What a crazy month! Two BRC Championships, Mercian events every weekend and the first of the Winter Area qualifiers. It seems as if my MHRC uniform has never come off!

It was my first trip to the National Championships at Lincoln and I'm now determined to get there with horse too. The site is amazing - huge, but amazing. As you drive down the main ring road around the town, you can look down and just see a vast expanse of dressage arenas - I don’t think I’ve ever seen quite so many white boards in one place. The jumping arenas are bordered by lovely big hedges, which may have caused some concern for the riders on their hunting ponies, but definitely made it feel very special to be inside them.

MHRC took over a huge area of the parking field as base camp, and with our new banners and bunting (and loud music late into the night!), we definitely made our presence felt. Turn the page for a full report on our wonderful record.

And some impressive Mercian team performances mean that we’re pretty much guaranteed to win the overall Trophy once again this year - we do like silverware! It was mine and Smokey’s return to competing on the Mercian teams and I’d forgotten what it’s like to be on the other side - it’s so lovely to get a big cheer when you’ve finished your round. I can’t wait until we can enter the next one.

until next time, Caroline
The British Riding Clubs National Championships are the ultimate aim of all affiliated clubs, and this year MHRC definitely ticked the ‘attended’ box. We sent a record number of members - in total 19 riders, 21 horses, 13 lorries, one car and 19 enthusiastic members of the cheer squad.

The Knott family were the first to arrive on site and ‘reserved’ a number of spaces in the field. They were closely followed by the MHRC convoy, made up of lorries belonging to Jodie, Chris, Steph and Tina, while the rest of the squad arrived throughout the afternoon. While ponies were booked in and allocated stables, then taken for a group hack around the site, ‘base camp’ was set up, involving a lot of gazebos, banners, bunting and enough chairs to restock IKEA!

Then it was time to ignore the nerves and settle to a great evening. A fabulous meal of spaghetti Bolognese or Chilli was on offer, kindly provided by the Knotts, with plenty of cake and chocolate to follow. And maybe the odd drinky-poo or two to wash it down.

After a chilli night, it was time for the senior riders to get out of their sleeping bags and down to the stables, where a few sparkling finishing touches were needed - this is a championship after all!

Then it was settled in for a hard day of competition.

For anyone who hasn’t been, Lincoln showground is huge - imagine the Three Counties expanding to cover Hillview Arena and beyond! But the cheer squad toughened it out and leapt into action, helping back at camp, at the stables and cheering ringside all day. With 15 dressage arenas and 7 jumping rings, it was sometimes hard keeping track of where everyone was at any one time, but we did our best to give a cheer after every salute and every final fence (and huge apologies to those that we didn’t make it in time to see).

As the afternoon wore on and the scores started trickling in, we started to get the feeling that we had done rather well. And excitement mounted as more and more individual places were confirmed. But it was the three team places that had us jumping for joy. Our Senior 90 team, despite being half full of last minute substitutes, came 9th, while our Open Dressage team were awarded 3rd place and got to attend the mounted prize-giving. But you could probably have heard the cheers echoing off the Malvern Hills as our Senior Riding Test team were awarded first place and made National Champions. With their beautiful blue rugs and matching sashes, they looked amazing as they stood in the presentation ring - enjoying their moment of glory. It was rather an exciting lap of honour, with more than one leap of joy very nearly giving us a ‘You’ve Been Framed Moment’ but all our riders stuck aboard.

**SENIOR RUNNERS AND RIDERS: Senior Riding Test Team = 1st**
Steph Woolley and Freckleton Matador (1st Novice)
Jodie Powell and Blenagloos Black Diamond (3rd Prelim)
Rachel Sargeant and Dexina Double Dip (3rd Prelim)
Tina Price and Buzz-B

**Senior Riding Test Individual**

“BEST EVER! - Malvern are dancing queens and jump- ing trouper!”
- Kirsty Knott

“Lots of laughter & memories made, with such lovely people and horses.”
- Lydia Burrows

“Fun, sun, laughter, bubbles, happy tears, food, dancing, partying, memories and good friends.”
- Jodie Powell

(Continued on page 3)
Jodie Powell and Callimere Diamond
Senior Open Dressage Team = 3rd
Laura Bennett and Sadjie (3rd Novice and 10th Overall)
Steph Woolley and Frecleton Madora

Lottie and Western Miracle

DO YOU WANT TO COMPETE AT THE NATIONAL CHAMPS 2019?

