Here we are at the end of February and I think there may well be a hint of Spring in the air. I’m sure a few moulted hairs appeared on my dandy brush the other day and I might have spotted a blade of grass poking up through the mud. It seems to have been a long, hard winter and it will be so, so nice to see the back of all the rain.

Over the page you’ll see a HUGE list of upcoming events. A lot of schedules are already up on the website, but keep checking back. We’ll add them as we get them. And the schedule for our big Summer show is almost finalised - with new classes for 2013, there should be something for everyone.

Until next time  

Caroline

Pepper Pot Points League

For 2013, we have decided to introduce a new Challenge Cup. The ‘Pepper Pot Points’ Cup will be awarded to the member who earns the most points throughout the year.

The League is named after my lovely old horse, Pepper, who I sadly lost last year. He was a great all-rounder and we loved competing on the teams - I thought this would be a great way to commemorate him.

There are two ways to earn points - by representing the club in a Mercian or Area team, or as an individual at a BRC event, and by taking part in events organised by the MHRC. Points can be earned from October 1st to September 30th each year, with the trophy being awarded at the Annual AGM held in October.

Points will be awarded as follows:

- Entering a Class/being on a team = 5 point
- Individual or Team 6th = 10 points
- Individual or Team 5th = 15 points
- Individual or Team 4th = 20 points
- Individual or Team 3rd = 25 points
- Individual or Team 2nd = 30 points
- Individual or Team 1st = 35 points

Extra points may be awarded at the committee’s discretion. Up to date ranking tables will be published on the website and the newsletter, but members can get their current points table by e-mailing mhrcnewsletter@hotmail.com

Back dating the points to the 1st October, the current league table is:

1st Camilla Esling 105
2nd Steph Woolley 95
3rd Tina Price 80
4th Natalie Smith 75
5th Elizabeth Davies 70
6th Lauran Jones 70
7th Caroline Bates 35
8th Chris Esling 35
9th Lin Harber 35
10th Lyn Tilt 35
11th Shellee Illingsworth 5
12th Katherine Jones 5
13th Freya Malins 5
14th Sue Peckham 5
15th Janet Schooling 5
16th Nicola Shepherd 5
17th Sarah Smith 5
18th Wendy Yates 5

So good luck everyone - we hope you all enjoy the competition.
2013 EVENTS CALENDAR

10th March Mercian Arena Eventing, Kings EC, Bromyard
23rd March Area Combined Training, Dodderhill Court, Droitwich Spa
30th - 31st March BRC Winter Champs, Hartpury
31st March Area 14 Side-Saddle Taster Day, Droitwich
14th April Mercian Hunter Trail, Bissell Wood EC, Bromsgrove
14th April Area FOTH Eventer’s Challenge, Lybrook Farm Broadway
28th April Area 18 Training Day, Twyning Riding School
19th May Mercian Show & Style Jumping, Cleeve Prior
25th May Area Show & Style Jumping (Juniors), Cleeve Prior
26th May Area Show & Style Jumping (Seniors), Three Counties, Malvern
27th May Mercian Showing, Three Counties, Malvern
27th May MHRRC Open Show, Three Counties, Malvern
1st - 2nd June BRC Festival of the Horse, Aston-Le-Wells
8th June Area Dressage to Music, Bromyard
23rd June Mercian Combined Training, Pound Green, Bewdley
7th July Area Horse Trials and One-Day-Event, Sapey XC, Upper Sapey
13th - 14th July BHS Glos Level 1 & 2 TREC, venue TBC
21st July Mercian Dressage, Gumburn Farm, Sinton Green
21st July Area Novice & Open Dressage, Ascott-under-Wychwood
2nd - 4th August BRC National Horse Trials Champs, Swalcliffe
18th August Mercian One-Day-Event, Hilltop, Ledbury
7th - 8th September BRC National Champs, Lincoln
14th - 15th September TREC GB Champs, venue TBC
29th September BRC BE80 Champs, Brooksby Melton College
5th - 6th October BRC Dressage to Music and Quadrille Selection, Bury Farm Equestrian Village
7th October Mercian Quiz, The Talbot, Knightwick
21st December Quadrille Final, Olympia

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

Royal Windsor Qualifiers

On 23rd February, the Frampton Family Riding Club held the BRC Royal Windsor qualifiers as part of their open show at Hartpury College.

The Dressage qualifier was Prelim 12, with the top senior and junior riders going forward to Windsor. This was Beckie Northover for Frampton, Jo Tarling for Shropshire South and, the best Junior, Honor Barker for Evenlode. Steph Woolley on Inca represented our club and came a very credible 12th in the qualifier, with a 2nd place with a brilliant score of 77.5% in their warm-up test.

In the jumping rings, it was the TopScore classes that were qualifiers, with the best riders going to Windsor as a group Area 18 team. TopScore is an exciting class with no set course. Instead the jumps are given points and each rider has a set time to get as many points as possible. In the Novice class, which was over 60 to 80cm fences, the Senior qualifiers were Caitlin Ogle (Croptonhe), Jo Tarling (Shropshire South) and Nicky White (Frampton), while the Juniors were Molly Tice and Holly Osborne, who had two rides, both from Evenlode.

The Open TopScore, over 75cm to 1m fences, also produced 5 qualifiers. In the Junior section it was Josie Kent (Frampton) and Honor Baker (Evenlode), while for the Seniors it was Judy Tice (Evenlode), Roger Pratt (Frampton) and our very own Natalie Smith and Rainstown Lad, who came 3rd overall in the class. Natalie finished a wonderful day by also coming 3rd in the open 3’0 jumping.

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

There has been an update in the rules and eligibility for competing in Mercian events. To check whether you and your horse still qualify, please see the Events page on the website, or contact Caroline or Karen and we can post you a copy.

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

Lin Harber lynharber41@btinternet.com 01684 592 795 Chairman
Karen Withers karenwithers@me.com 07894 800221 Mercian Teams
Cindie Bunce cindiebunce@sky.com 07810 178 520 Area Teams
Lin Harber lynharber41@btinternet.com 01684 592 795 Clinics
Caroline Bates mhrcnewsletter@hotmail.co.uk 07900 376 272 Newsletter Editor
What a strange little month March has been - I don't think I've ever been grooming a moulting horse in the middle of a snow storm before! But as the month closes, at least we're finally getting some sunshine, even if the wind is a bit on the sharp side.

And having Easter so early this year seemed very odd - although the chocolate was very welcome. Especially as Good Friday got off to a great start - Baby Yobbo horse had his first proper tantrum, burying me in the school just because I insisted he had to go OVER the jump, not AROUND it. I can recommend Nurofen and Cadbury's Dairy Milk - a fantastic combination!

Until next time

Caroline

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<tr>
<th>Place</th>
<th>NAME</th>
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<td>Sue Peckham</td>
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2013 EVENTS CALENDAR

14th April  Mercian Hunter Trail, Bissell Wood EC, Bromsgrove

14th April  Area FOTH Eventer’s Challenge, Lybrook Farm, Broadway

27th April  Area Combined Training, Dodderhill Court, Droitwich Spa

28th April  Area 18 Training Day, Twyning Riding School

19th May  Mercian Show & Style Jumping, Cleeve Prior

25th May  Area Show & Style Jumping (Juniors), Cleeve Prior

26th May  Area Show & Style Jumping (Seniors), Three Counties, Malvern

27th May  Mercian Showing, Three Counties, Malvern

27th May  MHRC Open Show, Three Counties, Malvern

1st - 2nd June  BRC Festival of the Horse, Aston-Le-Wells

8th June  Area Dressage to Music, Bromyard

23rd June  Mercian Combined Training, Pound Green, Bewdley

7th July  Area Horse Trials and One-Day-Event, Sapey XC, Upper Sapey

13th - 14th July  BHS Glos Level 1 & 2 TREC, venue TBC

21st July  Mercian Dressage, Gumbarn Farm, Sinton Green

21st July  Area Novice & Open Dressage, Ascott-under-Wychwood

2nd - 4th August  BRC National Horse Trials Champs, Swalcliffe

18th August  Mercian One-Day-Event, Hilltop, Ledbury

7th - 8th September  BRC National Champs, Lincoln

14th - 15th September  TREC GB Champs, venue TBC

28th September  BRC BE80 Champs, Brooksby Melton College

5th - 6th October  BRC Dressage to Music and Quadrille Selection, Bury Farm Equestrian Village

7th October  Mercian Quiz, The Talbot, Knightwick

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

CURRENT MERCIAN LEAGUE RANKINGS

1st  Malvern Hills RC  25
2nd  Cheltenham RC  13
3rd  Bromsgrove RC  13
4th  Bromyard  13
5th  Worcester  13
6th  Shropshire South  8
7th  Wyvern RC  8
8th  Bewdley RC  1
9th  Cropthorne RC  1
10th Vale of Arrow RC  1
11th  Frampton RC  0

CURRENT MERCIAN LEAGUE RANKINGS

The Shropshire South Riding Club hosted the first Mercian event of the year at Kings Equestrian, Bromyard, on a very cold March day. The course consisted of a mixture of showjumps and simulated cross-country obstacles, that caused a few problems throughout the day.

