WEST SOMERSET RIDING CLUB

NEWSLETTER

April 2010

Chairman – Sue Rose

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CLUB COMMITTEE MEETING

Dear Members, the next riding club committee meeting will be held on 20th May and if you have any items you wish to be discussed then please can you contact a member of the committee.

SHOW JUMPING & DRESSAGE SUMMER SHOW SUNDAY 6th JUNE 2010 Treborough Hill Cross Country

The Devon and Somerset Pony Club and The West Somerset Riding Club will be hosting a day of Show Jumping and Dressage on Sunday June 6th 2010.

The combined efforts of WSRC and Somerset PC are making the day possible and there will be classes to suit everyone from novices onwards. Please come and support us

This is a fabulous venue for this type of competition and the day will provide an exciting opportunity for riders to sample this spectacular site at Treborough Common.

The Area 15 Horse Trials will be taking place at Treborough Common on the 27th July. With this in mind we are offering the chance to school on the cross country course for only £10 per horse whilst the competition takes place on the 6th June 2010. Schedules are available on the Treborough Cross County website (www.treboroughcrosscountry.co.uk) and riding club web site.

WSRC Summer Evening Pleasure Ride from Ralegh's Cross Inn on Wednesday 19th May starting at 5.30pm.

The ride will be about 9 miles long and will be on fields, bridleways and forestry tracks. There will be a small amount of road work on fairly busy roads so all horses and ponies must be traffic proof, and there will be two short steep descents through forestry.

Numbers are limited so please call or email Anne Hand (01984 641302 or annehand@talktalk.net) to book your place.

ORIENTEERING COMPETITION TREBOROUGH

Committee member Anne Hand and her friend Sarah Rashbrooke from TREC South West set three testing routes for the TREC orienteering (POR) competition which was held at Treborough XC on Sunday 11th April.

The event attracted a number of new riders in the lower level classes including club member Anne Farley and her young partner Hope Mahlich who finished a very creditable third in the pairs class. The top level class also attracted some very experienced competitors, including British International Hilary Barnard from Bristol who won this class.

Starting from near the trig point on the top of Treborough Common by kind permission of Sarah and Mark Weatherlake, the routes took riders off the public rights of way through private farmland and Forestry Commission woodland. All by special permission so making the navigating more difficult and less experienced riders had a testing course in their classes with one pair taking such a long time to complete the route a search party was sent out find them, but they turned up at the finish safe and sound.

A competition like this takes many helpers and the organisers would like to say a big thank you to the following members who gave up their Sunday, especially several being thrown in the deep end with no knowledge of TREC. Mary Wilkinson who took on the task of inspecting the horses in the higher level classes on one of the checkpoints. They were checked for lameness, dehydration and their heart rate. Pat Young who checked the riders' equipment before starting and Sarah Thresher who set the riders off on their route. Also Sam Rawle, Sue Rose, Anne Straw, Irene Farmer and husband Mike who all helped man a checkpoint. Thank you also to Anne's husband Graham who joined Sue on a checkpoint.

Western Somerset Region Dressage Championship 2010

The following Riding Clubs, Taunton, Exeter, Witheridge, West Somerset, Quantock, Sid & Otter Valley, North Devon and Blackdown Hills will be running qualifiers at their dressage shows for the final which will be held at Stockland Lovell Manor, Bridgwater on Sunday 10 October, 2010.

The Series will have Prelim and Novice sections.

Qualification eligibility

1. Horses or ponies who have ***any BD points on the day of the qualifying show are not eligible*** for the Prelim qualifying classes.
2. Horses or ponies who have ***more than 49 BD points on the day of the qualifying show are not eligible*** for the Novice qualifying classes
3. Riders may only qualify one horse in each class
4. If the first and/or second placed riders in a qualifying class have already qualified, the qualification passes down to the next qualified riders(s)
5. Riders must be a member of one of the above riding clubs.

At the championship the winners in each section will receive a Training Grant with the Trainer of their choice. There will also be prizes for the runners up and special rosettes.

Any profits from the championship will be donated to the Dorset & Somerset Air Ambulance

The dates of all the qualifying competitions will be posted on the clubs' website page as soon as they are confirmed. We have set up a special 'Dressage' webpage giving all the dates and details of the participating clubs shows. We will also include results from the shows giving the names of those who have qualified for the final.

Our club's dressage qualifying shows will be on 6th June at Treborough XC and 8th August at Roborough Gate

The schedules for WSRC will be made available to download from the club's website or please contact Anne Hand if you want a postal copy.

