What a strange and complicated month March has been? What with a different season arriving with each new dawn, chopping and changing of competition dates, clock changes and playing Hokey Cokey at the yard (ie. put your horse in, put your horse out!), I’m not sure anyone is left knowing exactly where they are.

The good news is that the Riding Club competition year is truly under way, with lots of Area qualifiers and the launch on the Mercian Competition League 2019, which for this year is focusing on having fun for everyone, including Juniors for the first time. It’s great to see some new faces joining the teams, so if you fancy coming along to have a go, then please do take that brave step forward and speak to one of the team managers. If you’re not sure which competition is right for you, then check out the handy guides on our website - go to ‘Leagues & Teams’ and then to whichever page you would like to find out more about. Or feel free to chat to other members, the committee or the team managers. If me and Yobby Cobb can do it - so can you 😊.

until next time, Caroline

Tina and Ted - individual 5th at the Area Dressage Qualifier
How long have you been a member of MHRC?
Since September 2018.

What’s your day job? I am a Trade sales manager for Mars Horsecare, who manufacture Spillers and Winergy Horse Feeds.

What’s your favourite horse activity? Eventing is definitely my favourite, getting to do all three disciplines.

And your least favourite? I have to say, I don’t really have one to be honest - I love every part of being involved with horses and feel privileged to have them in my life. If I had to choose something though, it would probably be doing stud holes!

Have you competed at a BRC Championship before? No, this was my first time. It was a great experience and so much fun being part of a team.

Tell us about your horse? Jumbos Rose II, aka Tilly, is a 10 year old, 16.1hh Irish Sports Horse.

How long have you owned her?
She is home bred, so ever since she joined the world in 2009.

What are her likes and dislikes? She loves her work, particularly jumping (with or without me!). She doesn’t like too much fuss and is super independent (until she is left out in the field on her own!).

What did you think of the Championship venue?
Aston Le Wells is a fantastic venue with great facilities.

How early did you have to get up on show day?
We weren’t on until the afternoon so it was a very leisurely morning, but we didn’t get home until about 10pm in the evening.

What was the best bit about the day?
Definitely being part of such a wonderful and supportive team. I met lots of lovely members from MHRC and the atmosphere was brilliant.

And the worst? It was freezing! The wind was Baltic and I came home with a nose like Rudolph!

What essential bit of kit couldn’t you have done without? Definitely my woolly hat.

What was your warm-up routine? I don’t normally do much jumping when I warm-up - I make sure Tilly is in front of the lg and I pop a couple of fences on an angle to get her thinking.

How many people were on your support crew?
An old friend from my pony club days came over with her husband and their two pony mad girls to support us on the day, which was lovely.

ARExx ENeVEnxiNG
CnAMPtioNship

The first championship of the year and a new one for the BRC Calendar. It was off to Aston-le-Wells for the inaugural Arena Eventing Championship with our 100 team of Cindie Bunce on Master Maltstriker, Nikki Collins on Jumbos Rose, Holly Chivers on Dripshill Dreammaker and Sue Peckham on Mr Gangster, plus Jodie Powell on both Callimore Diamond and Bleanagloos Black Diamond as an individual rider in both the 80 and 90 class.

The competition involved a show jumping round in the first arena, then a single cross-country jump before crossing the road and into the larger arena, via the water jump, for the rest of the cross-country course. The final joker fence, an upright show jump, was placed a couple of strides after the last solid obstacle and caused a few problems throughout the day.

Luckily, all our riders managed to compete in the relatively dry weather (although it was extremely cold), but it rapidly descended into blizzard conditions while we waited around for the results at the end of the day. Luckily, it was worth it, as the team were placed 3rd with an individual 5th for Sue.
The first Area qualifier of the year was, against all the odds, held in lovely sunshine with a gentle breeze - a huge contrast to the days leading up to it. Despite the muddy field and wet conditions under-foot, the arenas at Lincomb Equestrian provided excellent going and two courses that were just testing enough to split the riders.

Sadly, following the change of date after the flu-outbreak, we lost a good proportion of our riders, but still managed to field a senior 80, 90 and 100 team, with a few individuals too.

The day began with the 80 class and we were ably represented by William Hooper on his new pony, Defiance, as our only Junior of the day. They did two lovely clear rounds and won. Our Senior team also did fantastically, finishing off the day on a score of 4 faults and coming 2nd to Worcester, who only had 1 time fault.

Then it was a bit of a jump up in height, with our two individuals going in the 110 class. Cindie had two clear rounds and finished in 3rd place, enough to earn her an individual qualification for the Championships at the end of April.

