



MHRC NEWSLETTER

January 2012

I hope you all had a great Christmas and New Year. I love the festive season, but am annually reminded that jodhpurs are just not the nicest thing to wear after two weeks of festive cheer!

Haven't we been so lucky with the weather? This time last year, we struggle d to get our lorry out of the yard to attend the last jumping clinic of the year, abandoning the attempt as the snow started coming down again. This year, it was almost pleasant sat watching - read my report below on what went on.

So, with the New Year starting, thoughts turn to the coming show season we have lots of plans for clinics in the coming weeks and there are RC competitions galore for 2012 - so lets bring it on....

Until next time,

Caroline

CORSE LAWN CLINIC



The last clinic of 2011 took place at Corse Lawn on 17th December. This popular series of lessons, with Plum Gregg, concentrated on Canter, Combinations and Courses. After warming up, the riders took it in turns to canter the complete outside track of the indoor school, concentrating on keeping an active, forward, but rhythmic canter that they would need to complete a course of jumps. A single ground pole, on the centre line at C, added a something for them to aim at on the short side, although a couple of the horses choose to see this as a five foot spread!

To test the quality of the canter, the riders were then asked to introduce shallow loops into the 1/4 line and back to the track. This simple exercise helped to balance the horse and to make them think about what they were doing.

Flatwork completed, it was time to jump and Plum had put up 4 jumps across the long diagonals. This provided a figure of eight course, that although simple, was a real test of balance and control. In trot to begin with, over cross-poles, then into canter over slightly higher uprights. The riders aim was to keep up the rhythm of the pace, while using the jumps themselves to encourage a change of leg.

I will definitely use these exercises in the future and found it well worth going along to watch. Please remember that any members can come along to watch the clinics - we would love to see you there.

Rita would like to thank everyone who has supported the clinics over the last couple of months. There are more in the pipeline, both at Abbey and Moores Farm. Full details will be e-mailed in the New Year. Should you not have had an email from me by the middle of January, please could you get in touch with Rita, as quite a lot bounced back last time and she would like to update her addresses. We will be looking to arrange some outdoor clinics after Easter.

MEET THE MEMBERS

Shellee Illingworth joined the riding club last year. She has owned the 28 year old George for 7 years, but due to a severe abscess George was off work for 8 months and so this was her first year being able to compete as a member. "As an ex pacer he is not the easiest to ride, but he is an absolute pleasure to own. A perfect gentleman and despite his age, lets me do all the things my friends and their younger horses do." For the last few years they have concentrated on affiliated Veteran showing, qualifying for the regional Championships two years in a row. They have also enjoyed a bit of jumping, x country and hunting in between. "There are a million proud moments I have with George and, as many people know, I could rattle on about him all day, but I think one of my proudest has to be coming 2nd at our first ever two phase event against a big class, me never having done a proper x country course before and George being the grand old age of 26."



Because of his age Shellie doesn't have any future aims. "I take each day as it comes now, never take a simple hack for granted and smile every time he acts like a two year old!" For a report of Shellee's impressive debut on the club teams, turn to page two.

Anyone wanting to see videos from the 2011 BRC Championships should go to www.youtube.com. Search brccompetitions.

NOVICE AREA SHOWJUMPING



Tina with her fantastic rosettes

The first Area competition of the year was held at Kings Equestrian on 27th November. This is always a popular event and with 22 teams in total, MHRC's three teams competed brilliantly. After the first round, five teams were leading with three clear rounds a piece, including our very own 'Malvern on a Mission', so it was all down to the last round to decide the places. Another three clear rounds from our team meant that it was a nail biting to the end of the day, waiting to see if the very last team of the day would knock us down a place. But with a single roll of a pole, we moved into 2nd place and qualified for the National Championships.

A very special congratulations also has to go to Tina Price, with Silver Moomin, who also won the individual title against an impressive 88 other riders.

Janet Schooling was very proud of Danceur, who only came off the racetrack in August 2010. "I am a very proud mummy, jumping double clear and being the last to go the pressure was really on for me to jump clear." She also mentioned how well the event was organised and how much fun was had by all, "it was great to see so many having a go, lots of smiling faces."

Shellee Illingworth had a fantastic debut as a team rider. "I was a complete bag of nerves, I arrived first and was literally shaking doing the course walk. I had never really met any of my team before and was very worried about letting them and the RC down, despite being told numerous times that it was all for this thing called 'fun'! But I can honestly say everyone was so friendly and supportive I don't know why I worried." After a great first round, George decided he had had enough, but Shellee is now rethinking her plans for the future. "I had thought about retiring him in January...perhaps that will now have to wait!" Shellee would also personally like to thank Chris and Natalie who hung around all day to cheer on the teams, and Cindie and Peyton who stayed right to the prize giving.

The Championships will be held at Hartpury on 7th and 8th April Everyone is welcome to come along and join the cheer squad.

Malvern on a Mission Tina Price & Silver Moomin / Sue Peckham & Rasper / Shellee Illingworth & Big George / Janet Schooling & Harlequin Danceur

Malvern Mayhem Tina Price & Chinnor Fantasy / Di Simmonds & Doris / Suzanne Lidbetter & Tileford Rosina / Freya Malin & Grim Fandango

Malvern madams

Tina Price & Buzz B / Lin Tilt & Little Apache / Charlotte Jeffs & Billy Miller / Julie Jeffs & Burren Boy



Malvern on a Mission (left to right) Tina, Shellee, Sue and Janet

FOR SALE: Flying Minstral (Minky)

Mother/ child share pony. 14.2hh 10 year old, roan, gelding. Hunted with Farmers Bloodhounds and Ledbury Hunt. Snaffle mouth for everything. Does not pull. Many wins at junior and intermediate tetrathalon. Lovely paces. Hacks out alone or in company. Neighs when you go to field or stable. Previous owner did SJ and endurance. Hard feet no shoes (no blacksmith fees) Flu jabs up to date. Fit and ready to hunt. £6,000 or ono Jenny Barnes 01684 833662/07807877859 linhayben@hotmail.com



Calendar of Events

11th February 2012

Area Dressage, Hartpury

NEW 17th March 2012

RWHS Topscore, Summerhouse

31st March 2012

Area Eventer's Challenge, Swalcliffe

NEW 7th & 8th April 2012

BRC National Indoor SJ & DR Championships, Hartpury

DATE CHANGE 29th

April 2012 Area Combined Event, Cooksons

20th May 2012

Area Show & Style Jumping (Juniors), Cleeve Prior

26th May 2012

Area Show & Style Jumping (Seniors), nr Three Counties Showground

27th May 2012

Open Show, nr Three Counties Showground

16th June 2012

Area Dressage to Music, Kings Equestrian

10th June 2012

Area Dressage, Crown Farm

30th June 2012

Area One-Day-Event, Swalcliffe

12th August 2012

Area Dressage, Minchinhampton

NEW Date TBC

Area RWHS Dressage

DID YOU KNOW THAT AREA 18 HAS CHANGED?

To make the groups more evenly spread, the BRC has moved the boundary between Area 18 and Area 9. Area 18 now covers Oxon, Gloucestershire, Herefordshire and Worcestershire, while Area 9 covers South Gloucestershire, North Avon, Wiltshire and West Oxon. For full details, check out the BRC website.

YOUR CLUB CONTACTS

Lyn Harber
Karen Withers
Cindie Bunce
Rita Woolley
Caroline Bates

For the latest club news see www.mhrc.co.uk or check out our Facebook page

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cindiebunce@sky.com 07810 178 520
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Chairman
Mercian Teams
Area Teams
Clinics
Newsletter Editor



MHRC NEWSLETTER

February 2012

Hi everyone,
Apologies that this month's newsletter is a week late. It was going to be quite a short one, but the first committee meeting of the year soon put paid to that! You'll find a sneaky peak of some of the things we have planned opposite.

For those of you who enjoy the Mercian team competitions, the dates are now available in the calendar. If you fancy taking part in these, or the Area, why not let Karen and Cindie know now?

If you fancy doing a bit of cheering for the club, then we have three teams off to Hartpury on 11th February, doing Prelim and Novice dressage. The team supporters always have a good laugh, so please do come and along to introduce yourself - we'll be the ones being extremely noisy!

And lastly, please all keep well now that the weather has turned for the worst. As I write this, the snow is coming down heavily. Fingers crossed that it doesn't get as bad as the last two years...

Until next time,

Caroline

IF THE HAT FITS?

British Riding Clubs have introduced a hat tagging system for all members competing at Area qualifiers and championships. Now is a good time to double check that your hats are up to the current standards. They must be to one of the following specifications.

PAS 015 (1998 or 2011), BSEN 1384 (1997) or EN 1384 (1996) With the BSI Kitemark
ASTMF1163 (2004) With the SEI mark
SNELL E2001 With the official SNELL label and number
AS/NZS 3838 (2003 or 2006) With the SAI Global mark

If you are not sure, then check out the BRC website, where there is a fantastic guide, complete with pictures, for you to double check against.

Please also remember that to compete in the Area qualifiers, you must have been a member of the riding club for a minimum of 21 days, so if you have friends who would like to be in the team, why not give them a nudge to join now?

Anyone interested in any of the Area events this year can contact Cindie now.

👁️ 👁️ SNEAKY PEAK 👁️ 👁️

The first committee meeting of 2012 was held this week, so I thought I'd give you a bit of a SNEAKY PEAK at what we have planned for the following year.

FUN RIDE - 1st April 2012

As you will know, we had planned a Christmas Pudding Ride in the Christmas holidays. Unfortunately, we couldn't get the permissions we needed in time. Instead, we are hoping for an alternative April Fool's Day Ride. The venue is to be confirmed, but we'll let you know as soon as we do.

