I do love this time of year. Yes, little signs are beginning to appear that Summer is on the wane, but this is Championship season. I love watching all your results and successes come in, whether it’s the local unaffiliated championships, BD or BE Regionals, Trailblazers, Equifest or one of the 100 other things to qualify for. It doesn’t matter what level you compete at, to get that amazing qualification is something to be immensely proud of and just getting to the finals is a huge achievement in itself. Bringing home the awards is then the cherry on top of the icing on the cake 😊

In BRC land, the championship season is well under way and MHRC had a wonderful time at the Horse Trials Championships earlier this month. Once again, myself and Chris gave up a day to fence judge, and a lovely day it was too. A day out, in the sunshine, watching ponies tackle our fence, while being plied with food, drink and ice lollies - what more could you want! It’s definitely worth it and anyone considering it should absolutely give it a go next year.

And, of course, as we go to press, huge plans are a foot to get the MHRC contingent to the National Championships at Lincoln next weekend - with 20 riders, 22 horses, 11 lorries and 20+ supporters and grooms, it’s a record for the club. Let’s keep everything crossed that there may be a few cherries for our riders to bring home too.

until next time, Caroline
After so many weeks of hot, dry weather, the Horse Trials Championships looked in danger of being cancelled along with so many other events, but BRC and the Swalcliffe did a fantastic job in preparing the ground and allowing the competition to go ahead, albeit with a few tweaks.

MHRC were represented by Esme Ruff on Blue Suede Shoes and Lottie Gilderson on Western Miracle in the Junior 80 and Alex Riches and Mr Darcy in the Senior 90.

Alex did brilliantly to end on a score of 51 and a 13th place in a very strong section. But Esme and Lottie (along with Laila Chok on Pye Elm and Eleka Hubbard on Pete’s Dixie from West Oxon RC) came 5th in the team event, with an individual 9th for Esme and a 6th for Lottie.

This was the first time that Alex had competed at the Horse Trials Championship, although she and her son, Ollie,

(Continued on page 3)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Member Name</th>
<th>Alex Riches</th>
<th>Esme Ruff</th>
<th>Lottie Gilderson</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>How long have you been a member of MHRC?</td>
<td>Almost 3 years</td>
<td>Since 2016</td>
<td>This is my first year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What’s your day job?</td>
<td>Mummy/House wife and part time farmer on my parents farm</td>
<td>Still at school</td>
<td>School girl</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Favourite Horse Activity?</td>
<td>Eventing</td>
<td>Definitely cross-country - I love the excitement and adrenaline it gives you</td>
<td>Cross Country and Eventing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Least Favourite Horse Activity?</td>
<td>Clipping</td>
<td>Dressage</td>
<td>Poo Picking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Have you competed at a BRC Championship before?</td>
<td>Yes, we did the Eventer Challenge at the Festival of the Horse 2016 and the Novice Dressage at Arena UK in the spring.</td>
<td>Yes, I competed at the Intermediate Winter Champs and the Festival of the Horse Champs, both in 2017</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horse</td>
<td>Mr Darcy - or The Ginger Ninga, or ‘Rodney’ depending on his mood.</td>
<td>Blue Suede Shoes - or Elvis</td>
<td>Western Miracle - or Lucky</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age, height, breeding?</td>
<td>12 years old, 16hh, 7/8 TB and 1/8 Morgan Horse</td>
<td>10 years old, 14.2hh</td>
<td>7 years old, 14.2hh, Connemara</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How long have you owned your horse?</td>
<td>9 years</td>
<td>Owned and bred by Rosie Clare - I’ve been lucky enough to ride him for just over a year.</td>
<td>Nearly 2 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Likes?</td>
<td>Jumping</td>
<td>Loves treats and falling asleep with his head resting on my shoulder.</td>
<td>Food, people, attention and competitions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dislikes?</td>
<td>Strange sounds behind him</td>
<td>Doesn’t like tents - which I discovered at the champs!</td>
<td>Doing things wrong!</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
did come along to support MHRC in 2016. “It was a lovely venue and a completely different set up to the Area Qualifier that was also held at Swalcliffe. I was lucky to get some lovely times, so didn’t have to get up that early, although it did mean I had to compete in the heat of the day during a particularly hot period.”