There are four different disciplines at the Champs that you can qualify for - Dressage (from Prelim to Advanced Medium and Pairs), Riding Test (Prelim and Novice), Show Jumping (70cm to 110cm) and Style Jumping (75cm and 85cm).

Qualifiers take place in the Spring and Summer months, with the top teams and individuals being invited to the Nationals.

And remember, if you qualify, MHRC pay for your championship entry.

Keep an eye on the website and club e-mails for more information next year.

Callimere Diamond / Jo Jeynes and Emily Jane / Lydia Burrows and Hayestown Sam

Saturday night was a quiet, subdued, reflective night ... nah, only kidding. It was time to party hard and celebrate everyone’s successes of the day. A fantastic BBQ, again laid on by Kirsty and Tony Knott, started the evening ... and anyone who partook of the chicken with hot mango salsa enjoyed an evening of numb lips! There was also time to celebrate Chris’ up coming birthday, with cake and candles, and a card that had been sneaking its way from lorry to lorry all day. Then it was time to turn the music up and boogie the night away to such classic tracks as Dancing Queen, Don’t Stop Me Now and Happy. There was also a hilarious moment when lots of slightly (?!?!) tiddly people decided to change the words to YMCA to MHRC - which worked fantastically well until trying to work out how to make an ‘R’ with arms and glasses of fizz.

For our very youngest members, it was a huge challenge to compete on such a grand scale.

“To sum up the champs from a Mother’s / unpaid groom’s point of view - A weekend of non-stop laughter and total togetherness.”

- Katie Ruff

Team of Four - Tina, Sue, Steph and Linda

“Horses, riders, Friendship, laughs, teamwork, dancing, champers, sunshine, together, happiness, commitment, celebrations, support crew, volunteers, amazing food and Caroline and Chris!!!”

- Laura Bennett

(Continued on page 4)
jumpers had to contend with some of the biggest fences that some of them had ever gone over. But it was our Junior 80 team who did the best, gaining a 7th place amongst some very strong opposition.

**JUNIOR RUNNERS AND RIDERS: Walk and Trot Dressage**

Ethan Knott and Pemal Zedan (8th) **Junior Dressage**  Mia Smith and Bruno (5th Prelim) / Amber Knott and Average at Best (10th Prelim) **Junior 70 Jumping Team**  William Hooper and Peter Pan / Oliver Hooper and Pinto / Sophie Bowness and Bruno Mars

**Junior 80 Jumping Team 7th**  William Hooper and Gucci Guy / Esme Ruff and Blue Suede Shoes / Lottie Gilderson and Western Miracle / Amber Knott and Average at Best **Junior Style Jumping**  Lottie Gilderson and Western Miracle

And then it was all over. While ponies were booted and bandaged, lorries started up and tonnes of equipment stowed away, the base camp slowly and sadly disintegrated. A huge thank you must go to our club volunteers, as without them giving up a few hours of their time, we wouldn’t be able to send so many teams - Kirsty and Tony Knott, Sarah Smith, Chris Esling, Jo Jaynes, Lydia Burrows and Jodie Powell. Also to Kirsty and Tony who did an amazing job of the catering and provided the dancing tunes. And lastly to our team manager, Chris, for helping get us there in the first place.

Fingers crossed we’ll get there again next year.

For lots of photos, visit Facebook, or follow the links on our website to watch videos from the weekend.

“About a fortnight before we were all due to leave for Lincoln, I was listening to a Sports Psychologist talking on the radio. He was firmly of the opinion that it was of great benefit to us to belong to a club or society of some sort where we could all take part in something we love and have the encouragement and support of our fellow club members. He reckoned that it helped our health and day to day well being!

So with this in mind I was really looking forward to our trip to Lincoln with 43 of our club members, mums, dads, friends, children and other hangers on!