SOCIAL & DEMO DAY - 19th May 2012

Keep this date free in your calendar - we have big plans! A riding club get together with good food, a bit to drink and the chance to learn something new. Keep an eye out for future news.

OPEN SHOW - 27th MAY 2012

With the change to the bank holidays this year, our show is going to be on the Sunday, but still the last weekend of May. NEW this year are two PAIRS RELAYS, with prize money and/or prizes for the 1st to 3rd place pairs. These will be held over a 2'3 to 2'6 and a 3' course.

Once again, we will be holding the Mercian Showing competition at the show. The four classes will be; Mountain & Moorland, Riding Club Horse, Working Hunter (2'6 max) and Ridden Veteran (16 years and over)

If you fancy being part of the team this year, then please contact Karen. Even if you have never had a go at showing before, or are not sure what it entails, then why not give it a go. Everyone is welcome and we are planning some training sessions later in the year to help add that extra polish to our showing teams.

MEET THE MEMBERS



Caroline Bates has been on the committee of the riding club for a couple of years and this year has been roped into doing a monthly newsletter (!). I have two horses. SGT Pepper has been part of the family for nearly 20 years and at the age of 22, is definitely the grumpy old man of our yard. Pepper is the ultimate all rounder and over the years we have competed in Dressage, Show Jumping, Cross Country, Trec, Showing, Handy Pony and Fancy Dress. My proudest moment was winning the Central Horse News Dressage Performance Award, against people from all over the CHN region. Our riding club record isn't so great though - notching up a cricket score in our debut hunter trial outing, where he refused nearly every single jump! Sadly, he went lame in 2010, which meant the end of his competitive career, although you will still see us hacking across Malvern Common, usually at speed, on a regular basis.

The newcomer on the scene is Smokey Joe, a 3 year old hunter type, who I bought as a 6 month old weanling. The plan is to back him myself later on this year and if he jumps show-jumps as well as he does our electric fences, I can't wait to get him on the riding club teams. Unfortunately, he is more interested in climbing at the moment and has led to speculation that he could be Shire horse x Mountain goat. So far, Smokey has had an interesting competitive career. From lying down in his first ever show class as a yearling, he now seems to enjoy showing off to the judges - making me very proud when he took two 1st places last year at one show. He is already down for the Mercian teams, 2014, so watch this space!



MERCIAN NEWS

Good news for Mercian competitors. In previous years, jump heights were set at 2'3 and 2'9, but it was felt that this was quite a big difference for some riders. This year, the Mercian group will be introducing 2'6 classes. This will be trialled at the ODE on 7th May, the SJ on 20th May and the WH on 27th May.

EVENTS CALENDAR

NEW 24th January 2012

MHRC Flatwork Clinic, Abbey Dressage

NEW 28th January 2012

MHRC Scary Filler Clinic, Moores Farm

NEW 31st January 2012

MHRC Flatwork Clinic, Abbey Dressage

NEW 4th February 2012

MHRC Scary Filler Clinic, Moores Farm

NEW 7th February 2012

MHRC Flatwork Clinic, Abbey Dressage

11th February 2012

Area Dressage, Hartpury

NEW 11th February 2012

MHRC Scary Filler Clinic, Moores Farm

NEW 14th February 2012

MHRC Flatwork Clinic, Abbey Dressage

NEW 18th February 2012

MHRC Scary Filler Clinic, Moores Farm

NEW 4th March 2012

RWHS Dressage, Lyneham Heath Farm, Chipping Norton

17th March 2012

RWHS Topscore, Summerhouse

31st March 2012

Area Eventer's Challenge, Swalcliffe

NEW 1st April 2012

MHRC Fun Ride, TBC

7th & 8th April 2012

BRC National Indoor SJ & DR Championships, Hartpury

29th April 2012

Area Combined Event, Cooksons

NEW 7th May 2012

Mercian Hunter Trials, Pound Green

NEW 19th May 2012

MHRC Social and Demo Day, Hillview

20th May 2012

Area Show & Style Jumping (Juniors), Cleeve Prior

NEW 20th May 2012

Mercian Show & Style Jumping, Cleeve Prior

26th May 2012

Area Show & Style Jumping (Seniors), nr Three Counties Showground

27th May 2012

MHRC Open Show, nr Three Counties Showground

NEW 27th May 2012

Mercian Showing, Nr Three Counties

NEW 2nd & 3rd June 2012

BRC/NAF Festival of the Horse, Aston Le Wells

NEW 4th June 2012

Mercian Arena Eventing, Allens Hill

16th June 2012

Area Dressage to Music, Kings Equestrian

10th June 2012

Area Dressage, Crown Farm

30th June 2012

Area One-Day-Event, Swalcliffe

NEW 15th July 2012

Mercian Dressgae, Sinton Green

NEW 3rd - 5th August 2012

BRC/SEIB Horse Trials, Aston Le Wells

12th August 2012

Area Dressage, Minchinhampton

NEW 10th - 12th August 2012

BRC/BHS TREC, Fife

NEW 15th - 16th September 2012

BRC/NAF National Championships, Lincoln

NEW 23rd September 2012

BRC/KBIS Novice Hunter Trial, Eland Lodge

NEW 6th - 7th October

2012 Dressage to Music and Quadrille Selection, Aintree

NEW 22nd December 2012

BRC/SEIB Quadrille Championship, Olympia

DATES TBC

August Mercian One-Day-Event, Hilltop

October Mercian Quiz

? Mercian Combined Training, Tack Farm

YOUR CLUB CONTACTS

Lyn Haber
Karen Withers
Cindie Bunce
Rita Woolley
Caroline Bates

For the latest club news see www.mhrc.co.uk or check out our Facebook page

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Chairman
Mercian Teams
Area Teams
Clinics
Newsletter Editor



MHRC NEWSLETTER

March 2012

What a really mixed bag February was. From ice and snow, to glorious sunshine and talk of droughts, and now torrential rain. This is the time of year when we start playing the Rug Lottery - whether they are on, off, middle weight or light, you can guarantee that we'll guess wrong. But it is also the time of year when you start to see the end to the winter - nights are getting longer, grass is beginning to grow and show schedules are starting to appear!

This issue is a bit short and sweet - please make note of the new dates in the calendar and if you have time, why not drop me a line for the Meet the Members page.

Until next time,

Caroline

AREA DRESSAGE

Snow, frost and ice leading up to the area dressage at Hartpury meant that the show on the 11th February was cancelled. But everything was re-arranged for the 26th, with the weather finally behaving itself, and the three Malvern teams were on their way. In each team, two had to ride Prelim 18 and two Novice 26, with the best three scores counted to decide the final places.

There were 29 teams in total and the final winners were the Cheltenham and District Panthers, with a very impressive final score. Malvern Hills Red were our best team, just beating Bewdley One on collectives and taking 10th place. Malvern Hills Blue were 16th and Malvern Hills Yellow were 20th.

The individual title was taken by Rebecca Vale of the Worcester Vixens. With 110 competitors, we did brilliantly to have 8 of our riders in the top 50% of tests, with Tina Price on Buzz B our top rider taking 19th place. Lisa Drinkwater came an excellent 28th, closely followed by Cindie Bunce in 29th.

Cindie, one of the Malvern Hills Blue team, says that the weather for the day was perfect and the venue was great. When asked how she prepared for the competition... "I galloped him the day before to get some bloody energy out of the buggie and was working him for an hour before my test, still full of beans in my test though". Everyone had a laugh on the day and thanks go to Shellee Illingworth and Natalie Smith for coming along to support the teams.

The next area competition is the Eventer's Challenge at Swalcliffe on 31st March. There is classes for teams and pairs, at 90cm and 100cm. Schedules have been sent out by e-mail, but if you haven't received one, please let me know. If you would like to take part, please get in contact in Cindie as soon as possible.

MALVERN HILLS RED

Tina Price	Buzz-B
Camilla Esling	Just Jake
Charlotte Jeffs	Billy Miller
Julie Jeffs	Bedazzled

MALVERN HILLS BLUE

Mary Bisco	Welton Solitaire
Cindie Bunce	Dream Breaker
Tina Price	Cheeky
Nicola Shepherd	Master Maltstriker

MALVERN HILLS YELLOW

Lisa Drinkwater	Pebble in the Pond
Tina Price	Chinnor Fantasy
Emma Cooper	Its All About Alfie

FOR SALE

15.3hh dark bay cob gelding.

7 years old. Forward going and not a novice ride. Would make an ideal hunter. Good weight-carrier and always sound. Good in traffic. Easy to do - lives out, not rugged and unshod, but good with farrier.

£2400 ono - open to offers for the right home.

Feel free to phone Alison for more information

0771 7070495 or 01432 851242

Or leave a message and I will get back to you.

MEET THE MEMBERS

WANTED

BRAVE MEMBERS WILLING TO APPEAR HERE.

It's nice to put a face to a name, so please send a photo and a short write-up about you and your horse.

Let us know what you have been up to lately, plans for the future, your history together or absolutely anything else you would like to share.

E-mail mhrcnewsletter@hotmail.co.uk or post to MHRC, 7 Newton Close, Ledbury, Herefordshire, HR8 2XG.