We raised two teams, one for each Mercian class. The 65cm team (pictured above) of Victoria Gregg on Toby Court, Di Symonds on Doris, Philippa Robinson on Charlie and Wendy Yates on Bob couldn’t be beaten on the day and came home in a brilliant 1st place, with Victoria getting the individual 2nd.

Philippa, a new member for this year, said of the day “it was my first event for the Malvern RC and the first time I had met any of you. You were all so friendly and made me and my horse (Charlie) feel so welcome - now we can’t wait for the next event! Thank you to you all and was so pleased of the result!”

Wendy said “Super venue, although a bit cold, very spacious and the 14 jumps in the course still left loads of space in the arena, not big jumps but had to be carefully ridden. Really nice to be in a team, everybody is so friendly and lots of supporters too. For anybody who would like to have a go at the 2’3” Mercian events, and is a bit apprehensive, I can highly recommend them, especially after a few confidence booster sessions with instructor Victoria Gregg, and such a supportive friendly Club. Awesome.”

The 75cm team of Staph Wooley on Inca (who also came individual 4th), Lesley Evans on Lady Bear, Karen Withers on Ishandraz and Liz Annis Davis on Golden Partner performed brilliantly and ended up in 2nd place on the day. A great start to the Mercian League for us.

Or so we thought...but the story doesn’t end there. A few days later, team manager, Karen, was contacted by the Chairwoman of the Mercian group to say that a few concerns had been raised about the eligibility of some of the rider/horse combinations. Luckily, we weren’t effected, except that when the faults were recalculated, it meant that our 75cm team moved up into 1st place! As you can see from the league table, that puts us into a very nice lead after the first event.

However, while brilliant for us, it does raise the issue of eligibility again. If you want to compete in Mercian events, but your horse has competed BE, BD or BS, whether you have points or not, please check out the eligibility tables on the Events page of our website, or contact Karen to discuss.

CLUB CONTACTS

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

Lin Harber (Chairman)  lynharber41@btinternet.com  01684 592 795
Karen Withers (Mercian)  karenwithers@me.com  07894 800221
Cindie Bunce (Area)  cindiebunce@sky.com  07810 178 520
Caroline Bates (Newsletter)  mhrcnewsletter@hotmail.co.uk  07900 376 272
Yippee - finally, Spring has sprung and there is sunshine galore. Suddenly, nothing seems quite so much hard work up the yard and spending all day in a short sleeve T-shirt makes it all worthwhile. Of course, being British horse riders, it hasn’t taken long for someone at our stables to moan that the ground is too hard and we need some rain soon - we’re never quite satisfied by what the weather throws at us.

Nearly time for our BIG weekend. If you haven’t got involved yet, then please give us a shout. There’s setting up on Saturday, the Area SJ on Sunday and the Open show on Monday, so plenty of opportunities to come along and say hello; even if you can only give us a couple of hours of your time. We are still putting together teams for both the Area SJ and the Mercian Showing. If you want to SJ, please contact Cindie ASAP and if you have a Mountain & Moorland or a Veteran that you would like to show on the Monday, please contact Karen. Contact numbers are on the next page or you can message through our Facebook page. And before that is the Mercian and Junior Area SJ on 19th April at Cleeve Prior - so why not have a go?

Until next time

Caroline

**MERCIAN HUNTER TRIAL**

It was off to Bissell Wood Equestrian Centre for the Mercian Hunter Trials on 14th April. Despite a cold start to the day and some heavy showers, by the time our team got to compete, the weather had cleared. Chris Esling on Arty were our pathfinders, followed by Victoria Gregg on Toby Court, Philippa Robinson on Charlie and Lauran Jones on Woodboro Kat. The course at Bissell Wood is lovely, the majority on sand tracks that weave through the woodland, with a great selection of interesting jumps. With only one refusal across all four rounds, we were in a brilliant position for places - unfortunately, with the competition running so late, it was a tense few days waiting for the results to be posted, but well worth it. The team came 2nd, with Victoria gaining a 4th individual place. Another great results for the Mercian league.

**Photos**

Top: from left - Victoria and Toby, Lauran and Woody, Philippa and Charlie, Chris and Arty.

Bottom: Lauran and Woody catching up with Philippa and Charlie for a photo finish!

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CURRENT MERCIAN LEAGUE RANKINGS

1st Malvern Hills RC 35
2nd Bromsgrove RC 27
3rd Worcester 26
4th Bewdley RC 23
5th Bromyard 21
6th Wyvern RC 14
7th Cheltenham RC 13
8th Shropshire South 8
9th Cropthorne RC 1
10th Frampton RC 0

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

2013 EVENTS CALENDAR
19th May Mercian Show & Style Jumping, Cleeve Prior
19th May Area Show & Style Jumping (Juniors), Cleeve Prior
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7th July Area Horse Trials and One-Day-Event, Sapey XC, Upper Sapey
13th - 14th July BHS Glos Level 1 & 2 TREC, venue TBC
21st July Area Novice & Open Dressage, Ascott-under-Wychwood
2nd - 4th August BRC National Horse Trials Champs, Swalcliffe
18th August Mercian One-Day-Event, Hilltop, Ledbury
7th - 8th September BRC National Champs, Lincoln
14th - 15th September TREC GB Champs, venue TBC
29th September BRC BE80 Champs, Brookby Melton College
5th - 6th October BRC Dressage to Music and Quadrille Selection, Bury Farm Equestrian Village
7th October Mercian Quiz, The Talbot, Knightwick
21st December Quadrille Final, Olympia

A last minute change of venue meant our teams went off to Swalcliffe for the Area Eventer’s Challenge on 14th April. With a Novice and Open team, plus entries in the Pairs and the Junior classes, we had lots of opportunities for MHRC to do well.

The stars of the day were Anna Robson and Seamus, who entered the Open Junior Class as individuals. Then went on to win the class AND qualify for the final at the Festival of the Horse later in the year. A big congratulations to you both.

It was 2nd places all round for all our other teams, with an individual 3rd place for Megan Harper in the Novice competition. Sadly, there weren’t enough entries for the 2nd places to qualify as well, but still an excellent result all round.

The runners and riders were: NOVICE - Cindie Bunce and Golden King, Tina Price and Buzz-B, Sammy Jones and Diamond Merchant, Megan Harper and First Song. PAIRS - Sue Peckham and Mr Gangster, Linda Kemp and Skye Blue. OPEN - Natalie Smith and Rainstown Lad, Sue Peckham and Rasper, Liz Davies and Pumba, Wendy Robinson and Sonas Oliver.

“Fantastic day, it was great to meet a few new faces. There were a few problems going on at the yellow double but not for a lot of our members, just had to sit and kick on, but sadly myself and Tina did that through out the xc and racked up a fair few time penalties for going to fast!! Opps!!”

- Cindie

“A great result for Malvern. I had one down in the SJ and a cheeky stop XC, but for Jack’s first xc at that height he flew. Great fun and massive thanks to Bea Mealing for taking me”

- Natalie

A huge thank you to all the supporters, fence judges and photographers for the day - Julie Reynolds and her partner, Tamie Carr, Chris Jones, Shellee Marie Illingworth, Sarah Finan and Bea Mealing.

Photos: Top: Linda Kemp and Skye Blue. Bottom: Cindie Bunce and Golden King.

CLUB CONTACTS
For the latest club news see www.mhrc.co.uk or check out our Facebook page
Lin Harber (Chairman) lynharber41@btinternet.com 01684 592 795
Karen Withers (Mercian) karenwithers@me.com 07894 800221
Cindie Bunce (Area) cindiebunce@sky.com 07810 178 520
Caroline Bates (Newsletter) mhrcnewsletter@hotmail.co.uk 07900 376 272
Huge apologies for the lateness of the newsletter - it should have been out a couple of weeks ago, but I somehow managed to catch this cough going round and it knocked me for six. Just what I wanted now that summer finally seems to have arrived.