The next class was the 100 and it was extremely close at the top. The winning team (Worcester) had no faults and we were in 2nd place ... with a single time fault! But still a fantastic result.

Then lastly it was the 90 class, which didn’t go our way at all - lets say that there was some great stickability and some interesting jumping techniques from our riders, which brought an amusing end to the day if nothing else!

**COURSE JUMPING CLINICS**

**INSTRUCTOR:** VICTORIA GREGG  
**DATES:** Thursday 11th, 18th and 25th April  
**TIMES:** 3pm (60-70cm), 4pm (70cm Juniors), 5pm (80cm), 6pm (80cm), 7pm (90cm)  
Other sessions can be added during the day if there is a demand.  
**SIZE:** maximum of 3 per group  
**VENUE:** Marlbrook Equestrian, Castlemorton  
**OPEN TO:** All Junior and Senior Members  
**COST:** £20  
**CONTACT:** Sarah Bowness 07828 908 958  
mhrcclinics@outlook.com
It was once again off to Abbey Dressage, Tewkesbury, for the Intermediate Area Dressage qualifiers...and we sent five senior teams, a fantastic turn-out for the club. In each team, one person rode a Prelim test, two rode a Novice and one an Elementary.

Our highest placed team were 'The Pinks', of Esther, Jodie, Camilla and Julie, who came 6th. There were some individual places too, with a 6th for Luan in Novice 34, and a 5th for Tina and a 4th for Julie, both in the Elementary 42. The great news is that Julie has qualified for the Championships at the end of April, as the highest placed individual not on the winning team.

RUNNERS & RIDERS

Senior Reds: Jodie Powell and Bleangloos Black Diamond (P13) / Wendy Yates and Go Get The Money (N28) / Jane Osborne and Foxboro Rose Royale (N34) / Ann Brennan and Cosmic Flight (E42) Senior Blues: Caroline Bates and Smokey Joe (P13) / Sue Peckham and Mr Gangster (N28) / Holly Chivers and Lady of Rathcannon (N34) / Tina Price and Big Ted (E42) Senior Pinks: Esther Bowness and Blackwater Grey Lady (P13) / Jodie Powell and Callimore Diamond (N28) / Camilla Esling and Sonas Oliver (N34) / Julie Jeffes and Hederfeld Ash (E42) Senior Greens: Anna Robson and Santa Fe (P13) / Liz Wise and GoGo (N28) / Luan Crawford and Merkur Fra Elle Vand (N34) / Wendy Yates and Luck Between Us (E42) Individuals Jane Osborne and Foxboro Rose Royale (N28) / Tina Price and Big Ted (N34)

Due to the change of dates of the Area qualifiers this month, we had to cancel the Interdressage filming day. However, a big thank you to Suzanne Lidbetter and Mai who made their own entry. They came 11th in the walk and trot test, earning us the maximum 10 points for the RC league.

The next club filming day is in the morning on 21st April - as it’s Easter Sunday, we’ll be making it a bit of a chocolate fest, with lots of goodies for everyone who comes along. There’s dressage, jumping and showing classes, suitable for everyone (schedule on our website). This is the last month for the 2018/2019 league and possibly the last one ever, as Interdressage are not sure whether they will be running in conjunction with BRC in 2019/2020 - so if you’ve been meaning to have a go, this may well be your last chance. Contact Caroline to book a place.
It was all the way over to the other side if the country for the Novice Winter Championships, once again held at Arena UK, Grantham, Lincolnshire.

On Saturday, our sole Senior representative was Laura Bennett on Lematon Sunshine Sadie, who won the Novice 24 class at the qualifier last year. They came a fantastic 6th place in a very strong arena.

Then Sunday was Junior day and for the first time ever, the club sent a Dressage team to contend the title after they also won the qualifying class at Hartpury. It was a very early start, with our first dressage test at 9:30 in the morning, so it was a case of greeting the dawn on the M42! Mia Smith on Bruno rode Prelim 2, Lottie Gilderson rode Novice 24 and Lilly Collop rode Novice 27. They all did brilliantly, with Lottie and Lilly both in 11th place and only just missing out on an individual ribbon. But it was great news, as the team ended up in 7th place overall.

PHOTOS: from left: Lilly, Lottie, Mia and Laura

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**MIA SMITH**

**MEET THE TEAM**

**How long have you been a member of MHRC?** 1 year

**What’s your job?** Year 9 at Hanley Castle School

**What’s your favourite horsey activity?** Dressage

**And your least favourite?** Mucking out in the rain.

**Have you competed at a BRC Championship before?** Yes, I was lucky enough to go to the National Championships at Lincoln last year.

