



MHRC NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2014



Horseless Clinic 20th February Hunter's Inn.

THEME
The Horse and The Law
With Natalie Smith
8 O'clock in the Function
Room

£5 per person - no need to
book in advance.
Nibbles Provided.

Freya Malins has kindly
offered discount Bowen
treatments for MHRC
members and their
horses.

A session will cost £35,
saving £10 of the normal
price.

You can contact Freya on
01684 296 984 or e-mail
freya@discoverbowen.co.
uk

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BACK TO BACK AT THE HUNTER'S INN

The inaugural 'Horseless Clinic' took place on 16th January at the Hunter's Inn, Longdon. There were lots of members attending, some new faces too and it was great to say hello.

The theme was 'Back to Back' and involved two discussions on rider and horse treatments, showing how complementary they should be.

Karen Withers, a McTimoney Practitioner, went first and gave a very 'hands on' demo of how she would go about treating a rider, ably helped by her glamorous assistant, Janet Schooling, who agreed to be the evening's guinea pig.

Then it was time for a short

break, with the Hunter's famous chips on hand to help keep up the energy. As an extra bonus for the evening, Victoria Gregg brought along some samples of her new sideline, a range of Aloe Vera products for horses and hu-



mans alike. There was a very generous free prize draw too, which was drawn at the end of the evening.

Freya Malins then took over to discuss how the Bowen

technique can help horses. Sadly, the landlord wasn't that keen on us bringing in an equine guinea pig, so Freya instead demonstrated the treatment on everyone in the room.

Although both treatment types use slightly different techniques, it was interesting to see how each was based on the same principles, that the skeletal system can only be 'fixed' permanently, if problems in the connective tissues and muscles are also seen too. There was lots of food for thought and both speakers were badgered by questions.

A very informative, fun evening and a little success for the club - we hope to see you all at the next one.



Editor's Bit

I've been thinking lately on the nature of compromise! Don't worry, I'm not going off into some serious discussion here. I'm in the process of moving yards and that has made me wonder at my own personal wants, needs and wishlists when it comes to somewhere for my pony to live. And more importantly, which bits I will compromise on. Having been at a yard with huge fields, plenty of space for storage and excellent hacking, with a small, but ok, indoor school and lots of friends, its suddenly hard to decide which of those I would give up to get the others. No-one can say our chosen hobby is an easy one, but it the is interesting to find that it still has a few surprises to throw my way. And as to the yard - the search goes on! Until next time, *Caroline*



**CLUB CONTACTS**

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

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MEMBER'S NEWS

Congratulations to members **Nicola Shepard** and **Hannah Jones**, who have been asked to attend a selection training day for the European 2* team. All fingers and hooves crossed please!

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

EVENTS CALENDAR**4th February 2014**

Flatwork Clinic, Tewkesbury Riding School

11th February 2014

Flatwork Clinic, Tewkesbury Riding School

18th February 2014

Flatwork Clinic, Tewkesbury Riding School

20th February 2014

Evening Horseless Clinic, Hunter's Inn

23rd February 2014

FOTH DR and SJ qualifiers, Hartpury College (Frampton RC) **CANCELLED**

25th February 2014

Flatwork Clinic, Tewkesbury Riding School

4th March 2014

Showjumping Clinic, Hillview Arena

11th March 2014

Showjumping Clinic, Hillview Arena

18th March 2014

Showjumping Clinic, Hillview Arena

20th March 2014

Evening Horseless Clinic, Hunter's Inn

25th March 2014

Showjumping Clinic, Hillview Arena

29th - 30th March 2014

BRC Winter Championships, Hartpury

26th April 2014

Area Combined Training, tbc

5th May 2014

Area Junior Show and Style Jumping, Cleeve Prior (Crophorne and Evesham RC)

5th May 2014

Mercian Show and Style Jumping, Cleeve Prior (Crophorne and Evesham RC)

25th May 2014

Area Show and Style Jumping qualifier, Three Counties (MHRC)

26th May 2014

MHRC Open Show and Mercian Showing, Three Counties (MHRC)

31st May - 1st June 2014

Festival of the Horse, Aston-le-Wells

Pepper Pot Points League

PL	NAME	PTS
1st	Camilla Esling	90
2nd	Linda Kemp	80
3rd	Sara Stephenson	80
4th	Kat Jones	75
5th	Lyn Harber	70
6th	Julie Reynolds	60
7th	Shellee Illingworth	55
8th	Chris Esling	50
	Sophie Hooper	50
10th	Di Symonds	45
	Suzanne Partridge	45
12th	Dani Diment	40
	Jooli Thornton	40
14th	Ann Nixon	35
	Helen Robson	35
	Wendy Robinson	35
17th	Alex Harris	30
	Linda Medcalf	30
	Nicola Shepard	30
20th	Anna Robson	25
	Jenny Barnes	25
	Julie Jeffes	25
	Stacey Johnson	25
24th	Lauran Jones	20
25th	Caroline Bates	15
	Megan Harper	15
	Tina Price	15
28th	Cindie Bunce	5
	Freya Malins	5
	Jo Jeynes	5
	Karen Withers	5
	Lisa Drinkwater	5
	Liz Davies	5
	Rita Woolley	5
	Wendy Yates	5

7th June 2014

Area Dressage to Music, Kings Equestrian (Shropshire South RC)

15th June 2014

Mercian Arena Eventing, Bissell Wood (Bromsgrove RC)

29th June 2014

Mercian Combined Training, Pound Green (Bewdley RC)

13th July 2014

Mercian Dressage, Bissell Wood (Shropshire South RC)

19th or 20th July 2014

Area Dressage and Riding Test, Ascot-under-Wychwood (West Oxfordshire RC)

29th July - 3rd August 2014

Hickstead (inc BRC SJ)

SHOW JUMPING CLINICS

HILLVIEW ARENA, MALVERN Outdoor Arena

With Mandy Kent

Tuesday 4th, 11th, 18th and 25th March
7:00 to 8:00: 2'3 to 2'9
8:00 to 9:00: 2'9 plus

£17 per session, members only.
Free for Spectators

Contact Lyn Harber to book a place
(contact details above)





MHRC NEWSLETTER

February 2014



Nick Lawson

FLATWORK FINESSE

The first clinics of 2014 were held at Tewkesbury Riding School throughout February. As usual, the weather decided to play havoc with the neatly laid plans, with Tewkesbury slowly becoming cut off by rapidly rising water, but with some last minute rearranging and some juggling around, there were still four sessions on offer.

Nick Lawson once again took the lessons and proved as popular as ever. Even with a slightly smaller school than usual, again because of the rain turning one end into a swamp, he

managed to keep each lesson working on their individual exercises.

For new member, Gerri Garrott, it was her first lesson in a while... "I would just like to say having just joined MHRC it was nice to be able to attend two flat work lessons. I enjoyed both of them, not having done any training for 18mths you tend to get into bad habits. I found Tewkesbury Riding School easy to find, arena a little damp one end due to a leak, but it was nice and big, the mirrors are very useful to see what you are working on, position, etc. I am looking forward to

more lessons."

Suzanne Partridge "Had a great time at the flat work clinics with 'Midnight'. We were unlucky with the weather as that made it difficult to get to Tewkesbury with no access through Upton. I enjoy flatwork clinics with Nick, with his sense of humour, and we always work hard, many improvements made each time I've been. Nick has got eyes in the back of his head so can't get away with anything when you think he's not watching!"

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Editor's Bit

I recently read the following -

"Riding is a consistently disconcerting experience. It is the challenge that this represents which makes most of us determined to overcome each set-back and keep on trying to succeed."*
Oh yes, I can agree with that. And listening to any group of riders, it's nice to know that I'm not alone. Bringing my yobbo of a youngster to his first clinic didn't quite go as planned, with eyes on stalks and the sudden inability to walk forward, it took over half an hour of walking just to get him to calm down - disconcerting? Definitely. Keep on trying to succeed - umm, I'll let you know!

But on another note, summer looks like it might finally be in sight. The BRC competitions are beginning to appear, so keep an eye on the Events Calendar, Newsletter, Facebook and E-mail, or give us a call if you fancy taking part.

Until next time, *Caroline*

*Training Your Horse or Pony by Diana Goldstone



LEGAL EAGLES AT THE HUNTER'S

The second 'Horseless Clinic' took place at The Hunter's Inn, London on 20th February.



The talk was hosted by Harrison Clark Rickerbys Solicitors, which has an equine department that comes with some impressive credentials. The firm is currently the official solicitors for British Dressage

and are involved in any legal complications that the organisation may come across.

Natalie started off proceedings with a rather sobering thought...if the worst was to happen and you died, what would become of your horse? Would your next of kin have the necessary expertise or wishes to keep your horse around? This highlighted the importance



of thinking of this up front, making a will and possibly discussing with friends and family just who would take on the responsibility of our four-legged friends. This caused some hilarity in the room, as some members were suddenly willed several animals, while some couldn't give there's away!

This was followed by a discussion about Powers of

Attorney - allowing someone to make decisions on your behalf if were incapable of doing so. Even if in the short term, someone who can access a bank account to pay bills, whether horsey or not, makes things a lot easier in the long run.

Next it was Alison's turn. As head of the Equine Department, most of her cases, several per day, are involved with the sales and purchasing of horses. Interestingly, the rise of social media has made it easier to advertise and sell a horse without going through the more rigorous thought processes that the old-fashioned lineage ads used to force on sellers. The discussions were wide ranging, but in summary it all boiled down to the fact that if the horse was knowingly sold as unfit for the purpose a buyer had stipulated, then you have a good chance at winning a case...as long as you can prove it. Keeping original adverts, e-mail conversations, jotting down phone conversations and, most importantly, setting in writing exactly what that horse is being sold as, all help the claim if it all should go wrong. Having a clear idea of what you want to buy in the first place, by writing this down and letting the seller see this, also means that everything is very clear up front.

After this, Rachel took the reins and went through a couple of case histories, where sellers accused the

buyers of misrepresentation. The most interesting one was of a woman who brought an eventer from an experienced trainer, who was only selling it as it hadn't quite the scope needed. The buyer changed its food, reduced turnout and exercise and then came off it when its behaviour changed for the worst. I think everyone in the room could see where this was going and no-one was surprised when the case wasn't taken on. However, the solicitor's did negotiate with the seller and arranged some training and schooling sessions to enable the partnership to progress.

So another excellent evening came to an end, after everyone had their fill of chips. Goody bags were very much appreciated too.

Natalie has also generously offered the following... "Thank you to everyone that came last night and we are all very pleased that you found the talk helpful and informative. And in case I have scared you all sufficiently into acting I am pleased to offer a reduction of £35 for wills and £50 for Lasting Powers of Attorney to all members of the Malvern Riding Club. If you would like to discuss this or any of the other matters further my direct line is 01432 349 666 and we would be delighted to hear from you."



MALVERN HILLS MISSION

With so many of our members riding in the Malvern Hills area, with so many excellent bridlepaths, commons and hills, the riding club has been a member of the action group, ably represented by Iris Ellis.

We recently received the following letter:

“The Land Management Plan 2015-2020 - your contribution.

Over the next year a new land management plan is being written. This document will cover all of the 1200 hectares of land under the jurisdiction of the MHC (Malvern Hills Conservators). It will set out the current state of the land, evaluate what's important and direct our practical management over the next five years. This plan will clearly have a major impact upon this icon-

ic landscape, its cultural and natural heritage and affect the thousands of people who live, visit and view the area.

To incorporate a wide range of views and help make the management plan as good as it can be MHC will be making consultation opportunities available to you to put your thoughts forward.