It was also Esme’s first time at the Horse Trials Champs, “The venue was very well organised, but it was huge! I was up at 7 on the morning of the competition. The best bit of the weekend was coming 9th individually and being placed 5th as a team - we were not expecting that at all. The worst part was having to walk miles from the lorry to the cross-country start. The one bit of kit I couldn’t have done without was my ice-boots for Elvis.”

The best thing about the weekend for new member Lottie was “experiencing my first championships and the support I got from my family. The show was very well set out and the ground was amazing considering the hot summer. I had to get up at 7, but thankfully had a late dressage time. I was annoyed to roll two poles in the show jumping, but I loved the cross-country. I’m very grateful to Caroline and Chris for their support on the day and their cheers after the water jump.”
19th August turned out to be a nicely warm day and even a bit of sunshine to welcome our car booters to the Hunters Inn, Longdon. The sellers turned out early and it was exciting to see so many bargains up for grabs - and the buyers obviously agreed as there were armfuls of gear being loaded up into cars throughout the day.

The club stalls were busy all day, with a range of cakes, plants, fruits and chutney for sale. And the Tombola proved popular, where you could win anything from booze to water, from cans of coke to washing up liquid!

It turned out to be a successful day, raising over £400 for club funds and going some way to making up for cancelling the Eventer Challenge back in July.

Special thanks you go to:
- Ann Bates and Jenny Barnes for doing a grand job running the tombola and cake stand.
- Esther and Anthony Bowness for running a refreshment stand and donating the proceeds to the club.
- Sue Lidbetter, Sara Stephenson, Sara’s Mum and Sarah Gilderson, who all made donations to the club.
- Jenny Barnes, Julie Jeffes, Alison Burton and Ann Bates for the lovely cakes.
- Karen Withers for her excellent parking skills
- And to everyone else who had a boot, donated prizes for the tombola or came to support us.

APOLOGIES

In last month’s issue, the photo captioned ‘Alex H’ in the report from the Blenheim Trial, actually showed Megan Harper. This is the photo that should have appeared!
For the third year running, the South West and Wales Regional championships were held at Hartpury College - the prefect local venue for us. The Regionals were set up to allow clubs that didn’t want to travel to the Nationals in Lincoln, a chance to compete at a Championship show. Teams that came 2nd to 4th in the Novice (80cm) Show Jumping and the Prelim Dressage at their respective qualifiers in Areas 9, 12, 15, 18 and 19, were all invited to attend. And this meant that we had two Dressage teams and a Jumping team eligible to go along.

Some last minute substitutions kept team manager Chris busy, but everyone did extremely well. But it was our Dressage Divas who triumphed, with an individual win for Rachel Sargeant and a 5th for Karen Withers, meaning that the Purples were awarded overall team 5th.

For Esther, it was a busy weekend. “Fresh back from Equifest and our first time show jumping indoors so to say I was a bit apprehensive was probably a bit of an understatement. First round and remember to breathe! We had a super clear and Polly did me proud - not spooky or at all worried about being indoor with the noise echoes and banners. Second round was a bit disappointing but nearly 2 and half hours after the first round, it was a big ask. We went in with the same attitude but a bit less energy, so unfortunately had 2 poles. But overall pleased and impressed with her attitude and our achievements this year - Great competition venue and right on our doorstep.”

Jodie said, “It was a lovely day with a lovely atmosphere, everyone did so well. I was very pleased with Diamond producing a lovely test and for the team to finish 5th out of 25. Fantastic support crew as ever.”

Stef and Buster were called in as last minute reserves. “I was so thrilled with him! He pulled off a decent dressage test having done very little work since May, and none at all between February and May. Absolute hero. The judge’s comments say it all - just ran out of steam as the test progressed due to lack of fitness! It was great to be out with the riding club ladies again.”