THANKS

EVENTS CALENDAR

4th March 2012

RWHS Dressage, Lyneham Heath Farm, Chipping Norton

17th March 2012

RWHS Topscore, Summerhouse

31st March 2012

Area Eventer's Challenge, Swalcliffe

1st April 2012

MHRC Fun Ride, TBC

7th & 8th April 2012

BRC National Indoor SJ & DR Championships, Hartpury

29th April 2012

Area Combined Event, Cooksons

7th May 2012

Mercian Hunter Trials, Pound Green

19th May 2012

MHRC Social and Demo Day, Hillview

20th May 2012

Area Show & Style Jumping (Juniors), Cleeve Prior

20th May 2012

Mercian Show & Style Jumping, Cleeve Prior

26th May 2012

Area Show & Style Jumping (Seniors), nr Three Counties Showground

27th May 2012

MHRC Open Show, nr Three Counties Showground

27th May 2012

Mercian Showing, Nr Three Counties

2nd & 3rd June 2012 BRC/

NAF Festival of the Horse, Aston Le Wells

4th June 2012

Mercian Arena Eventing, Allens Hill

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10th June 2012

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NEW 1st July 2012

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15th July 2012

Mercian Dressgae, Sinton Green

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BRC/SEIB Horse Trials, Aston Le Wells

12th August 2012

Area Dressage, Minchinhampton

10th - 12th August 2012

BRC/BHS TREC, Fife

NEW 19th August 2012

Mercian One-Day-Event, Hilltop

15th - 16th September 2012

BRC/NAF National Championships, Lincoln

23rd September 2012 BRC/KBIS Novice Hunter Trial, Eland Lodge

6th - 7th October 2012

Dressage to Music and Quadrille Selection, Aintree

22nd December 2012

BRC/SEIB Quadrille Championship, Olympia

DATES TBC

October Mercian Quiz

NEW YARD OPEN

ALFRICK COURT LIVERY

Livery vacancies available on small, friendly, private, livery and competition yard in Alfrick, 8 miles from Worcester and 4 miles from Malvern. Within ½ hour drive from two Tack Farm and Kings Equestrian.

Flexible livery packages to suit everyone, including sales preparation and competition training. Part Livery from only £40.00 per week!

Cushion Ride surface arena with excellent drainage. Post and Rail paddocks. Individual or small group turnout available. Excellent Hacking in beautiful surrounding countryside, with quiet lanes and bridleways. On-site supervision. Parking for Lorries and trailers. Shavings, straw and haylage available to buy on site.

Please Phone to arrange a visit and discuss your requirements.

Lizzie: 07966237707

YOUR CLUB CONTACTS

Lyn Harber
Karen Withers
Cindie Bunce
Rita Woolley
Caroline Bates

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mhrcnewsletter@hotmail.co.uk 07900 376 272

Chairman
Mercian Teams
Area Teams
Clinics
Newsletter Editor



MHRC NEWSLETTER

April 2012

Hi everyone. Apologies that this issue is a bit later than normal. We had to have a committee meeting to confirm a few details (see below) before this could be sent, but I'm sure you won't mind the wait when you read what is planned for the next month or so.

Sadly, the meeting also brought some sad news. Rita Woolley is temporarily stepping down from the committee for personal reasons. I'm sure that you will all join me in thanking Rita for the fantastic job she has done recently, organising clinics at a variety of venues. We all wish her well. For the moment, if you have any queries regarding clinics, please contact Lin Harber.

Until next time,

Caroline

CLUB OPEN DAY 19th MAY 2012

Exciting news for this year - the club is hosting an Open Day at Hillview Stables, Malvern. This is to be a social occasion, with demos and workshops, followed by a BBQ and will be a great chance to meet all the other members of the club.

TIME	3 o'clock to 7 o'clock	
DEMOS	Sophie Hooper Jess Hill TBC	Turnout and Ringcraft for Showing Classes Veterinary First Aid and Injury Prevention Approaching Fences and Riding Combinations
BBQ	Bring your own drinks.	Food to be provided
COST	£5 per person	Open to non-members (friends and family welcome!)

We also need four volunteers to take part in the showing demo. They will need to be turned out as if for a real show and a good mix of horses would be great. Priority will be given to anyone interested in competing in the Mercian Showing at our show on the 27th May. Please contact Karen Withers if you would like to take part. We also need a Junior rider, or a Senior on a pony, to take part in the Jumping demo. Please contact Cindie Bunce if you are interested.

Please send an e-mail to mhrcnewsletter@hotmail.co.uk to confirm how many tickets you would like. Then send cheque payable to Malvern Hills Riding Club to MHRC, 7 Newton Close, Deer Park, Ledbury, Herefordshire, HR8 2XG. Please note that ALL tickets must be purchased in advance, none will be sold on the day, as we need to ensure we have catered for enough people.

OS
PH
EO
NW

It's that time of year - when the show schedule for the Open Show appears. You should all find a copy alongside the newsletter, but, all being well, you should see them in tack shops and at shows. There are a few changes this year. We have added two Pairs Relay classes, a Novice and an Open, to add a bit of fun on the day. These classes have been sponsored and there will be money and prizes for the winners.

We still need a few volunteers for the day - ring stewards, tea ladies (or men) and writers. Help setting up on Friday 25th (from 10 o'clock onwards) would also be great. If you could spare a couple of hours across this weekend, please contact Lin Harber (25th and 27th) or Cindie Bunce (26th).

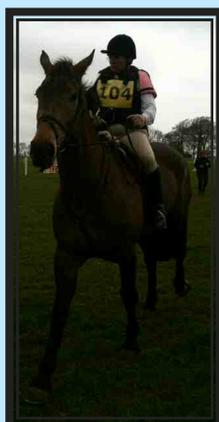
One of the other changes for members, is that you MUST produce a valid membership card to take advantage of the discounted entry fees. This can be your MHRC card or your BRC card, stating that you are a current member of the MHRC. If you have lost your card, please contact Iris Ellis, in plenty of time, to get a new one.

AREA EVENTERS CHALLENGE

It was a cold day for the Area Eventer's Challenge on 31st March at Swalcliffe, but with typical English weather, the ground was extremely hard. The



Cindie Bunce



Sue Peckham

club sent a novice team and two individuals to compete over the challenging course, which consisted of a round of showjumps followed straight away by a cross country course. The novice team did very well, with both Sue Peckham (who competed with bruised ribs after a fall earlier in the week) and Tina Cook producing a double clear. Freya Malin was very pleased with her ex-racehorse, who, despite not being able to decide whether to go round on two or four legs, cleared all the jumps on his first ever competition of this type. Jenny Barnes, competing as an individual and on the team, had four faults in the showjumping. Cindie Bunce was our only Intermediate competitor and produced another great double clear. Sadly, with the time being quite tight, she clocked up a few time faults and wasn't placed. But a great day was had by all.

EVENTS CALENDAR

POSTPONED 1st April 2012

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7th & 8th April 2012

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6th - 7th October 2012

Dressage to Music and Quadrille Selection, Aintree

22nd December 2012

BRC/SEIB Quadrille Championship, Olympia

DATES TBC

October Mercian Quiz



Freya Malin

YOUR CLUB CONTACTS

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Rita Woolley
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Chairman
Mercian Teams
Area Teams
Clinics
Newsletter Editor



MHRC NEWSLETTER

May 2012

Hi everyone and welcome to Spring! How depressing having to dig out willies and rugs once again as the wettest drought ever hits everyone. With so many events being cancelled, it kind of feels as if the Summer season is never going to start. But with the biggest of events suffering as well as the smallest, it's slightly comforting to think we are all in the same boat - international riders through to occasional competitors. Shivering through a showing class at the end of April, I was seriously thinking whether it was worth it - but it is surprising how a bit of pleated ribbon stapled to a bit of card can change your mood in an instant. It should be prescribed on the NHS. Still, roll on the Summer and some sunshine....

Until next time,

Caroline

BRC NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS 7th and 8th April, Hartpury



Our showjumping team did fantastically well at Hartpury last month. With some very early times and over an hour between first and second rounds, it was a long day for everyone, but well worth it. With a total of 8 faults, they came 18th from over 100 teams from across the country. Here are some pictures of the day.



Top Left: Shellee Illingworth and Big George. Top Right: 'Malvern on a Mission'. Bottom Left: Janet Schooling and Harlequin Danceur. Bottom Centre: Tina Price and Silver Moomin. Bottom Right: Sue Peckham and Rasper



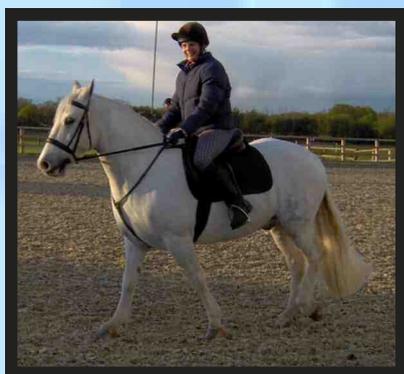
FLATWORK CLINICS WITH NICK LAWSON



The flatwork clinics at Hillview Stables, Malvern, proved very popular. The day I went to watch was threatening rain, but nothing came from the black clouds massing above the hills. Even so, it was great to finally get outdoors and the fantastic ménage gave everyone room to work.

After warming up, Nick concentrated on each rider in turn, talking through encouraging their horse to work into outline, by lowering hands to bring the horse low and round. There were a few giggles from us onlookers, especially as Nick seemed to be constantly shouting 'elbows in' to everyone. Suggestions of Velcro and baler twine were offered, but not taken up! Everyone seemed to enjoy the sessions and there were definite improvements with all the horses, just in the hour I stayed to watch.

The next clinics are once again at Hillview - Jumping with Joe MacDonald. Remember, even if you can't ride on one, you are more than welcome to come along and watch. Dates are listed opposite and there are two sessions, from seven to nine.



