

May 2014 – Written by Sara Llewellyn.

“ Thirteen Went to Badminton !!“

Badminton Horse Trials 2014 – X Country Day.

This will be a trip that will go down in history and never be forgotten, well certainly by the few that took up the offer of a minibus, put on by the riding club for the event.

It was very much a stop start at the beginning of the day. My friend and I reached our pick up point to see a coach waiting. We rushed over but looking at the people getting on it decided that their attire was definitely not for Badminton. We asked where the coach was going and was told Malvern Flower festival, we breathed a sigh of relief that we hadn't just rushed onto it. The coach went off and we were left standing wondering where our minibus was as the time had ticked on past the pick up time. We were just getting a little concerned when my mobile went off and on answering discovered that the pick up points had been changed and we were supposed to be at Chelston layby, they said they would wait, so we hot foot it over to Chelston and with breathless apologies to everyone got on the minibus and found our seats.

There was a lot of jolly chatting from everyone until we came to a stop on the motorway. It didn't take long before all the conversations turned to the cause of the delay. We must have been about 4 miles from the turning off the motorway to Badminton but we were firmly stuck in a jam. We crawled along for a while and then I heard a few moans about the need for a comfort break from a couple of people in the back of the minibus. We came to a halt as we rounded a slight bend and saw what we thought was the cause of the problem, a smash up on the motorway now off the road and on the hard shoulder. Luckily it wasn't a bad accident, people were busy exchanging insurance details and were obviously on their way to Badminton judging by the wellies and waterproof coats they were wearing.

As we rounded the bend we could see that the queue went on for miles and wasn't going anywhere. The moans for a comfort break went up again and we suggested that a quick trip to the roadside bushes would suffice and then they could catch up with the bus when they had finished. They must have been very optimistic about us moving as no one dared to do such a thing.

Others in the queue had the same idea and weren't so bashful, we watched as from car after car ladies dashed out disappeared down the bank and walked

nonchalantly back to their cars which had hardly moved an inch. Judging by the jam ahead it was quickly decided that the crash was not the cause of the delay and an air of impatience started to rise amongst the trippers. This increased as we watched lots of vehicles drive out of the queue, up the side of us and then try to push in at the head of the queue. We decided that this sneaky behavior was the main cause of the delay together with the volume of traffic, some stupidly placed traffic lights and some over zealous policemen who were holding up the traffic on the motorway and letting everyone else through. Anyway it took us 4 hours to get to Badminton.

When we arrived at the entrance the driver unfortunately missed the entrance for buses and we eventually found ourselves in the middle lane of three on grass, this meant when we tried to stop the bus slid all over the place and dangerously close to the cars on either side of us. The bus stalled and on restarting it was plainly obvious by the skidding of the wheels that we were stuck!!!!!!

We couldn't wait any longer so got off the bus, took the drivers mobile number so we could ring him to find out where the buses final resting place was, decided to meet back at the bus where ever it was at 6pm dashed for the toilets and the x country course. The first competitor was already out on the course. We were all chatting happily when we realized that an official was yelling us at.

“Get back on the bus, you can't come down here or on the course without a ticket”

“We have tickets” we replied,

“But you should be on the bus until you reach the ticket collectors, get back on the bus”

“The bus is stuck, its not going anywhere”. By now he had reached us and after a lengthy explanation and us pointing at the stranded bus, on production of our tickets tore them in half with some venom and waved us through.

We all went our own way, my friend and myself after a comfort break hit the X country course and amongst the thousands of other spectators settled down to watch some extremely brave riders attack the very large four star course. Amongst the violent rain showers and the incessant wind that gusted at some ridiculous miles per hour, we got into the atmosphere of the day, applauding and cheering everyone that managed to clear a fence and showing great concern for the many that didn't. Later in the day we were blown towards the retail stands where there were many stall holders all busy serving their customers and intermittently running outside to check on the guy ropes and poles that were being tested to the limit by the gusts of wind that were hitting the marquees with tremendous force. At one point whilst inside one of the huge marquees, we heard a tremendous noise

and as with everyone else there instinctively ducked as a huge gust of wind hit us, we all thought we were to be blown away.