Well the weekend did not disappoint. The weather was just perfect which always puts everyone in a good mood especially if you are riding all day. Wet clothes are never nice.

Our teams and individuals did not disappoint with some fantastic performances on both days. But it was our evening antics that provided us all with non stop laughter and fun and gallons of wine, and some crazy dancing!

I would like to say a heartfelt thanks to everyone of you who have come forward this year to represent the club at Area level. You have all been incredible and to watch our Riding Test Team on their lap of honour after winning the national title, well it just doesn’t get any better than that. All the work that everyone puts in to get to these Championships is relentless.

Let’s hope that 2019 will be every bit as successful as this year has been. Thank you all for the endless fun and laughter and great friendships!

*Love, Chris*
9th, 16th, 23rd & 30th September

MERCIAN ROUND-UP

It’s been a hugely busy month in the Mercian League, with a team competition every weekend through September. As usual, MHRC rose to the challenge and managed to send teams to all the events.

9th = Mercian Two-Phase @ Sapey

We sent one team to the Two-Phase, which consisted of a round of show-jumps, then a separate run out on the cross-country course. Our 70cm team consisted of Lydia Burrows on Hayestown Sam, Jo Jaynes on Emily Jane, Esther Bowness on Blackwater Grey Lady and Allison Haynes on Jack.

After the show jumping, our team were in a strong 3rd place with only 8 faults. Our three top riders had no jumping faults out on the cross-country, but time faults seemed to be the crucial deciding factor across the competition, with most riders, including all of ours, racking up a large number for going too fast. Maybe a bit too generous with the optimum time? But they only dropped one place overall, with a team 4th and an individual 3rd for Allison.

16th = Dressage to Music @ Kings

It was a bit of a last minute chop and change with the DTM competition, but two teams headed off to have a go.

Everyone did extremely well. The team of Jodie Powell and Diamond (4th individual), Tina Price and Ebony (2nd individual) and Sara Stephenson on Suzy (6th individual) came 3rd. But our top team of Camilla Esling on Jake, and Sue Lidbetter on Rosie, who both won their classes, and Jodie Powell on Trixie, who was second, couldn’t be beaten and took the red rosette.

23rd = Hunter Trial @ Frampton

It was a dull and soggy day when our two teams headed off to the Frampton estate to compete in the popular ‘mini-Badminton’ that is the Hunter Trials. It was even more popular with the removal of the timed gate, which had caused a few issues in previous years.

There was a bit of a mix-up on the day, with some odd scoring, but in the end both of our teams were placed. The
UPCOMING TRAINING

**CLINIC:** Flatwork  
**INSTRUCTOR:** Jess Smith  
**DATES:** 24th October, 1st, 14th & 29th November  
**VENUE:** Hillview Arena, Malvern  
**STARTING TIMES:** 5:30 to 8:00  
**GROUP SIZE:** 30mins individual sessions  
**OPEN TO:** All members, all abilities  
**COST:** £25  

To book a place, please contact Julie Jeffes  
Julie.jeffes@gmail.com

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30th = Combined Training @ Gracelands  
The final Mercian outing of the month was the combined training, and once again, we sent two teams for the bigger class. Our team of Kelly Hudson and Fron, Lydia Burrows and Sam, Katie Hawksworth and Billy and Caroline Bates and Smokey were just outside the places, but once again we took the top team award with Tina Price and Ebony, Jodie Powell and Diamond, Chris Esling and Jake and Jo Jeynes and Emily Jane. Tina was 1st, Jodie was 2nd and Chris was 3rd individually in their arenas.
The lovely Bury Farm, Buckinghamshire, was our destination for the DTM Championships. Steph Woolley on Freckleton Matador competed in the Senior Elementary section on Friday, while Julie Jeffes on Hedefeld Ash competed in the Senior Novice (with points) on Saturday.

It wasn’t to be Steph’s year - a delay in the proceedings meant that the competition was running late, but the stewards forgot to pass that message to the riders warming up outside. So Freckles was a bit bored with the wait and decided that a few extra movements needed to be added to his repertoire. Although beautiful and, oddly enough, in time with the music, the judges didn’t agree and there was no rossie for the pair at the end of the day.

