Ah, the January blues! Christmas over, back to work or school, no money in the bank account and show schedules starting to appear but still months away! It did make me wonder whether horses feel the same (obviously not so much the cash flow issues—they have personal slaves to worry about that!). There were a few days this month when Smokey was just...well...odd... and I mean odder than is normal for him. You all know those moments - it's not colic as no temperature and he's eating - it's not muscular as sound and rolling fine - has he reacted to his wormer, eaten too much haylage, not eaten enough haylage, not drunk enough - it's not anything else, as, well nothing else is obvious - but somethings not quite right. I don’t feel that ringing the vet and asking him to come out because my horse is being quiet and really well behaved, would go down that well (plus, refer to previous comment re bank balance!). It’s these moments that I really hate about being a horse-owner. I’ve never wanted to really know what is going through Smokey’s mind, but maybe on the odd occasion it would be handy to share a common language. But maybe, after all, he’s feeling just a bit blue too and is dreaming of the Summer to come.

PS. Whatever it was didn’t last long - a couple of hacks unintentionally practising our piaffe to passage transitions, and a couple of evenings of him doing an impression of a horse-shaped kite at the end of the lead rope, convinced me that everything’s back to normal!

until next time, Caroline
Thank you everyone who made the effort to attend the AGM and Awards evening, especially with the weather taking a turn for the worst so that everyone arrived in a snow storm. It was a fun evening and a great start to the RC year. For those who couldn’t attend, the following is a summary of what went on and the decisions made for 2019.

Area Team Managers Report

Chris Esling

Chris thanked everyone who has taken part in the Area qualifiers over 2018 and congratulated everyone who made it to the Championships. Also a special thanks to everyone who has volunteered, as without their continued support we would not be able to send the amount of teams we do. The Lincoln Championships have special memories as always, with MHRC partying as hard as they rode in the ring.

Mercian Team Managers Report

Jodie Powell

Another great year in the grassroots competition, with MHRC winning three of the four Mercian Leagues. Although sometimes hard to get teams together, we have done wonderfully with the teams that have attended. The highlight was the Dressage and Style Jumping, where we won everything that was on offer that day!

Treasurer’s Report

Ann Bates

It’s been a challenging year for the club, with some months where the bank balance was running very close to the wire. Much of this is due to our success at Championships and also to the large amount of entries we put in at Area level. Although we have ended the year in profit, much of this was due to the fund raising done in the last couple of months.

A breakdown of the accounts is available for anyone who didn’t attend on the night and can be requested through mhrnewsletter@hotmail.co.uk.

Historically, the club has always paid the Preliminary entries for every Area qualifier (this is the fee that goes to headquarters and is paid on top of the normal entry fees) and have also paid for everyone that has qualified for the Championships. It was proposed that this needed to change as the club could no longer support this.

Two options were presented to the members. A = that the club continued to pay for Championship Entries, but that the members who have qualified are responsible for organising and running the associated fundraiser (with the

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2019 AWARD WINNERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Award</th>
<th>Winner</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Committee Cup</td>
<td>Esme Ruff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Achiever’s Cup</td>
<td>Riding Test National Champions = Steph Woolley, Rachel Sargeant, Jodie Powell and Tina Price</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Club Support</td>
<td>Rachel Hay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Progression Shield</td>
<td>Alli Haynes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Progression Cup</td>
<td>Sue Lidbetter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outstanding Achievement at Area Level</td>
<td>Jodie Powell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outstanding Achievement at Mercian Level</td>
<td>Chris Esling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chairman’s Cup</td>
<td>Alison Burton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lofty Cup</td>
<td>Chris Esling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midas Cup</td>
<td>Tina Price’s Buzz-B</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Continued on page 3)
help of the committee)
B = that the club pays half the Championship entry fee with the qualifying member paying the other half.

It was then proposed by the floor that many members would be willing to pay all the Championship fees. After discussion it was decided that not everyone was in a financial position to do this. Therefore the constitution will be changed to say that qualifying members will pay a MINIMUM of half the entry fee, but that anyone who feels that they can pay the whole amount can.

This was voted on and carried by the attending members.

Training Manager’s Report
Sarah Bowness
2018 has seen us use a lot of new instructor’s and on the whole these have gone down well. We have also tried a few different formats and will continue this in 2019 in an attempt to suit all member’s budgets and free time. Both Sarah and Julie are open to new ideas or suggestions, so please feel free to contact them if there is something specific you’d like some training in.

2018 has also seen some changes, namely that we made the decision not to allow non-members to attend our clinics due to the problems surrounded in checking insurance, etc. This meant that it was harder to fill places last minute if someone dropped out. Clinics are not run at a profit as BRC stipulate we should subsidise where possible. Therefore, clinics are priced to break even IF ALL SLOTS ARE FILLED. Where people drop out last minute, the club suffers a loss. Therefore, we will be asking in 2019 that members pay up for clinics at least 48 hours beforehand. If something happens and you have to pull out, then we will then attempt to fill the space and refund the money.