EVENTS CALENDAR

1st May 2012 Jumping Clinic, Hillview	30th June 2012 Area One-Day-Event, Swalcliffe
CANCELLED 7th May 2012 Mercian Hunter Trials, Pound Green	1st July 2012 Mercian Combined Training, Tack Farm
8th May 2012 Jumping Clinic, Hillview	NEW DATE 22nd July 2012 Mercian Dressgag, Sinton Green
15th May 2012 Jumping Clinic, Hillview	3rd - 5th August 2012 BRC/SEIB Horse Trials, Aston Le Wells
19th May 2012 MHRC Social and Demo Day, Hillview	12th August 2012 Area Dressage, Minchin- hampton
20th May 2012 Area Show & Style Jumping (Juniors), Cleeve Prior	10th - 12th August 2012 BRC/BHS TREC, Fife
20th May 2012 Mercian Show & Style Jump- ing, Cleeve Prior	19th August 2012 Mercian One-Day-Event, Hilltop
26th May 2012 Area Show & Style Jumping (Seniors), nr Three Counties Showground	15th - 16th September 2012 BRC/NAF National Champi- onships, Lincoln
27th May 2012 MHRC Open Show, nr Three Counties Showground	NEW DATE 16th Septem- ber 2012 Mercian Hunter Trials, Pound Green
27th May 2012 Mercian Showing, Nr Three Counties	23rd September 2012 BRC/ KBIS Novice Hunter Trial, Eland Lodge
2nd & 3rd June 2012 BRC/ NAF Festival of the Horse, Aston Le Wells	6th - 7th October 2012 Dressage to Music and Quad- rille Selection, Aintree
4th June 2012 Mercian Arena Eventing, Allens Hill	22nd December 2012 BRC/SEIB Quadrille Cham- pionship, Olympia
16th June 2012 Area Dressage to Music, Kings Equestrian	DATES TBC
10th June 2012 Area Dressage, Crown Farm	October Mercian Quiz

REMINDER - OPEN & SOCIAL DAY 19th MAY 2012 - 15:00 to 19:00 HILLVIEW STABLES, MALVERN

Demos: Showing, Veterinary Care and Jumping
**** BBQ ****

Open to members and non-members - £5 a ticket

Tickets WILL NOT be sold on the day, as we need to
make sure we cater for the right number of people.

Please send cheque made out to the club to, MHRC, 7
Newton Close, Deer Park, Ledbury, Herefordshire,
HR8 2XG

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MHRC NEWSLETTER

June 2012

Has anyone else noticed this weird stuff falling from the sky? It's very bright and hurts my eyes, but I like it. Yes, Summer seems to hit with a bang and isn't it lovely?

This edition of the newsletter is a bit earlier than normal, just because I wanted to get it out of the way before THE BIG WEEKEND - the 26th and 27th May sees the club taking over the field next to the Three Counties Showground. I'll be around with the camera, so do come over and say hello.

On that note, if you would like any pictures that you see in the newsletter, then most of them will get uploaded to Facebook. If you want to 'Friend' me, I am more than happy to transfer them over that way. If not, please e-mail me and I can send you the file that way.

Until next time (and hopefully with no spelling mistakes ☺),

Caroline

OPEN DAY - 19th MAY



Despite being cloudy and a bit on the chilly side, the weather stayed dry for the club's first Open Day. Sophie Hooper kindly allowed us to take over her school and yard, and also took the first demo of the day. The topic for this was Showing and, using four 'volunteers' Sophie first went through how to turnout horse and rider. This was followed by a discussion on the different types of horses suitable for different classes and then on how to make the most of the ring so that you stand out. With the three ridden horses encouraged to show an extended canter up the long side, Sophie showed how important it was to catch the Judge's eye. After the group section, individual shows were discussed, followed by how to strip the saddle and run up in-hand. The session finished with questions from the audience.

Everyone moved into the stable next for a presentation by Jess Hill. She discussed how to recognise common complaints, such as colic and choke, and how to manage these when it happens, as well as first aid for the sort of injuries our horses like to surprise us with. She also shared her own files of photos of cases that she has attended to over the years.

Then it was time to grab something to eat. The BBQ was ably manned by Shrawley Stone and from personal experience, I can say those cheeseburgers were fantastic!

While everyone was munching away, it was back to the outdoor school, where Victoria Gregg had set up some jumping exercises. Using poles on a 20m circle, she showed how important it was to obtain an even number of strides between them, even when a jump was added, and how a good rhythm helps the horse. Then a few changes of direction were added, with a serpentine along the school that encouraged the horses to listen and bend correctly. When both horses had mastered this exercise, a straight line of jumps was added.

A big thank you to all our volunteer riders - Anna Chapman, Natalie Smith, Emma Mealing and Jo Swinson-Davis, and of course to Jess, Sophie and Victoria. It was a very successful afternoon and we'll be having similar events in the future.



MERCIAN JUMPING



The first Mercian event of 2012 got the club off to a fantastic start. Held at Cleeve Prior on the 20th May and run by the Crophorne Riding Club, it hosted the Junior Area and Mercian Jumping. There were two types of competition on offer - standard Show Jumping and also Style Jumping (to find

out more about this, check out the latest issue of Rider magazine), both held over a 2'3 and a 2'6 course. This was one of the competitions chosen to trial the new 2'6 Mercian height and judging from the amount of entries, it has proved successful.

With a couple of horses having to pull out at the last minute, there was a lot of swapping and borrowing of horses to make up the teams, just to add extra stress to the day. A special mention should go to Steph Woolley, who brought along her youngster, Freckles; to the Mealings', who leant Rhoddy to Shellee Illingsworth, who in turn did a great round after only riding him twice; and to Jenny Barnes, who stepped in at the last minute to make up numbers in one of the 2'6 teams.



The 'Malvern Ladies' competed in the 2'3 show jumping and, although the team didn't get placed, Jenny Barnes came second in the individual competition. We had two 2'6 show jumping teams and both sets of riders did brilliantly, with 'The Malvern Maidens' beating everyone into 1st place and 'The Malvern Madams', with only three riders, coming in 4th. Jenny Barnes did another fantastic round to gain the individual 2nd again. The 'Malvern Madams' also entered the 2'6 style jumping and came 6th.

ROLL CALL: 'Malvern Ladies' Janet Schooling, Shellee Illingsworth and Jenny Barnes. 'Malvern Maidens' Janet Schooling, Luran Jones, Lyn Tilt and Jenny Barnes. 'Malvern Madams' (Show) Natalie Smith, Sue Peckham and Shellee Illingsworth 'Malvern Madams' (Style) Natalie Smith, Sue Peckham, Steph Woolley and Bryoney Biddlecombe.

PHOTOS: Top - Steph Woolley & Freckles, 2'6 Style Jumping.



Middle - Luran Jones & Woodboro Kat, 2'6 Show Jumping. Bottom - the successful 2'6 Show Jumping Teams (from left to Right) Lyn Tilt, Jenny Barnes, Luran Jones, Shellee Illingsworth, Janet Schooling, Natalie Smith and Sue Peckham.

EVENTS CALENDAR

2nd & 3rd June 2012 BRC/NAF Festival of the Horse, Aston Le Wells

4th June 2012 Mercian Arena Eventing, Allens Hill

16th June 2012 Area Dressage to Music, Kings Equestrian

10th June 2012 Area Dressage, Crown Farm

30th June 2012 Area One-Day-Event, Swalcliffe

1st July 2012 Mercian Combined Training, Taek Farm

NEW DATE

22nd July 2012 Mercian Dressage, Sinton Green

3rd - 5th August 2012 BRC/SEIB Horse Trials, Aston Le Wells

12th August 2012 Area Dressage, Minchinhampton

10th - 12th August 2012 BRC/BHS TREC, Fife

19th August 2012 Mercian One-Day-Event, Hilltop

15th - 16th September 2012 BRC/NAF National Championships, Lincoln

NEW DATE

23rd September 2012 Mercian Hunter Trials, Pound Green

23rd September 2012 BRC/KBIS Novice Hunter Trial, Eland Lodge

6th - 7th October 2012 Dressage to Music and Quadrille Selection, Aintree

22nd December 2012 BRC/SEIB Quadrille Championship, Olympia

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MHRC NEWSLETTER

July 2012

It's an extra, bumper issue of the newsletter this month. The end of May and through June was a busy month for the riding club, with both Mercian and Area competitions, plus our very own BIG WEEKEND. Everyone will remember last year - very wet, cold and few entries. This year was so much better - beautiful weather and a full lorry park, with lots of happy faces on both riders and helpers. Read on for full reports on all the goings on across the weekend. We have also had our first committee meeting 'post-open-show' and plans are no afoot for the second half of the year - keep an eye on future newsletters and Facebook as things become finalised. And remember, if you ever want anything brought up at a committee meeting, please give one of us a shout.

Until next time

Caroline

Mercian Arena Eventing 3rd June 2012



The Arena Eventing took place on probably the nicest day, weather wise, that the Jubilee weekend produced. Taking place at Allenshill, Pershore, each of the clubs taking part in the Mercian Cup league were invited to send two teams to compete - one for the Novice class (2'3) and one for the Intermediate class (2'6). The competition was an interesting one and great fun to watch. Each competitor rode through Prelim 13 for the dressage phase, irrespective of class. Then, after a short break, it was into the main arena for the jumping. The show-jumping phase was over coloured poles, with some nicely garish flower pots for an extra challenge. Then it was back to the start box, a very quick breather, then straight on to the 'cross-country' phase.

This was a twisty track between the show jumps and was over artificial JAS type jumps. These produced a few problems throughout the day, with some horses not sure what to make of the plastic green turf or artificial Christmas trees, but both our teams had no problems and were placed. The Novice team of Luran Jones and Woodboro Kat, Jenny Barnes and Linhay Lale, Jess Hill and Charlie and Jason Mahon and Ernie, came 4th, with Luran coming 5th overall in the Individual competition after doing her best Dressage test to date. The Intermediate team of Sue Peckham and Gangster, Claire Mahon and Trevor Brown, Davina Oatley and Freestyle and Lyn Tilit and Apache, came 3rd with Davina coming 3rd overall.



PHOTOS - Top: Jenny Barnes and Linhay Lale. Bottom: Luran Jones and Woodboro Kat.