Zoe Harrison
Fantastic Training Opportunity for Members

We are lucky enough in this area to have access to some impressive trainers, as you know we have linked with Julie Langrish and Perry Wood, Perry is an International Coach and well known through his books and articles in various equine magazines. You as members can claim up to £20 subsidy for training with these two people.

We also have other top trainers visiting the area regularly – you will already be aware of Rodrigo Matos from Morgado, where Zoe Willford and I went last autumn, who is holding a clinics on 18th – 20th June and also 24th – 26th September. He has been the head trainer at the Royal School of Equestrian Art in Portugal, so he is 'top man'! However he is pricey – although like everything in life you pay for what you get - some people have said that they have learnt more from Rodrigo in 2 lessons that the whole of the previous year with their current trainer!!!

We now have another trainer visiting from Portugal, but who is English and her parents live near South Molton, so she visits some 5 times a year and while she is here holds clinics. Zoë Harrison has trained under Dr Guillherme Borba, founder of the Royal School of Equestrian Art in Portugal and one of Mestre Nuno Oliveiras few recognised pupils. She has also trained with Antonio Borba Monteiro, (nephew of Dr Borba and one of the leading riders at the Royal School), João Trigueiros de Aragão, also rider at the Royal School and long term pupil of Mestre Nuno Oliveira. She has also attended various clinics both in Portugal and England with national and international trainers. When Zoë wanted to further her knowledge of pure dressage she chose Portugal rather than German or Holland because she wanted to learn in the classical way. Her interest is being in harmony and working with the horse, not trying to get results as quickly as possible without consideration to the horses' physical and mental development.

Throughout Zoës' career she has taught riders of all ages and all levels and enjoys being a part of the developmental process it involves. She has also had horses given to her, to produce for showing, to break in and to train by clients in Portugal, England, and Sweden.

Zoë will next be in the country from 24th April until Badminton Horse Trials. She will be available for lessons at Withypool and by arrangement in other places. Individual tuition only given, £40 per hour plus £10 hire of the arena, no VAT. Payment for the arena may be available through our subsidy system.

For more info on this great chance phone or e-mail Sue on 01643 841411 & susan_rose@btconnect.com

SHOW JUMPING

TEAM MANAGER

Nicola Moon

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XC/SJ AND EVENTING TRAINING

There are three possible dates for XC/SJ training with Cindy Rawson at Treborough. This is particularly for those of you who might like to take part in the Area 12 horse trials at Bicton on 27th June, but open to any member who would like the chance of some event jump training. Cindy is a BE accredited trainer and I thoroughly enjoyed and benefitted from a session with her at Pontispool recently. The cost is likely to be in the region of £25- £30 for 2.5 hours in a group of 3-4, but you would be able to claim the £10 venue hire from your training subsidy if you haven't already claimed it.

The dates are **Sun 23 May am or pm; Tues 1 June am or pm; Wed 2 June am or pm**. Please let me know if you are interested and if so which of the 6 sessions you could attend (please indicate all the possible sessions not just your first choice) **as soon as possible because I have to book the dates with Cindy. Anne Hand** annehand@talktalk.net 01984 641302

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Area 12 Report

West Somerset Riding Club is affiliated to the British Riding Clubs movement run by the British Horse Society and we belong to Area 12 which covers Somerset, Dorset and parts of Wiltshire and Devon. The advantages of affiliation are the public liability insurance provided for the Clubs and individual members, shopping discounts, discounted entry fees at area competitions and access to BRC competitions and training. Area 12 is however the biggest BRC area and area competitions can be a long way away thus discouraging riders from taking part. Eight of the more western Area 12 clubs, including West Somerset, have therefore formed an informal alliance to promote competitions and training between themselves. Quite a few competitions run by local affiliated riding clubs now include team classes to promote inter-club competition, so look out for opportunities to join up with other WSRC members as a team.

The main Area 12 competitions are winter dressage, winter show jumping and summer dressage, show jumping, hunter trials and one day event. These competitions usually also serve as qualifiers for the national Winter Dressage and Show Jumping Championships, the national BRC Championships (dressage and show jumping), the national Horse Trials and the Festival of the Horse (cross country plus showing). Only the top two teams in each qualifier will go through the national final. There is also an Area Dressage to Music qualifier. Area 12 Championships this year are the Hunter Trial at Bickenhall on 24th April, the Taunton Show (dressage and show jumping, plus showing) on June 12th – 13th and the One Day Event at Bicton on 27th June. The Hunter Trial is not a qualifier this year (for complicated reasons to do with format) and as a result does not seem to be well supported by the Area 12 clubs. Moreover it is suffering from being the day before the popular Quantock Riding Club One Day Event at Stockland Lovell. Despite this West Somerset is mustering a team of 4 to contest the Senior Novice Championship (Anne Hand, Penny Hurley, Mel Julian and Lizzie Little).