**Tell us about your horse?** Bruno is a 10 year old, 14.3hh, Welsh x gelding.

**How long have you owned him?** 3 years

**What are his likes and dislikes?** Loves wotits, extra strong mints and keeping me guessing over jumps (will he jump it or won’t he?). Dislikes sugar cubes, funny looking jumps and anything that looks different from yesterday.

**What did you think of the Championship venue?** I liked it. It was big, but not too big! Good surfaces and it was really well organised.

**How early did you have to get up on show day?** So early! Because the clocks went forward, we basically got up at 4am.

**What was the best bit about the day?** I liked being part of the Junior team and I liked being able to compete at such a big venue.

**And the worst?** Having to get up so early! Also, I forgot part of my test :(.

**What did you think of the rest of the competition?** There were some really nice horses there. There was a horse in the arena next to me that belonged in the Olympics!

**What essential bit of kit couldn’t you have done without?** My Mum (although we left so early she forgot to give Bruno his breakfast!).

**What was your warm-up routine?** I started warming up too early because I was cold and wanted to get started. Bruno was a bit tired once we got in the arena. After his early start and no breakfast, I had a lot of ‘lack of impulsion’ written on my test sheet!

**How many people were on your support crew?** My Mum and Sarah Gilderson, who was really kind and let us go in her lorry.
WHAT'S COMING UP NEXT?

For schedules, times and future events, please go to www.malvernhillsridingclub.com

April 2019
2nd - CPR Training, Castlemorton Village Hall
7th - Junior Area Intermediate Qualifier, Abbey Dressage, Tewkesbury
11th - Course Riding Clinic, Marlbrook Equestrian, Castlemorton
14th - Combined Training Qualifier and Open Dressage, Ace Cross-Country, Tewkesbury
18th - Course Riding Clinic, Marlbrook Equestrian, Castlemorton
21st (change of date) - Interdressage Filming Day & Easter Social, Hillview Arena, Malvern
25th - Course Riding Clinic, Marlbrook Equestrian, Castlemorton
26th - 28th - BRC Intermediate Winter Championships, Bury Farm Equestrian, Slapton, Bucks

May 2019
5th - Mercian Show Jumping, Cleeve Prior
18th - 19th - BRC Festival of the Horse Championship, Aston-le-Wells, Northants

June 2019
2nd - Area Horse Trials Qualifier, Sapey XC, nr Bromyard (TBC)
9th - Mercian Dressage & Style Jumping, Dodderhill Equestrian, Droitwich
30th - Area Dressage to Music Qualifier, Stourport, Equestrian

SENIOR DRESSAGE
1st Camilla Esling and Sonas Oliver 215
2nd Sue Peckham and Mr Gangster 85
3rd Tina Price and Big Ted 80
4th Laura Bennet and Lematon Sunshine Sadie 75
5th Julie Jeffes and Hederfeld Ash 70
6th Caroline Bates and Smokey Joe 70

JUNIOR DRESSAGE
1st Lottie Gilderson and Western Miracle 190
2nd Esme Ruff and Blue Suede Shoes 90
3rd Florence Bradbury and Blaze 40
5th Lilly Collop and Kiltnow Two Tone 30

SENIOR OVERALL
1st Camilla Esling and Sonas Oliver 215
2nd Sue Peckham and Mr Gangster 85
3rd Tina Price and Big Ted 80
4th Laura Bennet and Lematon Sunshine Sadie 75
5th Julie Jeffes and Hederfeld Ash 70

JUNIOR OVERALL
1st Lottie Gilderson and Western Miracle 190
2nd Esme Ruff and Blue Suede Shoes 90
3rd Florence Bradbury and Blaze 40
5th Lilly Collop and Kiltnow Two Tone 30

SENIOR JUMPING
1st Camilla Esling and Sonas Oliver 85
2nd Alex Harris and Ten Hour Lunch 35
3rd Alice Lowe and Bean 35
4th Cindie Bunce and Mr Maltstriker 35
5th Sue Peckham and Mr Gangster 35

JUNIOR JUMPING
1st Lottie Gilderson and Western Miracle 80
2nd William Hooper and Defiance 40
3rd Esme Ruff and Blue Suede Shoes 35

JUNIOR COMBINED EVENTS
1st Lottie Gilderson and Western Miracle 80
2nd Cindie Bunce and Mr Maltstriker 30
3rd Sue Peckham and Mr Gangster 30
4th Holly Chivers and Drippshill Dreammaker 30
5th Jodie Powell and Bleuagloos Black Diamond 5

JUNIOR COMBINED EVENTS
No Events Yet

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