A bumper issue this month, with the reports from the BIG WEEKEND. After having it dominate our thoughts for so long, it does seems strange for it to be all over. Still, I’m sure that next year will come round fast. I don’t have the full list of results as yet, but once its been typed up, it will go on the website so everyone can see your name in shining lights - or at least in shining text!

Another busy month ahead, with more Area and Mercian competitions, plus the flatwork and jumping clinics are getting busy - see the back page for details or contact Lyn if you want a place on one of them. We will be running more this year, so no panic if you can’t get on this batch.

Right must be off - far too nice a day to be sat a computer for any longer!

Until next time

Caroline

SHOWJUMPING @ CLEEVE PRIOR

On 19th May, the Cropthorne Riding Club hosted the Mercian and Junior Area jumping at Cleeve Prior. We were represented by five teams and an individual, which is brilliant for such a small cub.

In the 2’3 Show jumping, both our teams were placed, with the Malvern Ladies of Emma Morris Cooper on Alfie, Jenny Barnes on Linhay Lale, Di Symonds on Doris and Jo Pursey on Be Sure, ending up in 2nd place. 4th place went to the Malvern Madams of Jenny Barnes on Flying Minstral, Wendy Yates on Bella, Philly Robinson on Charlie and Karen Withers on Megan. We also got some individual places, with Philly coming 3rd and Di 4th.

The 2’6 Jumping went just as well. The Malvern Maids of Wendy Robinson on Charlie, Steph Woolley in Inca, Jo Pursey on Be Sure and Jenny Barnes on Linhay Lale took 4th place, with the Malvern Girls of Linda Kemp on Skype, Jenny Barnes on Flying Minstral, Chris Esling on Arty and Philly Robinson on Oliver were 5th. Jenny and Minstral took in the individual 3rd, with Linda individual 5th.

Our final team, the Malvern Mares of Linda Kemp on Skype, Steph Woolley on Inca, Chris Esling and Arty and Philly Robinson on Oliver, entered in the 2’6 style jumping and came 3rd, with Steph getting the individual 6th.

Chris Esling said this about the day - "Fortunately it was a lovely day for the Mercian style jumping hosted by the Cropthorne riding club as we had a good two hours to wait to jump as they were running so late, so sunbathing was the order of the day! The course was pretty straightforward with a spooky skinny to finish , which I thought my little horse Arty would not like, but to my amazement he jumped well so our team came 3rd, the other members putting in great rounds. Such a pity everything was so late but apparently they were short of help on the day, which goes to show how lucky we are in our club with so many willing helpers turning out whenever they are needed. Go the Malvern Hills club!!!"

We also had an individual Junior member competing in the Area Showjumping, Anna Robinson, who came third in her class.
I’m sure I wasn’t the only one who was looking at the weather forecast in trepidation as the show weekend loomed ever closer - thoughts of 2011 firmly in mind! - but we ended up with amazing weather for our two day extravaganza.

As always, the weekend started with the setting up of the showground on Saturday morning. A few hours of hard work and just a little stress, we soon had a boring field turned into a fabulous field of fun, although next year I volunteer NOT to put feet on showjumps!

The Sunday arrived and with it 33 teams to compete in the Area Show and Style Jumping. Cindie had done a great job organising the event (as she always does!) and soon all three rings were busy.

The Novice competition is always the biggest and this year was no exception, with 15 teams and 4 individuals competing for qualification. Our two teams did very well in the big field. Malvern Red of Tina Price and Buzz-B, Jenny Barnes and Flying Minstrel, Lisa Drinkwater and Out on the Edge and David Drinkwater and Melangle, came 2nd, while Malvern Blue of Camilla Eslng and Just Jake, Jenny Barnes and Linhay Lale, Julie Reynolds and Madison Du Berlais and Wendy Robinson on Sona’s Oliver, came 6th. We had two members placed in the individual completion too, with Jenny taking the 4th place and David the 6th.

The Intermediate Class had 9 competing teams and the Malverns were placed yet again, taking 5th place. The team were Natalie Smith and Rainstown Lad, Sophie Hooper and Heart Print, Sue Peckham and Mr Gangster and Linda Kemp and Skye Blue.

The next class to finish was the Style Jumping, which managed 7 teams this year, one of which was for Malvern. Steph Woolley and Freckleton Matador, Sue Peckham and Mr Gangster, Tina Price and Buzz-B and Wendy Robinson on Sona’s Oliver, won the 4th place with some very good scores from the judge.

Last but not least, the Open jumping team of Steph Woolley and King’s Cruise, Cindie Bunce and Dream Breaker, Liz Davies and Pumba and Megan Hooper and First Song, came 2nd, with Cindie taking the individual 6th place.

There was a lot of positive comments from all the riding clubs that took part and, although none of our teams qualified, everyone was proud that the MHRC held their own on all four competitions. Well done you all.
But there was no rest at the end of the day as the venue was tweaked ready for the Open show on the Sunday. The day dawned a bit cooler, with a breeze coming off the hills, but I think everyone was happy to see the horse boxes soon rolling in. With 28 classes to choose from, there was definitely something for everyone in the schedule.

The first classes to get going were the four Mercian showing classes, with 8 teams from the local riding clubs contending for the overall team award. We rustled up two teams, who once again pulled out all the stops for the club. There were four classes, with one person from each team competing in a class each. In the Mountain & Moorland were Tilly Martin and Lyn Harber, in the Working Hunter were Natalie Smith, who came 4th, and Sophie Hooper who took the 1st place. In the Riding Club Horse were Kat Jones and Lauran Jones, who also took the red rosette, while our two Veteran Horse competitors were Shellee Illingworth, who came 6th, and Camilla Esling, who once again came 1st. A great set of results, which left the Malvern Madams in 4th place and the Malvern Ladies in 3rd.

The rest of the open show went brilliantly well and I was so pleased to see so many members clutching bunches of rosettes. For me personally, I was thrilled with my youngster who behaved pretty well all day, produced a fantastic dressage test and went clear in his jumping debut - I couldn’t have been prouder. A big thank you to Cindie Bunce and Tina Price for being so supportive in the Novice jumping ring.

Shellee Illingworth would like to say, “thank you to everyone who was so supportive at my first show since ‘the fall’. So many kind words of encouragement from lots of you, which really did mean a lot! I had a great day and came away with 3 rosettes! Perhaps Midas may have played a small part in that though! :-)

Love being part of such a great club!”

Sue Peckham added, “well done and thanks to everybody for a fabulous couple of days competing at Malvern, all the willing volunteers and assistants, some of whom I only get to meet annually at the show!!”

Lyn also had a few words, “Many many thanks to the wonderful team of helpers and judges at the Open Show, without your support we could not possibly put on the show. Also a thank you to all the competitors for taking part. Special thank you to Elisha for her supporting role in a busy Secretaries tent. Love the appreciative comments on Facebook in respect of the Area and Open Day Show, makes it all worthwhile for everyone. Thank you all.”

And so, it is all over for another year. Another huge big thank you and a pat on the back for everyone who organised, helped, competed and supported, no matter how big or small your role is. Here’s counting down to next year!

Thank you to Kat Jones, Shellee Illingworth and my Mum for providing the photos for this report.
**2013 EVENTS CALENDAR**

1st - 2nd June  
BRC Festival of the Horse, Aston-Le-Walls

6th June  
Area Dressage to Music, Bromyard

8th June  
Area Horse Trials and One-Day-Event, Sapey XC, Upper Sapey

11th July  
Flatwork Clinic, Hillview

13th June  
Mercian Combined Training, Pound Green, Bewdley

7th July  
Area Horse Trials and One-Day-Event, Sapey XC, Upper Sapey

6th June  
Jumping Clinic, Hillview

8th June  
Area Dressage to Music, Bromyard

13th June  
Jumping Clinic, Hillview

23rd June  
Mercian Combined Training, Pound Green, Bewdley

4th July  
Flatwork Clinic, Hillview

23rd June  
Mercian Combined Training, Pound Green, Bewdley

4th July  
Flatwork Clinic, Hillview

13th July  
Flatwork Clinic, Hillview

13th - 14th July  
BHS Glos Level 1 & 2 TREC, venue TBC

18th July  
Mercian Combined Training, Pound Green, Bewdley

21st July  
Mercian Combined Training, Pound Green, Bewdley

18th August  
Mercian One-Day-Event, Hilltop, Ledbury

7th - 8th September  
BRC National Champs, Lincoln

14th - 15th September  
TREC GB Champs, venue TBC

29th September  
BHS Glos Level 1 & 2 TREC, venue TBC

5th - 6th October  
BRC Dressage to Music and Quadrille Selection, Bury Farm Equestrian Village

21st December  
Quadrille Final, Olympia

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**PEPPER POT POINTS LEAGUE**

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Please note that the Points League has been updated to show the points earned at the Area SJ and the Mercian Showing over the Big Weekend. But it does not yet show the points earned from the open classes at the MHRC Show.