West Somerset is only a small club so we do not have a depth of competitive riders, but over the years we have had many successes at area level, most recently the individual senior and junior winter show jumping champions (Nicola Moon and Bryony Richardson) and in recent years senior and junior show jumping teams have qualified for national finals. The Area competitions provide a step up from individual club competitions while still providing classes to encourage the less experienced competitors.

If you would like to take part please contact the appropriate team manager: Dressage: Cath Freeman; Show Jumping: Nicola Moon; Horse Trials / Cross county: Anne Hand.

RIDING CLUB ENDURANCE

TEAM MEMBERS & CREW NEEDED!

Riding Club endurance has been resurrected after a couple of years in the wilderness. British Riding Clubs has linked with Endurance GB to encourage grass route riders to get a taste of the tough sport of Endurance.

We are using EGB rides to train on and the selected team or teams then go forward to the South West Regional Qualifier at the Tally Ho Ride on 18th July at Kingston Deverill. The distance covered on this ride is 32 kilometres. However we can go to other qualifiers, one is in Cornwall and another over in Dorset. Then if (when) we qualify, our team will go the National Championships, which will be held at the EGB Robin Hood Challenge Ride on 4th- 5th September run at Southwell Racecourse, Nottinghamshire.

My neighbour and friend Barbara Wigley, who has competed at top level for many years and currently heads up the organising committee for Golden Horseshoe, has kindly offered her help to our members. She is assisting and directing a training programme for members, including selected local training rides and a full 'dress rehearsal' and selection ride, which will take place in June.

We are looking for people interested in trying endurance with a view to the club producing perhaps 2 teams - juniors are also welcome. Barbara Wigley says 'if we cannot get a team fit enough for this in this area then we are sadly lacking!' You categorically do not need to have an Arab - any sound, fit horse will be more than capable of the distance involved. We also need people to crew the team, this is very important, as the crew is responsible for the well being of the horses and riders throughout the ride, a bit like pit stops in F1 racing! You will be trained in this and will get a trial run at the selection ride in June, so you can get involved whether you ride or not.

Anyone interested in getting involved in RC Endurance, please contact Sue Rose on 01643 841411 or e-mail on susan_rose@btconnect.com. Don't forget we need crew as well as competitors, so don't be shy!

WSRC – Julie Langrish

When asked to write a piece on the benefits of Julie Langrish's professional training I was only too pleased. Turning back to early 2007 when I decided to return to the saddle after an eighteen year break. Whilst I always considered myself a competent rider in my younger days I had become rusty and had to consider myself preservation having two active sons and a husband who could only look puzzled at the washing machine.

Along came an intelligent 5 year old coloured mare with the temperament of a hormonal teenager which after shedding her weight had other ideas about how she should be ridden.

Fortunately I was recommended to Julie Langrish. Julie has been around horses all of her life and actually began teaching at just 12 years old. Even at that tender age she knew a professional career destined and at 17 she became a working pupil in Austria with the late Baroness Piquet.

Julie then became stable manager at the famous Porlock Vale Equestrian Centre at the time one of the leading centres in the world hosting the British Olympic Equestrian Team. During her time at Porlock Julie began eventing progressing to advanced level.

Julie then moved to Rockhampton School of Equitation working for an international event rider called Annette Fergy – Woods competing some of her client's top horses.

Such is Julies character she will probably be embarrassed having her great accomplishments listed we are fortunate to have such an experienced and consummate professional available to teach riding club members.

There are no "quick fixes" with horses and Julie trains the classical way developing both horse and rider slowly whilst giving visible improvement with every lesson.

For most of us our horses are ridden for fun and we each have different ambitions from our animal. Julie's techniques enable every rider to build confidence in their own abilities and her teaching is structured to the needs of both horse and rider.

From my own experience I had an extremely green horse that had never jumped a fence. By attending clinics at Roborough Gate Julie turned this around to produce a competition horse where I can feel confident of at least being in the mix up at every event I enter. These clinics are invaluable as Julie alternates the courses to suit horses of all abilities and ages.

As with all riding club events they are only possible thanks to the dedication of certain members. We are fortunate that Cath & Esther Freeman put a lot of work into building the courses at Roborough Gate with Julie. I know I speak for all members when I say a big thank you for their efforts.

We really are privileged to have an instructor of Julie's calibre here in West Somerset. The club hold regular clinics in conjunction with Julie which all members are welcome to attend.

Sarah Thresher

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