Pepper Pot Points League
Senior Dressage
   Steph Woolley & Freckleton Matador
Junior Dressage
   Lily Collop & Kiltown Two Tone
Senior Jumping
   Jodie Powell & Callimore Diamond
Junior Jumping
   Oliver Hooper & Pinto
Senior Combined Events
   Jodie Powell & Callimore Diamond
Junior Combined Events
   Lottie Gilderson & Western Miracle
SENIOR OVERALL
   Jodie Powell & Callimore Diamond
JUNIOR OVERALL (joint)
   Lottie Gilderson & Western Miracle
   Oliver Hooper & Pinto

Rosettes were also awarded down to 15th place in both the Junior and Senior Leagues.

GO TO THE WEBSITE TO SEE THE COMPLETE FINAL LEAGUE

If you want to pay cash or cheque on the day, then you need to contact the organiser to arrange this, but please be aware that you will still be asked to pay if you don’t turn up. In the event of serious injury, etc, then this will be reviewed depending on individual circumstances. Members who have not paid within 48 hours and who have not contacted the organiser to confirm payment on the day, may have their place given to someone on the waiting list.

(Continued on page 4)
Social / Fundraising Report
Karen Withers

We’ve run a number of fundraisers this year, the most successful being the Comedy Evening, which we will probably be repeating at some point with a more horsey theme. The Table Top sales are also popular and an easy way for the club to raise money. This will also be repeated.

There are some plans for some Horseless Clinics in the next few months, but if any members has a topic that they’d like us to cover, feel free to drop Karen a line.

There then followed a buffet style supper, with an amazing selection of sandwiches, snacks, salads, crisps and cake.

MHRC 2019 Caroline Bates

Unfortunately, we will not be able to have the land next to the Three Counties Showground on our usual Bank Holiday Weekend. We are still planning to host the Area Show Jumping Qualifier, as well as the Area

Combined Training Qualifier, but are currently looking at alternative dates and venues.

The Dressage series went very well and we will be looking to repeat that over next winter month.

Voting in of 2019 Committee
Caroline Bates

Ann Bates has to step down from the Treasurer post as it’s against BRC rules to have family members in the key committee roles. Ann was thanked for her service over the last two years and was presented with a beautiful bouquet of flowers by Camilla. Linda Medcalf has agreed to step into the Treasurer role.

The remaining committee have agreed to stay on for another year in their current roles.

This was put to the members and agreed on.

Q&A Session
Katherine Jones has asked that ROR awards are given in conjunction with club events. She will find out the details and will come up with a way to co-ordinate this within the club.

This was followed by a presentation of all our awards and trophies, from medals to everyone who participated in the 2017/2018 Interdressage League, to Pepper Pot Rosettes for the top 15 Junior and Senior riders.

The evening was rounded off by a fun quiz, which was won by the team of Katherine Jones, Linda Medcalf, Krissy Bradley, Sophie Bowness and Di Symonds. And then the raffle, with loads of fantastic prizes donated by the members.

BRC VOLUNTEER LEAGUE 2018

Congratulations to our members who’ve won awards in the National Volunteer League.

Linda Kemp, Anna Robson, Jenny Barnes, Alison Burton, Ann Bates and Chris Esling were all joint 5th after helping to run both the Area Show Jumping and the Area Horse Trials.

To see where you’ve come, or if you would like to compete in the 2019 League, check out the BRC website or the new Volunteer Page on our website.
It was lovely to welcome some new faces to our Interdressage filming day on 12th February. A lovely relaxed, fun day (in between the showers!) meant that everyone had plenty of time to get their tests videoed to perfection!

**Class: Walk and Trot**
16th = (restricted) Diane Symonds and Jeeves
6th = (intermediate) Niki Padbury and Jacob

**Class: Walk, Trot and Canter**
1st = Niki Padbury and Jacob

**Class: Starter (Senior)**
1st = Holly Chivers and Jester
2nd = Camilla Esling and Oliver
4th = Alex Riches and Mr Darcy
5th = Esme Ruff and Elvis
8th = Carrie Coombs and Billy

**Class: Starter (Junior)**
1st = Lottie Gilderson and Western Miracle

A huge well done to our class winners. Niki, Holly and Lottie.

The next filming day is **17th February** - and this month’s schedule has lots of interesting tests and classes to have a go at, including jumping and ROR showing. Contact Caroline if you’d like to come along and represent the club.

---

**BRC LEAGUE AFTER JANUARY RESULTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Club</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Malvern Hills Riding Club</td>
<td>407</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Crown Riding Club</td>
<td>202</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Cherwell Valley Riding Club</td>
<td>176</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th</td>
<td>Solent Riding Club</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**WINTER TRAINING**

**GYMNASTIC JUMPING CLINICS**

**WITH VICTORIA GREGG**

**DATE(S):** Saturday 9th February / Thursday 14th February / Sunday 24th February

**TIMES:** Thursday: 5 to 8pm / Weekends 10am to 1pm

**GROUP SIZE:** maximum of 4 per group

**VENUE:** Marlbrook Equestrian, Welland

**OPEN TO:** All Junior and Senior Members

**LEVELS:** Junior / 60-70 / up to 80 / up to 90

**COST:** £20

If you would like to attend this clinic, please contact:

**Sarah Bowness**  mhrcclinics@outlook.com

**SHOW JUMPING COURSE RIDING CLINIC**

**WITH KAREN NICHOLAS**

**DATE(S):** Saturday 2nd February

**TIMES:** 1 hour slots, running all day

**GROUP SIZE:** maximum of 4 per group

**VENUE:** Hillview Arena, Blackmore Park Road, Malvern

**OPEN TO:** All Junior and Senior Members

**LEVELS:** 70, 80, 90, 100 or 110cm

**COST:** £16

If you would like to attend this clinic, please contact:

**Caroline Bates**  mhrcnewsletter@hotmail.co.uk

**FLATWORK CLINICS WITH JESS SMITH**

**DATE(S):** Sunday 10th February / Thursday 21st February / Saturday 9th March

**TIMES:** Thursday: 6pm to 8:30pm / Weekends: 10am to 2pm

**GROUP SIZE:** half hour individual session

**VENUE:** Hillview Arena, Blackmore Park Road, Malvern

**OPEN TO:** All Junior and Senior Members

**LEVELS:** All levels

**COST:** £25

If you would like to attend this clinic, please contact:

**Julie Jeffes**  Julie.Jeffes@gmail.com
WHAT’S COMING UP NEXT?
For schedules, times and future events, please go to www.malvernhillsridingclub.com

February 2019
2nd - Course Jumping Clinic with Karen Nicholas, Hillview Arena
9th - Gymnastic Jumping Clinic with Victoria Gregg, Marlbrook Equestrian
10th - Flatwork Clinic with Jess Smith, Hillview Arena
14th - Gymnastic Jumping Clinic with Victoria Gregg, Marlbrook Equestrian
17th - Interdressage Filming Day, Hillview Arena, Malvern
21st - Flatwork Clinic with Jess Smith, Hillview Arena
23rd - Area Winter Show Jumping Qualifier, Lincomb Equestrian, Worcs
24th - Gymnastic Jumping Clinic with Victoria Gregg, Marlbrook Equestrian

March 2019
9th - Flatwork Clinic with Jess Smith, Hillview Arena
9th-10th - BRC Arena Eventing Championship, Washbrook Farm, Aston-Le-Wells, Northants
17th - Interdressage Filming Day, Hillview Arena, Malvern
24th - Intermediate Dressage Qualifier, Abbey Dressage, nr. Tewkesbury
30th - 31st - BRC Novice Winter Championship, Arena UK, Grantham, Lincolnshire

SENIOR OVERALL
1st Camilla Esling and Sonas Oliver 140
2nd Steph Woolley and Freckleton Matador 75
3rd Caroline Bates and Smokey Joe 65
Karen Kilby and Cosmic Dream 65
5th Laura Bennet and Lematon Sunshine Sadie 60
6th Emma Tart and Eric 50
Krissy Bradley and Toby 50
Suzanne Lidbetter and Mai 50
Tina Price and Big Ted 50
10th Alison Burton and Golly Miss Polly 40
Becky Skates and Darcy 40
Kelly Hudson and Fronwen Gwyn 40
Linda Kemp and Tanzanite Mist 40
14th Alex Riches and Mr Darcy 35
Julie Jeffes and Hederfeld Ash 35
Katherine Jones and Redbackcappuchino 35
Linda Medcalf and Midnight 35
Luan Crawford and Merkur 35
Suzanne Lidbetter and Rosie 35
20th Jane Osborne and Rose 30
Jenny Tart and Roxy 30
22nd Natalie Smith and Shadow 25
23rd Kirsty Knott and Pennal Zedan 20
24th Diane Symonds and Jeeves 10
Esther Bowness and Blackwater Grey Lady 10
Sara Stephenson and Liledi Susan 10
Sarah Bowness and Our Bawn Lodger 10

JUNIOR OVERALL
1st Lottie Gilderson and Western Miracle 140
2nd Florence Bradbury and Blaze 40
4th Esme Ruff and Blue Suede Shoes 20
3rd Lily Collop and Kiltown Two Tone 15

SENIOR DRESSAGE
1st Camilla Esling and Sonas Oliver 100
2nd Steph Woolley and Freckleton Matador 75
3rd Karen Kilby and Cosmic Dream 65
4th Laura Bennet and Lematon Sunshine Sadie 60
5th Emma Tart and Eric 50
Krissy Bradley and Toby 50
Suzanne Lidbetter and Mai 50
Tina Price and Big Ted 50

JUNIOR DRESSAGE
1st Lottie Gilderson and Western Miracle 100
2nd Florence Bradbury and Blaze 40
3rd Lily Collop and Kiltown Two Tone 15
4th Esme Ruff and Blue Suede Shoes 20

SENIOR JUMPING
1st Camilla Esling and Sonas Oliver 40

JUNIOR JUMPING
1st Lottie Gilderson and Western Miracle 40

SENIOR / JUNIOR COMBINED EVENTS
No entries yet

SEE THE COMPLETE UPDATED LEAGUE TABLES AT www.malvernhillsridingclub.com