Currently MHRC are in 3rd place in the Mercian Cup standings, a fantastic place to be so early in the season. If you would like to help earn us some extra points, then why not contact Karen Withers (see back page for details). The next Mercian competitions are the Combined Training at Tack Farm and Dressage at Sinton Green (dates in the calendar).

OPEN ODE ARENA QUALIFIER

As some of you may have known, the Area 18 ODE qualifier had to be cancelled - on the day - when it was discovered that they had no Medical cover. Competitors can now qualify at the Area 9 One-Day-Event on 1st July at Solihull Riding Club. Anyone interested should contact Cindie Bunce ASAP.

WINTER NON-RIDING CLINICS

We are planning some non-riding clinics over the winter months, with a guest speaker, something to eat and possibly a raffle. We have a few ideas who could come and speak, but do you have any? What would you like to learn about? Do you have any friends/family who would like to do a short talk? Any ideas, please e-mail mhrcnewsletter@hotmail.co.uk or ring 07900 376 272

Area Showjumping 26th May 2012



Once again, MHRC hosted the Area Showjumping Qualifiers on 26th May. With 171 competitors, 4 classes and 10 riding clubs, it was a busy day. We had two teams in the Novice competition and one in both the Intermediate and the Style Jumping. The Intermediate Team came a very good 4th, with Cindie Bunce winning the individual competition. Tina Price also came 2nd in the Style and, along with Cindie, have qualified for the Lincoln championships in the Autumn.



MALVERN RED (NOVICE) Janet Schooling / Harlequin Danceur. Shellee Illingsworth / Tefedw Evan (top left). Luran Jones / Woodboro Kat (second left) Lisa Drinkwater / Melangle (third left) MALVERN YELLOW (NOVICE) Sue Peckham / Gangster (bottom left). Mary Bisco / King Du Peroux (fourth left) Jenny Barnes / Flying Minstral. Lin Tilt / Little Apache (second right). MALVERN (INTERMEDIATE) Tina Price / Buzz B (top right). Natalie Smith / Rainstown Lad (third right). Sue Peckham / Rasper (fifth right). Camilla Esling / Just Jake (sixth right). INDIVIDUAL (INTERMEDIATE) Cindie Bunce / Golden King INDIVIDUAL (OPEN) Cindie Bunce / Dream Breaker MALVERN (STYLE) Lisa Drinkwater / Melangle (bottom middle). Tina Price / Silver Moomin (bottom right) Natalie Smith / Rainstown Lad. Janet Schooling / Harlequin Danceur (fourth right).



OPEN ANNUAL SHOW

27th May 2012

A beautiful hot and sunny day greeted the day of the annual show. All the classes were well supported and it was great to see so many great looking horses so early in the season. The full class results are below (MHRC members in purple). Apologies for not having any photos of the day - the memory card that I took along with me decided not to let me download any of them - if you have any photos of the day you would be willing to share, please e-mail them over to me and I will get them on Facebook for everyone to enjoy. Well done to everyone who competed and a huge thank you to everyone who judged, stewarded, helped and tidied all day.

Class 1: Very Pre-Novice 2'0 1st Zoe Smith / Gerry 2nd Georgie Withers / Funky Monkey **3rd Lisa Drinkwater / Basil** 4th Alex Riches / Darcy 5th Emily Riches / Percy **Class 2: Pre-Novice 2'3** 1st Zoe Smith / Gerry **2nd Jenny Barnes / Lirhay Lale** 3rd Sarah Martin / Kitty Magic 4th Vicky Collette / Ace 5th Issy Williams / Mister Surprise 6th Louise Saun / Jimmy **Class 3: Novice Pairs Relay** **1st Sue Peckam / Gangster** & Rebehan Lord / Bracken 2nd Clare Smith / Poppy & Zoe Smith / Gerry **Class 4: Novice 2'6** 1st Stacy Johnson / Athlone Cherokee 2nd Jessica Hodgetts / Pinkerton 3rd Molly Walford / Maztons Moviestar 4th Kathryn Smith / Poppy **Class 5: Intermediate 2'9** 1st Kirsty Hopkins / Davina 2nd Molly Walford / Maztons Moviestar 3rd Ellie Hodgkinson / Red Horizon 4th Jayne Porchester / Sebastian 5th Harriet Morris / Tia 6th Jessica Hodgetts / Pinkerton **Class 6: Open 3'0** 1st Kirsty Hopkins / Davina 2nd Jessica Hodgetts / Pinkerton 3rd Joy Pither / Danielson **Class 8: Mini Very Novice 1'6** 1st Jade Brace / Lilly 2nd Finlay McCourt / Eldersfield Toffee 3rd Joseph Neal / Geni 4th Amy Ball / Toby 5th Holly Wylde / Woody 6th Sarah Bilsby / Shady Lady **Class 9: Mini Novice 1'9** 1st Holly Wylde / Woody 2nd Jade Brace / Lilly 3rd Ellie Howell / Bingo 4th Laura Morgan / Twilight Beau 5th Ines Perandin / Charlie 6th Amy Ball / Toby **Class 10: BD Intro A** **1st Katherine Jones / Redback Cappuchino** 2nd Sarah Bilsby / Shady Lady **3rd Anna Chapman / Samson** **4th Lisa Drinkwater / Basil** **5th Vicky Collett / Ace** 6th Kate Middleton / Manor Farm Oliver **Class 11: BD Prelim 7** **1st Katherine Jones / Redback Cappuchino** 2nd Emma Houlbrook / Fred 3rd Sara Blackshaw / Risky Business 4th Esme Owen / Conker 5th Carry Tandy / Arizona 6th Diana Jenkins / Spice **Class 12: BD Prelim 12** 1st Esme Owen / Conker 2nd Adrienne Crawford / Fernbank Talisman 3rd Joy Pither / Danielson 4th Emma Houlbrook / Fred 5th Clare Dando / King 6th Tammy Bethall / Castle Gregory **Class 13: Best Turned Out** 1st Daisy Grimwade-Jones / Monty 2nd Amber Knott / Sammi Star 3rd Loll Gorman / Mooasher **4th Katherine Jones / Redbank Cappuccino** 5th Rebecca Creke / Riverside Rio 6th Ethan Knott / The Jester **Class 14: Best Lead Rein Pony** 1st Finlay McCourt / Eldersfield Toffee 2nd Rachel Verman / Twilight Beau **Class 15: Best First Ridden Pony** 1st Daisy Grimwade-Jones / Monty **Class 16: Ridden Mountain and Moorland** 1st Kiki Ander / Kilmore Ben 2nd Laura Morgan / Twilight Beau **Class 17: Ridden Coloured** 1st Sam Jukes / Mirisca Breeze 2nd Diana Jenkins / Spice **3rd Emma Cooper / It's All About Alfie** 4th Rebecca Creck / Riverside Rio **5th Linda Kemp / Fred** 6th Victoria Bartlett / Lion Heart Cornelius **Class 18: Best Riding Club Horse/Pony (Junior Rider)** 1st Issy Williams / Master Surprise 2nd Amber Knott / Sammi Star 3rd Ethan Knott / The Jester **Class 19: Best Riding Club Horse /Pony (Senior Rider)** **1st Sara Stephenson / Suzy** **2nd Katherine Jones / Redback Cappuchino** **Class 20: Racehorse to Riding Horse** 1st Nicola Batten / Vital Data 2nd Pauline Wedge / Marvelous **3rd Katherine Jones / Redback Cappuchino** 4th Rosie Clare / Kelami 5th Emma Phillips / Quillan Hill 6th Jodie Powell / Sargentos 7th Debbie Friedman / Gothic Charm **Class 21: Veteran Horse/Pony Ridden** 1st Adrienne Crawford / Fernbank Talisman 2nd Ellie Markey / Kessford Springbok 3rd Sarah Bilsby / Shady Lady 4th Keria Watkins / Amber 5th Tilly Martin / Jazz **In-hand** 1st June Clifford / Little Dream 2nd Rhian Fallowfield / Barranak 3rd Zelda Freeman / Cheval 4th Rachel Verman / Twilight Beau 5th Simone Edwards / Smithland Sovereign 6th Jane Sanderson / Murphy **SHOWING CHAMPIONSHIP** Sam Jukes / Mirisca Breeze **Class 22: Ridden Hunter Pony** 1st Phillippa Pidcard / Highgrove Spencer 2nd Esme Owen / Conker 3rd Holly Coles / Mission Accomplished **Class 23: Ridden Hunter** 1st Clare Oliver / Master Oats 2nd Lorna Faulconbridge / Sharp Practice 3rd June Blakeway / Joey 4th Kate Walsh / Orions Bay 5th Carrie Tandy / Arizona Rain **Class 24: Working Hunter Pony** 1st Holly Coles / Mission Accomplished 2nd Natalie Portman / Mo 3rd Emma Killey / Dilly 4th Vicky Collette / Ace **Class 25: Novice Working Hunter** 1st Clare Oliver / Teddy 2nd Lorna Faulconbridge / Sharp Practice 3rd Kate Middleton / Manor Farm Oliver 4th Nicola Batten / Vital Data 5th Rosie Clare / Morning Flight 6th Jayne Porchester / Sebastian **Class 26: Open Working Hunter** 1st Clare Oliver / Teddy 2nd Joy Pither / Daniels Son 3rd Kate Walsh / Orions Bay 4th June Blakeway / Little Blakeway **HUNTER CHAMPIONSHIP** Clare Oliver / Master Oats **SUPREME CHAMPIONSHIP** Clare Oliver / Master Oats

Mercian Showing 27th May 2012

It was the club's turn to host a Mercian competition last month and as part of our open show, we included four team showing classes; Mountain & Moorland, Working Hunter, Veteran and Riding Club Horse.

We had two teams competing and each did brilliantly. The Malvern Ladies weren't far off being placed as a team, but all were placed in their individual classes, while The Malvern Madams took a well deserved 3rd place in the team competition.