A few purchases were acquired and then we went off to the main arena to watch the big screen and the first and last jump. We cheered them out and cheered them in; it was here that we battled the wind on the mobile phones to discover where we were to meet the bus. Apparently it had been dragged off the grass and on to a path and left just where we had come into the venue. Oh dear! Having taken no notice of where we had been dropped off as we thought the bus was going back to the bus park, finding our way to the bus was going to be interesting. We thought we had better give ourselves a decent amount of time for this, as it turned out we needn't have worried about being last to the bus. We guided ourselves by the jump that we had first looked at and then the toilets that we first visited and there it was the comforting vision of the bus, an escape from the now cold wind. We got on and waited patiently for the stragglers to arrive. I asked if I had time to nip to the loo in case we got stuck in traffic on the way home, permission granted I fought against the wind to the lonely mobile toilet near the bus. It was very scary inside as the wind was buffeting the toilet around and as I opened the door a strong gust took control of the door and flung me out. Embarrassed I headed for the bus greeted by a few grinning faces.

It was as the last people were heading for the bus that I noticed the driver searching through the bus and then I heard him say to his daughter "Did I give you the keys?" "No" He was very quiet.

With everyone now on board and discussing the days events and purchases we all expected the bus to start up and drive off, there was more frantic searching at the front and then the driver got out the bus and started walking round and round it obviously searching for something. I jokingly said

"He he you lost the keys?"

"Yes" was his reply, I laughed

"No I really have"

"Where?"

"Well I did lose the contents of my pockets out on the course, I think at the Owl Hole, because a lady came after me and handed me my phone and wallet".

We all frantically looked at the course plan and discovered that the Owl Hole was the other side of the course to where we were parked, approximately 3 miles away. In despair we searched in the grass next to the coach, but the grass was so long we realized that it was going to be like searching for a needle in a haystack – an impossible task. So desperate were we, that we tried all the keys we could find, of

course none of them worked then we looked deviously at each other and asked if anyone knew how to hot wire a vehicle. No one did.

On sighting an AA van we flagged him down to be very rudely told that the driver was a bleep! Bleep! Idiot and that they couldn't help and he would just have to find the keys, they then drove off.

The driver got on the mobile phone, so did everyone on the bus, explaining their dilemma and cancelling dinner dates and pickups. We were getting a little peckish now, the younger girls who had gone out on a find some food mission returned stating that all the stalls had shut down and there was no food to be found anywhere. "Lets order a pizza and get it delivered to the bus" well I could just imagine some poor pizza guy on a little bike cycling around the park looking for a bus full of hungry ladies. We didn't have the postcode. A man was spotted sitting on a wall of a nearby estate house.

"I'm going to ask him" came a voice from the back of the bus and before we could say anything she got out the bus and was chatting him up, we were all giggling about it until she disappeared into the house. She eventually returned but without a postcode, apparently the posh chap was only renting for the weekend he had no idea of the postcode and anyway he seemed a little tipsy. This suspicion was verified when he staggered to the bus, smacked his hand on the door for it to be opened, told off the driver then announced in a very slurry manner that if we were in a crisis he was here for us he then abandoned us before we could say anything and zigzagged back to the house.

All this time the driver was out on the first part of the course in a desperate bid to find the keys, he returned to announce that another coach was being sent out to us from Bridgwater and would be with us as soon as possible. Under the circumstances we were very calm and in a fairly up beat mood I did giggle when the driver whilst talking on his mobile looked up at us all and said down the phone "they 're ok at the moment"

"did he ask if we were revolting" I asked

"Yes" was the reply

We sat and waited and watched all the clearing up going on in the park, then we noticed the appearance of two security guards on a quad bike – our next problem was about to develop!!!

They were locking down the park and oblivious to us sat in the bus. On further investigation, we were told that they didn't keep any gates open for anyone or anything. We explained our situation to be told "tough" the coach that was coming to rescue us would not be allowed in. OH DEAR!

