

SUMMER WITH THE BLACKDOWN HILLS RIDING CLUB

With Sara Llewellyn your BHRC Roving Reporter!!!

So much has been happening with the club over the summer that it is difficult to know where to start. Obsessed as we are with the weather I have to mention it.

Wow at long last we experienced a lovely summer, although of course with the sun, heat and beautiful balmy evenings comes the cracked ground and flies. I think there must be one day in the whole year when it is perfect for the equine enthusiast, a day without mud, flies, too much grass, too little grass, when it's not too hot, too wet, too cold, or too dry . But you have to admit it has been great and now we are missing the warmth – Well at least the great chasms in my field are slowly closing up.

Back at the beginning of August Trish very bravely organised and then acted as mum to 12 brave souls who subjected themselves to a night away with their equines, - RIDING CLUB CAMP.

If we had had a roving reporter present what would the headlines have been from this weekend of horsy indulgence? Consider the following GLASTONBURY AGAIN!

“BRIAN CAUSES HAVOC AT BHRC CAMP!”

“DID RAIN STOP PLAY?”

“BOTTLE BANK OVER FLOWS”

The truth? They could all be headliners. I didn't actually participate but I did pop along on the Sunday to help with the scoring of the dressage competition for the campers.

What did I find? Well, after a day and night of thunder, lightning, pouring rain, sun and wind ... all participants were smiling and having a great time. The copious number of empty wine bottles, a bit of a give away to their coping mechanism, had been squirreled away, nay, hidden (we spotted them as we drove in)- sorry girls we noted the clanking bottles and the jaded complexions on Sunday morning. The tents were giving a good impression of taking off in the strong winds but strangely, had not been noticed by the sleeping occupants.

Then there was Brian! Brian the cat, who was now creeping around the catering tent hoping for someone to let their guard down so he could sneak a rasher of bacon or get a lick of the cream, the cream that was waiting for consumption with the delicious looking scones and jam.

Brian who had relished the temporary encampment on his patch had paid a visit to each and every tent before he decided that Tynka's tent was his best bet and took up residence. Tynka had shooed Brian away many times but gave up after Brian's relentless scratching at the outside of the tent and ceaseless cries of let me in at ridiculous o'clock in the morning. He had, it turned out frightened a few campers who were dropping off to sleep by his scratching on canvas in an effort to snuggle up with someone inside. Persistence had got Brian his way and he snuggled up around Tynka's head. For some reason cats get fed up with close human contact and want to take over, Brian followed this feline trait and after a while dug his claws into Tynka's neck and promptly found himself yet again outside the tent. After much tent scratching he started up the incessant wailing outside

Tynka's shelter, a truce was struck up between them and I believe that Brian spent the night in Tynka's tent.

So it was a tired looking group of campers that we judged in their dressage competition that afternoon. Everyone had a go even if they had to be nagged into it and the smiles afterwards were lovely to see. The competition was followed by the prize giving. The categories were varied – I think Brian should have received one and Tynka definitely for the most patient to animals. The deconstruction of camp was interesting as the wind had taken on a gale force rage and there was canvas flapping all around, I think all the horses had been desensitised that weekend. See website for photos and some results.

RISING STARS

..... We fielded 2 teams, and both teams came 6th in an extremely close competition, Laura Moon, Kate Hopper, Clare Sharland, Jill Acheson and Deana Rowlands put in some fantastic performances and Kate and Deana were the highest placed competitors in their respective sections. Well done girls, you did us proud.

Next RS event is team SJ on Sunday 27th October 2103

Ridgeway Rider – October issue – has reports on the BHRC camp + Rising Stars dressage

OPEN SHOW 2013.....

September 8th. At The Paddocks – a very busy weekend for all. We were lucky with the weather but not the ground which was dreadful – we apologise, but we carried on and the actual day was a good one. I didn't get to see an awful lot of what was happening around me as I was one of the secretaries and therefore found myself glued to a chair under canvas taking entries. What I did notice were the number of smiley faces and flashes of coloured rosettes as the odd horse and rider walked passed us.

Gem – Trish's lovely horse was loaned out for the day to Tynka whose two 10 year old children delighted in her gentle nature as she took them around a jumping course clear, several times and I believe did quite well in a showing class. Watch out Trish, Gem will be looking to do a few clear rounds with you; she seemed to be enjoying her new role as a jumper! He he.