Malvern Ladies: Sue Peckham and Gangster (6th Riding Club), Jess Hill and Charlie (5th Working Hunter), Mary Bisco and Scooter (5th Veteran). Malvern Madams: Anna Chapman and Byefield Samson (2nd Mountain & Moorland), Jo Swinson-Davis and Pomja, Natalie Smith and Rainstorm Lad (1st Working Hunter), Shellee Illingsworth and Big George (6th Veteran)

A special pat on the back and round of applause for Karen Withers - this was the first time organising such an event as our Mercian Team co-ordinator and I think everyone will agree how smoothly it all went.

NAF Festival of the Horse 2nd & 3rd June 2012



Two of our members represented the club at the Festival of the Horse in Aston Le Wells. Shellee Illingsworth and Natalie Smith got up at 4 o'clock in the morning to plait and bath, before heading down to the show. Even with a missed motorway junction making them a bit later than planned, and torrential showers peppering the day, they still did us proud. Shellee and Big George entered their second ever ridden veteran class and, as well as coming a very respectable fourth, won a beautiful sash for the oldest veteran in the class. Natalie and Jack went in for

the Working Hunter and were only one of 8 clear rounds. Originally pulled in for fourth place, they moved up to third after the judge had ridden. They also entered the Ridden Hunter and were once again pulled in fourth, this time jumping to second place in the final line-up. Both Shellee and Natalie would like to say a HUGE thank you to Janet Schooling for lending them a trailer and also to their boyfriends for getting up super early and helping them groom.
PHOTOS: Bottom: Natalie and Jack. Top: Shellee and George

EVENTS CALENDAR

NEW DATE 1st July 2012 Open Area ODE, Solihull
1st July 2012 Mercian Combined Training, Tack Farm
NEW DATE 22nd July 2012 Mercian Dressage, Sinton Green
 Novice Area Dressage, Crown Farm
3rd - 5th August 2012 BRC/SEIB Horse Trials, Aston Le Wells
12th August 2012 Area Dressage, Minchinhampton
10th - 12th August 2012 BRC/BHS TREC, Fife
19th August 2012 Mercian One-Day-Event, Hilltop
NEW DATE 6th September 2012 BRC Eventer Challenge, Blenheim
15th - 16th September 2012 BRC/NAF National Championships, Lincoln
NEW DATE 23rd September 2012 Mercian Hunter Trials, Pound Green
23rd September 2012 BRC/KBIS Novice Hunter Trial, Eland Lodge
6th - 7th October 2012 Dressage to Music and Quadrille Selection, Aintree
NEW DATE 18th October 2012 Mercian Quiz, Bromyard
NEW DATE 25th October 2012 MHRC AGM, Hunters Inn (TBC)
22nd December 2012 BRC/SEIB Quadrille Championship, Olympia



YOUR CLUB CONTACTS

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MHRC NEWSLETTER

August 2012

Apologies that this a bit later than normal. I fully blame that little sporting event down South somewhere! The BBC coverage of the Olympics has been excellent, but I have found it impossible to resist recording, then watching, every single second of the equestrian events. Not a bad way to spend an evening ... but one meaning that absolutely nothing else gets done.

Another issue of the newsletter packed with great results from the Area and Mercian team events. The season is starting to come to a close, with only a few more chances to compete for the club. Please see the next page for details.

But fear not...just because the competition season is winding down, the club won't disappear for the Winter. The committee is arranging a number of clinics, talks and get togethers....so watch this space.

Until next time

Caroline

Area One-Day Events



With so many events being cancelled this year due to ground conditions, it was great that the Area One-Day-Events actually going ahead. We had four teams competing at Swalcliffe on 30th June in the Novice Qualifiers, including a Junior team, which was great to see. And on 1st July, Nicola Shepard represented the club at the Open Qualifier at Solihull.

At the Novice Qualifiers, we had two Senior Novice teams; 'Malvern Madams' of Bryony Bidlecombe, Hanna Jones, Helen Robson and Claire Mahon; 'Malvern Mares' of Tina Price, Camilla Esling, Natalie Smith and Freya Malins. Although neither team were places, Camilla Esling was individual 3rd in section 1 of the competition.

The Junior Intermediate Team of Emma Mealing, Anna Robson and Claire Mealing did a fantastic job and came 3rd, with Emma getting the 2nd place individual and qualifying for the finals at Aston-Le-Wells.



Also qualifying with an overall 2nd place, was our Senior Intermediate team of Cindie Bunce, Sue Peckham, Steph Woolley and Lisa Drinkwater. Individually, Cindie came 4th in section 1 and Lisa Drinkwater 2nd in section 2.

Top Right: Emma Mealing. Top Left: Lisa Drinkwater. Middle Right: Cindie Bunce. Bottom Right: Sue Peckham. Bottom Left: Anna Robson.

Thanks to Steph Woolley for the photos.



Hickstead

The BRC competition at Hickstead is for three people, each competing at 85cm, 95cm and 105cm. Natalie Smith, Tina Price and Cindie Bunce travelled the huge distance to represent the club. Natalie did a fantastic clear round, with Tina and Cindie having one fence down and a run-out respectively. But the team ended up in 18th place out of a massive 105 teams, so a big well done to all three.

Mercian Combined Training

The Combined Training competition took place at Tack Farm Equestrian centre on 1st July. The club sent two novice teams, with each member having to do either a Prelim or a Intro Dressage test, followed by a twisty course over 2'3 jumps.



Malvern Maidens, consisting of Karen Withers, Helen Robson and Claire Mealing, did a great job to win the team competition outright. We did just as well with the individual places. Helen Robson won the Prelim section, with Lauran Jones coming 6th, and Claire Mealing came 3rd in the Intro section.



Left: Lauran Jones Right: Helen Robson
Check out our Facebook page for more photos.

WE NEED YOU FOR THE TEAMS

As the season comes to an end, there are a few more team events to go.

If you are competing at 2'3 to 2'9, then there's the **Mercian One-Day Event** and Hunter Trials, plus the Quiz, which is always good fun. The last **Area qualifier** is the Open Dressage, for anyone competing at Novice and Elementary Level.

If you are jumping 1.05m, then we are looking to put together a team for the **Blenheim Eventer Challenge**.

Please contact Cindie or Karen ASAP if you are interested.

EVENTS CALENDAR

3rd - 5th August 2012 BRC/SEIB Horse Trials, Aston Le Wells

12th August 2012 Area Dressage, Minchinhampton

10th - 12th August 2012 BRC/BHS TREC, Fife

19th August 2012 Mercian One-Day-Event, Hilltop

6th September 2012 BRC Eventer Challenge, Blenheim
15th - 16th September 2012 BRC/NAF National Championships, Lincoln

23rd September 2012 Mercian Hunter Trials, Pound Green

23rd September 2012 BRC/KBIS Novice Hunter Trial, Eland Lodge

6th - 7th October 2012 Dressage to Music and Quadrille Selection, Aintree

18th October 2012 Mercian Quiz, Bromyard

25th October 2012 MHRC AGM, Hunters Inn (TBC)

22nd December 2012 BRC/SEIB Quadrille Championship, Olympia

Mercian Dressage

A last minute change of venue saw our two Dressage teams heading off to Bissell Wood Equestrian Centre for the Mercian competition on 22nd July. Each member of the team had to do a different test, choosing from Intro A, Prelim 7, Prelim 12 or Novice 28. The 'Malvern Ladies' of Lin Harber, Lyn Tilt, Janet Schooling and Lisa Drinkwater, did very well, but it was the 'Malvern



Madams' of Lisa Drinkwater, Julie Reynolds, Katherine Jones and Helen Robson who came home with a team 6th. There were also individual places for Janet Schooling, who came 4th in the Prelim 12; for Katherine Jones who came 3rd in the Prelim 12 and 2nd in Intro A; and for Lisa Drinkwater, who came 5th in the Intro A.



Left: Katherine and Dotty Right: Janet and Harley
Check out our Facebook page for more photos from the day

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Lin Harber
Caroline Bates

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Chairman
Mercian Teams
Area Teams
Clinics
Newsletter Editor



MHRC NEWSLETTER

September 2012

Summer has arrived at last - what spectacular weather we're having. Of course, with good weather and a week off work, both horses that I ride have gone lame! But that's the way it goes.

I was down in London for the Paralympics on Tuesday and enjoyed watching two of the freestyle Dressage classes. 'Inspire a Generation' is the tag line for these games and it definitely inspired me. What the riders can get their horses to do puts my Dressage to shame! We were really lucky to watch Sophie Christiansen's test, which went on to win Gold, plus watch the medal ceremonies for her and for Team Gold. Singing the National Anthem at the top of my voice was a fantastic experience - I'm glad I went.

Another packed newsletter with lots of brilliant results for the club - hope you enjoy it.

Until next time

Caroline

NATIONAL HORSE TRIALS FINAL



The 3rd to the 5th August was the SEIB / BRC Horse trials at Aston-Le-Wells and Malvern Hills Riding Club had one team and one individual who had qualified for the event.

Emma Mealing, riding Trefedw Evan, not only won the Individual Arena competition, but went on to win the Junior Intermediate Overall Title. Everyone was thrilled with the result and eagle-eyed members might have spotted Emma in a recent issue of Horse & Hound.

The Senior Intermediate Team of Steph Woolley, Cindie Bunce, Lisa Drinkwater and Sue Peckham did well and everyone did fantastic clear rounds cross-country. Steph, riding King's Cruise, was placed 3rd in the Arena Competition for her section, even after sitting a spectacular buck in the Showjumping ring.