To make sure you are allocated the correct points, please let me know all the classes that you entered and what place you got. Remember, you get 5 points for every entry, plus those for places.

You can e-mail me on mhrcnews-letter@hotmail.co.uk

Or contact me with a private message through Facebook. Alternatively, you can text or leave a message on 07900 376 272.

Please let me know ASAP, so I can update the league for the next newsletter.

Thanks, Caroline

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**CURRENT MERCIAN LEAGUE RANKINGS**

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**FLATWORK CLINICS WITH NICK LAWSON**

At Hillview Arena  
Malvern  
Dates as above.

First Session: 7 - 8 pm  
Second Session: 8 - 9 pm  
Maximum of 4 people in each session.

Members: £17 per session  
Non-Members: £19 per session

Contact Lyn to book your place.

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You just can’t help being happy now that the long, sunny days have finally arrived. But there’s always one aspect of Summer that I always manage to conveniently forget - the flies! Riding out is now done through a fog of citronella and a schooling whip is a necessity just to flick the blighters away. And my yobbo of a horse (of course) has to make it oh so more interesting, by managing to get his martingale and/or reins wrapped round through his mouth every time he goes for one of them. Oh, what fun! Still, long may it contain.

A photo-tastic edition of the newsletter, with lots of photos from recent events. The jumping clinics went really well - the next ones are flatwork with Nick Lawson. And remember, you don’t have to be riding to come along. Everyone is welcome to watch and it’s a great way to pick up some tips.

As I finish writing, our Area Horse Trial teams are preparing for a trip to Sapey, so a huge good luck to everyone taking part.

Until next time  
Caroline

**PEPPER POT POINTS LEAGUE**

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**MERCIAN COMBINED TRAINING**

The latest Mercian Competition saw two teams heading off to Bewdley on 23rd June for the Combined Training.

In the 2’3 class, we had the Malvern Ladies, who came overall 5th. They were Di Symonds, Philippa Robinson and Chris Esling, who also came overall individual 5th.

In the 2’6 class were the Malvern Madams, who came 2nd. Liz Davies, Steph Woolley and Camilla Esling made up this team, with Camilla getting the individual 4th and Steph the individual 1st.

Another good day out for the club.

Photos (thanks to Sarah Medcalf and Rita Woolley):

PICTURE GALLERY - GYMNASTIC JUMPING CLINICS

The Jumping clinics held at Hillview Arena throughout May and June, were very popular. As usual, Plum came up with some testing, but fun, exercises to test the horse and rider, while teaching accuracy and control. There were lots of good reports from everyone who took part, so I’m sure we’ll be repeating these later in the year for anyone who missed out.

Here’s a few photos, courtesy of Sarah Medcalf, of some of the highlights.

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

CLUB CONTACTS

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

Lin Harber (Chairman) lynharber41@btinternet.com 01684 592 795
Karen Withers (Mercian) karenwithers@me.com 07894 800221
Cindie Bunce (Area) cindiebunce@sky.com 07810 178 520
Caroline Bates (Newsletter) mhrcnewsletter@hotmail.co.uk 07900 375 272

2013 EVENTS CALENDAR

4th July Flatwork Clinic, Hillview
7th July Angli Horse Trials and One-Day-Event, Sapey XC, Upper Sapey
11th July Flatwork Clinic, Hillview
13th - 14th July BR S Glos Level 1 & 2 TREC, venue TBC
18th July Flatwork Clinic, Hillview
21st July Mercian Dressage, Gumbarn Farm, Sinton Green
21st July Area Novice & Open Dressage, Ascott-under-Wychwood
25th July Flatwork Clinic, Hillview
2nd - 4th August BRC National Horse Trials Champs, Swalcilffe
18th August Mercian One-Day-Event, Hilltop, Ledbury
7th - 8th September BRC National Champs, Lincoln
14th - 15th September TREC GB Champs, venue TBC
29th September BRC BE80 Champs, Brooksby Melton College
5th - 6th October BRC Dressage to Music and Quadrille Selection, Bury Farm Equestrian Village
7th October Mercian Quiz, The Talbot, Knightwick
21st December Quadrille Final, Olympia

CURRENT MERCIAN LEAGUE RANKINGS

1st Worcester 90
2nd Malvern Hills 83
3rd Cropthorne 46
4th Bromyard 38
5th Bromsgrove 28
6th Frampton 23
Bewdley 23
8th Wyvern 18
9th Cheltenham 17
10th South Shropshire 9
11th Vale of Arrow 1
Firstly, I make no apologies for using one of my pictures for the Dressage report below 😊. It’s a milestone in a young pony’s life when he represents the Riding Club for the first time. And he behaved himself impeccably - until he entered the Dressage Arena. Don’t you just love ‘em? At least his squeally-reary-bit (a technical term I use to describe most of his tantrums) happened dead on X on the first centre line, which should have got us extra points for accuracy if nothing else.

Secondly, I will apologise for how late this and the need to amalgamate two months worth of news into one. The end of July was a bit stressful, with Smokes being rushed to hospital with acute colic symptoms, which turned out to be a severe case of Peritonitis. Touch wood, all is good now, but a perfect example of how this sport called horse can have you flying on a high one second and then throwing you down to the depths to the next. Which makes you ask why you put up with it all - but deep down we all know the answer to that and we wouldn’t have it any other way!

Until next time

Caroline

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**Mercian Dressage, Sinton Green, Worcs**

**21st July 2013**

The weather leading up to the Mercian Dressage promised a very hot, sultry day, but as it happened it was perfect, with a bit of breeze and some clouds to break up the heat. We had four teams competing:

**Team A**
- Lin Harber (W&T)
- Emma Cooper (P7)
- Helen Robson (P12)

**Team B**
- Shellee Illingworth (W&T)
- Linda Kemp (P12)
- Alex Harris (Nov28)

**Team C**
- Karen Withers (W&T)
- Suzanne Partridge (P7)
- Kat Jones (P12)
- Cindie Bunce (Nov28)

**Team D**
- Caroline Bates (W&T)
- Jooli Thornton (P7)
- Helen Robson (P12)
- Freya Malins (Nov28)

For the team competition, the Walk and Trot, Novice and the highest Prelim score were counted. Sadly we got no team awards this time out. However, we did have some individual places, with Emma Cooper third in the Prelim 7, Kat Jones second in the Prelim 12 and new member Alex Harris winning the Novice 28.

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**Hickstead**

Once again, we sent a Show-jumping team to compete in the riding club competition at Hickstead. Shellee Illingworth, Natalie Smith and Cindie Bunce did amazingly well to come 7th out of 96 teams.

**CURRENT MERCIAN LEAGUE RANKINGS**

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**2013 EVENTS CALENDAR**

- **7th - 8th September** BRC National Champs, Lincoln
- **14th - 15th September** TREC GB Champs, venue TBC
- **29th September** BRC BE80 Champs, Brocksby Melton College
- **5th - 6th October** BRC Dressage to Music and Quadrille Selection, Bury Farm Equestrian Village
- **7th October** Mercian Quiz, The Talbot, Knightwick
- **21st December** Quadrille Final, Olympia

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

**Area Horse Trials - Qualifier and Final**

The Area Horse Trials qualifier was held on 7th July at Sapey.

We had two teams in the 90 cm senior class. The Malvern Golds were Sue Peckham on Rasper, Megan Harper on Tessera, Sammy Jones on Diamond Merchant and Natalie Smith on Raintown Lad - and the team came in a brilliant fifth place.

The Malvern Reds were Sue Peckham on Mr Gangster, Linda Kemp on Skye Blue, Tina Price on Buzz-B and David Drinkwater on Melangie. The team flew to victory with an impressive score of 87.4 (second place had 100.2). This also gave the team a ticket for the finals.

We also got together a team for the 100cm senior class - Lisa Drinkwater on Bonjour Bond, Lizzie Davis on Pumba, Wendy Robinson on Sona’s Oliver and Megan Harper on First Song. Although the team weren’t placed, Lizzie came individual second and also qualified for the final.