It was a long weekend for all those that helped and we really couldn't do it without you. A huge thanks goes to Jill Perrior who with Trish put in a tremendous amount of work and organising behind the scenes as well as judging on the day, to all our members who turned up trumps and helped put up rings, jumps and then had to take them all down and take them all away again. Thanks to Kate for the use of her lovely venue, all the judges and stewards. To Helen Hewitt for building the course and then acting as jump judge and to all of you that entered and made it a lovely day.

X FACTOR DRESSAGE TO MUSIC

I get the feeling that this will become a permanent event fixture on the riding club's timetable. I really hope it does, as it is a brilliant event and so much fun. I look forward to the Monday evening practices that start in July and finish with the actual competition at the Conquest Centre this year in September.

A much better date we all felt as the weather wasn't so cold and as the final happened during the afternoon we weren't hanging around in the dark and cold.

This year our entries were as follows **Individual** - Trish on Gem – dressed as a crook (see photos on website) and using carefully chosen music entered the arena to sirens and carried on her test to The Sweeny, Hill Street Blues and Porridge. Trish came second in her class which we were all proud of, sadly she didn't qualify for the X factor performance. However she was quite relieved as she only had to perform once in the afternoon.

Individual - Pat Etherington on Bi Bi Lou –The Balloon Seller was the theme here and Pat dressed up as a little girl had desensitised her lovely little pony to balloons using them as a prop in the centre of the arena. Little Bi Bi Lou walked trotted and cantered around the scary teddy balloon taking no notice. She was placed 3rd. and had to repeat the whole routine in the afternoon as she qualified and then came a very respectable 8th.

Quadrille – Trisha Budd on Gem, Georgina Palfry on Max, Kathy Card on Otto and Kate Hopper on Sauber. Almost the same quad as last year so now seasoned Quadrillers!!!

This year's theme was deck of cards – all dressed as a suit in a pack of cards they gave a superb performance – enough to win the class in the morning with 82.9% and qualify for the X factor in the afternoon.

They had practiced so hard trying to account for all eventualities in a busy crowded atmosphere of the event – however we didn't account for a car being present in the actual indoor arena with its scary boot up and music blasting from within. The Centres music system had sadly let them down and an emergency contingency plan had to come into operation. Poor Sauber didn't like the car and cantered when he was supposed to trot so in the afternoon performance he played as the joker card!!!!!!

There was a lot of tension in the arena after all the qualifiers had competed (including our Quadrille), waited to hear their results. Debbie Criddle Gold Medal para-olympian gave a stunning demonstration and question answer session making Dressage look so easy.

The time arrived for the results – all announced in reverse order we waited to hear how we had done.....

“And in second placeThe Blackdown Hills Riding Club” woo hoo!! We had done very well but were piped at the post by strictly kids. We are enormously proud of our team but will return next year to win. The children had all their Grans and Gramps there to vote for them – next year we need you there to vote for us – make a date in your diaries. YOUR CLUB NEEDS YOU!

CHARITY DRESSAGE COMPETITION IN AID OF THE BRITISH HEART FOUNDATION -

If you would like to see the actual Quadrille perform we are hoping that they will be at the special dressage event happening on 29th Sept at The Paddocks in aid of The British Heart Foundation.

If you cannot compete then please come along to support this wonderful charity event – watch the dressage, hopefully see our Quadrille show off their winning performance, have a go at the raffle / tombola watch to see who wins the best dressed in red competition or just come to socialize. If you want to compete there is an entry form on the website

AGM December 6th. Golly it's that time already – our plan is to hold the AGM at The Catherine Wheel Pub in Hemyock on the above date.

It's your club, so come and have your say and support those that have achieved an award this year.

Peter Pan - For loan with a possible view to buy, not essential, Happy Hacker wanted for a 14.3h gelding, Palomino, 18years old with still a lot to give, but needs a quieter life, has been a very good all-rounder, easy to keep, no trouble round the yard or field. Good to clip, box, shoe, excellent in traffic.

For more information please contact Deana Rowland on 07841012410.

Conquest RDA Appeal

Somerset's leading horse riding charity for the disabled community is hoping to 'rein in' support for its latest appeal. For the first time since inception in 1972, Conquest Centre are appealing for horses to support the vitally important service the charity provides. The centre is currently looking for riding and/or driving ponies and horses between 13 hh up to 16.3 hh and between 8 and 18 years of age. The horses need to be sound with excellent temperaments and preferably no serious behavioural or riding issues.