As a valued member of our Recreation Panel, I'm hoping you will help to shape our plan in several ways. These should include:

- Sharing up to date information about your specialist topic and the type of date-gathering that you undertake every year.
- Let me know your thoughts on the current management of the hills and how it is affecting your interest area, What

could be improved?

- Please fill in one of the 'Malvern Hills - Your Views' postcard consultations (due March)
- Helping to write Access and Recreation sections of the plan including the identification of key features, their objectives and monitoring necessary.
- Finally, the major parts of the plan will be made available for consultation later this year. This includes, Part 1; the description and Part 2&3; the evaluation and work programme.”

We would like to present our ideas as one club, so if you have anything you would like to say, please contact Iris, or e-mail mhrcnewsletter@hotmail.co.uk before 25th March.

PLEASE NOTE

Due to a couple of issues involving our speaker and the venue, we are postponing the HORSELESS CLINIC on 20th March. Please keep an eye out in the newsletter for new dates later on in the year.

AREA FOR CHANGE

It is with some sadness that Cindie had decided to step down as our Area Team Manager. She has done a fantastic job keeping us organised and has seen many teams getting through to both the Winter and Summer National Championships. The club extends a huge thank you.

Her place will be ably filled by Lauran Jones, who will be thrown into the deep end with two qualifier being held in April.

Festival of the Horse Combined Training Qualifier & Grass Roots Dressage 26th April @ Dodderhill Court, Droitwich Spa

Four riders per team. Two do a Prelim Test, followed by SJ at 75cm. Two do a Novice Test, followed by SJ at 85cm. Dressage Qualifier is for individuals and will be a Prelim test.

Festival of the Horse Challenge Qualifier 27th April, Swalcliffe

A course of SJ, followed by

simulated XC jumps. Novice Teams and Pairs at 85cm. Intermediate Juniors at 95cm and Intermediate Seniors at 1m.

If you would be interested in being on a team for either of these, please contact her using any of the details on the back page, or through Facebook. As entries need to be confirmed by early April, please make sure you show an interest before the end of March.



**CLUB CONTACTS**

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

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Worcestershire, WR5 3QG

MEMBER'S NEWS

Remember to let us know if you have any news to share - horsey or not. Have you just won your first red

rosette, competed affiliated for the first time, qualified for something exciting or gone on a fun ride that you just have to share with us all.

Or if you have anything for sale, loan or a looking for something - remember, members get free advertising in the newsletter. Contact Caroline - details opposite,

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

Pepper Pot Points League**2013/14 League as of 01.03.2014**

PL	NAME	PTS
1st	Camilla Esling	90
2nd	Linda Kemp	80
3rd	Sara Stephenson	80
4th	Kat Jones	75
5th	Lyn Harber	70
6th	Julie Reynolds	60
7th	Shellee Illingworth	55
8th	Chris Esling	50
	Sophie Hooper	50
10th	Di Symonds	45
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	Megan Harper	15
	Tina Price	15
28th	Cindie Bunce	5
	Freya Malins	5
	Jo Jeynes	5
	Karen Withers	5
	Lisa Drinkwater	5
	Liz Davies	5
	Rita Woolley	5
	Wendy Yates	5

To gain points in the Pepper Pots League, you need to represent the club on an Area or Mercian Team, or as an individual at a Qualifier or Championship. You will also gain points if you enter an event organised by Malvern Hills Riding Club. Points are awarded as follows: Entering a Class/being on a team = 5
Individual or Team 6th = 10
Individual or Team 5th = 15
Individual or Team 4th = 20
Individual or Team 3rd = 25
Individual or Team 2nd = 30
Individual or Team 1st = 35

EVENTS CALENDAR

4th March 2014
Showjumping Clinic, Hillview Arena **CANCELLED**

11th March 2014
Showjumping Clinic, Hillview Arena

18th March 2014
Showjumping Clinic, Hillview Arena

20th March 2014
Evening Horseless Clinic, Hunter's Inn **POSTPONED**

25th March 2014
Showjumping Clinic, Hillview Arena

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

1st April 2014
Showjumping Clinic, Hillview Arena

26th April 2014
Area FOTH Combined Training Qualifier, Dodderhill Court, Drotwich Spa (Worcester RC)

27th April 2014
Area FOTH Challenge Qualifier, Swalcliffe

5th May 2014
Area Junior Show and Style Jumping, Cleeve Prior (Crophorne and Evesham RC)

5th May 2014
Mercian Show and Style Jumping, Cleeve Prior (Crophorne and Evesham RC)

5th May 2014
Area Topscore Qualifier, Cleeve Prior (Crophorne and Evesham RC)

25th May 2014
Area Show and Style Jumping qualifier, Three Counties (MHRC)

26th May 2014
MHRC Open Show and Mercian Showing, Three Counties (MHRC)

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

7th June 2014
Area Dressage to Music, Kings Equestrian (Shropshire South RC)

PHOTO OF THE MONTH

"OMG - have you seen that the summer schedules are out - we'd better get as much rest as we can now!"

Smokey Bates and Woody Jones enjoying the sunshine

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





MHRC NEWSLETTER

March 2014

OH MERCY - IT'S MERCIAN!

May is a busy month for team events, but it also sees the start of the Mercian League series. For new members, the Mercian League was set up by a number of local riding clubs, to provide team experience for novice horses and riders who felt they weren't quite ready for the Area competitions.

Mercian competitions start at a lower level, Intro tests in the Dressage and 2'3 for any Jumping classes. All rider's must be 18 or over, and if a horse has been placed in the top three at a BRC Championship, they cannot compete Mercian in the same discipline for the next three years. There are also rules regarding eligibility at different levels in the different disciplines.

Dressage = If you have won a Prelim class, you cannot compete in Intro tests. Three wins at Novice or Elementary means

you cannot compete at a lower level. If you are registered with British Dressage, then you cannot do Intro or Prelim classes.

Jumping = A win at 2'9 means you cannot do Novice (2'3) jumping or Hunter Trials. A win at 3'3 (either unaffiliated or affiliated British Discovery) means you cannot compete in Mercian jumping, other than Hunter Trials or Arena Eventing.

Eventing = A combination competing at BE80 or above can compete in Intermediate Jumping classes, Novice Arena Eventing and Novice ODE. But once BE foundation points are earned, you can only compete in Mercian Dressage - no jumping events. For a full list of rules, contact Karen.

So, you want to take part? There are two Mercian competitions coming up in May.

5th May = Style and Show Jumping. 2'3 and 2'6 teams. Held at Cleeve Prior. We usually do well at this event, but are always looking for new team members.

25th May = Showing. We are running this event at our Open Show, next to the Three Counties, Malvern, so are looking for some strong teams. We need Coloureds (Skewbald, Piebald, Tri-Coloured, Spotted, Dun or Palomino), Riding Club Horse (snaffle bridle and jump a single jump), Working Hunters (to jump a 2'6 course) and Veterans (over 16 years). There are no eligibility rules on this one, so everyone can have a go.

If you want to compete in either event, please contact Karen Withers.

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Editor's Bit

At long last, as the warmer weather finally arrives, I had a good weekend with my horse. Those have been few and far between lately. About a month ago I moved yards, something I have done many times in the past with little fuss and lots of excitement. However, this was the first time I was accompanied by four-year-old nut-case! Days of fighting to get horses in and out of the field (ok if together, devastating if asked to go it alone!), broken tack and rather too many bruises had that niggling voice back again - why do we do this? But weeks afterwards, I had two days of stress-free leading, nice hacks, nothing broken and a big smile on my face - so that's why we do it.

And, of course, that means thoughts turn to competing - yippee. I have to admit that as I've got older, I'm a bit of a fair-weather competitor, so I can't wait to get going again. Both the Mercian and Area competitions are coming thick and fast, so if you want to represent the club, please contact Karen and Luran in plenty of time!

Until next time, *Caroline*





JUMP TO IT!



After the successful flatwork clinics last month, it was only fair to let the jumper's have a turn. So it was off to Hillview Arena in Malvern, with instructor Mandy Kent. The weather even managed to behave itself most of the time.

Mandy's lessons are built around learning to jump a course one line at a time. Starting to trotting over poles on the ground, then progressing over a single jump, while maintaining straightness and accuracy. Once everyone had negotiated that successfully, each 'line' on the course was discussed and ridden to each horse and rider's strength. By the end of the lesson, everyone could then string all the elements together to do the whole course.



Julie Jeffes, who took one of her young horses, said "I have really enjoyed the SJ clinics with Man-

dy – it is a bit difficult to get motivated to go out for an 8pm start on a cold winter evening but once there it was great – and you really do warm up very quickly. Mandy was good at pitching the level and was willing to accommodate different levels within a group. The venue, one we have used before for schooling was great – it has plenty of material, is a generous size and the lighting is good. I think that jumping in lights isn't the most confidence inspiring for youngsters as there are always some slightly darker corners and a few shadows so something to be aware of. The surface is exceptionally good and hasn't been at all wet where many other venues have had problems."

While Geri Garratt said, "I managed to attend

the first jumping lesson with Mandy and really enjoyed myself, though I'm glad there was no swear box - the riding club would have made a fortune as I do tend to be a bit verbal with fright to start off with. However it did make quite a few of the watchers laugh. I thought Mandy was excellent and made me feel at ease and gave me some good tips as well. Hillview arena fantastic easy to find as first time going there. Sophie made you very welcome. All in all I loved everything thank MHRC so pleased I joined ."



AT THE NATIONALS

The British Riding Club's National Winter Championships were held at Hartpury on 29th and 30th March, this year with a new sponsor in Equestrian Clearance.com. Teams and individuals from across the country came together to con-

test the 2014 Novice Dressage and Showjumping titles. Saturday saw all the Seniors competing, while the Juniors took their turn on the Sunday.

Sadly, for the first time in a long time, we didn't have anyone representing our club, but it was still a fun and interesting weekend. The weather was decidedly on everyone's side, with lovely warm, sunny weather with just the occasional sprinkling of rain.

The dressage took place outside in the large arena, with Novice and Prelim tests going on side by side, which caused a few heart stopping moments

when the odd horse decided against behaving!

The Showjumping was in one of the indoor arenas, over a twisty, challenging but exciting course.

At the time of writing, the final results hadn't been published, but if you are interested, check out the BRC website of the next copy of Rider magazine.

The qualifiers for the 2015 Champs will be held in November 2014, so lets see if we can get a couple of teams there ...





AREA ELIGIBILITY

As the new competition season gets under way, it's worth taking a moment to review the British Riding Club handbook. Last year, there were a few instances of teams and individuals being disqualified from qualifiers and championships, when it came to light that they, or their horse, weren't eligible to compete at that level. Honesty is always the best policy, as somebody, somewhere, will notice if you are breaking the rules.

The official BRC competition year runs from 1st April to 31st March and is split into the Summer and Winter seasons. All competitions that fall within 2014 are covered by the new rulebook, even if they are qualifiers for the 2015 championships.

Before we look at the individual disciplines, there are a few things you should remember:

- ◆ If you take part in a qualifier, then you have to be able and willing to compete at the appropriate championship should you qualify.
- ◆ Your passport has to be up to date and entered on the appropriate BRC Area 18 database – speak to our Area rep if you are not sure how to do this. All booster injections must have been given more than 6 days before arriving at a competition venue.
- ◆ You must be a member of an affiliated club – sounds obvious, but your membership has to be registered with head office before the entries close for the qualifier. Therefore, if friends or family want to compete, get them joined up now!

DRESSAGE

- ◆ Horses that have competed at Elementary or above cannot compete at Prelim level.