Steph Woolley and King’s Cruise competed for individuals in the 100 cm class and also got a qualification place for the finals.

A big thank you to Linda Medcalf, Anna Robson and Chris Esling who went along as our club volunteers, without which we wouldn’t have been able to send any competitors.

The SEIB BRC National Horse Trials Finals were held on the 2nd to the 4th of August, at Swalcliffe. With teams and individuals from all over the country, our little riding club showed itself well, with our team in the 90 cm coming overall 23rd and Lizzie in the 100 cm coming 32nd. Well done to everyone.

**Area Dressage, Ascott-under-Wychwood**

21st July 2013

With the Area and Mercian Dressage competitions sadly being held on the same day, we didn’t manage to send a team to the areas, but a huge well done to our individual riders. Charlotte Jeffes came forth, but Julie Jeffs won her class and has qualified for the National Championships at Lincoln next month. Brilliantly done and good luck 😊

**CLUB CONTACTS**

For the latest club news see [www.mhrc.co.uk](http://www.mhrc.co.uk) or check out our Facebook page

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Karen Withers (Mercian) karenwithers@me.com 07894 300221
Cindie Bunce (Area) cindiebunce@sky.com 07810 178 520
Caroline Bates (Newsletter) mhrcnewsletter@hotmail.co.uk 07900 376 272
We couldn’t believe it when the scores went up and we had won! I was personally slightly overwhelmed as it was my first ‘1st’ rosette since I was a teenager. It is so much fun being part of a hugely supportive club and I would urge anyone who thinks they would like to have a go to put their name down and do it before it’s too late!”

A special well done must go to Joanna, who had never ridden a dressage test before, and to Tilly, as this was her first go at eventing. Also for Shellee’s horse, Beau, who decided to have a sit down halfway round the showjumping phase!

With only two events left in the Mercian Calendar, it was great to see two full teams head off to Hilltop, Ledbury, for the One-Day-Event.

There were eight teams in the 2’3 class, from six different clubs, which made for an exciting competition. And our members were right on top form, with the ‘Malvern Maids’ getting the fifth place and the ‘Malvern Mares’ taking home the red rosette.

The individual competition was split into two sections and MHRC brought home some prizes. Chris was 4th and Helen 2nd in section 1, with Joanna 3rd and Freya winning section 2.

Freya said of the day “The Hilltop ODE was a complete success for MHRC and a really enjoyable day. Wilf is awesome when he manages to behave and we won our class - our first win - so I was thrilled. I love being out at a team event with MHRC as everyone is so lovely."

Chris had this to say “When I arrived at the dressage I saw some lovely horses and tests, so was anxious to do a better test than last year when I forgot my way...twice! But my little horse Arty produced as good a test as he could with me on board! We went clear in the show jumping and across the country but as a team we were pretty sure we wouldn’t be placed due to the high standard of dressage. The show jumping and cross country, in particular the ravine at 3, proved to cause problems for many but not so for our team and we couldn’t believe it when the scores went up and we had won! I was personally slightly overwhelmed as it was my first ‘1st’ rosette since I was a teenager. It is so much fun being part of a hugely supportive club and I would urge anyone who thinks they would like to have a go to put their name down and do it before it’s too late!”

A special well done must go to Joanna, who had never ridden a dressage test before, and to Tilly, as this was her first go at eventing. Also for Shellee’s horse, Beau, who decided to have a sit down halfway round the showjumping phase!

Welcome to the brand new look for the newsletter. I hope you like it. There are a few more tweaks that might be happening over the next few issues, but this layout will give us soooooo much more room to report on all the great fun we have as part of the club. And fun we do have! We might not be the largest riding club around, but I think you’ll have to agree that we have the largest laughs.

Until next time, Caroline
It was Dressage v Show-jumping for the MHRC at the British Riding Club Summer Championships.

Julie Jeffes on Bedazzled and Cindie Bunce on Dream-breaker went off to Lincoln on 7th and 8th September. Let’s compare…

What did you compete in and what were the results?
JJ - Novice 28 with a score of 63.75%, making us 118th out of 156.
CB - The Senior Open Jumping. We were clear in the first round and had 12 faults in the second round, making us 37th.

Where and how did you qualify?
JJ - I qualified by winning at the Area Dressage Championships at Crown Farm, Ascott under Wychwood on 21st July.
CB - I qualified at our area SJ in May, although just by chance as whoever originally qualified didn’t want to go. Shame, but good for me!

What time did you have to leave home and when were you competing?
JJ - I meant to leave home at 12 noon but it ended up being just after 1pm – bad news as it was Friday afternoon – we spent a lot of time in slow traffic on the motorway. We were on the next morning at 10am.
CB - Left at around 10.30 and got there for about 1.30-2ish.

What essential bit of kit couldn’t you have done without?
JJ - The wheelbarrow, as moving all stuff to the stables was much easier than lugging it by hand.
CB - Some steps as I can’t take a leg up - I’m like a sack of spuds!

What was the ring like and were there many people watching?
JJ - Well there were just so many arenas – we were in Arena 12 and I don’t think that was the highest number. Not many people able to watch as we were all cor-doned off from the warm up area.
CB - The ring is lovely, go down a slight bank into a huge grass arena, very posh with lots of people watching.

Did you have good weather?
JJ - Amazingly yes – the forecast had been dreadful but it didn’t rain as they had promised – in fact our ground was a bit too hard really.
CB - Weather was a bit chilly but dry - that was the main thing.

What was your warm up routine?
JJ - Well I knew he wasn’t going his best – I think working on grass (which we haven’t been doing apart from the qualifying test) and the ground being so hard didn’t help. He was in a bit of a mood as he had spent the night in a strange ‘rabbit cage’ (his words of course!).
CB - Been doing some training with Joe Macdonald lately, so used a few exercises he gave me to warm up with. It’s all about keeping the canter rhythm and getting him a bit deeper to a fence so he snaps up quicker in front.

How many people did you have on your support crew?
JJ - Charlie (put-upon husband and groom). He ended up with the only injury of the event as Ben, in a big spook, leapt over the rubber matting covering the electric cables and cut a great lump out of Charlie’s heel!
CB - Just had my one faithful friend come to support, Shelle Illingworth! Couldn’t do it without her and she stayed awake all the way to Lincoln and back - Woohoo!

Have you competed at the champs before?
JJ - No first time.
CB - Yes, I’ve been luckily enough to have been there a couple of times before.

What did you think of the venue?
JJ - It was good – very flat and very large. Shame there weren’t any obvious washing facilities. Don’t suppose the horses minded but we probably went home quite smelly.
CB - The venue is excellent.

What was the worst bit of the day?
JJ - Waiting for the scores – it took 4 ½ hours!! Oh and finding that the only arena that the photographer couldn’t cover was arena 12 - typical!!
CB - I totally messed up the last fence in the 2nd round when I should have just left Thomas to it!! Stupid rider!!! Lets hope we get another chance next year.

What was the best bit of the day?
JJ - Buying new show boots – for me! Had to do something to cheer me up when I knew we hadn’t done the best test.
CB - Going clear in the 1st round as it was a whopping 1.15.

Well done, Ladies!
The 27th September saw the MHRC taking over Welland Village Hall for our first Equestrian Table Top sale in a very long time. Eighteen hundred hours came and the stall holders descended, turning the empty hall into a paradise for horsey bargain hunters.

Everything you could possibly think of was for sale - from saddles and bridles, to jodhpurs and jackets - from books and boots to rugs and ropes. There was something for everyone.

The queue of public waiting to enter at seven o'clock was encouraging and once they’d entered the hall, the real haggling started. People were soon going in and out, taking their purchases back to the car before returning to make sure they hadn’t missed anything.

And to keep them going, the refreshment stall was right on hand. With a huge selection of homemade cakes, pop, biscuits, tea and coffee, the ladies manning the kitchen were kept busy all evening.

By half eight, everything started to wind down. The public grabbed a last few bits and bobs - the sellers started packing away. There was just enough time to tidy away the table and chairs, sweep the floor, turn out the lights and return the hall to a sleepy, non-horsey existence.

It was a great fundraiser for the club. There were over twenty tables and more than sixty people came through the doors, making over £200 for club funds.