Equine Clipping Demonstration/Workshop and Equine Car Boot Sale

Saturday 28th September 2013 - *Equine Car Boot from 10am (sellers £5 per car)* **Clipping Demo/Workshop 11am (free)** In conjunction with BHS South West Region.

A practical clipping tutorial aimed at both the novice and more experienced. Speak to the experts if you are having problems with your clippers and clipping – bring your machines for servicing/blade sharpening (not a while you wait service)

(If you are attending the Clipper Workshop please could you ring or email Clipperssharp so that they are aware of numbers attending – 01823 681076 – sales@clippersharp.com - www.clippersharp.com Clipperssharp Ltd, Southwoods Farm, Culmstock, Devon EX15 3JX

Training to start again at Southwoods Farm (contact Kathryn Smith) and at Paddocks with Karen Cameron (contact Laura Pring) all abilities welcome at very reasonable rates.

We have a champion in our midst!!!



Hi Tricia, Thought I'd let you know how Mimika and myself got on at the Championships.....

Over the 3 days we were placed in each class we did, which was the 2'6 and 2'9. On the Sunday at the awards we got the SILVER medal!!!! Out of so many great horses and riders, I couldn't believe it!!!

My little horse Mimika who I bought for £300 off dealers (now banned from owning horses) 9 years ago has become a national Champ. I am so proud, still in shock.

Not only did she come away with the silver medal she won herself prize money, her stable was full of all the goodies, licks and treats, quite possibly making others jealous but she deserved it all and earn't it. I am chuffed to bits!

Hope all's well with you

Best wishes

Tynka and Mimika X

- **13/8/13 - News for August -**

- **Camp**– yes, it rained a bit (with a generous helping of thunder and lightning) and we ran out of toilet paper, and we have had to buy the Ruishton Flower Show Committee another Event Shelter as theirs now has a kink in one pole, but you would be amazed how after a couple of glasses of wine, suddenly it didn't matter one little bit! Below is a report from Susi Piotrowski who brought her lovely rescue pony, Georgie.

- *When Mum washed me twice in two days, I knew we must be going somewhere special, she even did my ears! After an easy journey we arrived at a big yard and I was led into a strange stable, I was rather scared at first as this was very different from home, but I soon met a very pretty chestnut mare next door to me and I started to talk to her. I don't think she was very impressed with my chat up lines, but I persevered. After lunch we went out for a hack with some new friends and it was really exciting, I got to have a good gallop in the woods where I tried to show off how fast I was, and by the time we got back and I was put to bed with a big haynet, I had decided that this was a lovely holiday. I didn't know what Mum meant when she had said we were going to go to Blackdown Hills Riding Club Camp, but so far it was a trot in the park! Imagine my shock when an hour later Mum came in and tacked me up again! She made me do schooling in the big arena with the others (who were much better than me) so I spat out the dummy and had a mini bucking fit. She stayed on, poo! Did I mention the torrential rain by the way? We all got rosettes later on for carrying on in such a downpour. I thought we must*

definitely have finished now but no, I had to do show jumping training until way past my bedtime. I was soon doing two jumps one after the other which was good fun, so I didn't mind. Finally I was allowed to go to bed and have my supper; I was sooo tired I hardly had the energy to notice my sexy new girlfriend. As if she hadn't done enough already, Mum then went off to the PUB with the other mad horsey ladies, then they all stayed up late eating and DRINKING WINE!!!

The next day everyone was tired (probably due to all that wine) so we didn't do quite as much. We had another hack and gallop which was cool, then my posh friends got dressed up to do their Dressage Tests, I went to watch and learn.

However, I soon decided that learning to do lots of little jumps one after the other in the Clear Round Jumping was great fun, so I did it three times and Mum was very pleased with me and we got some pretty rosettes which Mum has put in the lorry.

Then after a little rest Mum came to tell me it was time to go home. The weekend seemed to have gone so fast and I had made lots of new friends and learnt so much. I was exhausted but really happy. I even got a medal for trying very hard. Mum is so proud of me but not so happy, because she says she put weight on from scoffing too many cakes, bacon rolls and cream teas, serves her right if she gets a touch of colic! Especially as she calls ME tubby.

We both had a whizzo time at Camp and we can't wait to do it again next year, hopefully without all that rain.

