



# WEST SOMERSET RIDING CLUB NEWSLETTER

No. 9: 2011

## **AGM**

After last year's successful evening we hope that many of you will attend this year's AGM and social which will again be held at the Rest & Be Thankful, Wheddon Cross on 7<sup>th</sup> December.

The evening will start at 7pm with a complementary drink (mulled wine or a soft drink) and the dinner will be at 7.30pm which will then be followed by a short AGM. The presentation of annual awards will take place at the end of the evening. Members are welcome to bring a guest.

We do hope that many of you will take this opportunity to enjoy a nice social occasion, as well as enjoying the award presentation. Please return the cut out slip at the end of the newsletter to book your place(s) as soon as possible.

We look forward to seeing you there.

***Your Riding Club Committee***

## **RAFFLE PRIZES WANTED!**

There will be a raffle at the AGM, but we need prizes. Please can those members who attend the evening help the club and donate a prize. The club will be donating a year's subscription.

## **COMMITTEE**

Unfortunately Claire Challinor has had to step down from the Committee due to work commitments and we now have several vacancies on the Committee. Annabelle Gregory and Rachel Hill have both offered their services to the club and will be proposed at the AGM. If anyone else is interested in joining the Committee please can you contact Sue.

Sue Rose Chairman - [susan\\_rose@btconnect.com](mailto:susan_rose@btconnect.com) 01643 841411

Anne Hand Treasurer - [annehand@talktalk.net](mailto:annehand@talktalk.net) 01984 641302

Maggie Robertson Secretary - [robertsonm@ranmorecommon.demon.co.uk](mailto:robertsonm@ranmorecommon.demon.co.uk) 01643 841833

Zoe Willford Membership - [zoewillford@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:zoewillford@tiscali.co.uk) 01643 841555

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Catherine Freeman - [freemanjd@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:freemanjd@tiscali.co.uk) 01398 371416

## **WSRC MEMBERSHIP FOR 2012**

Enclosed with this newsletter is your membership form. If you wish to pay at the AGM please can you bring your completed form and cheque.

You will see this year on the form we are asking members where they would like to go for training, so if you are interested in any sort of training please ensure you complete this section to help us to decide what to put on for you in 2012.

### **Hat Tagging at Area 12 Qualifiers**

If you have been to a BRC Championship or the BHS TREC Championships this year you will realise that we are now operating a system of hat tagging. This is to ensure that members who are competing at BRC Championships are wearing a hat that conforms to the standard stated in the BRC Rulebook 2011. It is proposed that hat tagging will be introduced at Area Qualifiers in 2012. Whilst the vast majority of members are supportive of these safety checks and are happy to comply with the rules, there have been incidents where members have questioned the need to wear a hat which meets the required standards. Please remember that these rules are there for your safety. You will not be allowed to compete in a hat which does not meet the required standard, such hats will not be tagged.

### **British Riding Clubs Endurance Team Event**

This year we again had the help of Barbara Wigley and her daughter Nic helping our team qualify for the Endurance Final, this year at The College in Keysoe Bedfordshire on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> September.

We had two of last year's team (Carol Burge with Naughty Nipper & Annabelle Gregory with Duska) already 'up and running' and really not needing much help from Barbara and Nic as they already knew what was required. They were joined by Sharon Hunt, with her newly acquired (and extremely 'chubby') 17 year old Haflinger x Cob – Sunshine, and by new club members Mary & Katie Hannah with their two Exmoor ponies – Kingsby Nutmeg and Kingsby Elderberry.

Although both Mary & Katie had competed in the Exmoor Experience at the Golden Horseshoe, and were well-used to fittening the ponies for endurance, they were worried that the ponies might not be fast enough, and also that they had problems with high pulses at the finish.

Fittening of the horses & ponies began in earnest in late June, in readiness for their first competition at West Moor, Bodmin on 17<sup>th</sup> July. Sharon had managed to slim Sunshine down drastically, and he looked much more like a fit endurance horse and less like a 'blob'! Sharon of course is used to riding on Exmoor's famous 'chains' (wet wet boggy ground) so she was fairly comfortable coping with the terrible conditions on the moor that day, and helped to encourage Annabelle and Duska through what must have been a nightmare ride.