Thank you to everyone who helped - Rob Meal-ing for setting up the room Linda Kemp for taking bookings, Janet Schooling, Iris Ellis, Linda Medcalf, Karen Withers and Lyn Harber for manning the refreshments and Lauran Jones for helping at the door, plus everyone who made cakes, had stalls, came to have a look round and helped out all evening.

FACTOID
Blenheim Palace was the birth place of Sir Winston Churchill.

BLENHEIM EVENTER CHALLENGE

The Dodson & Horrell RC Eventer Challenge at the Blenheim Horse Trials is always popular and MHRC were once again invited to send a team. The competition is styled around a Derby type format, with 8 - 10 show jumps, followed by 6 - 8 cross-country fences and a final joker show jump. With all the fences between 1m and 1.05m, it certainly isn’t for the faint hearted. But the MHRC team did a fantastic job, coming 11th out of 45 teams.

Well done to Sophie Hooper and Qeg Lux, Megan Harper and First Song, Victoria Gregg and Rock Supreme and Liz Davies and Pumba.

The overall winners were Wey Valley RC from Sussex, closely followed by the Essenden and Epping Forest Dressage Group team. The Style prize was awarded to Aimme Norton and Gold Knight, members of the Abinger Forest team from Surrey.

MEGAN AND FIRST SONG
### Events Calendar

**5th - 6th October 2013**  
BRC Dressage to Music and Quadrille Selection, Bury Farm Equestrian Village  
**7th October 2013**  
Mercian Quiz, The Talbot, Knightwick  
**19th October 2013**  
Area Novice SJ, Kings Equestrian, Bromyard  
**2nd November 2013**  
Area Dressage, Hartpury  
**14th November 2013**  
MHRC AGM, venue TBC  
**21st December 2013**  
Quadrille Final, Olympia  
**16th January 2014**  
Evening Horseless Clinic, tbc  
**20th February 2014**  
Evening Horseless Clinic, tbc  
**20th March 2014**  
Evening Horseless Clinic, tbc  
**29th - 30th March 2014**  
BRC Winter Championships, Hartpury  
**25th May 2014**  
Area Show and Style Jumping qualifier  
**26th May 2014**  
MHRC Open Show

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If you want any adverts, articles, news or photos in the next newsletter please send to Caroline (via post or e-mail) by 20th October.

Our very own Victoria Gregg has got involved in a charity calendar for the Air Ambulance - by taking her kit off! Looking good girl! Go to www.foxyhunters.co.uk to get your copy and support this very worthy cause.

A belated congratulations to Cindie Bunce who is off to HOYS next month with Thomas as they have qualified for the SEIB Search for A Star.

Katherine Jones has also had a great end to the show season, by qualifying for the CHN Most Stylish Rider Award Finals, with her ex-racehorse, Dotty.

Steph Woolley and King’s Cruise had an excellent day at Llanymynech Horse Trials and came 3rd. Exciting news as they are now qualified for Badminton next year.

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### Member’s News

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

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Cindie Bunce (Area Teams)  
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Caroline Bates  
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7 Newton Close, Deer Park, Ledbury, Herefordshire, HR8 2XG

Iris Ellis  
(Membership Secretary)  
01905 821 034  
Gorse Cottage, Stonehall Common, Kempsey, Worcestershire, WR5 3QG

Lin trying out her new horse.

All photo sources are kept secret - have you got a funny photo to share?
Quizzical Times at The Royal Oak

The last Mercian Event of the 2013 calendar was the Quiz, this year run by Bromyard RC and held at The Royal Oak, Broadwas. As usual, it took a bit of getting used to seeing the fellow competitors without their riding hats on and a possible suggestion for next year is that we all wear pictures of our horses so we can tell who is who!

But soon the laughter had to stop and the very, very, very serious business of the quiz began.

(For anyone who wants to join in, there are a couple of sample questions for each round - just for fun - answers on page 4)

Round 1 was all about Birds and there were ten cryptic clues to breeds and types.

Q1. A colourful flying toy?
Q2. The Cat’s Funeral?

There was more than one groan as the answers were read out, but a good round to start with.

The next round was General Knowledge and it was very general, but good fun.

Q3. What animal is depicted in Landseer’s painting ‘Monarch of the Glen’?
Q4. Which TV series starred a Mountie called Benson Fraser?

And then the Mother of all rounds - Memories. There was a lot of talk about what this one could mean, but no-one guessed how hard it would be. The idea was to write down the year that key events happened - not that easy at all.

Q5. When was the first Live Aid concert?
Q6. When did Princess Anne win Sports Personality of the year?

Everyone in the room was glad when that round ended! But then it was on to Entertainment and a music round. The answers were all Musicals, which had to be guessed from just one of the songs in playlist.

Q7. “Hopelessly Devoted to

Editor’s Bit

This month saw me return to competing, the first time since my horse had his week long stay at the vets. An exciting time, but things didn’t quite go to plan. In a four minute dressage test he managed to trip over his own feet, spook constantly down one side, gallop out of the arena and do a 180° spin that nearly had me eating sand - oh, the joys of owning a youngster!

I hope everyone else has had a more enjoyable month. November looks set to be another good one for the club, with more Area qualifiers and the AGM, so I hope to see you all in the coming weeks.

Until next time, Caroline
You"

Q8. “Boy For Sale”

That wasn’t a bad round, although it seemed to cause a bit of hilarity around the room - maybe no-one really wanted to admit being that big a fan!

The next round proved very popular - Conundrums. So popular that no-one wanted to stop trying to work out the anagrams and guess the theme, until the Quiz Master had to threaten everyone with no dinner!

Q9. RUBBER LYE
Q10. GIVES DIET

There was definitely laughter for the Malvern Mares here as no matter how hard we tried, we could only make TENNA RICE from INTERCANE - not a food stuff you hear of often!

After all the brain power, it was time for dinner and wow, it was some dinner. The Royal Oak is famous for its carvers and it seemed as if all the meat from the day’s joints had been sliced and jammed into thick French Bread. There was also chips, salad, spring rolls, samosas, more chips, potato croquettes, coleslaw and a few chips. Scrumptious!

While everyone eating, it was time to review the ‘Pot Boiler Round’. This was a picture quiz with 20 pictures of dogs and the idea was to guess the breed. Not as easy as it sounds, but good fun none-theless.

Q11 & 12 - name the breeds shown on the left.

Then it was back to work and onto the Sports round - naming American Football teams that play for which city!

Q13. Miami ______
Q14. Baltimore ______

Not the sort of sport anyone had in mind, but a challenge. Then it was back to the cryptic clues and this time for parts of the body.

Q15. A place of Worship?
Q16. Joins wood?

There was more hilarity when one of the teams answers to the clue ‘Trendy’ was chic as in cheek (rather than hip, which most other teams went for!)

Then it was on to ‘Horsing Around’ and naming the points of the horse - the squishy inside bits!

Q17 and Q18 - name the parts captioned A & B on the right.

The next round was called Christmas - ahhh, a nice easy one maybe? No, another dates round. Number Ones was the theme and the year had to be guessed from the title alone.

Q19. Whitney Houston / I Will Always Love You?
Q20. Mr Blobby / The Blobby Song?

It was a bit of a relief when that was over!

The last round was Numbers and there were lots of random clues, some frustrating but a great ‘discussion’ point.

Q21. How many Gold medals did team GB win at London 2012?
Q22. What number does MCLX111 stand for?

And then it was all over for another year. While the raffle was being drawn, the results were totted up. We did brilliantly, with the Malvern Ladies n 7th and the Malvern Mares in 6th place. The overall Quiz was won by Cropthornes, closely followed by Vale of Arrow ‘You’ve Been Licked’ and the Bromsgrove Misfits. In fact, there were only 7 marks difference in the top teams.

Another anxious wait then ensued as the points were added to the rest of the Mercian League.

AND MALVERN HILLS CAME 2ND

This is a fabulous result for such a small club and everyone should be proud who took part. They’ll be more on this at the AGM and in the next issue, but for now a big pat on the back for all.

FACTOID:
Conundrums are famous for being on ‘Countdown’. This is one of the longest running Quiz shows, starting in November 1982 and has over 5000 episodes.

Camilla and Lauran
The latest committee meeting was held on 23rd October. The main topic of conversation was the AGM (more details over page) and the realization that we probably weren’t going to top last year’s celebrity visit! However, plans are well afoot.

The final report from the Table Top Sale was very positive. The final profit was just a shade over £250, which made it extremely worthwhile.

Clinics were also on the agenda and the plan is to get a mixture going over the winter. There will be some flatwork and jumping sessions, with the possibility of a new indoor venue for the worst of the weather. There will also be some ‘Horseless’ Clinics (dates over page), with talks and refreshments.

