was a real back to basics lesson, plenty of good trots and cantering- once we got past the bucking stage! Rachel was very patient and understanding considering, however, that my horse decided it was his turn to be the naughty embarrassing pony- the one everyone else is grateful they are not on! On several occasions he put to test my balance and strength to stay in the saddle whilst he played bucking bronco! Between his antics and Rachel putting us through our paces my body this morning feels like I was hit by a bus! Anyway, now is the time to put into practice everything we had worked on and ready ourselves for the dressage league on the 26th February! We have more training to follow in March and April, once the dates have been confirmed we will let you know.

**Events;** The first of the Winter Dressage League was held at the Paddocks on the 29th January, organiser's and competitors braved the weather to attend the competition, for many this was their first event for 2012 and an ideal starting point to get the competition season off to a positive start. Congratulations to everyone who took part and many thanks to everyone who helped out on the day, special thanks to Joy for organising the event and sorting out times and helpers for the day a further thank you to Tricia for the delightful cakes! The full results and report are available on the BHRC website; [www.blackdownhillsridingclub.co.uk/results](http://www.blackdownhillsridingclub.co.uk/results)

**Riding Club Merchandise** now available, we have bomber style jackets, rugby shirts – long or short sleeved polo shirts and some gorgeous premier equine fleece rugs! Follow this link for details and place your order; <http://www.blackdownhillsridingclub.co.uk/about> Future Events; The club has a busy schedule ahead and the committee are busy planning more training and events for everyone over the next few months, if there is anything in particular you as members will like to see organised then do let us know and we will endeavour to do our best to put it on. We are keen to get teams together for events, most hold novice and intermediate classes so there should be something for everyone- seniors and juniors! Why not use this year to represent your club, the events are generally held in fantastic facilities and provide a wonderful opportunity to compete somewhere different. If you are interested then contact Vicky ([vickygoody@btconnect.com](mailto:vickygoody@btconnect.com)) and let her know your level and preferred discipline. The next instalment of the Winter **Dressage League** is fast approaching and entries should be with Joy by Sunday 19th Feb! Follow the link below for the entry form and schedule! For a full list of all forthcoming events and to obtain available schedule's please visit; [www.blackdownhillsridingclub.co.uk/events](http://www.blackdownhillsridingclub.co.uk/events) remember to also keep an eye on the area 12 website for other forthcoming events and activities being held across the region!