Cindie said that they all had a fantastic time. "Being 20 years old, Midas did get a bit stiff, after being in for a couple of days, but still jumped amazing." They managed to stay dry for the first couple of days, but the heavens opened for their Showjumping round. She goes on to say "we had a great BBQ the first night, kindly cooked by myself and David Drinkwater, and everyone was ok the next day...had a few too many drinks the 1st night but hey ho, and all sat chatting on the Saturday night!"

Lin Harber, who went along as part of the cheer squad, passes her congratulations on to everyone. "Considering the weather, ground conditions and a show jumping course which was rather tight, Sue, Lisa, Cindie and Steph certainly flew the flag for the Malvern Hills Riding Club, well done girls, it was a pleasure to watch you compete and represent the Club at the Championships. And we are so proud of Emma and Evan, we joined Bea with tears of pride for an outstanding performance. I enjoyed every minute of the weekend and great to see all the supporters who travelled to the venue and give encouragement. A BIG THANK YOU TO YOU ALL."



Top: MHRC base camp. Bottom: Emma's Prize Ceremony



MERCIAN

ONE-DAY-EVENT

Hilltop in Ledbury, was the venue for the Mercian One-Day-Event and we sent along two teams. The Malvern Madams, consisting of Janet Schooling on Rudy, Pippa Williams on Master Surprise and Chris Esling on Arty, entered the 2'3 competition and

came 3rd in the team section. There were also two places for us in the individual competition, with Pippa coming 2nd and Chris in 5th.

The Malvern Ladies of Helen Robson on Goose Green Jakara, Freya Malin on Wilf, Natalie Smith and Rain Storm Lad and Lyn Tilt on Apache, were 5th in the 2'9 team competition. Lyn Tilt was also placed individually and took 3rd position.

For Chris Esling, this was the first time she had ridden a Dressage test since having her children. "To say I was nervous was an understatement! But I was looking forward to being part of a team and doing my best. We were all on early which was good for the horses, as it was hot by 9 o'clock and the flies a nightmare! Just before I started, the horse in the next arena decided to reverse at top speed into my arena and stand on its back legs! So not the best of starts, but Arty and I did a fairly accurate test, apart from a little blip with my canter." Chris finished with only 4 faults in a rather boggy Showjumping arena and had a great clear cross-country.

PHOTO: Chris and Arty

As the Summer Season is starting to draw to a close, it's time to think about what you want from your club over the winter. We will be organising a number of ridden and non-ridden clinics, but please let us know if there is anything specific you would like us to do? What would you like to see from your training sessions? Do you have a great instructor that would be good for the club?

E-mail or text me on the contacts below.

EVENTS CALENDAR

6th September 2012 BRC Eventer Challenge, Blenheim

15th - 16th September 2012 BRC/NAF National Championships, Lincoln

23rd September 2012 Mercian Hunter Trials, Pound Green

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18th October 2012 Mercian Quiz, Bromyard

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22nd December 2012 BRC/SEIB Quadrille Championship, Olympia

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Meadow Hay
£3 small bales,
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Ready now.
No fertilizer, etc.

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Hanley Swan
01684 311198
07855 545 834



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MHRC NEWSLETTER

October 2012

Well, Autumn is here - hard to believe that this is the October newsletter. Another full one, with some excellent results at all levels of British Riding Club competitions. It's great to see some new names on the teams and if you fancy having a go, please do get in touch with Cindie or Karen to let them know.

Over the page are details of the AGM - this is another fun evening and we hope that you can all come along. There are also two new Area competition dates in the calendar and we have teams going along to both, so if you fancy coming along to join the cheer squad, please feel free. We like to be the loudest team in the gallery!

Until next time

Caroline

BLENEIM EVENTERS CHALLENGE

6th September 2012

MHRC were lucky enough to get a place at the BRC Eventers Challenge held as part of the Blenheim International Horse Trials. Camilla Esling on Jake (pictured below), Emma Mealing and Evan, Nicola Shephard and Billy, and Sue Peckham and Rasper made up the team. The competition was held in the big arena and involved eight showjumps, followed by ten cross-country fences and another showjump to finish, this being a bogey fence of striped zebra planks. Camilla went first for the team and only had one show-jump and the bogey fence down, then was followed by Sue whose brilliant round was cut short by the tricky brush fence. Nicola went first in the afternoon and again the bogey fence caught them out, but Emma left the best until last and did a fantastic clear. Thanks to Camilla for the write up of the day and who finished with "Although we weren't placed we did yet again have winning support, led by Lyn, which made for an excellent day, with the laughter from the Malvern Hills camp echoing around the lorry park; something that has now become standard!"



NAF BRC CHAMPIONSHIPS

15th - 16th September 2012

The BRC Championships were once again held at Lincoln this year and MHRC had two riders qualify for Dressage and Jumping classes. Tina Price with Buzz started off the weekend with a brilliant 66% in the Novice Dressage, then went on to come 37th out of a class of 95 in the Style Jumping. Cindie Bunce on Thomas had two down in the 1st round of the Open Jumping, but

Cindie said "the poles we had down were my fault as the size of the jumps were giving me heart attack!!" Cindie, this time partnered by Midas, then went on to take 9th place in the Intermediate jumping. A big thanks to Shellee Illingsworth, who was groom for the weekend. Overall, the Area 18 team came 10th - a fabulous result.



Photo: Left - Tina and Buzz / Middle - Cindie on Thomas / Right - Shellee on Midas

ANNUAL MHRC AGM

25th October 2012

The Malvern Hills Riding Club annual AGM will be held at the Hunter's Inn, Longdon once again. We hope that you will come along to say hello and to enjoy a fun packed evening. There will be the usual excellent food, famous quiz and raffle, as well as hearing a round-up of the years' events and the presentation of the annual Club cups. This year there is also some extra special entertainment. As on previous years, everyone attending the AGM will get a £5 discount on 2013 membership. To save time on the night, please find attached a membership form for you to complete at your leisure. Please note that this offer is ONLY open on the evening itself and all fees need to be paid by cash or cheque (made payable to MHRC) before you leave. The AGM is free to attend for members, family and friends of the club, and starts at 7:15 pm prompt. Please e-mail Lyn on lynharber41@btinternet.com or Caroline on mhrcnewsletter@hotmail.co.uk to confirm your attendance.

EVENTS CALENDAR	
6th - 7th October 2012	Dressage to Music and Quadrille Selection, Aintree
NEW 14th October 2012	Area Indoor Novice Show-jumping, Bromyard
18th October 2012	Mercian Quiz, Bromyard
NEW 21st October 2012	Area Combined Training, Droitwich Spa
25th October 2012	MHRC AGM, Hunters Inn
22nd December 2012	BRC/SEIB Quadrille Championship, Olympia

MERCIAN HUNTER TRIALS

23rd September 2012

It was a very wet day for the Mercian Hunter Trials at Pound Green, Bewdley, but we had two teams brave enough to compete! For the 2'3 was Janet Schooling on Rudy, Emma Morris Cooper on It's All About Alfie (pictured left), Wendy Yates on Bob (pictured below) and Chris Esling on Arty. They did brilliantly, with the team coming 5th and Chris Esling coming 2nd in the individual competition. The 2'6 team of Helen Robson on Gossgreen Jackana, Lyn Tilt on Apache, Elizabeth Annis Davis on Golden Partner and Nicola Gillett on Butterfly, were sadly eliminated so no team rosette this time, but Nicola took the 6th individual place. Wendy says of the day "I had a great day, it was the first outing for my 5 year old cob Bob - he performed brilliantly and jumped everything clear...good to catch up with the other team members, and really nice to see Lyn Harber and Karen Withers there supporting. It is a super venue, with a really inviting course which rode beautifully. The course covers everything, from water, ditch, drop and even a small hedge, but all very jumpable and inviting. I'm sure it's not the closest course, but well worth the trip, I can highly recommend it."



Emma says "We had a great day and everyone did really well. A lot of the jumps are new since the last time I went and it's a lovely course. I was very pleased with Alfie, as we have no transport so don't get to go anywhere much, apart from when some lovely people are kind enough to take us (Chris and Camilla Esling to the Hunter trials!). We had a few stops at the beginning which were mainly due to Alfie's silly mummy (me) and him deciding that if I didn't want to go over, why should he?! We flew the second half though and finished on a good note, with the team coming 5th. Hopefully we can kick on now and start competing for the Club a bit more."



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Lin Harber
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MHRC NEWSLETTER

November 2012

What a great month October has been for the riding club. It started off with a fantastic result at the Area Showjumping and finished with the best AGM that we've ever had. Full reports follow, but for more photos, please check out our Facebook page or the Website. Speaking of which, I am working hard with our Website Administrator to keep this more updated than previously, so please keep an eye on changing dates, info and news either there or in this newsletter - we'll try to get anything out to you all as soon as we can.

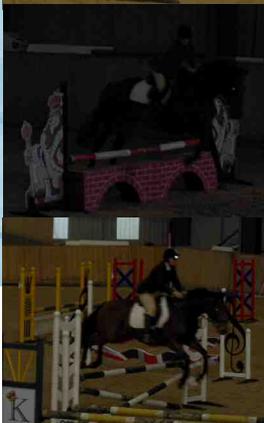
Until next time

Caroline

14th Oct = Area Showjumping



Photo from Left: Lyn Tilt, Tina Price, Camilla Esling, Lin Harber and Shellee Illingsworth, with MHRC's rosette collection!



Following the universal rule of irony, the first indoor competition of the winter season turned out to be a lovely sunny day. The club sent two teams to compete in the Novice SJ qualifier at Bromyard. The 'Malvern Mayflowers' of Camilla Esling, Sue Peckham, Shellee Illingsworth and Janet Schooling did very well, with two young horses on the team, but the 'Malvern Madams' of Tina Price, Lyn Tilt, Natalie Smith and Camilla Esling, on her second ride, were the MHRC stars, coming a well earned 2nd in the team competition. Sadly, there weren't enough teams competing for them to have qualified for the championships, but it was a close result. With a very tight time limit and a twisty second round course, there were only a handful of double clears, but Camilla and Jake were one of those and took the 2nd place individual. Natalie and Rainstown Lad were 6th and Sue and Mr. Gangster were 8th. It was a brilliant day and once again, MHRC had the loudest cheer squad in the gallery.