At approximately 9pm. the driver's mobile rang, the coach had arrived but wasn't allowed over to us, so we collected our belongings and started the trek in the cold, dark and still very windy evening to search for the coach. Eventually we found it, we plonked ourselves down in seats and spread ourselves out, they had sent out a 48 seater, what a relief it was to sit in the warm knowing that we would be on our way home. Our original driver was to stay behind as the minibus had to be partially dismantled in the cab to gain access for a hotwiring job, as there were no spare keys.

The new driver welcomed us on board stating that he had thought he was in for a quiet night in front of the TV watching the Eurovision Song Contest with his two small children who were un amusingly sat in the front seats. Their now highlight of the night, a stop at the service station to get drinks and for us some food.

I eventually got into my house at 12 midnight. I had apologized to my friend for her rather disastrous birthday present and introduction to Badminton Horse Trials. She had never been to badminton before and this was her birthday present, "Well its certainly a gift I shall never forget" she said as she ventured home. I wonder if she will ever go again?

Many thanks to Katy Bower for organizing this trip – where do you want to go next year? Below is an extract from the email that the coach company sent me!

Most coaches do not come with a second spare key (unless they are bought brand new), so we sent a mechanic and spare coach up to you Saturday night. The mechanic was unable to "hot wire" the vehicle without blowing the ECU which would have cost thousands of pounds. We therefore sent you home in our replacement coach, and had to have the vehicle towed to Mercedes at Avonmouth to have a new ignition barrel which has to be calibrated to the vehicle. As such, we still haven't seen the vehicle and have struggled all week to cover work without it. We are expecting very heavy costs for this incident. Not only have we had extra wages and fuel bill to account for a second coach, driver and mechanic Saturday night, we now have to contend with a hefty bill from Mercedes which I am yet to see.

To add to this, we had a phone call yesterday to say the keys were found and are being returned, but due to the work that has been done are useless!

WINTER DRESSAGE LEAGUE – THE FINALS

This conclusion to the annual event took place the day after the above trip to Badminton. One of us helping the other competing, how we managed it I don't know but we were there and full of enthusiasm. At least the rain had turned to showers albeit violent ones when they appeared and the wind had eased a little and the blustery conditions did not deter those in contention for the

Cassie Plates.

As always the day was a calm and happy event with a decent number of entries. I managed my day's duty, which was to press the play button on the CD player for the Dressage to Music classes. I took my cue from the arms that went up from the nervous riders and managed to get it right. The nerves soon disappeared and the smiles appeared on the faces of the riders and the horses settled down to the music and produced beautiful tests. We didn't have too many entries, sadly but those who competed really entered the spirit of things and dressed for the occasion (please see Batman and Robin on the web site). Well done everyone.

The competition for the Cassie Plates was hotly contended this year and was a close fought thing – we the judges, really didn't know who was going to be the winner until the last class had finished, this made it very exciting.

Well done winners – results on the website with photos for you all too see.

Many thanks again to Kate for the hire of her lovely facilities at the Paddocks and to all that helped. I want to make a particular enormous THANKYOU to Laura Moon who tirelessly helped at all the league events and through the cold, wet, sunny and windy conditions threw herself into the role without once complaining. Laura we will so miss you when you go off to join the Army in September. And all at the Dressage League wish you all the best in your Career.

- Dressage League Final 11th May 2014 at Paddocks

CLASS 1 BD WT INTRO B

1 st	BEVERLEY TROUTT	TIGGER		
2 nd	SARAH THORNE	MOOSE		
3 rd	LEIA BOWER	FLYTE	M	J
4 th	DEBRA HOLLAND	LEO		

CLASS 2 A RESTRICTED PRELIM 7

1 st	SARAH THORNE	SERGEANT JUNIOR		
2 nd	KAREN DAVIES	FLOOD		
3 rd	MELANIE HASLOCK	LANES PARK MIKIE		
4 th	CARLA BRAITHWAITE	MURPHY		
5 th	SARAH THORNE	GOOGLE MAP		