- ◆ Horses competing in the Senior Prelim cannot compete in the Senior Open Dressage.
- ◆ In a Quadrille team, only one rider can have placed 1st, 2nd or 3rd at an FEI DR competition.
- ◆ Riders who are FBHS or BHSI, can only compete at Novice Dressage to Music, and if a BHSI, to the Novice DTM and the Novice Riding Club. BHSI's can compete at all levels, apart from the Prelim riding test.
- ◆ Members of British Dressage, in groups 1 to 6, cannot compete in the Novice Riding Test or Dressage to Music.
- ◆ Members holding their Pony Club A-test cannot compete in the Prelim Dressage or Riding Test.

EVENTING/HUNTER TRIALS/ FOTH CHALLENGE

- ◆ Horses competing in the BRC HT 100 or 100+ cannot compete at BRC HT 80, 90 or Challenge 90.
- ◆ Riders competing in BRC HT 80, must not have completed a BE 100, BRC HT 100 or BRC CH 100 or above, in the current or previous year.
- ◆ Horses have to be 5 years of over to compete (for other disciplines, it is 4).
- ◆ Any horse or rider must not have ridden over the course within 5 days of a qualifier or 10 days of a championship.
- ◆ For the BE 80 HT, riders must be a member of BRC and BE, or compete on a BE day ticket.

SHOW & STYLE JUMPING

- ◆ Horses competing in the Intermediate or Open Show jumping cannot compete in the indoor Novice jumping.
- ◆ At the Team of Three Jumping at Hickstead, the team

must consist of a Novice combination (not to have won more than £100 BS), an Intermediate combination (not to have won more than £175 BS) and an Open combination (not to have won more than £300 BS).

- ◆ Members of British Dressage, in groups 1 to 6, cannot compete in the Senior Style Jumping

SHOWING

- ◆ For 'In the Pink' Veteran classes at FOTH, horses and ponies must be 18 years or over.

Please note that this is not an exhaustive list. If you are a member of any of the sporting bodies mentioned, whether you have points of prize money, it's probably worth having a read of the rulebook yourself. This can be downloaded, free of charge, from the BRC website, or the club has two hard copies that can be referred to. If in doubt, double check before you compete.

In May, there are lots of jumping qualifiers for Style, Show and TopScore, for both Juniors and Seniors (see event calendar for details). If you would like to take part in a team or as an individual, please contact Lauran Jones.



HORSE ELIGIBILITY	British Dressage Points allowed
Prelim	Nil
Novice / Pairs	124
Elementary	199
Medium	299
Riding Test Prelim	60
Riding Test Novice	124



HORSE ELIGIBILITY	British Eventing Points allowed
BRC HT 80	Nil
BRC HT 90	Nil
BRC HT 100	20 (junior) 5 (senior)
BRC HT 100 +	Unlimited
Challenge 90	Nil
Challenge 100 & Pairs 90	20



HORSE ELIGIBILITY	Notional British Showjumping Winnings allowed	British Eventing Points allowed
Novice Show	Nil	Nil
Intermediate Show	£400(jun)£175(sen)	
Open Show	unlimited	
Style Jumping 75	Nil	Nil
Style Jumping 85	£175	Nil (jun) 10 (sen)





CLUB CONTACTS

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

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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 25th April

Pepper Pot Points League

2013/14 League as of 01.03.2014

PL	NAME	PTS
1st	Camilla Esling	90
2nd	Linda Kemp	80
3rd	Sara Stephenson	80
4th	Kat Jones	75
5th	Lyn Harber	70
6th	Julie Reynolds	60
7th	Shellee Illingworth	55
8th	Chris Esling	50
	Sophie Hooper	50
10th	Di Symonds	45
	Suzanne Partridge	45
12th	Dani Diment	40
	Jooli Thornton	40
14th	Ann Nixon	35
	Helen Robson	35
	Wendy Robinson	35
17th	Alex Harris	30
	Linda Medcalf	30
	Nicola Shepard	30
20th	Anna Robson	25
	Jenny Barnes	25
	Julie Jeffes	25
	Stacey Johnson	25
24th	Lauran Jones	20
25th	Caroline Bates	15
	Megan Harper	15
	Tina Price	15
28th	Cindie Bunce	5
	Freya Malins	5
	Jo Jaynes	5
	Karen Withers	5
	Lisa Drinkwater	5
	Liz Davies	5
	Rita Woolley	5
	Wendy Yates	5

To gain points in the Pepper Pots League, you need to represent the club on an Area or Mercian Team, or as an individual at a Qualifier or Championship. You will also gain points if you enter an event organised by Malvern Hills Riding Club. Points are awarded as follows: Entering a Class/being on a team = 5
Individual or Team 6th = 10
Individual or Team 5th = 15
Individual or Team 4th = 20
Individual or Team 3rd = 25
Individual or Team 2nd = 30
Individual or Team 1st = 35

EVENTS CALENDAR

April 2014

1st = Showjumping Clinic, Hillview Arena
15th = Horsless Clinic, Hunters Inn, Longdon
26th = Area FOTH Combined Training Qualifier, Dodderhill Court, Drotwivh Spa (Worcester RC)
27th = Area FOTH Challenge Qualifier, Swalcliffe

7th = Area Dressage to Music, Kings Equestrian (Shropshire South RC)
15th = Mercian Arena Eventing, Bissell Wood (Bromsgrove RC)
29th = Mercian Combined Training, Pound Green (Bewdley RC)

July 2014

13th = Mercian Dressage, Bissell Wood (Shropshire South RC)
19th or 20th = Area Dressage and Riding Test, Ascot-under-Wychwood (West Oxfordshire RC)
29th = Hickstead (inc BRC SJ)

August 2014

1st - 4th = National Horse Trials Championships, Swalcliffe
16th or 23rd = Mercian Horse Trials, Hilltop (Worcester RC)

September 2014

TBC = BRC National Championships, Lincoln

October 2014

5th = Mercian Hunter Trials, Frampton Court (Frampton RC)

May 2014

5th = Area Junior Show and Style Jumping, Cleeve Prior (Cropton and Evesham RC)
5th = Mercian Show and Style Jumping, Cleeve Prior (Cropton and Evesham RC)
5th = Area Topscore Qualifier, Cleeve Prior (Cropton and Evesham RC)
25th = Area Show and Style Jumping qualifier, Three Counties (MHRC)
26th = MHRC Open Show and Mercian Showing, Three Counties (MHRC)
31st May = Festival of the Horse, Aston-le-Wells

June 2014

1st = Festival of the Horse, Aston-le-Wells

HORSELESS CLINIC

Re-Schedule for
TUESDAY 15th April 2014

Speaker: Robert Biddlecombe

Topic: Saddle Fitting and Design

At Hunters Inn, Longdon

Start at 8:00

£5 per head, non-members welcome

Includes refreshments.





MHRC NEWSLETTER

April 2014



COMBINATION CRAZIES AND DRESSAGE DIVAS

The first Area qualifier of the year took place on 26th April at Dodderhill, Droitwich, and was organised by the Worcester Riding Club. There were two sets of qualifiers run at the same time, the Combined Training and the Dressage, both for the Festival of the Horse Championship later in the year.



Julie and Ash

Although we didn't get a full team together, the club was ably represented by our four individuals:- Julie Jeffes and Hederfield Ash, Wendy Robinson and Sonas Oliver, Kat Jones and Red-back Cappuchino and Gerri Garrott and Murphy Garrott. And there were rosettes a plenty - Kat and Dotty were 2nd in the warm-up Novice Dressage, with Gerri coming 5th in the Prelim 18 qualifier. Wendy was 4th in her section for the Combined Training, but Julie came in

2nd and as the highest placed individual not in a team, has qualified for the final. As Julie said herself "Really proud of my little homebred Connie X – at her first riding club competition!"

But it wasn't all plain sailing, as Kat explains "For me it was quite 'entertaining' - Dotty was somewhat excited about her first event on grass this season and showed some very impressive airs above the ground prior to entering the dressage arena. Gerri's husband, Ted, said he had never seen a horse canter backwards before. Dotty certainly has some very talented dressage movements up her BRUSHING BOOTS!

The rain held off for most of it (although we all did get

very soggy) - Dotty also hated this (big wuss!). We waited what seemed like an eternity for the results but luckily everyone had a very good day and we all went home with a rosette. The best part was that Julie has qualified which is very exciting.

Gerri and Wendy very kindly provided tea and lovely cake which helped immensely whilst waiting for the results.

Great support and team spirit."

Julie, Wendy, Gerri and Kat



Inside this issue:

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Contacts and other Needful Things	4



Editor's Bit

Just a really short one from me as a lot to cram into this issue. A huge well done to all our teams and individuals - a great start to the Qualifying season with four people off to the Festival of the Horse at the end of the month - fly that MHRC flag high for us all!

Also I wanted to wish a collective GOOD LUCK to member Steph Woolley, who is off to Badminton on Wednesday 7th May to contend the Grassroots Championship on Cruise. Until next time, *Caroline*





WE NEED YOU!

So May is almost on us and that means that the MHRC BIG WEEKEND is just around the corner. It's an exciting time for the club, but also a lot of hard work for everyone involved. We always have a brilliant gang of enthusiastic volunteers and this year is no exception. So if you ticked that little box on the membership saying you are willing to help, now it's time to step forward.

Saturday 24th - Set-up
We are having to source our jumps elsewhere this year, which is going to make for a bit extra work. At **9:30** the MHRC jumps will arrive at the field, will need to be unloaded so that the trailers can travel on to pick up the other jumps. Help will be needed to do this and start setting up the field (roping

off rings, etc.). At **11:30** the other jumps will arrive (hopefully along with the course builder!), so the courses can be built. We need able hands to help all morning, even if it is only for an hour. We'll try to keep Facebook and E-mails updated if times change.

Sunday 25th - Area Jumping

We need volunteers to act as ring stewards, tack checkers and arena parties (picking up poles and changing course over for 2nd round) for all three rings during the day. If you can only do a morning or afternoon, then we're sure we can find someone to job share.

Monday 26th - Open Show

We need arena parties for both jumping rings - again,

part or the whole day would be great.

Evening - All hands on deck are needed for the great clear up. If anyone has a flatbed trailer that we could borrow to take jumps away (a driver would be nice too!), this would save us some time by not having to do two trips.

Please remember that without volunteers, these events cannot go on. For a small club, we have a great active membership and we know that we can count on you.

All volunteers get fed and watered throughout the day, and it is really good fun being part of the team.

Please contact Lyn Harber ASAP so that we can get everything finalised.

**MERCIAN SHOWING**

If you want to be on a Showing Team on 26th May, please contact Karen ASAP.

We need Coloureds, Veterans, Working Hunters and Riding Club Horses. See schedule for more details.

BACKS IN THE SADDLE

Our third Horseless Clinic took place on Tuesday 14th May at the Hunter's Inn. The topic was saddle fitting and was hosted by Robert Biddlecombe.

The interesting talk covered a lot of area, including the different sorts of saddles on the market. Good for our pocket (!) Robert agreed that buying second-hand is ok, but it should always be a recognised brand, also remembering that imported saddles are not as regulated as the UK tack industry.

The length of the saddle should be taken into

account, especially with the one thought we were given - horses are being bred with shorter backs, but rider's don't have smaller - ahem - bottoms!

A noteworthy discussion for our ex-racehorse owners highlighted why so many have back problems, especially when first off the track. Race saddles only have half a tree, so they are not used to being ridden with a tree so far back their spine, leading to soreness and pinching.

There was also Q&A sessions on the best numnahs to use, whether

flair/cair systems work, whether saddles can correct a horse's action, maintenance of tack and how to measure saddles.

A very enjoyable evening, rounded off by the famous Hunter's chips and a chance to chat.

This was the last Horseless Clinic as they take a break for the Summer months. But they will be back in the Autumn. If you have any topics you would like us to cover, or know of anyone who would like to do a talk, then please contact Caroline Bates.