It was Julie’s first trip to these championships and Ash coped with the loud music wonderfully - although an odd patch of sunlight on the floor was harder to handle. After quite a few rock anthem themed routines, it was lovely to watch Julie’s more ethereal display. A well deserved 6th place and a place in the mounted prize-giving were just rewards.

To see videos of both tests, and the prize-giving ceremony, head on over to our YouTube channel - there are links on the website.

A huge congratulations to our team who competed at the RC Eventer Challenge 100 at the Blenheim International Horse Trials on 13th September. It was a big and twisty course, but they all did fantastically. Holly Chivers and Dripphill Dreammaker produced a stylish clear round, while Sue Peckham and Mr Gangster also went clear, but picked up 2.4 time penalties. Our other riders, Megan Harper on Strawberry Hill and Alex Harris on LF Coeur de Orame, picked up faults, but the team ended on a not to be sniffed at 18.4 faults. This meant they ended up in 13th place - not bad out of 26 teams.
WHAT’S COMING UP NEXT?

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

October 2018

7th - Area Eventer Challenge, Sapey XC, Wolferlow, nr Bromyard
9th - Mercian Quiz, The Talbot, Knightwick.
14th - Interdressage Filming Day, Hillview Area, Malvern
21st - MHRC Winter Dressage series, Marlbrook Farm Equestrian, Welland
28th - Area Novice Winter Dressage Qualifier, Hartpury College, Glos.

November 2018

4th - Area Arena Eventing Qualifier, Cherwell Equestrian, Oxford.
11th - Interdressage Filming Day, Hillview Area, Malvern
18th - MHRC Winter Dressage series, Marlbrook Farm Equestrian, Welland
23rd - Seniors Only Social Evening
Tbc - Mercian Presentation Evening

December 2018

2nd - Interdressage Filming Day, Hillview Area, Malvern
9th - MHRC Winter Dressage series, Marlbrook Farm Equestrian, Welland
12th - Table Top Sale, Welland Village Hall

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PEPPER POT 2018 LEAGUES

Here are the top 5 riders in each of the 2018 leagues as of 30th September 2018

SENIOR OVERALL
1st Jodie Powell and Callimore Diamond  630
2nd Jodie Powell and Bleanagloos Black Diamond  490
3rd Suzanne Lidbetter and Rosie  460
4th Chris Esling and Just Jake  445
5th Jo Jeynes and Emily Jane  440

JUNIOR OVERALL
1st Esme Ruff and Blue Suede Shoes  245
2nd Amber Knott and Average at Best  225
Oliver Hooper and Pinto  225
4th Lottie Gilderson and Western Miracle  190
5th William Hooper and Peter Pan  120

SENIOR DRESSAGE
1st Jodie Powell and Bleanagloos Black Diamond  395
2nd Steph Woolley and Freckleton Matador  390
3rd Suzanne Lidbetter and Rosie  370
4th Jodie Powell and Callimore Diamond  305
5th Rachel Sargeant and Dexina Double Dip  275

JUNIOR DRESSAGE
1st Amber Knott and Average at Best  120
2nd Ethan Knott and Pennal Zedan  105
Mia Smith and Bruno  60
4th Amber Knott and Mr Gangster  45
5th Amber Knott and Pennal Zedan  40

SENIOR JUMPING
1st Jodie Powell and Callimore Diamond  195
2nd Chris Esling and Just Jake  180
3rd Jo Jeynes and Emily Jane  150
4th Cindie Bunce and Dreambreaker  110
5th Jessica Breakwell and George  100
Lydia Burrows and Hayestown Sam  100

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1st Oliver Hooper and Pinto  195
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4th Amber Knott and Average at Best  100
5th William Hooper and Peter Pan  80

SENIOR COMBINED EVENTS
1st Chris Esling and Just Jake  130
Jodie Powell and Callimore Diamond  130
3rd Jo Jeynes and Emily Jane  115
4th Allison Haynes and Jack  110
5th Megan Hay and Mockbeggar Pacquel  75
Tina Price and Ebony  75

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

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