CLASS 2B OPEN PRELIM 7

1 st	DEAN ROWLAND	HECTOR		M
2 nd	LAURA MARSDEN	MODERN DAY ICON		
3 rd	LINDSAY PETERS	LILY		

CLASS 3 PRELIM 14

1 st	LAURA MARSDEN	MODERN DAY ICON		
2 nd	DEANA ROWLAND	HECTOR		M
3 rd	SARAH THORNE	GOOGLE MAP		
4 th	SARAH THORNE	SERGEANT JUNIOR		
5 th	KAREN DAVIES	FLOOD		

CLASS 4 DRESSAGE TO MUSIC

1 st	TRICIA BUDD	JUST GEM	M	
2 nd	KATE HOPPER	SAUBER		M

3rd MELANIE HASLOCK LANES PARK MIKIE
 PAIRS
 1st KATHY CARD OTTO & MARY READ MOLLY M
 CLASS 5 NOVICE 30
 1st KATHY CARD OTTO M
 2nd KATE HOPPER SAUBER M
 3rd TRICIA BUDD JUST GEM

SENIOR CHAMPIONSHIP

1st KATHY CARD OTTO -47
 2nd DEANA ROWLAND HECTOR - 38
 3rd= KATE HOPPER SAUBER - 24
 3rd= TRICIA BUDD JUST GEM – 24
 5th MELANIE HASLOCK MIKIE - 23

JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIP

1ST - PHOEBE MANSFIELD RUBY DELTA#9
 2nd LEIA BOWER FLYTE#7
 3rd LUCY TOTHILL THE UNDERSTUDY#6
 4th MEGAN EDWARDS DANDY#5
 5TH GEMMA EDWARDS JUST GEM#2

QUADRILLE

We have made a start on practicing for the X factor Dressage to music. So far we have a team of four (Quadrille), a pair and several individuals . It's beginning to come together and looking very exciting at present. As its early days there is still time and room for anyone else who would like to have a go either as an individual or is there a pair out there that would like to enter, it really is very low key and

Last year we asked for your help to acclimatize the horses to an audience that they will experience on the night. We may be asking for help again so please look out for dates in future e-news. Saddle cloths – I have inherited 2 dark green Numed saddle cloths and skull caps. They used to be our cross country saddlecloths but as 2 are missing!!! We are going to sell the other 2. They are in pristine condition and I have given them a wash. Both Large in size - £25 for the saddlecloth and hat cover – see Tricia.

Members only Clear round jumping – Friday 20th June at Paddocks.

6.00 pm – 7.30 pm clear round jumping (a maximum of 4 rounds per horse/pony)

7.30 pm – 8.00 pm pair's. (time and weather permitting) If you do not come with a pair, the organizers will try to pair you up with another competitor (a minimum of 2 pairs for this class to go ahead)

Clear round - £2.00 per round, pairs - £5.00 per pair

The course will be approx. 2 ft, but can be lowered or raised at the organizers' discretion.

Phone Tricia on 07883631354 after 4.00 pm if the weather is looking doubtful

Help needed please, contact Tricia!!!

Dressage charity day – Sunday 21st September. A chance to wear as much pink as possible and raise money for Breast Cancer Care. This is also a WS&D Dressage qualifier. Schedule to follow.

West Somerset and Devon Dressage Championship; Saturday 18th October at King Sedgemoor Equestrian centre, Greylake – schedule to follow.

Autumn show – Sunday 19th October at Heazle. Frighteningly similar to our Spring Show, schedule to follow.

DRESSAGE 2 MUSIC RALLY - Monday 11th & 18th August and 8th September. 6.00 pm – 7.00 pm
£5.00 per person. X Factor practice for pairs and individuals as well as the quadrille.