CHALLENGING EVENTERS

The Eventer Challenge Qualifier took place on 27th April at Swalcliffe. The challenge sees competitors compete over a mixture of show jumps and cross-country type fences, including water.

MHRC once again sent plenty of competitors who were up to the task. Steph Woolley and Freckleton Manor competed as individuals in the Senior 90cm.

The Senior Pairs Challenge was entered by new partnership, Sue Peckham on Gangster and Anna Millington on Senderos. They flew round the course and came home with only a handle of time penalties (for going too fast!). But they won the class and qualified for the Festival of the Horse Finals at the end of the month.

We also sent a team for the Senior 100cm Challenge, of Camilla Esling on Just Jake VII, Natalie Smith on Rainstown Lad, Anna Millington on Senderos and Megan Harper on Teserae. It was time faults again that decided the places, this time knocking our team to 2nd place, but still a fantastic result. Camilla and Jake were the overall winners and are off to the finals too!

New member Anna had this to say about the day. "The day started off a disaster for me! I was coming along the M40 and about 4 miles off the Banbury junction my lorry lost all its pow-

er and the exhaust was smoking. I coasted along the hard shoulder and up to the roundabout where I decided to still head for Swalcliffe. I got through Banbury and onto the road towards the event, but I was literally crawling along, even cyclists were over taking me on the up hill parts! Once I was parked up I waited for Sue to arrive and we headed off to walk the cross country course. I had to walk both the 90 and 100 cm courses - both were up to height and very well presented. I have never done a pairs competition before but with Sue as a pro, she managed to put me right! We both jumped clear show jumping and headed out onto the xc. My horse, Simba, wanted to be in front so I kept turning round to make sure Sue was still there - all I heard was "I am still here!" We had a fantastic time and both horses jumped brilliantly. We won the pairs with 0.8 time penalties for going too fast! I then had to quickly change boots and saddle cloth to do the next class, thank you to Linda and Sue for helping me! This time it was the 100cm team challenge. Simba went brilliantly, again jumping another double clear. He was in a rhythm and covered the ground well. The whole team went well to finish with three double clears. Once I had washed Simba off and put him back on the lorry, we went to look at the score board. I had picked up 17.2 time penalties for going too



Natalie, Megan, Camilla and Anna

fast! I was gutted as Simba went beautifully and did not feel like he was going that fast at all! I felt annoyed as our team should have won but we were placed second even though we were the only team to finish on three double clears. Never mind, I will learn for next time! I then had to worry about getting home, as knew the lorry would never make it back to Worcester! We run a haulage company so my Dad came with the lorry and low loader to take us all home! All in all was a lovely day spent with great friends representing a fantastic Riding Club.

“

Sue and Anna with rosettes and qualification cards in hand!





CLUB CONTACTS

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



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Emma Cooper (Website)

Pepper Pot Points League

2013/14 League as of 28.04.2014

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	Anna Millington	75
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32nd	Caroline Bates	15
	Tina Price	15
34th	Liz Davies	10
35th	Cindie Bunce	5
	Freya Malins	5
	Jo Jeynes	5
	Karen Withers	5
	Lisa Drinkwater	5
	Rita Woolley	5
	Steph Wolley	5
	Wendy Yates	5

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EVENTS CALENDAR

May 2014

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September 2014

TBC = BRC National Championships, Lincoln

October 2014

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PONY CLUB PEOPLE

The Ledbury Pony Club held their team jumping competition at Hartpurty Arena on 26th April, and a group of members got together on Facebook to arrange a few teams to show the pony clubbers how use RC riders do it.

The 70cm team of Kelly Mawman on Kara, Tilly Martin on Deicin Glyndwar, Anna Robson on Baelfire and Kate Greenward on Barney, came 3rd, as did the 80cm team of Jodie Powell, Anna Robson on Santa Fe, Alex Harris on Lena and Natalie Smith on Farencio. Natalie also came 4th in the

individual competition. The 90cm team of Elizabeth Davis, Lauran Jones on Woodboro Kat, Alex Harris on Buz and Anna Robson on Mister Seamus, came 6th, with Anna taking the 1st place.

Everyone had a good (if rowdy!) day. A big thank you to Helen Robson for organising the teams for the day.





MHRC NEWSLETTER

May 2014



TOP SCORES AT THE MERCIAN JUMPING



It was a busy day on 5th May, with both FOTH TopScore qualifiers, Junior Area qualifiers and Mercian Jumping at Cleeve Prior. Once again, MHRC rustled up an impressive number of teams and individuals to have a go.

on 1st by 2 points. Overall the team in 3rd.

The 75cm Show jumping team sadly weren't placed, but both teams in the 70cm did well to come 3rd and 4th.

Special mentions should go to Karen, who was riding Wendy's Oliver and had never sat on him before the show. Also to members Kelly, Ellie and Skye, who were representing the club in their first team competition. Also thank you Linda Medcalf for the photos.

Novice TopScore
Jenny Barnes and Flying Minstrel

Mercian 75cm SJ
Jo Jeynes and Nimrod IV
Karen Withers and Sonas Oliver
Jenny Barnes and Flying Minstrel
Wendy Robinson and Finley

Mercian 70cm SJ
Sara Stephenson and Suzy
Shellee Illingworth and Farenco
Skye Houldsworth and William
Wendy Yates and Bella

Kelly Mawmen and Kara
Emma Cooper and It's All About Alfie
Ellie Burton and Golly Miss Polly
Caroline Bates and Smokey Joe

Mercian 75cm Style
Linda Kemp and Skye Blue
Karen Withers and Sonas Oliver
Natalie Smith and Farenco

PHOTOS

Above:
Emma Cooper and It's All About Alfie in the Mercian Ring

Right:
Natalie Smith and Farenco in the Style Ring

The TopScore riders were up first in the morning. Sue was 5th and Wendy was 4th in the Intermediate, but Jenny came second in the Novice section, making her the 5th person from our club to qualify for the Festival of the Horse at the end of the month!

Next it was the turn of the Style jumpers. Natalie riding Shellee's Farenco, produced a polished round to come 2nd overall, only missing out

RUNNER AND RIDERS

Intermediate TopScore
Sue Peckham and Gangster
Wendy Robinson and Sonas Oliver



Inside this issue:

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Pepper Pot Points Challenge 4

Contacts and other Needful Things 4

Badminton Dreams 4



Editor's Bit

Another busy month for the club, with the first Mercian event and our Big Weekend, which was a big success. I think we benefited from so many other events being cancelled, while our showground was in perfect condition for jumping on. There was certainly many more competitors at the open show than we have seen in a long time. One of the competitions that sadly succumbed to waterlogged ground was the Festival of the Horse, to be held in the last weekend of May. With so many club members qualified, we are still waiting to hear whether it will be held later in the year. A pity if not.

So, on to June. Plenty of Mercian and Area competitions coming up, so if you fancy having a go, please contact the Team managers ASAP. Until next time, *Caroline*





THE BIG WEEKEND



PHOTOS

Above:
Victoria Gregg and
Euro in the Ridden
Hunter class

Below:
Karen Withers and
judge Sam Jukes

HAVE YOU CHECKED OUT OUR NEW WEBSITE YET?

Thanks to Emma
Cooper, we have a
new website up and
running.

www.malvernhillsriddingclub.co.uk

The end of May always sees the riding club going into overdrive as our Big Weekend comes closer. This year, it started at 9 o'clock on Saturday 24th, as an eager team of volunteers arrived in the pouring rain to

start setting up the show-ground. It's always amazing that everyone can keep such a sense of humour as the detangling of ropes, moving of jumps and getting unbelievably wet takes its toll, especially when the sun comes out just as everything was finished.

Then Sunday 25th saw teams coming from across Area 18 for the Show-jumping Qualifiers. With three rings on the go, helpers and competitors were kept very busy for the whole day, but as a club, there were some great results.

Two teams competed in the Novice jumping. Sadly, 'Malvern Maltesers' of Wendy Yates on Bella, Alex Harris on Ted and Catherine Holland on Lexicon, weren't placed, but the 'Malvern Mars' of Jenny Barnes on Flying Minstrel, Alex Harris on Phoenix, Sue Peckham on Brygadere William and Lyn Tilt on Little Apache, were only beaten into 2nd place after a rather tense jump-off. Jenny also won the individual class and the whole team have qualified for the finals in at the

National Championships in September.

The club also had two teams in the Intermediate jumping. The 'Malvern MnM's' of Catherine Holland on Vageilonon Dancing Queen, Linda Kemp on Skye Blue, Camilla Esling on Just Jake VII and Alex Harris on Buzz-B, were sadly not placed, but the 'Malvern Minstrals' of Anna Millington on Mystic Law, Megan Harper on Tesserae and Jodie Powell on Bleannagoos Black Diamond, were 6th. Anna also came 4th and Camilla 3rd in the individual competition.

The 'Malvern Munchies' represented the club in the open jumping and came in 3rd. They were Anna Robson on Seamus, Anna Millington on Senderos, Catherine Holland on Artful Archie and Cindie Bunce on Dreambreaker. Anna also had an individual ride on Academy Award, on who she came 5th, while winning overall on Seamus, meaning she is also off to the finals.

Lastly, the club had two teams in the Style jumping. Unfortunately, 'Malvern Matchmakers' only ended up with two competitors of Alex Harris on Ted and Camilla

Esling on Just Jake VII. But 'Malvern Milkyways' of Sue Peckham on Brygadere William, Megan Harper on Tequila Sunrise, Anna Millington on Mystic Law and Alex Harris on Buzz, came 2nd. Individual places were won by Alex (3rd) and Megan (6th) in the 75cm section, and for Anna (2nd) in the 85cm.

So a great day, with some qualifications going forward. There were lots of nice comments from other clubs, which made all of it worthwhile.

Then just time for a few hours sleep and it was on the open show. The Merician team showing took place in one of the rings and the club was ably represented by four teams.

The 'Malvern Maids' of Victoria Gregg on Out on the Razzle, Sara Stephenson on Suzy, Natalie Smith on Rainstorm Lad and Nicola Esling on Just Jake came 1st overall, with 2nd place being taken by the 'Malvern Marvels' of Lin





THE BIG WEEKEND

Harber on Toby Court, Tilly Martin on Bob, Sophie Hooper on DJ and Julie Reynolds on Springbok.

There were lots of individual places for us too. In the Coloured class, Victoria Gregg was 5th on Out on the Razzle. In the Riding Club Horse/Pony, Tilly Martin was 2nd on Bob and Shelley Illingworth was 5th on Farenco. The Working Hunter class was our most successful, with Sophie on DJ coming 2nd, Natalie Smith on Rainstorm Lad in 3rd and 4th going to Jodie Powell on Black Diamond. And in the Veteran, Nicola Esling on Just Jake was 2nd and Kelly Mawmen on Kara was 6th.

This was such a good day, that the club has moved up to 2nd place in the Mercian League!

The show itself was a great success. It was nice to see so many members competing ... here is a list of some of the winners!

Class 3: NOVICE 2'6 2nd = Lyn Tilt and Little Apache (Best MHRC)

Class 10: BD PRELIM 7 3rd = Kat Jones on Redback Cappuchino (Best MHRC)

Class 11: BD PRELIM 14 2nd = Kat Jones on Redback Cappuchino (Best MHRC)

Class 12: BEST TURNED OUT. HORSES 1st = Katherine Jones and Redback Cappuchino (Best MHRC)

Class 20: IN-HAND RACE-HORSE TO RIDING HORSE 5th = Kat Jones and Redback Cappuchino (Best MHRC)

Class 21: RIDDEN R ACE-HORSE TO RIDING HORSE 1st = Victoria Gregg and Grands Crus (Best MHRC) 3rd = Kat Jones and Redback Cappuchino

Class 23: RIDDEN VETERAN HORSE/PONY 4th = Mandy Bailey and Jasper (Best MHRC)

Class 25: RIDDEN HUNTER 2nd = Victoria Gregg and Euro (Best MHRC) 3rd = Natalie Smith and Brooke

Class 26: WORKING HUNTER PONY 3rd = Victoria Gregg and Toby Court (Best MHRC)

Class 27: NOVICE WORKING HUNTER 3rd = Lizzie Davies and Golden Partner (Best MHRC)

A huge thank you from the club to everyone who made the weekend a success, from setting up, stewarding, judging, manning the gate, providing food, working in the marquee and the commentator box, providing first aid and clearing up on the Monday night.