RUNNERS AND RIDERS
Dressage Purple
Karen Withers and CSH Arkan Blue / Rachel Sargent and Dezina Double Dip / Megan Harper and Imperial Moonlight / Jodie Powell and Callimore Diamond Dressage Green Stef Bennett and Mr Buster / Wendy Robinson and Sonas Oliver / Caroline Bates and Smokey Joe / Sara Stephenson and Lleidi Susan Jumping Julie Jeffes and Hedefield Ash / Pam Render and Zena / Esther Bowness and Blackwater Grey Lady / Sara Stephenson and Lleidi Susan

WHAT’S COMING UP NEXT?

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

September 2018
1st-2nd - BRC National Championships, Lincoln Showground, Lincolnshire
9th - Mercian Two-Phase, Sapey XC, Bromyard
13th - Blenheim RC Challenge, Blenheim Palace, Oxon
16th - Mercian Dressage to Music, Kings Equestrian, Bromyard
23rd - Mercian Hunter Trials, Frampton Court Estate, Frampton
28th - 30th BRC Dressage to Music Championship, Bury Farm, Bedfordshire
30th - Mercian Combined Training, Gracelands Equestrian Centre, Droitwich

October 2018
7th - Area Eventer Challenge, Sapey XC, Wolferlow, nr Bromyard
9th - Mercian Quiz, The Talbot, Knightwick.
28th - Area Novice Winter Dressage Qualifier, Hartpury College, Glos.

November 2018
4th - Area Arena Eventing Qualifier, Cherwell Equestrian, Oxford.
Tbc - Mercian Presentation Evening

PEPPER POT 2018 LEAGUES

Here are the top 5 riders in each of the 2018 leagues as of 29th August 2018

SENIOR OVERALL
1st Jodie Powell and Callimore Diamond  465
2nd Suzanne Lidbetter and Rosie   385
3rd Chris Esling and Just Jake    355
4th Jodie Powell and Bleanagloos Black Diamond 350
5th Jo Jeynes and Emily Jane    345

JUNIOR OVERALL
1st Oliver Hooper and Pinto 220
2nd Esme Ruff and Blue Suede Shoes 240
3rd Amber Knott and Average at Best 210
4th Lottie Gilderson and Western Miracle 180
5th William Hooper and Peter Pan 115

SENIOR DRESSAGE
1st Suzanne Lidbetter and Rosie 295
2nd Jodie Powell and Bleanagloos Black Diamond 260
Steph Woolley and Freckleton Matador 260
4th Jodie Powell and Callimore Diamond 245
5th Tina Price and Tom Thumb 195

JUNIOR DRESSAGE
1st Amber Knott and Average at Best 110
2nd Ethan Knott and Pennal Zedan 95
3rd Amber Knott and Mr Gangster 45
4th Amber Knott and Pennal Zedan 40
Mia Smith and Bruno 40

SENIOR JUMPING
1st Jodie Powell and Callimore Diamond 160
2nd Chris Esling and Just Jake    155
3rd Jo Jeynes and Emily Jane    120
4th Cindie Bunce and Dreambreaker   110
5th Jessica Breakwell and George 100

JUNIOR JUMPING
1st Oliver Hooper and Pinto 190
2nd Esme Ruff and Blue Suede Shoes 180
3rd Lottie Gilderson and Western Miracle 110
4th Amber Knott and Pennal Zedan 95
5th William Hooper and Peter Pan 75

SENIOR COMBINED EVENTS
1st Megan Hay and Mockbeggar Pacquel 75
2nd Alex Riches and Mr Darcy 70
3rd Chris Esling and Just Jake 65
4th Allison Haynes and Jack 60
Jodie Powell and Callimore Diamond 60

JUNIOR COMBINED EVENTS
1st Lottie Gilderson and Western Miracle 70
2nd Esme Ruff and Blue Suede Shoes 55
3rd Amber Knott and Average at Best 5
Sacha Willis and Narrow Blaze 5

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