The Exmoors of course did what they do best and plugged and skipped their way through bog & mire, fog and wind, and arrived at the finish looking strong. So – all four horses/ponies (Carol was unable to compete here) finished in good time and passed the vetting at the end of what must have been this season's most testing ride. Many of the EGB members were just pleased to return in one piece, some actually lost shoes on that ride it was so boggy!

The next qualifying ride was Barbury Castle, Wiltshire, where all five combinations competed with excellent results. Four of the five then went to the Phoenix ride, Treborough Common in August for final fitness (each pair winning their own 'pairs class' at this ride).

The final was at The College Ride in Bedfordshire, and problems happened early – Barbara's son rang to say that her grand children were on their way (twins), so obviously they would be in hospital and Barbara wouldn't be able to stay with them in Bedford. So a quick call booked Barbara into the hotel that Carol, her crew Zoe Wilford and I were staying at. – problem solved.

We all set off early Saturday morning, and after a 7+ hours journey arrived at the venue to find that the stables had been 'double booked' and were full already with the horses that were taking part in a weekend Lusitano Breed Show! (This was nothing to do with John Hudson the EGB organiser of the RC Endurance Championship but completely down to The College staff who didn't realise that the Lusitanos would be there for 2 nights!). There were temporary stables available for us, but we arrived in a deluge and the ones allocated were completely

flooded. We managed with Johns' help to have sufficient straw bedding to mop up the flood water & the horses were installed happily.

The next day the horses & ponies performed brilliantly. All three of the big horses completed at 13.7kph and the Exmoors completed at 13.1kph. So much for not being fast enough! 13kph was the bogey speed that they were aiming for. Finishing pulses were 40, 41, 42, 43, & 44, so every horse/pony received a grade 1.

The team didn't actually win – they were 5<sup>th</sup>, but what a fantastic performance from two tiny Exmoors, a Haflinger x Cob, a Warmblood, and a Thoroughbred – not your typical endurance team! All did their personal best at this ride and you can't ask for more than that. Additionally we now have three members of the team determined to upgrade to Open and compete in the Exmoor Experience (50 miles over 2 days) at Golden Horseshoe next year and two Exmoors who we all know can 'do the speed' and 'not get any pulse penalties'!

As an extra bonus for Barbara she managed to see her first grandchildren Tom & Alice and is now thinking that she might have to invest in a couple of Exmoor ponies!

Thanks must go to all the supporting crew – Annabelle's efficient crew John, who also used his parent's wonderful mobile home to tow Duska and Sunshine, and provide us with a perfect meeting place! Sharon's partner Ed, Mary's other daughter who crewed with their cousin And of course this would not have been possible without the experience and help from Barbara and her daughter Nic. I think it is definitely the 'A' team.

### **Sue Rose**

#### **West Somerset and Devon Dressage Championships**

The championships were held at Stockland Lovell Manor on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> October and was really well supported which made for a relaxed and enjoyable day. There were entrants in the championship classes from all the eight participating riding clubs from the South West; Blackdown Hills, Exeter & District, Quantock, North Devon, West Somerset, Witheridge, Taunton & District and Sid & Otter Valley.

This year along with their training bursary the Champions and Reserves each received vouchers from Brinicombe Equine and Clippersharp and in addition Helen Goff, Chairman of Witheridge Riding Club, had managed to secure other excellent prizes. Awards were given for the highest placed Rider over 50, Young Horse, Riding Club committee member, Ex-racehorse (this was won by WSRC member Emily Catford with her horse Another Copper) and other categories, which had been kindly sponsored by Stockland Lovell Saddlery, Cheffings Equine and Wychanger Barton Saddlery. Two of our judges on the day also donated free lessons; Alaina Webster, local freelance instructor, and Julie Legg from Equitocks Dressage Training centre at Nether Stowey who both praised the high standard of entrants.

***Congratulations must go to our West Somerset Riding Club member Jenny Lo-vel from Simonsbath who won The Preliminary Championship with Bingo Little.*** The standard was very high with the top ten riders having few points between them and Gwenda Bassett with Cullingshurst Miss Gainey was also placed with a very creditable 6th.

The Novice Championship class was won by Witheridge member Tamsin O'Connor from Tiverton riding Mavericks Cape Caracus. Exeter Riding Club did very well with Reserve Champions in both classes, Pru McNulty with Mocha in the Preliminary and Sarah Tancock with Hobie in the Novice. Jenny continued with her good fortune by being placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Novice Championship.

