

E NEWS! Hi everyone, I hope you are all well? Not long now until the clock's change and we can get some riding in after work. Spring paddock maintenance has started all over the Blackdown Hills and many people are well underway with their spring and summer competition season training. It's only been a few weeks since my last enews but my goodness we've been a busy bunch, XC training, combined training, dressage and dressage to music! As always, any photos or comments please send them to me at; Samantha.tolley@btinternet.com This is the second in our new series of ENews, hopefully you all liked the last? Those I have seen at events have given some very positive feedback which is lovely. Many thanks to Sara Loo for the years of effort put into the newsletter that many of us loved receiving for so long, I am sure you will be glad of the rest!

Training; Cross country training was held at Pontispool on Saturday 3rd with Ben Van Sommeron as the instructor, Kathryn Smith took part and has said; "A great training experience at a good price." Pontispool has excellent training facilities for all levels, step over fences up to BE. In my group we had a 'mixed bag', Phillipa's grey (Murphy) had not seen a XC fence before, I had an oldie but goodie horse, Moppy had a young, just started HUGE horse, Claudia (Junior) had a young horse but is now jumping really well. Encouraging training, "Claudia slow down"! "Kathryn more energy"! Great fun and relaxed. We all achieved something, with Phillipa her horse learnt ditches and water, Claudia practising for the hunter trials this weekend, my first XC for a year or so and losing the butterflies and Moppy her young horse doing a lovely course of jumps. Mandy, who organised the event, has written a little something I have attached this as it's a bit too much to add in the small space's I have here, not that she likes talking lots!!

Events; The second winter dressage league was held and what a contrast in weather, it was beautiful! We were very lucky indeed, unable to ride my horse I rode my bike there instead it was an absolute pleasure! Thankfully I was able to get a lift to the top of the hill before cycling home! Congratulations to everyone who took part, there were some very nervous riders and sadly a few last minute withdrawals, but the judges were encouraging to everyone. I managed to grab a few photos and will pass these to Tricia to add to the website. One important message is please ensure you learn the most up to date dressage test, check the BD website in case there have been any changes to the test, they have a habit of re-writing an entire test but giving it a number already in use! Many thanks once again to those who helped out on the day. Helpers are desperately needed for the next 2 dressage league events, read below for a little incentive that might entice you out, or to drag along some family members! Well done to Xanthe and Steve Smith, Laura Pring and Laura Bool for taking part in the combined training held at Pontispool, we have a great club ethos of '**having a go**', and to many it would come as no surprise that Steve entered at C rather than A, Xanthe decided on a different interpretation of the test, new member Laura managed to fall off before warming up, but helped after by a small tipple in the lorry! Thank you to Laura P for organising and well done to everyone for having a go. Hope to see more members out at events and giving it a try. The full results and report are available on the BHRC website; www.blackdownhillsridingclub.co.uk/results

Booking forms for all club training will need to be completed and sent with payment to the event organiser. Look in the training section of the website to find the forms.

HELP AND EARN!! The club has decided that those people that help at events should be rewarded! Therefore for each occasion you help at an event (minimum morning or afternoon) you will earn yourself a £5 voucher! This can be redeemed against any club training, merchandise or activity. Bring along family and friends with you and earn more! They can collect vouchers on your behalf and YOU get the money off! Perfect! A great way to save money and help us out at the same time! So the next 2 dressage league events desperately need helpers! Nothing serious, just someone to add up the scores,

a marshal to make sure everyone gets in when they should and a writer to help the judge out! If you think you can help email joyirenebrown@gmail.com

Future Events; The club is busy planning more training for everyone, Kathryn would like to know if anyone is interested in some SJ training on Sunday 25th March? It would be held at Vicky's yard near Culmstock, some basic schooling and grid work with an instructor, a good start for the jumping season and brush off a few of those cobwebs? Open to any level. If interested email ktscanalside@yahoo.co.uk ASAP so that a trainer can be organised. The next dressage league event is on Sunday 25th March entries to Joy by the 18th please. The club are organising the XC section of the area horse trials on Sunday 1st July at **Bicton Arena** and we will need as many helpers as we can get, if you could pop the date in your diary and help even for a few hours! Remember those £5 vouchers!!! Also to anyone who would like to represent the club we would like to enter a team in the event, **any competitor who takes part will have their entry fee refunded by the club!** Go on have a go!! More dressage to music rallies planned, Tricia held the last event at the Conquest centre, which I understand went very well indeed. Thank you to Tricia's husband for being the music organiser! Booking forms are available on the website, they will be great preparation for the dressage to music class to be held at the last of the dressage league events on the 29th April. More SJ and flatwork training to come, however for a full list of all forthcoming events and to obtain available schedule's please visit; 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!

We now have a **For Sale and Wanted** section on the website, ideal way to advertise to club members' horses, tack, trailers etc. Email triciabudd24@gmail.com

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>

Rising Stars Show Jumping 5th April – anyone interested in representing the club this is a lovely competition with heights to suit everyone email Laura Pring supralau@hotmail.co.uk