Thank you very much; we are just looking at the lovely photos, A big cuddle and nuzzle from World Horse Welfare Georgie. XX

Many thanks to another 2 of our fantastic juniors, **Laura Moon** and **Tilley Stones** who organised the clear round jumping singlehandedly, including building the course, judging it and clearing everything away afterwards. To **Joy Brown** and **Sara Llewellyn** who organised the dressage competition, **Pat Etherington** who prepared and served lunch each day and made 100's of cups of tea, **Jane Palfrey** who not only kept her 18 year old daughter in order (Georgina we love you) but had the most important job of taxiing those who didn't ride, to the pub and back, and lastly to our instructor **Karen Cameron** who won a bravery award for teaching during a thunder storm even though she is terrified of thunder.

Congratulations to **Blackdowns ride** for winning the "turnout" award, **Quantocks ride** for winning the "battling through the wind and horizontal rain during an hour and a half lesson" award and to **Mendips ride** for the "getting to the pub first" award!

Best turned out individual – Victoria Pitcher

Achievement award – Susi Piotrowski

Improvement award – Debbie Turner and Tracy Hart

Go to KGB Equestrian Photographs for more fantastic images of our week-end!

After all the positive comments, BHRC will hope to run a camp next year, very similar in format to this year but with a longer SJ lesson, less rain and more toilet roll! Watch this space.....

Area SJ – well done to junior members **Georgina Palfrey** and **Claudia Smith** who represented BHRC at the Area 12 Show Jumping, Claudia came 4th in the style jumping and was the highest placed junior. Sadly we were not able to get a team together and we didn't have any seniors representing us. Out of interest please will you get back to me with your thoughts and ideas on this, even if it is "couldn't be a....d! I assumed we would have loads of you queuing up to do it!

Rising stars – we have 2 teams representing BHRC on the 18th August. Team members are; **Deana Rowland, Jill Acheson, Clare Sharland, Laura Moon** and **Kate Hopper**. Please come along and cheer them on, this will be the first time these combinations have represented the club and they will be very grateful for some BHRC support.

Open show – schedules are now out, help is needed on the Saturday putting things up and Sunday evening putting things away, and most of the daylight hours in between!

DON'T FORGET THOSE HELPERS VOUCHERS

several members are paying **all** their entry fees with vouchers . Contact me with any offers of help. 07883631354 – triciabudd24@gmail.com

X Factor – we have a quadrille and 3 individuals entering on Sunday 15th September at Conquest. We would be very grateful for some help in the morning during the preliminary judging with costume changes!!!

Cups and trophies – if you were good enough to win a trophy at the Open Show last year, please be good enough to return them **BEFORE** the end of August (many thanks to Debbie, Victoria and Kathy who already have) You can leave them with any committee member or leave them at Paddocks.

BHF dressage – most of you will have seen Pip Williams and her lovely pony Jack out and about at a variety of events. Earlier this year Pip had heart surgery and to thank the British Heart Foundation and raise some money for them, we are holding a dressage competition at Paddocks on 29th September. Pip designed the schedule, chose the classes and also chose the "red" theme. All proceeds are to go to the BHF, with prizes to the best red combination in each class, judged by Pip and Kenny. Many thanks to **Kate Baker** at Paddocks for letting us use her facilities free of charge, **Vicky Goody** of Clipperssharp for donating the rosettes and Kenny of **KGB Equestrian Photography** for donating a free image to each class winner. We would also like to do a raffle so any help with prizes are most welcome. This event is also the last opportunity to qualify for the WS & DD championships held at Stockland Lovel on Saturday 19th October.

Browbands – now available in the BHRC colours of green, gold and white (the prototype is being modelled by Gem at the BHRC camp.) Or if you let me have your own browband I can cover it for you.

- **AGM and Christmas party** – Friday 6th December. 7.30 start. At The Catherine Wheel, Hemyock. A chance to celebrate the fantastic year we have had and look forward to doing it

all again
next year!

- **Photographs** – I am in the process of updating our web site (time consuming so I have been putting it off and I have fuzzy images on the slide show – work in progress!) I would be grateful for any photos of you at BHRC events which I can put on the Gallery page and I also make up a slide show for the AGM. If you send them to me via email I can download them. **Training** – will start up again in the autumn. The committee are busy organising many things at the moment including the Open Show, so normal service will resume towards the end of September. Flatwork at Paddocks with Karen Cameron and Show Jumping at Southwoods Farm – by kind permission of Vicky Goody (Clippersharp). Please be aware that if you book a place and consequently don't turn up;

YOU WILL BE EXPECTED TO PAY THE FULL AMOUNT