BHRC Summer Camp at Paddocks Equestrian

2nd & 3rd August 2014

12 horses, 3 groups, 4 in a group (Circles, Triangles, Squares)

Secretary report for May

RESULTS OF THE DRESSAGE LEAGUE 13TH APRIL 2014

CLASS 1 BD WALK TROT INTRO B

1st	LUCY TOTHILL	THE UNDERSTUDY#6	J	
2nd=	BECKA KEAY	ROMEO #5		
2nd=	EMMA SMITH	DIXIE#5		
4th	LEIA BOWER	FLYTE#3	J	M
5th	GEMMA EDWARDS	JUST GEM#2	J	
6th	SYLVIA BENTLEY	MAX#1		M

CLASS 2A PRELIM 13 RESTRICTED

1st	BECKA KEAY	ROMEO #6		
2nd	MELANIE HASLOCK	MIKIE#5		
3rd	SARAH BURT	INDIANA#4		M
4th	THERESA PINCOTT	FLAUNT IT#3		
5th	SARAH BARBER	BELTANE BEAUTY#2		M
6th	KAREN DAVIES	FLOOD#1		

CLASS 2B PRELIM 13 OPEN

1st	DEANA ROWLAND	HECTOR#6		M
2nd	SOPHIE MCCOLLOM	ROSIE FUTURE#5		M

CLASS 3 PRELIM 18 QUALIFIER

1st	KATHY CARD	OTTO#6	M	BHRC
2 nd Q	TRICIA BUDD	JUST GEM#5	M	BHRC
3 rd Q	SOPHIE MCCOLLOM	ROSIE FUTURE#4	M	BHRC
4th	MARGARET DAVENPORT	VIVANTE#3		TDRC
5 th Q	JILL KING	SHULAS ARISTA#2	M	BHRC
6th	VICTORIA PITCHER	WATERFORD#1	M	BHRC

CLASS 4 NOVICE 28 QUALIFIER

1st Q	VICTORIA PITCHER	WATERFORD#6	M	BHRC
2 nd	KATHY CARD	OTTO#5	M	BHRC
3rd Q	KATE HOPPER	SAUBER #4		M BHRC
4 th	MARGARET DAVENPORT	VIVANTE		TDRC
5 th Q	TRICIA BUDD	JUST GEM#2	M	BHRC
6 th	JILL KING	SHULA'S ARISTA#1	M	BHRC

Dressage-2-music training -11th & 18th August & 8th September. All at Conquest from 6.00 pm – 7.00 pm. £5 per person

Training day at Bicton Arena, Budleigh Salterton, EX9 7BL

Wednesday 4th June 2014

Aimed principally at those competing at the Area Horse Trials on 29th June BUT available to ALL Area12 members jumping 80cm upwards

Instructor Andrew Lovell, BHSI (another trainer will be booked if needed)

Option 1 Show Jumping and Cross Country

(1 hr SJ followed by approx. 1 ½ hrs for XC, depending on numbers / group sizes)

Cost £43

Option 2 – Show Jumping instruction plus Cross Country schooling with no instruction may be available if space permits

Cost £30

Full payment required with booking. This will be refunded if replaced from wait list, part refunded if withdrawal is too late to be replaced or no wait list.

Cross country schooling (no instruction) also available at reduced rate

Cost £12

Full payment required with booking but cheques will not be cashed until after the day.

Organiser, Helen Goff,

helen@bovey2.eclipse.co.uk (email preferred), 01398 361652

07511 679859 on the day

Area 12 is part funding this day.

Booking form – 4th June 2014

Name

Address

Area12 club

Membership number

Contact details (mobile and email preferably)

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If travelling alone on the day, number and name of next of kin in case of emergency

I wish to book a place for:-

SJ/XC training Option 1 / Option 2

Groups will be based on the following, please indicate the height you are COMFORTABLE / COMPETING at.

SJ height	80cm	90cm	100cm	110cm
XC height	80cm	90cm	100cm	110cm

Any additional information on background/experience/aims and any requests for early/late times. (I will try and accommodate you as best I can)

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XC schooling only Yes / No

Please send, with your cheque, made out to "BRC Area 12" to:-
Helen Goff, 2 Bovey Cottages, Waterrow, Taunton, Somerset, TA4 2BA

Spaces will be limited for the SJ/XC so bookings will be taken in order they are received.

Closing date – Weds 28th May (note Mon 26th is a Bank Holiday).