We now have a year to recover and start all over again.

Thank you to Les Taylor for letting me use his excellent photos for this article. To check out more photos of the day, you can check out Les's Facebook page 'Worcestershire Horse Pics' or the official photographer was Michael Martin, who has a comprehensive website.



PHOTOS

Above:
Catherine Holland
in the Area Jumping

Below:
Lyn Tilt and Little
Apache in the
Novice Jumping



CURRENT MERCIAN RANKING

1st Worcester - 52
2nd Malvern - 48
3rd Crothorne - 34
4th Bromsgrove - 31
5th Cheltenham - 21
6th Bromyard - 18
7th Bewdley - 5
8th Frampton - 3
9th Wyvern - 2
10th Vale of Arrow - 1
10th SSRC - 1



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	Sophie Hooper	115
13th	Lyn Harber	105
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15th	Julie Reynolds	95
	Tilly Martin	95
17th	Wendy Robinson	90
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	Kelly Mawman	70
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	Jooli Thornton	40
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	Lauran Jones	35
34th	Emma Cooper	30
	Linda Medcalf	30
	Nicola Shepard	30
	Skye Houldsworth	30
38th	Ellie Burton	25
	Stacey Johnson	25
40th	Gerri Garrott	20
41st	Tina Price	15
42nd	Jo Jaynes	10
	Steph Woolley	10
44th	Feya Malins	5
	Lisa Drinkwater	5
	Rita Woolley	5



At the same time, Steph Woolley and King's Cruise were contending the 100cm Grassroots competition. After an impressive Dressage, they were well up the lead-

EVENTS CALENDAR

June 2014

1st = Festival of the Horse, Aston-le-Wells **CANCELLED**
7th = Area Dressage to Music, Kings Equestrian (Shropshire South RC)
15th = Mercian Arena Eventing, Bissell Wood (Bromsgrove RC)
29th = Mercian Combined Training, Pound Green (Bewdley RC)

July 2014

6th = **NEW** Area ODE qualifier, Sapey
13th = Mercian Dressage, Bissell Wood (Shropshire South RC)
16th = Badminton Riding Club Dressage
19th or 20th = Area Dressage and Riding Test, Ascot-under-Wychwood (West Oxfordshire RC)

29th = Hickstead (inc BRC SJ)

August 2014

1st - 4th = National Horse Trials Championships, Swalcliffe
17th = Mercian Horse Trials, Hilltop (Worcester RC)

September 2014

TBC = BRC National Championships, Lincoln
11th = **NEW** Blenheim (inc RC Challenge)

October 2014

5th = Mercian Hunter Trials, Frampton Court (Frampton RC)

CLUB CONTACTS

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Iris Ellis (Membership Secretary)
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Emma Cooper (Website)
 emmamorris42@hotmail.com

BADMINTON DREAMS

The 7th May was an exciting day for the MHRC, with two riders competing at the Badminton Horse Trials.



Alex Harris the Burghley Young Horse Qualifier on Starlight. On a very windy, wet morning, they did a nice dressage test and a clear round over jumps, to come 10th in the 4 year-old section.

er board. Sadly, Cruise took a dislike to the jumping ring, but soon redeemed himself with a brilliant clear round the cross-country, leaving them in 35th place overall.

A huge congratulations to both members, flying the MHRC flag nice and high - we are all proud of you both.





MHRC NEWSLETTER

June 2014



CURRENT MERCIAN LEAGUE

Malvern 66 pts
 Worcester 56 pts
 Bromsgrove 49 pts
 Crophorne 38 pts
 Cheltenham 34 pts
 Bromyard 19 pts

Mercian Arena Eventing

The Mercian Arena eventing was held at Bissell Wood Equestrian centre on 15th June. This involved completing a dressage test, then a round of show jumps and simulated cross-country. Entries were limited to only one team per class, which was a shame, but MHRC still had an excellent day.

In class 2, Mini Mercian, the test was Prelim 7 and the

jumps 2'3. The team of Wendy Yates on Bella, Anna Robson on Santa Fe, Kelly Mawman on Kara and Megan Harper on Tequila, came 3rd, with Anna individual 5th, Kelly 6th and Wendy winning the rosette for the Best Dressage.

Class 3, Midi Mercian, was Prelim 18 and over 2'6 jumps. The team of Catherine Holland on ??, Liz Annis

Davies on Golden Partner, Linda Kemp of Skye and Megan Harper on Tesserae, came in 2nd, with Liz 2nd individual, Megan 3rd and Catherine 5th.

As well as great results on the day, this puts at the top of the Mercian League table, so fingers crossed that the rest of the season is as successful.

Dancing Horses at Bromyard

The area Dressage-to-Music qualifier was held at Kings Equestrian, on 7th June. MHRC had no representatives, but there was strong competition from across other clubs. Some of the winners were:-

- Senior Novice 0 points - Jane Ward & Afondale from South Shropshire RC
 - Junior Prelim - Georgia Amer & Mosaic IV from West Oxon RC
 - Senior Novice - Natalie Canning & Vogue De Mazure from Bromyard RC

- Junior Open - Harriet Brick & Martleaves Sparkling Gem from Bromyard
 - Senior Elementary - Lucie Dunkeld on Arnies Game from ISIS Dressage Group
 - Pairs - Ali Tate on Lady of Athenrye and Charlotte Harris on Quick Buck from Worcester

Inside this issue:

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Editor's Bit

It's been another great month for our teams, top of the Mercian League table and our Dressage Divas off to the National championships in September. It's hard to believe that the team competitions are starting to wind down, but there are a few opportunities this season to represent the club, so if you fancy having a go, please contact one of the team reps ASAP.

Until next time, *Caroline*





OLYMPIA TRIP

We are going to organize a coach trip to the Olympia horse show on Friday 19th December. This will be open to friends and family, but they must be 'accompanied' by a MHRC member. Tickets will be about £50, but this will depend on numbers and availability, so is subject to change. This will give you transport back and forth, access to the shopping village all day and guaranteed seats for the afternoon performance, as well as seats for the morning performance if available. Before we go ahead and book tickets, we are trying to get an idea of numbers. Please drop an e-mail to Caroline on mhrcnewsletter@hotmail.co.uk, leave a message on 07900 376 272 or stop me next time you see me, just to confirm whether you would be interested and how many tickets you would want. Please let me know before our next committee meeting on the 21st July, where we will be finalising plans.

DRESSAGE DIVAS AT ASTON



The summer Area Dressage qualifiers were hosted by the West Oxfordshire riding club on 22nd June at Aston-under-Wychwood. Katherine Jones on Redbackcapuchino, Julie Jeffes on Hederfield Ash, Gerri Garrot on Murphy and Wendy Robinson on

Sonas Oliver, made up a team for the Senior Prelim team event, where all members had to ride Prelim 12. AND THEY WON, beating Worcester Riding Club by a single point.

There were also some impressive individual places. Kat was 1st in the Open Prelim 18 and 3rd in the section 2 of the Prelim 12. Wendy and Julie were both 2nd in their sections of the Prelim 12, while Julie was also 2nd in the Open Novice 24.

"It was a great day," said Gerri, "though the ground was very hard as was the judging, but at least it was fair. Murphy was good but not as good as the rest of the team. Then again I

couldn't ask for a lovelier horse than my Murphy - he does everything for me."

"What a long way to go for one test!" added Wendy, "I was pleased to come second in my section. It was a lovely day and great team spirit. We are all now looking forward to the Championships"

For Kat, it was a "very exciting event, with cake and tea again which has now become a custom at these events! The Dotster was impeccably behaved for a change, although did not want to stand in the holding area for the tack check. I don't know what she thought they were going to do her! We were first in the arena in her section with Simon Laurens judging, so quite nerve racking! She won her warm up class so I was worried I had overcooked her for the qualifier but she pulled out all the stops thankfully. She then slept in the trailer for the rest of the day. Gerri's lovely Murphy did the best free walk ever and lost a mark on it! Very odd. Julie and Wen-

dy and their lovely horses performed exceptionally well and were leading their sections right up to the last horses. Boo! But Hurrah we still won - yippeee!!! One very excited lady. Great team again, can't wait for the championships!"

And Julie agreed, "Yes, it was a real achievement - and a bit of a nail-biting finish as we thought Worcester had seized the advantage. Luckily for us we were a more consistent team with two 2nds and a 3rd against their two 1sts and a 6th that made the difference of one point that gave us the lead. It was a very well-run event but the ground was really hard and many horses struggled to keep their balance - one in my group slipped on to his bottom coming up centre line."

Our new Dressage dream team (with the edition of me and Lauran Jones) will be off to Badminton on 16th July to compete in the Inter-Club Dressage competition, so fingers crossed for another successful day.



COMBINING CHALLENGES



The Mercian Combined Training competition this year was run by the Bewdley Bridle club at Pound Green, Worcestershire on 29th June. We sent one team to compete in the novice class, where two members did Intro B and two did Prelim 12, all jumping a course of 2'3. The team of Anna Robson on Santa Fe, Sara Stephenson on Suzy, Kelly Mawman on Kara and Gerri Garrott on Murphy, ended the day in 4th place. There were a couple of individual places too, a 4th for Gerri and a win for Kelly in their respective sections.

For Gerri, it was her first ever Combined Training competition. "When I first saw the notice on FB I turned to Ted and said "oh I could do that! It's about the same height as our settee arm (oh, so very brave). Then realization hits - oh my goodness, I don't know anything about jumping a proper course. Normally I only do two jumps with my great trainer, Sharon Thomas, but this year I've shocked her and myself by jumping higher and even asked for jumps to go up instead of down.

The big day arrives - get up early to go down and check on his Lordship as he'd had a bath the night before, had his batman suit on and was left in his stable. Yes, you guessed it – POOH - all over the white bits. A quick wash down, load and on our way.

Arriving at the venue we went and registered, then asked if team mates and introduced myself. The day was nice but chilly to start off with. We watched Sara and Anna do their test, then it was time to go and get ready.

The world is a small place - I used to work for Kelly Mawman's dad, so it was nice to put a name to face, as Mr Mawman would always ask me questions about horses, so I'm pleased she wasn't put off and that she joined MHRC.

Murphy decided that he would actually be good and listen. He really worked hard and gave me 100% for the dressage. Then it was the jumping (gulp). I decided I wasn't going to hang around, so Kelly went in first with a lovely clear round. Then it was me and Murphy, off we went, had the second jump down but went clear rest of round, ending up with four faults and time faults.

I can honestly say I really really enjoyed myself that day, lovely having support from my unpaid groom Ted (hubby), Lin and Linda. A lovely place very well organized with everyone so friendly. The ground was nice and I'm looking forward to competing again there for the club."



BLENHEIM CALL-UP

Once again, MHRC has been given the opportunity to send a team to the Eventer Challenge at the Blenheim horse trials on the ???. This competition is timed over a mixed course of showjumps and cross-country type fences. If you would like to be considered for the team, please contact Luran Jones by 12th July. However, please note...this is a very challenging event, with big fences, a twisty course and a tight time. Please only consider putting your name forward if you are regularly competing successfully at 1.05m. As this is such a tough competition, the club will be organising selection/training sessions for prospective team members.