***The charities Spinal Research and Horses Help Heroes will also benefit from the day.***

***Maggie Robertson***

### **“Rising Stars” Shine at Show Jumping**

Conquest Equestrian Centre, Taunton was the venue for the inaugural Inter Club Rising Stars Indoor Team Show Jumping Competition hosted by West Somerset Riding Club on 26th October 2011.

Area 12 clubs put forward eighteen teams and competition in the Introductory and Pre Novice classes was very keen. Course builder Helene Hewitt designed encouraging yet challenging courses to produce an exciting finish in both.

In the Introductory class four teams (BMRC Juniors, Blackdown Hills Juniors, BMRC Mixtures and WSRC Burgundy ) were on zero faults at the end of round 1. As round 2 progressed tension mounted as three teams (Blackdown Hills Juniors, Shipton Strollers and BMRC Mixtures) completed on a total of four faults which meant that WSRC Burgundy , the last team to go, had to produce a zero score to win. The three four fault teams already tacked up and prepared for a jump off, watched with baited breath as WSRC Burgundy began their second round. The first rider to go knocked down a pole so the pressure was on the remaining three to go clear to win the competition. With two clears in the bag , the final WSRC Burgundy entered the arena and to the delight of the team returned a zero score to win the class and the coveted sashes.

#### ***WSRC Burgundy Team:-***

Carly Willis & Tuscan Tango  
Tarn McIntosh & Emerald Special  
Karina Heymer & Rose Rebel  
Esther Freeman & Saga La Varenne

In the Pre Novice class three teams (WSRC Green, Blackdown Hills Juniors and BMRC Mixtures) were on zero faults at the end of round 1. Clear rounds were thinner on the ground in round 2 and resulted in a tie on a team total of 4 faults, between Blackdown Hills Juniors and BMRC Mixtures which forced a timed jump off over a shortened course. When the first 3 riders from each team had finished their rounds the teams totals were equal at 4 faults. As the final rider from the BMRC Mixtures achieved a clear round the pressure was really on the last Blackdown Hills Junior rider to produce a very fast clear to secure victory for the team. Despite a great effort one pole fell, which meant BMRC Mixtures were the winners of the “champion” sashes.

#### ***BMRC Mixtures:-***

Claire Curry & Nebula  
Rachael Butler & Storm  
Emily Mugford & Magic  
Ashley Edmund & Landmark Lucky Clover

A big THANKYOU to **everyone** who helped make the day a success - in particular course builder Helene Hewitt, the Conquest Centre staff & volunteers for stewarding, organising parking etc and providing really yummy refreshments (Annabelle’s bacon and egg rolls are worth recommending!) and WSRC members Gemma Heymer, Genevieve Burns and Issy Burns, without whose help the day would not have run so smoothly!

***Catherine Freeman***

**WEST SOMERSET RIDING CLUB  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
on  
7<sup>th</sup> December 2011  
At The Rest & Be Thankful, Wheddon Cross

**AGENDA**

- 1 Apologies for absence
- 2 Approval of Minutes of last AGM 8<sup>th</sup> December 2010
- 3 Matters Arising
- 4 Treasurers Report
- 5 Chairman's Report
- 6 Election of Committee Members
- 7 Amendment to the Constitution  
*The following two new rules have been proposed - (a) all Committee members must attend a minimum of three meetings a year in between AGMs otherwise they will be deemed to have resigned. (b) any club member who is deemed by the Committee not fit to be a member of the club e.g. using abusive behaviour or in any other way bringing the club into disrepute may be expelled.*
- 8 2012 Programme
- 9 Any other Business
- 10 Presentation of Awards

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**West Somerset Riding Club  
Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2011 at  
The Rest & Be Thankful**



**Carvery, Dessert, Tea & Coffee**  
(please indicate below if you are a vegetarian)

**Please send a cheque made payable to 'West Somerset Riding Club', £16.00 for WSRC members and £20.00 for a Member's Guest, along with your name. The closing date is Monday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2011.**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email /Tel No:** \_\_\_\_\_

**I / We enclose a cheque for £\_\_\_\_\_ made payable to West Somerset Riding Club and send to Anne Hand, Torre End House, Washford, Watchett, TA23 0LA. Tel: 01984 641302**

**Vegetarian:** \_\_\_\_\_