Photos from top: Camilla and Roland/ Sue and Mr Gangster / Shellee and The Humble Butler / Janet and Son of Valley

Photos from top: Tina and Buzz-B / Lyn and Apache / Natalie and Rainstown Lad / Camilla and Just Jake

MERCIAN LEAGUE 2012

We had an excellent year in the Mercian competitions, giving us one of our best results in a long time. Well done everyone who competed. Lets make next year even better.

1st	Wyvern RC	7th	Cheltenham RC
2nd	Bromyard and District RC	8th	Bromsgrove RC
3rd	Worcester RC	9th	Frampton RC
4th	MALVERN AND DISTRICT RC	10th	Vale of Arrow RC
5th	Shropshire South RC	11th	Bewldey RC
6th	Crothorne RC		



18th Oct = Mercian Quiz

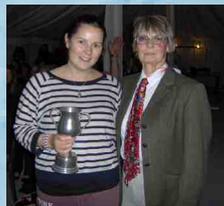
The last Mercian event of the year was the Mercian Quiz, at the Falcon Hotel, Bromyard. A brave team of five headed over there to grab those few extra points for the club = Camilla and Chris Esling, Lin Harber, Luran Jones and Caroline Bates. It was the hardest set of questions I have come across before and we were a bit worried, especially when we didn't score very high in the 'Horses' round. The final results were very tight, but our team 'Malvern Make Mine A Double' came 2nd, only 2 points behind the winners (one point if they had upheld our objection to the spelling of soup!). It was a fun evening and, after coming 2nd for the third year in a row, we will start revising now so we can triumph next year. NB. The chocolate wrappers and drinks glasses are nothing to do with us and appeared on our table by magic!

EVENTS CALENDAR

22nd December 2012
BRC/SEIB Quadrille Championship, Olympia
NEW 29th December 2012 Area Winter Dressage, Hartpur
NEW 30th - 31st March 2013 BRC Winter Championships, Hartpur
NEW 1st - 2nd June 2013 NAF Festival of the Horse, Aston-Le-Wells
NEW 25th May 2013 Area Show & Style Jumping (Juniors), Cleeve Prior
NEW 8th June 2013 Area Dressage to Music, Bromyard

25th Oct = MHRC AGM

This year's Olympic themed AGM was definitely one to remember. Instead of a guest speaker, we were entertained by Team EBGB - from the Olympic Dressage Long List, doing a hilarious demo to music. As an very extra special surprise, we had two superstar judges - Maggie Jackman, British Dressage Sponsorship Manager, and Carl Hester, Olympic Gold Medallist. They entered into the spirit of the evening, with some great judges comments on the test and then Carl took questions from the floor, giving us an amazing insight into what it was like behind the scenes at the Olympics. He then kindly stood around for ages while we all had photos taken with THE MEDAL. After all the excitement, the serious business of the AGM took place, with reports from Cindie and Karen on the team competitions throughout the year. Lin went through last year's AGM minutes, the treasury report and then gave the Chairman's report, picking up on all those little funny moments that have happened in the last 12 months. The annual cup presentations followed, with Nicola Shepard passing the Lofty cup on to Freya Malins. This cup was donated by a previous member in memory of her horse and is awarded from one member to another for any reason they want - Nicola wanted to reward Freya for her cheerfulness and optimism even when her horse misbehaves. The Committee Cup, voted for by the whole committee, went to Shellee Illingsworth, for her constant support and willingness to ride anything! A new cup, given for outstanding achievement, was awarded to Emma Mealing for her win at the National Championships. I was very privileged and surprised to receive the final cup, The Chairman's Cup, which Lin awards. The evening finished off with the usual high standard of food, Clare's fiendish Olympic quiz and the raffle. I'm not sure what we'll do next year to beat this one - but here's to a great 2013.



Photos: from left = Nicola and Freya, Shellee and Lin, Lin and Caroline, the EBGB's entering the arena. More photos and videos on Facebook and the website.

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MHRC NEWSLETTER

Dec 2012 - Jan 2013

Happy New Year to you all. I hope you had a great Christmas and now, with all the festivities are over, your thoughts are turning to the new competition season. The club did brilliantly at the recent Dressage qualifiers (report below), which we all hope continues into 2013. For me, my ambitions are a bit more modest - taking my youngster to his first ridden show is going to be exciting, if not down right scary! For everyone who 'met' him last year at the open day, you know that he has his very own, special way of doing things, so roll on the challenge.

Until next time

Caroline

HAVE YOU SEEN MHRC IN THE NEWS?

We were featured in the latest edition of Central Horse News.

Also check out website

www.worcesternews.co.uk/features/countrynews/equestrian/10085156.Olympian_rides_in/?ref=erec to see us in the local paper

2013 EVENTS CALENDAR

23rd Feb.

BRC Royal Windsor TopScore Qualifiers, Hartpury

30th - 31st Mar.

BRC Winter Champs, Hartpury

25th May

Area Show & Style Jumping (Juniors), Cleeve Prior

1st - 2nd Jun.

BRC Festival of the Horse, Aston-Le-Wells

8th Jun.

Area Dressage to Music, Bromyard

13th - 14th Jul.

BHS Glos Level 1 & 2 TREC, venue TBC

2nd - 4th Aug.

BRC National Horse Trials Champs, Swalcliffe

7th - 8th Sept.

BRC National Champs, Lincoln

14th - 15th Sept.

TREC GB Champs, venue TBC

29th Sept.

BRC BE80 Champs, Brooksby Melton College

5th - 6th Oct.

BRC Dressage to Music and Quadrille Selection, Bury Farm Equestrian Village

21st Dec.

Quadrille Final, Olympia

Remember to keep an eye on the website - schedules will be uploaded as we get them.

AREA DRESSAGE - 26th December 2012

Horizontal hail storms, flooded roads, saturated arenas ... all added to the challenge of competing at the Area qualifiers at Hartpury. But with a few last minute replacements and time swapping, we managed to field an impressive three teams. Two people per team had to ride a Prelim test and the other two a Novice test, with everyone having the opportunity to do a warm up test first. The outside arena was soon abandoned, as it started to fill with water, with Hartpury kindly opening up one of the smaller indoor schools for the rest of the warm-up tests. All the qualifier tests were ridden in the grand surroundings of the large International Indoor arena.

Malvern Yellow of Freya Malins and Grim Fandango, Steph Woolley and Mossden Infanta, Tina Price and Paddy and Sarah Smith and All Made Up came 22nd overall, with Freya coming 22nd and Steph 5th in the Prelim tests and Tina 22nd in the Novice.

Malvern Blue of Wendy Yates and Bella, Katherine Jones and Redback Cappuchino, Tina Price and Buzz-B and Nicola Shephard and Master Maltstriker, came 14th, with Wendy coming 12th and Katherine 9th in the Prelim section, and Tina and Nicola both coming 12th in the Novice.

Malvern Red of Lizzie Davis and Pumba, Lauran Jones and Woodboro Kat, Tina Price and Cheeky and Steph Woolley and Kings Cruise, racked up an impressive number of individual places. Liz-



zie won the Prelim section, with Lauran in 16th, while Steph won the Novice section and Tina came 10th, putting the team in 2nd place and giving them a place at the National Championships in March.



It was Sarah Smiths first outing for the club with her horse and she said of the day "I had no idea how the day would go; my boy was notoriously highly strung in competition at our last yard and he has had a year of dramatic up and down health, so isn't at his best. BUT I am SO glad we did it! He behaved pretty well, I remembered my test, (another small 'issue' of mine!) and I have to say that the MHRC ladies that I met were so lovely and welcoming. Despite the Biblical weather, I loved it and I think a bit of our long-lost Mojo might just be creeping back....."

Steph Woolley was called on last minute to fill a space in the team. "We had a really good day, if somewhat busy. Cindie asked us on the Friday if we could take Inca to fill a gap so a bit of a mad day getting both her and Cruise washed off and plaited. Because Inca can get rather wound up, we took her on her own in the morning to do her test. I was really pleased with her. She's only been out a couple of times since she had Oakley and although she was a bit tense, managed to hold it together for a respectable 64% and 5th place in her section. We then took her home to swop over and pick up Cruise. Because of work and the weather I hadn't had much time to sit on Cruise in the last month - twice in fact but Mum has been riding him regularly and he felt great when I got into the warm up. We did our warm up class first in a long arena in the indoor school and Cruise went really nicely. He much prefers doing his tests in a 20x60m arena. We then went down to the international arena for our team test and again Cruise went really nicely. Despite the weather we had a great day, always lovely to catch up with the rest of the MHRC team and supporters and I even met up with a friend I volunteered with in Greenwich at the Olympics. The icing on the cake was Cruise winning both his tests and qualifying for the Championships."

Freya Malins managed to keep a smile on her face, even when it didn't quite go to plan. "Hmmm what to say about last Saturday!! For a first trip out in a while, and a first trip to Hartpury it was not a bad effort from the Wiffa. Sadly the warm up was far more successful than the team effort in the indoor arena, Wilf took much offence to the judges, and the posters below them, so quick tricky to subtlety deal with bad behaviour when eye balling a judge...! It was great to see such a good turnout in pitiful weather and I'm very happy that Sarah Smith and Pacino managed to get to their first event for the club."



SO all in all, another great day for the club. Huge thank you to Cindie, who helped out the organisers in the main arena and for Lin Harber, for once again being part of the cheer squad.

See you all at the Champs!

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