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- ◆ Linda Kemp
- ◆ Janet Schooling
- ◆ Clare Chapman

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Pepper Pot Points League

2013/14 League as of 29.06.2014

PL	NAME	PTS
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3rd	Natalie Smith	240
4th	Megan Harper	210
5th	Anna Millington	205
6th	Camilla Esling	195
7th	Alex Harris	185
8th	Sara Stephenson	175
9th	Kelly Mawman	170
10th	Jenny Barnes	165
11th	Wendy Robinson	160
12th	Linda Kemp	155
13th	Victoria Gregg	150
14th	Julie Jeffes	130
	Sue Peckham	130
16th	Sophie Hooper	115
17th	Gerri Garrott	105
	Lyn Harber	105
	Shellee Illingworth	105
	Wendy Yates	105
21st	Elizabeth Davies	100
22nd	Julie Reynolds	95
	Tilly Martin	95
24th	Catherine Holland	90
25th	Jodie Powell	70
	Lyn Tilt	70
	Nicky Esling	70
28th	Chris Esling	50
29th	Di Symonds	45
	Suzanne Partridge	45
31st	Caroline Bates	40
	Dani Diment	40
	Jooli Thornton	40
	Karen Withers	40
40th	Ann Nixon	35
	Cindie Bunce	35
	Helen Robson	35
	Lauran Jones	35
44th	Emma Cooper	30
	Linda Medcalf	30
	Nicola Shepard	30
	Skye Houldsworth	30
48th	Ellie Burton	25
	Mandy Bailey	25
	Stacey Johnson	25
51st	Tina Price	15
52nd	Jo Jeynes	10
	Steph Woolley	10
54th	Feya Malins	5
	Lisa Drinkwater	5
	Rita Woolley	5

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EVENTS CALENDAR

July 2014

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September 2014

TBC = BRC National Championships, Lincoln
11th = Blenheim (inc RC Challenge)

October 2014

5th = **NEW** Team Endurance Final
5th = Mercian Hunter Trials, Frampton Court (Frampton RC)

November 2014

1st = **NEW** Area Dressage at Hartpury Arena (Cheltenham)

December 2014

19th = **NEW** Coach Trip to Olympia

Schedules are available by e-mailing mhrcnewsletter@hotmail.co.uk or by checking the individual club websites.

Royal Three Counties Show

The Royal Three Counties show was held in Malvern on 13th to 15th June and MHRC members were out in force competing in the events. There were also a few rosettes, with the ex-racehorses triumphing. Victoria Greg, riding Julie Reynolds' Grands Crus, came 4th in the Novice Potential Racehorse Performance class. Kathe-

rine Jones and Redbackcappuchino were 3rd in the Novice Potential Showing Racehorse, as were Anna Millington and Senderos in the Retrained Racehorse Challenge. Sophie Hooper, riding Doctor Joe, was 2nd in the Novice Working Hunter. Congratulations to everyone who competed.





MHRC NEWSLETTER

June 2014



SAPEY SHENANIGANS



ABOVE:
Alex Harris

The Area One-Day-Event qualifier was once again held at Sapey, under the combined organisation of Worcester RC, the Crophorne and Evesham RC and the Area 18 Liaison committee. For MHRC, it started off as an exciting event, with five teams and a scattering of individuals entered across the classes, but horses being horses, there were some

tense moments leading up to the day, with replacements being sought last minute as lameness seemed to spread throughout the competitors! Still, we were well represented with two teams in the 100cm class, one in the 90cm and two individuals in the 80cm.

Jodie said of the

day, "The weather was lovely to start with, then we got caught in a shower, but it brightened back up as I finished my XC. Then the showers kept coming. The dressage and showjumping rings were very slippery, thank goodness for studs! The XC course was lovely and rode lovely too. It was a great day to remember."

Alex agreed, "I had a brilliant day, except for being held on course for half an hour in the cross country. I hope the girl was ok! It's a well-run event and lovely course. Only gripe I would have is how long it takes to get results up! It's always great fun going with the team - everyone is always so happy for whatever you do!"

As a condition of entry into this event, each club has to send two helpers per team, for fence judging,

scoring, stewarding duties, etc. So a big thank you had to go to the following people, some of who stepped in last minute to make sure our club were covered – Linda Medcalf, Chris Esling, Rita Wooley and Jo Jeynes.

At the end of the day, the club was in the rosettes. The Malvern Malters were 6th in the 90cm. In the 100cm, Alex came 4th and Liz 5th in the individual, while the Malvern Minstrels won, meaning they had qualified for the Championships at Swalcliffe at the beginning of August. Unfortunately, when the results came out over a week later, Steph very honestly came forward and pointed out that the scorers had failed to take into account a stop she had on the cross-country course. After

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Editor's Bit

I've come to the conclusion that, although Dressage is my chosen hobby, I actually do a lot of different sports. For instance, a typical show day would include Hill-Walking (to get him in from the field), Synchronised Swimming (bathing four white legs), Sprinting (suddenly remembering plaiting bands are in the lorry at opposite side of the farm), Step Aerobics (plaiting), Tug of War (loading), Truck Racing (self-explanatory!), a Dressage test or two, then Cross-Country running (when he won't get back on the lorry!), Weight Lifting (ramps are heavier at the end of the day) and Water-Skiing (being dragged to the field). So, you could say I have a well-rounded sports life!

Back to the club and another great month of competition. Well done everyone who took part in the teams or came along to support. Hard to believe that there is only a couple more months of the summer season left – soon be Christmas!
Until next time, *Caroline*





BADMINTON BLOG

PHOTOS FROM THE ODE:

Wendy Robinson
Megan Harper
Linda Kemo
The '100' Teams
(thanks to Linda Medcalf and
Natalie Smith)



It was back in May that Kat Jones brought it to the attention of the committee that Badminton were once again running an Inter Riding Club class as part of their Dressage Championships on 16th July. Liking a challenge, I decided that I would have a go at organising some teams, giving our hard-pressed Area and Mercian managers a break. So the first tentative e-mails went out and we were off. I hasten to add that at no point did I think me and Smokes were up to standard, but when we were suddenly one man down, I thought I'd be brave and agree to fill in.

The teams ended up as 'Malvern Hills White' of Kat Jones on Redback Cappuchino, Julie Jeffes on Hederfield Ash and Gerri Garrott on Murphy, and 'Malvern Hills Green' of Lauran Jones on Woodboro Kat, Wendy Robinson on Sonas Oliver and myself on the infamous Smokey Joe!

Then suddenly, the weeks had flown by and I found myself suddenly contemplating having to drive an old H-reg lorry along three motorways – agghh. But at least it kept my mind off the impending dressage tests. The real shock to the system came on the Saturday before the competition, when the times were published – the teams were on at 9:20 and 11:45, but some of our open warm-up times were even earlier – with poor Julie the earliest at 8:30!

So for me, Lauran and Ellie (our bribed groomed for the day!) it was a 3 o'clock start, arriving at the yard bleary eyed and feeling as far from 'Dressage Divas' as you could imagine. The horses gave us some very odd looks as we dragged them in from the field, but some dodgy plaiting later, we were loaded and off. Surprisingly, the lorry did rather well along the motorways and there

was more than one pathetic cheer as we actually managed to overtake something!

But, anyway, the competition. The ground was amazing, with everyone parking up just yards from 'Huntsman's Close' and, without much planning, all five lorries managed to be quite close to each other. There was a bit of a mad panic as we had to find a pair of spare boots as someone had managed to leave home without theirs (yes, you know who you are J), but everything else seemed to go smoothly. The warm-up was amazing – a huge, flat field that just had you itching for a gallop, although everyone seemed pretty restrained. Personally, (and especially when on a bolshie youngster!), I love the idea of plenty of space to ride in.

So, all ready to go, we entered for the warm-up test. At which point Smokey decided that he wasn't that

CONT ON PAGE 4

SAPEY SHENANIGANS CONT...



a re-count, the team was demoted to 3rd place. However, the good news from BRC HQ is that because it was an error on

the organiser's part, rather than on ours, they would still invite the team to compete in the finals. So watch this space...

THE RUNNER AND RIDERS 100cm = Malvern M&M's Alex Harris and Phoenix / Natalie Smith and Farenco / Lisa Drinkwater and Bonjour Bond / Megan Harper and Tesseræ **100cm = Malvern Minstrels** Liz Davies and

Pumba / Steph Wooley and Freckleton Metador / Wendy Robinson and Sonas Oliver **90cm = Malvern Maltesers** Sue Peckham and Mr Gangster / Linda Kemp and Skye Blue / Jodie Powell and Bleannagloss Black Diamond / Liz Davies and Golden Partner **80cm = Individuals** Sue Peckham and Brigadier William / Megan Harper and Tequila Sunrise





MERCIAN DRESSAGE

The Mercian Dressage competition was held at Pound Green, Bewdley, on 13th June and this year was hosted by the Shropshire South RC. The format was the same as last year, with a team of four doing an intro, two prelim and a novice test, with the lowest prelim score being discounted.

The club sent two teams. For the **Malvern Maids**, Suzanne Partridge and Midnight did Intro A, Gerri Garrott and Murphy did Prelim 13, Wendy Robinson and Sonas Oliver did Prelim 18 and Camilla Esling and Just Jake VII did Novice 28, finishing on a very impressive score of

198.83. But they were pipped by the **Malvern Marvels** of Karen Withers and Ishandraz doing Intro A, Julie Jeffes and Hederfield Ash doing Prelim 13, Camilla Esling and Teds Rainbow doing Prelim 18 and Kat Jones and Redback Cappuchino doing Novice 28, who ended up on a score of 200.75 and were 5th in the overall team competition.

There were some individual rosettes for the Mercian section too, with Gerri coming 6th and Julie 2nd in Prelim 13, Wendy 4th in Prelim 18 and Camilla 6th in Novice 28. Julie also came 2nd in the Open section of Novice 28 and Kat

3rd in the Open section of Novice 34.

Another good day for the club and more points for our Mercian League totals, putting us in a string 2nd place. The next Mercian competitions are the ODE at Hilltop on 17th August and the Hunter Trial at Frampton on 5th October. If you would like to compete in either, please contact Karen or Linda ASAP.

MERCIAN LEAGUE

1st Bromsgrove	83
2nd Malvern Hills	77
3rd Worcester	66
4th Bewdley	45
5th Cropthorne	42
6th Bromyard	35
7th Cheltenham	34
8th SSRC	32
9th Wyvern	18
10th Vale of Arrow	13
11th Frampton	3

League as of the 13th June after the Dressage at Pound Green.

NEW WINTER BRC CHAMPIONSHIPS

After much lobbying by members, the BRC has introduced new competitions for the Winter season, with the Championships held at Bury Farm on 2nd and 3rd May 2015.

For the Intermediate Dressage, in a team of four, one member will ride a Prelim test, two a Novice and one an Elementary (best three scores to count). All riders will automatically be entered into the individual competition too. There will also be an Intermediate level for the jumping, with courses at approx. 95cm. As with the Novice jumping, there is no individual competition.

So far we have no confirmation of qualifying dates or venues, but they should start from October 2014.

As normal, the Novice Winter championship will be held at Hartpury next year. The Dressage involves a team of four (two to do Prelim, two to do Novice) and the Showjumping is approx. 80cm. Details of the qualifying dates are already in the calendar.

If you would be interested in doing any of the Winter qualifiers, please contact Luran or Chris. Please remember that for Area competitions, there are strict eligibility rules for horses and riders, so please check the online BRC rulebook if you are not sure. And your passport MUST be up to date and loaded on to the Area website before the competition. There will be more details on how to do this in the next newsletter.