The website was also discussed. It is currently down at the moment and as we are in the process of changing it all, it was decided not to pay another year’s subscription. The aim is to have the new website up and running in the new year and in the meantime, schedules and news should be distributed by e-mail, text and post.

Finally, Iris reported in the latest Malvern Hills Conservators meeting. Concerns have been raised regarding the length of the grass on the commons, which has made it difficult to ride and walk. Although this has been noted, they are not allowed to mow it due to the SSSI rating of the grassland, but that it should be back under control by the end of the winter.

Problems at the Gullet Quarry were also discussed. The overall consensus was that it shouldn’t be closed, but alternatives are still being looked into to make it safer.

The next meeting is on 11th December, so please contact any of the committee if there is anything you’d like to discuss.

If you want any adverts, articles, news or photos in the next newsletter please send to Caroline (via post or e-mail) by 23rd November.

FACTOID

SSI refers to Site of Special Scientific Interest. There are over 4100 in England, covering 7% of the landmass and are set up to protect flora, fauna or geological curiosities.

KING’S FOR JUMPING

The Novice Area Jumping Qualifier was held once again at King’s Equestrian Centre at Bromyard. Unusually for the club, we only had one team, made up of Jenny Barnes on Flying Minstrel, Wendy Robison on Charlie, Jo Jeynes on Thorney Rose and Tina Price on Buzz-B. It was really nice to see some new faces, as well as some old favourites!

Both Jenny and Tina jumped clear in first round, which our team finished on a score of 4 faults and in joint 3rd place. For Thorney Rose and Charlie, it was their first time jumping indoors, and the highlight was Charlie’s face as he cantered through the ornamental trees at the start - we’re not sure if he thought he was supposed to stop and eat them.

Our team were very lucky to warm up again in the dry, as just as they finished, the heavens opened and many of the competitors had to ride in torrential rain.

The second round saw the jumps go up and the course change. A few unlucky tips of poles added 12 faults to our total, leaving us 16 faults overall. This put us in a very respectable 9th place at the end of the day.

So a great day all round, with an enthusiastic cheer squad of Cindie and Peyton Bunce.

From left: Jenny, Jo, Wendy and Tina
2nd November 2013
Area Dressage, Hartpury

4th November 2013
Area 18 Liaison Group AGM, Beckford Arms, Tewkesbury

14th November 2013
MHRC AGM, Hunters Inn, Longdon

21st December 2013
Quadrille Final, Olympia

16th January 2014
Evening Horseless Clinic, tbc

20th February 2014
Evening Horseless Clinic, tbc

20th March 2014
Evening Horseless Clinic, tbc

29th - 30th March 2014
BRC Winter Championships, Hartpury

14th - 18th May 2014
Royal Windsor Horse Show (inc BRC DR)

25th May 2014
Area Show and Style Jumping qualifier

26th May 2014
MHRC Open Show

31st May - 1st June 2014
Festival of the Horse, Aston-le-Wells

29th July - 3rd August 2014
Hickstead (inc BRC SJ)

Congratulations to Cindie Bunce who came 5th at HOYS on Dreambreaker, in the SEIB Search for a Star Working Hunter Section.

Natalie Smith had a great October. On only her 3rd trip competing BSJA, she won both the British Novice and Discovery Classes, on the wonderful Rainstown Lad.

Photo of the Month

“Well, if there’s a bank, you gotta roll!”

Peyton Bunce at King’s Equestrian

All photo sources are kept secret - have you got a funny photo to share?

MHRC 2013 AGM

November 14th 2013
Hunter’s Inn, Longdon
7:30 for 8:00 start

Refreshments ** Entertainment ** Raffle

Reports from the past year and what’s in store for 2014

Presentation of Prizes

£5 off 2014 membership for anyone who PAYS ON THE NIGHT

Free for all members, friends and family.
The Novice Winter Area Dressage Qualifiers took place on 3rd November at Hartpury College. For such a small club, we were head of the leader board in terms of numbers, with a fantastic four teams.

The competition was run over two tests, with two team members doing Prelim 7 and two doing Novice 30. Then each test was split into AM and PM, with two different judges. There were no discount scores, as in team jumping, so all four team members felt the pressure!

All of our teams presented well and the turnout was amazing, considering the wet and windy weather lately. Malvern Red came in 23rd, with Malvern Green in 16th and Malvern Yellow in 18th. Our highest placed team, Malvern Red, were in the rosettes, coming a well earned 5th place.

We also did well in the individual competitions. Wendy Robinson was 6th in the Prelim 7 PM section, with Alex Harris also 6th in the Novice 30 AM section. Camilla Esling, on 18 year old Jake, did an impressive test to come 2nd in the Novice 30 AM section. As of writing, we are still waiting to hear whether this means she has qualified for the final as an individual.

The one thing that was very noticeable was that we had the largest cheer squad, who managed to take over one section of the gallery for cheering and general support. So a huge thank you to everyone who came along.

**Doing the Dressage Thing**

Megan, Alex and Wendy
The Hunter’s Inn at Longdon was taken over by the club as over 50 members descended on the function room for the annual AGM. As usual, there was a jam packed agenda and loads to get through, making the evening fly by.

Lyn welcomed everyone and confirmed the apologies, before running through the minutes from last year’s AGM. With no matters arising, it was on with the yearly reports.

Karen went first, with a run down of the memorable moments of the Mercian year. With such a fabulous results in the league (Malvern came in 2nd), the general theme was a determination to win it in 2014. Then Cindie took over, talking about the Area competitions and again, it was really brought home how well all our teams have done this year. A huge well done to everyone.

Lyn returned to the speaker’s place, with her Chairman’s and Treasurer’s report. It was great to see our through her eyes and also pleasing to note that the club has a healthy bank balance for next year’s activities. Her speech ended with a confirmation that all members of the committee were more than happy to stand for another year and their were no objections from the floor, so we must be doing an ok job!

Then it was on to the exciting part of the evening - the presentation of the annual awards. Up first was the Pepper Pot League, which I donated to the club in memory of my horse, who I lost last year. For its first year, we had 44 members gaining points, either by representing the club on an Area or Mercian team, or entering a class run by the club. The club decided to award rosettes to the top ten entrants. The winner, Steph Woolley, was sunning herself on holiday, but Rita excepted the trophy and rosette on her behalf.

Next up was the Lofty Club, which is awarded from one member to the next and can be given for any reason at all. Last year’s winner, Freya Malins, couldn’t be at the AGM, but Lyn awarded it to Philippa Robinson on her behalf. Freya wanted Philippa to have it due to her cheerful nature at every event.

The Committee Cup is awarded by the Committee and this year it went to Linda Medcalf, who is always coming along to support club events, take photos and generally lend a hand in everything we do.

The Progression Cup was awarded to Katherine Jones as she has persevered with her horse Dotty and the change has been noticed by everyone. Kat qualified for a number of Dressage championships last year and has started Affiliated competitions.

Liz Davies was awarded the Achiever’s Cup, for her win at the Area Horse Trials on Pumba.

The Loyalty Cup was awarded to the Kilby Family, who despite not always being members, come along and help at our annual show every year and are very supportive of the club.

Lastly, the Chairman’s Cup is awarded by Lyn and is kept very secret, even from the committee! This year it went to Chris Esling, who has been a cheery and fun member this year, lending her lorry to another member whose own broke down, as well as being a valued member of our Mercian teams.

Once all the clapping had finished, it was time to discuss our plans for next year, including a proposed Christmas Rally on the 28th December and our Horseless Clinics to keep us going over
the winter months. Suggestions were also taken from the floor, which provided some food for thought for future committee planning meetings.

Then with all the serious business concluded, it was time for food and the new look quiz. As usual, the Hunter’s had done a wonderful spread, with enough chips and sandwiches to feed three times the numbers, although we managed quite well to clear the plates. Karen, Chris and Linda had done a fantastic job with the Quiz. Ten boards with varied picture rounds. From naming famous horses and riders, to some big sporting venues, to the parts of the horse and the Committee members as children, plus some rather fiendish anagrams. Everyone seemed to be having a laugh as they moved round the room, but the winners were ‘The Troublemakers’ - Rita Woolley, Nicky Shephard, Chris Jones and Mary Bisco.

Then it was time to call it a night for another year. Thank you to everyone who came along or had a hand in making it a brilliant AGM.