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	Linda Kemp	170
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14th	Elizabeth Davies	160
15th	Sue Peckham	150
	Victoria Gregg	150
17th	Gerri Garrott	130
18th	Sophie Hooper	115
19th	Lyn Harber	105
	Shellee Illingworth	105
	Wendy Yates	105
22nd	Julie Reynolds	95
	Tilly Martin	95
24th	Catherine Holland	90
25th	Jodie Powell	85
26th	Lyn Tilt	70
	Nicky Esling	70
28th	Karen Withers	60
29th	Chris Esling	50
	Suzanne Partridge	50
31st	Caroline Bates	45
	Di Symonds	45
33rd	Dani Diment	40
	Jooli Thornton	40
	Lauran Jones	40
	Steph Woolley	40
37th	Ann Nixon	35
	Cindie Bunce	35
	Helen Robson	35
40th	Emma Cooper	30
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2nd = Hickstead (inc BRC Teams of Three SJ)

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September 2014

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11th = Blenheim (inc RC Challenge)

October 2014

5th = Team Endurance Final

5th = Mercian Hunter Trials, Frampton Court (Frampton RC)

November 2014

1st = Area Novice Dressage at Hartpury Arena (Cheltenham)

December 2014

19th = Coach Trip to Olympia

May 2015

2nd - 3rd = **NEW** Intermediate BRC Winter champs, Bury Farm

Schedules are available by e-mailing mhrnewsletter@hotmail.co.uk or by checking the individual club websites.

BADMINTON BLOG CONTINUED

impressed on leaving his mates. Tense to say the least, the canter was probably the funniest, wobblest, un-co-ordinated pace in the history of riding. There is evidence too – a video of Julie and Ash looking lovely, elegant and very Dressage-like, with me and Smokes bucking across the background in the other arena!

Our team test came quicker than ever. Now, you have to bear in mind that for both the open and team we had to do Prelim 13, so I had literally just ridden the test less than an hour before. So, what's the only thing that could happen? I was so pleased that we actually got a half decent canter, started grinning like an

idiot and promptly forgot where I was!

Still, it was a really great day and I was proud of my little horse for coping as well as he did. Although we didn't get placed (no surprise!), Wendy and Julie got through to the individual championship as the highest scorers in their respective teams – a nice touch that I liked. But there were some accolades to reward the club for a long day, with 'Whites' coming 8th overall, winning some rather interesting lime green rosettes. And the 'Greens'? - well, despite having me on the team, we didn't come last and I think we should be very proud of that.





MHRC NEWSLETTER

August 2014



Rosettes all Round at Hilltop ODE



Skye at her first ODE

The Mercian One-Day-Event was once again hosted by the Worcester riding club at Hilltop on 16th August. Despite some wet and woolly weather leading up to it, the ground ended up perfect with some nice sunny weather later on in the day.

The club sent three teams – one for the novice class, who rode Prelim 7 and jumped a maximum height of 2'3, and two for the Intermediate, who rode Prelim 12 and jumped 2'6, and all three teams were placed! The MALVERN MIRACLES of Anna Robson on Toby, Skye Houldsworth on Jerry, Lisa Drinkwater on Basil and Kelly Mawman on Kara, were 2nd in the novice class, with Anna being individual 3rd and Lisa 2nd. The

MALVERN MADAMS of Lyn Tilt on Apache, Anna Robson on Sante Fe, Elizabeth Wise on Golden Partner and Tilly Martin on Bob were 4th in the Intermediate, but the MALVERN MAIDS of Chris Esling on Arthur, Jodie Powell on Black Diamond, Catherine Holland on Vagelloron Dancing Queen and Skye Houldsworth on Titano saw off all the other teams to win the class. There were also some individual places – Jodie was 6th, Lyn was 4th and Catherine was 2nd.

Kelly Mawman describes her day : "Well Sunday was my first ever One Day Event, so to say I was nervous would be an understatement. I'd never even ridden a full cross country course before! But I had a fantastic time and Kara looked after me the whole way round, and as

soon as we finished clear I wanted to go again! Just want to say a big thank you to Helen & Anna Robson for letting me ride such an amazing horse, Kara is a superstar, and for their support as I probably wouldn't have done it if it wasn't for them! Also Lin, Tilly & Jodie for their support on the day too! And we came home team 2nd so a good day all round!"



Rosettes all Round

Inside this issue:

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Passport Palaver	p3
All Change	p3
Royal International Horse Show	p4
Pepper Pot League, Events Calendar and Other Needful Things	p4



Editor's Bit

What a great week of equestrian sport we've had, some horrible lows for Team GB, but great to see them up there on the podium so often. While many of you were lucky enough to go to WEG and watch it all live, I've had to make do with the patchy TV coverage. It's surprising how many emotions you'll go through - awe at the Dressage riders, jealousy at the lovely route the Endurance riders got to ride, adrenalin pumping at the Eventers and, to be honest, down right confusion at the Reining! But to me, **THE** image of the games so far is when Sheikh Hamden bin Mohammed Al Maktoum (yes, I did look up the spelling!), was given the thumbs up by the head vet at the end of eight and a half hours in the saddle. Watching him throw his arms around his horse, covering his head with kisses, proves that no matter how high you get in this crazy sport, it's our four-legged partners that make it all worth while.

Until next time,

Best Wishes, Caroline





FUN AT THE FINALS



THE TEAM (from left) Wendy, Anna, Liz and Steph

The BRC Horse Trials championship was held during August, once again with Swalcliffe as the venue. The championship is always an extra challenge for riders, as it is 'long format', with a roads and tracks section and a steeple-chase, held over

two or three days, depending on the class height.

Following an error in scoring at the qualifier, MHRC were invited to still send a team, which consisted of Elizabeth Wise on Pumba, Steph Woolley on Freckleton Metador, Wendy Robinson and Sonas Oliver and Anna Millington on Senderos. There were some ups and downs across the weekend, not helped by the weather, but everyone did the club proud.

Wendy's describes her time there: "Oliver was very foot sore and I was worried he wouldn't pass the first vetting! All was well, but then he was very lively round the roads and tracks, bucking and leaping his way round much to everyone's amusement. The dressage was the worst he has ever done but Steph and Liz had gone really well. Poor Anna had a huge lorry rattling past her and a plastic bag blowing around her arena, but did a good test, knowing that Saturday was always going to be Bubbles' day. She did not disappoint, Bubbles flew round with only 2 time faults for going too fast! Unfortunately, the heavy rain took its toll on Freckles, who bravely galloped round the steeple-chase and started the XC but the rain and difficult conditions was too much so Steph wisely retired him. The same with Oliver, he slipped coming into the fence and came

down - I suddenly felt I was sitting on a 10hh pony! I had to get off and I too retired.. Liz had raced around the course and was disappointed to have 10 time penalties. Liz jumped a lovely SJ round on Sunday morning and Anna was going well until Bubbles thought "I can't jump that spread from here", put in a brave short one and went through the jump.

Everyone was so friendly and we all gelled well - we had a lovely BBQ on Saturday night to celebrate Sarah's birthday. I hope Rob's hand is feeling better following an unfortunate accident with a sausage! We had a good, if not very dry time - those thunder and lightning storms were quite something when you are stuck in the middle of a big open field. We all survived and came back in one piece ready for the next challenge."

FOR SALE

Ifor williams 505 double horse trailer in blue. Very good condition. Comes with hitchlock. £2,250. Contact Sara on Tel. 01452 780 617.

HEADING FOR BLENHEIM

On 19th and 26th August, anyone who fancied being part of the Blenheim Challenge team, was invited to a selection clinic at Hillview Arena. The Chal-

lenge itself is a tough competition, involving a mix of show and

cross-country style jumps, with a tight course, tough jumps and not so generous time limits. In all, nine members put their name down and it was great to see them being put through their paces! The man given the difficult task of whittling them down to the four person team was international event rider, Dominic Ruane, who built twisting courses in the arena to test both rider

and horse. There were more than one dismounting to tighten nosebands and adjust bits as breaks were suddenly lacking!

The team selected to go at the end of the two evenings is Victoria Gregg, Catherine Holland, Elizabeth Wise and Megan Harper, with Natalie Smith as reserve. Well done all and good luck at the competition.





PASSPORT PALAVER

It might be the end of the Summer season of Area competitions, but the Winter qualifiers will be starting soon and if you would like to compete for the club, it's never too soon to get prepared. Every year members come across obstacles competing before they even enter the ring, all down to passports.

The British Riding Club bases its rules regarding Equine Influenza on the British Horseracing Authority rules. They state that "The horse or pony must have received **a primary injection followed by:**

- **a second** primary injection which **is** given not less than 21 days and not more than 92 days **after the first**
- a first booster injection which is given not less than 150 days and not more than 215 days after the second primary injection
- further annual booster injections at intervals of not more than a year apart"

No injections can be given in the 6 days before arriving at a competition venue and, whether you agree with these rules or not, if the passport is not cor-

rect, the horse will be disqualified from competition and asked to leave the venue.

(For more detailed information and rules, please see section G7 in the current rulebook, which can be downloaded for free off the BRC website or ask to borrow one of the MHRC copies.)

However, gone are the days of queuing up for long inspections with the show secretary on the morning of the competition. Area 18 has set up an online system for the checking and registering of horse passports for anyone competing at a qualifier. Although you still have to have your passport with you on the day, if the online system is completed, you won't need to show it.

On the website www.brc-area18.org.uk/ppportflu, there are detailed instructions on how to do this.

- For first time users, you will need to include a scan (or photo) of the vaccination record and the passport page with your horse's ID picture, plus fill in a few details.
- You will only need to complete this once. Then every year,

following a flu booster, you go back to a different form on the site and complete the date.

If the Area 18 committee notices any problems, they will contact you to sort it out before the day of competition, meaning that individuals, and possibly teams, aren't disqualified before the event has even started.

If you don't have online access, then you can still take advantage of the system. Lauran Jones has agreed to be the MHRC Passport guru, so you can contact her to discuss submitting details on your behalf.

Please note that this is **your** responsibility. Although the MHRC and Area 18 committee are here to help, they cannot be held liable for any disqualifications that happen and you will still have to pay any entry fees incurred. Members who are repeatedly disqualified over passport issues will not be invited onto future teams

Ok, lecture over... and remember, this can be done at any time, so why not get organised and upload the details now?

CURRENT MERCIAN LEAGUE STANDINGS

1st Malvern Hills	105
2nd Bromsgrove	97
3rd Worcester	67
4th Bromyard	47
5th Bewdley	46
6th Cropthorne	44
7th SSRC	40
8th Cheltenham	35
9th Wyvern	32
10th Vale of Arrow	13
11th Frampton	7

Only two more events to go ... lets see if we can stay at the top!

ALL CHANGE

It is with sadness that **Cindie Bunce** has stepped down from the committee due to personal reasons. Cindie has been an integral part of the club, organising Area teams and our Showjumping qualifiers for many years. I'm sure all our members will join the committee in extending our huge thanks for all her hard work and hope to see her and Thomas on the teams in the future.

Lauran Jones, who has done a very able job as temporary Area Manager, will officially be handing over the reins to **Chris Esling** and **Linda Kemp** at the end of the year, although all three will be involved in the Winter Qualifiers. However, all changes to the committee will be discussed at the upcoming AGM for ratification from the members.