Let’s cross fingers that 2014 is another great year for the club and, of course, we will win the Mercian League!

The Area 18 Liaison Group held their AGM on 4th November at The Beckford Arms, Tewkesbury. The evening started off with a Q&A session with Sarah Phillips, Head of Riding Clubs and BHC Competitions, and Andrew Chadwick, Competitions Chairman. The full minutes are available on the BRC website, but the most interesting, and the most heated, was regarding the change of rules those competing at Novice Dressage over the Summer can now compete Prelim in the winter. BRC responded that it was felt that most riders swap between the two levels and it was unfair to penalize. However, it was also acknowledged that anyone taking advantage to compete at a level far below their ability should be reported within the Area.

Trophies were then awarded for the overall winners of the Area Horse Trials. The Senior Novice went to Vikki Hancock from Worcester RC, while our own Liz Davies winning the Senior Intermediate award.

The Speaker for the evening was eventer, Jonty Evans, who turned the tables on the listeners by inviting questions about anything. Jock Paget came up very quickly, but Jonty kept the mood very light and funny, with lots of stories about the horses he has ridden.

The next thing up for discussion was who was holding which qualifier. MHRC has once again got the showjumping, which everyone seemed keen to give us. Other qualifiers and dates will appear in the calendar.

The evening ended with a quiz, which even with a mixed team of Malvern, Worcester and Frampton representatives, we didn’t win! But it was a great evening nonetheless.

AGM Area 18 Style

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

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Iris Ellis
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Gorse Cottage, Stonehall
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Worcestershire, WR5 3QG

A bit belated, but well done to Jenny Barns, who was confirmed 4th place individual at the Area Indoor Showjumping at Kings, on Flying Minstrel.

Congratulations to member Emma Cooper who gave birth to Mollie Ruth Cooper on 18th November. We’ve signed her up for the Area SJ 2031!

If you want any adverts, articles, news or photos in the next newsletter please send to Caroline (via post or e-mail) by 21st December

Pepper Pot Points League

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BRC AREA 18 NEWS

We learned recently that the Royal Windsor Horse Show is no longer willing to hold the Top Score and Dressage Championships in 2014. Instead, these have been moved to the Festival of the Horse at Aston-Le-Wells.

The qualifier’s will be held early next year - watch this space for further details

21st December 2013
Quadrille Final, Olympia

28th December 2013
MHRC Christmas Rally, tbc

16th January 2014
Evening Horseless Clinic, tbc

20th February 2014
Evening Horseless Clinic, tbc

20th March 2014
Evening Horseless Clinic, tbc

29th - 30th March 2014
BRC Winter Championships, Hartpury

5th May 2014
Area Combined Training, tbc

26th April 2014
MHRC Open Show

31st May - 1st June 2014
Festival of the Horse, Aston-Le-Wells

7th June 2014
Area Dressage to Music, tbc

29th July - 3rd August 2014
Hickstead (inc BRC SJ)

1st - 4th August 2014
National Horse Trials Championships, Swalcliffe

Check out the website for further dates and schedules

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BRITISH DRESSAGE NEWS

BD have launched a new team competition called Team Quest. Groups of 4 riders can compete together in Intro to Novice level tests, and a final will be held at the Bury Farm in 2014. Anyone can take part, although one rider in each team must be affiliated to BD and all must affiliate if qualified for the final. If you’d be interested, then MHRC may be organising some teams.

Watch this space!!
At the AGM back in November, it was decided to hold a Christmas rally just before the new year, so on the 28th December, we all descended on Hillview Arena for a few hours of fun and frolics.

But of course, there had to be a little bit of competition involved - after all, those rosettes are very important! So everyone who came along was put into teams. Points were awarded in the various races, games and events, with both individual and team awards given out at the end of the day. And of course, by popular demand, that meant that points were also up for grabs in the Pepper Pot League!

To get everyone warmed up with a more gentle game, we played Monte Carlo, suitably adapted to the fact that we didn’t have any cards! Instead, the choices were denoted with different jump wings - so it was Boat, Music, Pigs and Sheep! The basic idea being that when the music stops, you choose a corner (or wing)
to stand in and if that is pulled out of the hat, you’re out. This caused some hilarity, but the overall winner of the mounted section was Sara Stephen-son, with Linda Kemp in second. There may have been a little bit of cheating going on in the unmounted section, but this was eventually won by Jooli Thornton, with Camilla Esling in second.

Then it was time for the relay, which took a bit of brain power to work out. With runners and riders galloping back and forth along the arena, it quickly descended into chaos and there was one unscheduled dismount, but at the end the winning team was ‘Santa’s Little Helper’s’, with ‘Christmas Misfits’ in a close second.

While everyone put themselves back together, the ring was set up for the next game, ‘Over the Bridge’. For those who don’t know, this game involves riding round the arena and between two poles on the ground. If you are between the poles when the music stops, you are out.

Again, the unmounted group seemed to be far more competitive than the mounted. Dani Diment was the overall winner, with Ann Nixon in second place. Sophie Hooper was the winner of the mounted section, just beating Julie Reynolds to the win.

There was one more game to play, this time for the riders only - Walk, Trot, Canter. A nice simple race, where you walk down the arena, turn and trot back, then turn and canter to the finish. This was split into two heats and it was the older horses that proved the pro’s. Both Shellee Illingworth and Julie Reynolds, were on their old horses and romped home. This race also provided one of the funniest moments of the day - sorry Sophie, but seeing you nearly bucked off your son’s pony did give us a chuckle!

And then it was time for everything to calm down, with the Fancy Dress. We had seven entries and they were all very inventive. But the overall winner had to be Lyn Harper and Toby as ‘MasterChefs’! Kat Jones and Dotty were in second place as Father Christmas and Christmas Pudding, with two very festive dogs dressed a Christmas Present and a Christmas Tree in third.

The last competition was the Handy Pony, which involved a number of challenges. The one the horses seemed to have the hardest problem with was walking over a piece of rubber matting in the middle of the school - although all of them seemed to have them in their stables! With a little jump, bending, a labyrinth, a flag stick to move and some floating toys to net, this proved great fun. But the winner was Julie Reynolds, with an impressive time of 1 minute, 18 seconds, very closely followed by Sara Stephen-son in 1 minute, 19 seconds.

And then it was time for the horses to be put away while everyone tucked into mulled wine, mince pies and assorted nibbles. The individual rosettes for the Handy Pony and the Fancy Dress were awarded, then the team awards were given out. The overall winners were ‘Santa’s Little Helpers’. Second place went to ‘Christmas Misfits’, third to ‘Team Sparkle’ and fourth to ‘The Team with no Name’.

It was a good day and may become a new tradi-
A Bit of Christmas Fun … cont

tion for the MHRC. Ideas for the next one are already mulling around!

And just one more thing to say - a huge thank you to Lauran Jones for organizing the event on quite short notice!

HORSELESS CLINICS

HUNTER’S INN
Longdon

8 o’clock in the function room

16th January
BACK TO BACK
A talk by Freya Malins and Karen Withers, discussing different treatments for the back of both horse and rider.

Also 20th February and 20th March
Speakers to be confirmed

£5 per person - no need to book.

Bar will be open - nibbles provided.

FLATWORK CLINICS

TEWKESBURY RIDING SCHOOL
Indoor Arena

With Nick Lawson

Tuesday 4th, 11th, 18th and 25th February

7:00 to 8:00 or 8:00 to 9:00

£17 per session, members only.
Free for Spectators

Contact Lyn to book your place.
(see back page for details)

SHOWJUMPING CLINICS will follow in March - dates and venue to be confirmed.

CHARITY GUIDED RIDES

A great idea for adult or children's parties - stop at a pub or carry food with us.

95% off-road riding on the Malvern Hills, Longdon Marsh, Bredon Hill, Forest of Dean and the Cotswolds.

2 hours - £15

Groups individually tailored and cater for different speeds and abilities.

A donation will be given to Equine Grass Sickness Research.

Go to www.linhayfarm.co.uk or contact

Jenny Barnes on 01684 833 662 / 07807 877 859 / jenny.f.barnes@gmail.com
Congratulations to Shellee Illingworth who has just got engaged, proposed to at Disney’s Magic Kingdom. All we want to know is Big George coming along to the wedding?

If you want any adverts, articles, news or photos in the next newsletter please send to Caroline (via post or e-mail) by 25th January

“Umm, well I shouldn’t - go on then, just one more!”

Toby Harber at the Christmas Rally

All photo sources are kept secret - have you got a funny photo to share?