CLUB CONTACTS

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

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Committee Members

- ◆ Julie Jeffes
- ◆ Janet Schooling
- ◆ Clare Chapman (Secretary)

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

Pepper Pot Points League

2013/14 League as of 31.08.2014

PL	NAME	PTS
1st	Anna Robson	340
2nd	Kat Jones	310
3rd	Natalie Smith	270
4th	Wendy Robinson	255
5th	Camilla Esling	230
6th	Megan Harper	220
7th	Alex Harris	210
	Anna Millington	210
9th	Kelly Mawman	205
10th	Elizabeth Wise	190
	Julie Jeffes	190
12th	Sara Stephenson	175
13th	Linda Kemp	170
14th	Jenny Barnes	165
15th	Catherine Holland	160
16th	Sue Peckham	150
	Victoria Gregg	150
18th	Jodie Powell	135
19th	Gerri Garrott	130
20th	Tilly Martin	120
21st	Lyn Tilt	115
	Sophie Hooper	115
23rd	Shellee Illingworth	110
24th	Lyn Harber	105
	Skye Houldsworth	105
	Wendy Yates	105
27th	Julie Reynolds	95
28th	Chris Esling	90
29th	Lisa Drinkwater	75
30th	Nicky Esling	70
31st	Karen Withers	60
32nd	Suzanne Partridge	50
33rd	Caroline Bates	45
	Di Symonds	45
	Steph Woolley	45
36th	Cindie Bunce	40
	Dani Diment	40
	Jooli Thornton	40
	Lauran Jones	40
40th	Ann Nixon	35
	Helen Robson	35
42nd	Emma Cooper	30
	Linda Medcalf	30
	Nicola Shepard	30
45th	Ellie Burton	25
	Mandy Bailey	25
	Stacey Johnson	25
48th	Tina Price	15
49th	Jo Jeynes	10
50th	Feya Malins	5
	Rita Woolley	5

If you would like to check your points, please e-mail mhrcnewsletter@hotmail.co.uk for a copy of your ranking.

EVENTS CALENDAR

September 2014
6th - 7th = BRC National Championships, Lincoln
11th = Blenheim Horse Trials (inc RC Challenge)

October 2014
5th = Team Endurance Final
5th = Mercian Hunter Trials, Frampton Court (Frampton RC)
18th = **NEW** Area Novice Showjumping, Kings Equestrian, Bromyard (Bromyard RC)
29th = **NEW** Mercian Quiz and Presentation Evening, Mortimers Cross Inn, Le-

ominster (Vale of Arrow RC)

November 2014
1st = Area Novice Dressage, Hartpury Arena (Cheltenham)

May 2015
2nd - 3rd = Intermediate BRC Winter champs, Bury Farm

Schedules are available by e-mailing mhrcnewsletter@hotmail.co.uk or by checking the individual club websites.

COMING UP....

No dates firmed for sure, but keep an eye on FaceBook, the website and the next newsletter for the following.

- **FLATWORK CLINICS** will start the end of September. Venue and instructor to be confirmed. Contact Lyn if you are interested.
- **HORSELESS CLINICS** will begin again soon. If you have any topics you'd like us to cover, or know anyone interested in doing a talk, please contact Caroline.
- **ANNUAL AGM AND PRESENTATION EVENING** - Looking at Mid-November, venue to be confirmed. Usual mix of fun, quizzes, food and discussions for the following year.

Royal International Horse Show

The Royal International Horse Show at Hickstead once again hosted the British Horse Society Riding Club Teams of Three Jumping. Each member of the team completes the course at a different height – 85cm, 95cm and 105cm. The Mayfield Riding Club, from Kent, were the outstanding club, coming both 1st

and 2nd, but the MHRC team of Shellee Illingworth on Franco, Natalie Smith on Rainstown Lad and Cindie Bunce on Dreambreaker did brilliantly and came 30th out of 60 teams. Cindie also snuck off to compete in the Working Hunter and came an impressive 5th out of a huge field of entries. Well done ladies.





MHRC NEWSLETTER

September 2014



GOING FOR BROKE AT BLENHEIM

The Riding Club Eventer's Challenge was held at Blenheim Horse Trials on 11th September. Sponsored by Dodson & Horrell, the competition is arena-based over a testing course of 1.05m

show jumps and cross-country jumps. The team with the lowest cumulative score wins the day, with an extra award for the most stylish rider. Only 45 teams are allowed to compete and once again, MHRC were invited along.

It was an early start for the team of Victoria Gregg, Catherine Holland, Megan Harper and Liz Wise, as well as for the grooms, helpers and the cheer squad. And although the team

weren't in touch with the winners, everyone did well to get into the ring and round some of the most impressive obstacles.

Local clubs did very well, with Evenlode RC being the overall winners with an impressive zero jumping faults, closely followed by Worcester and District RC with 4.4 faults. Vicki Hancox from Worcester was also the winner of the stylish rider award.

Thanks to Steph Woolley for the lovely photos of the day.



Inside this issue:

- BRC Summer champs p2
- BRC Summer champs p3
- Championship Rules p4
- Pepper Pot League, Events Calendar and Other Useful Things p4



Editor's Bit

It's been another month of embarrassment for me - an almost daily "you'll never guess what my horse has done now!" I'm sure the owners of my livery yard are wondering what they allowed on to the place. You see, Smokey loves to dig and is usually stood in a foot deep hole of his own making. A whole lot easier to put the bridle on, but not so good for the esthetics of the yard. But none of us could really believe our eyes when he grabbed a half inch of liner that had come exposed and pulled. To say that rather a lot of the yard came with it is an understatement...and all this before we'd discovered that the 6 inch wide post we'd thought he'd just worked loose by scratching on it had actually been snapped in two! Oh, you gotta love 'em.

If you're horse has been up to mischief, excelled themselves (or not!) or you just want to share an tale of two, please do send them in for the newsletter. It would be great to hear from all of you once in a while!

Until next time,

Best Wishes, Caroline



LINCOLNSHIRE
SHOWGROUNDREPRESENTING THE CLUB
THIS YEAR...Dressage
JULIE JEFFES
HEDERFIELD ASHGERALDINE GARROTT
MURPHY GARROTTWENDY ROBINSON
SONAS OLIVERKATHERINE JONES
RODBACK CAPPUCHINOStyle Jumping
ANNA MILLINGTON
MYSTIC LAW

BRC SUMMER CHAMPS

The British Riding Club Summer National Championships were once again held at Lincoln Showground over 6th and 7th of September. For such a small club, MHRC once again were proud to have five members representing us – four in a Novice Dressage team and an Individual in the Intermediate Style Jumping. But it was the Dressage Divas who once again triumphed and came home with a 6th place in the team competition. There were also a couple of individual awards, with Katherine 3rd in her section and Julie coming in top of the leaderboard for her section. A huge well done to you all and thank you for representing the club so well.



Your Name: **Anna Millington**
How long have you been a member of

MHRC? **1 year**
What's your 'Day' job? **Transport Manager for family haulage company**
Favourite Horsey Activity: **Anything that involves jumping and going fast!!**
Least Favourite Horsey Activity: **Dressage, although I am beginning to enjoy it more now!**
Your Horse's Name: **Mystic Law aka Bubbles** Age: **15**
Mare or Gelding? **Mare**
Breeding: **TB**
How long have you owned your horse? **10 years**



Your Name: **Gerri Garrott**
How long have you been a member of MHRC? **coming up to a year**

What's your 'Day' job? **I work for a care home in Ashchurch. I am a senior carer also a Manual Handler Trainer for the home, plus a mentor and take on regular courses to do with both my job role and**



Manual Handling Trainer.
Favourite Horsey Activity: **I love everything to do with my horse, I believe in doing lots of different things to keep Murphy on his toes, and also so he knows it's not all trying but fun too.**

Least Favourite Horsey Activity: **None, I enjoy everything even mucking out in winter.**

Your Horse's Name: **Murphy**
Age: **18** Mare or Gelding? **Gelding** Breeding: **Vanner Cob**
How long have you owned your horse? **I've had Murphy since he was 7 yrs old (my first horse and only horse according to hubby)**

If your horse was a famous person, who would he be? **I really couldn't say, Murphy can be so placid, a bit stubborn cheeky at times, only like a cuddle when he wants one, so maybe a bit of Jimmy Cricket (comedian in 1970 wore Wellington boots with L for left on one foot and R for right foot for our younger members :-)) crossed with Victor Meldrew.**

Your Name: **Julie Jeffes**
How long have you been a member of MHRC? **I don't remember – 4-5 years but I was a member some years before that too**

What's your 'Day' job? **Head of Direct Marketing for Blue Cross**

Favourite Horsey Activity: **Dressage**

although I also like jumping and eventing was my first love

Least Favourite Horsey Activity: **Hacking – just dull !**

Your Horse's Name: **Hederfeld Ash - 'Ash'** Age: **5**

Mare or Gelding? **Mare**
Breeding: **Connemara X Warmblood**

How long have you owned your horse? **I bred her and still own her mum and owned her grand-ma**

If your horse was a famous person, who would they be?

Difficult one – but probably Jennifer Ennis – she is very athletic and finds everything quite easy. She's a bit of brain box too – a bit too clever for her own good and has 'opinions'

Is this the first time you have been to the National Championships? **AM - No, have been lucky enough to go several times with Bubbles. However, this was the first time of doing the style jumping.**

GG - No I have been extremely lucky this was my third time. First time we came 3rd second time I think I was 12th then this time 12th again but really pleased with my boy.

JJ - No we went last year with Ash's brother Ben and did Novice as an individual

What did you think of the venue? **AM - Excellent venue for these Championships.**

GG - It is a lovely place great fun

JJ - It's good in lots of ways – loads of space and very very flat.

Plenty of places to work your horse and even hack around the field boundaries. Loos were a bit limited and had no loo roll for a whole evening. No proper lighting in stable rows at night which was a bit of a worry in a strange place.





BRC SUMMER CHAMPS cont

Water pressure for horse water not very good – took ages. Arenas were better this year – not so rock hard due to better weather in the run up. But they were a long long way from the stables. How early did you get up on the show day?

AM - I didn't travel up till the Saturday morning as I wasn't on till 5:30pm so was up about 6:30am to do jobs on the farm before leaving.

GG - woken up early with people walking by and then an announcement over tannoy to say Wakey Wakey morning campers that was around 06.45 ish.

JJ - We stayed overnight in our tent – which was fine – weather was OK. Was up by 6 ish

What was the best bit about the day/weekend?

AM - Reading the lovely comments from the judge on my score sheet.

GG - oh quite a few 1) Murphy hadn't used his pooch as a pillow and had remained clean, all I had to do was wash tail and plate it. 2) Wendy and Kat turn up so we knew all our team was there. 3) lovely dry day. 4) Murphy did his best test was all I asked. 5) loved the day.

JJ - Well it has to be seeing the score 78.2% and then Winning! I was just so proud of her. And of course being in the line up with all her ribbons with Kat and Dotty..

And what was the worst?

AM - Driving home in the dark!

GG - A very long way to the dressage arena approx 1/2 mile so by the time you walked down to watch team members, you realized you had to get back and tuck up yourselves so we couldn't watch all the team do their tests. (advice if anyone is lucky to go

next year and do dressage take a Bike)

JJ - Nothing was bad really – except it is a long way to go and on a Friday afternoon there is no way you are going to avoid the traffic.

What did you have to do in your class?

AM - Jump a course of show jumps but you are judged on how you ride the course and present at the fences.

GG – Prelim 12

JJ - Prelim 12 dressage test. A long way to go for a 5 minute performance – but that is dressage I guess. Better than the poor lady who I saw have three stops at the first fence in the Jumping style competition. She didn't even jump a single fence – daren't think how far she had come.

What did you think of the rest of the competition?

AM - The competition was very strong.

GG - watched some quadrilles, pairs, and jumping.

JJ - It was good – four jumping arenas with the different levels and the jumps were very colourful and beautifully presented.

Didn't get time to watch too much of it but was good the bit I did watch. Quite challenging though – many had a few problems

What essential bit of kit couldn't you have done without?

AM - Studs. The ring that the style jumping in was quite small and slippery!

JJ - Wheelbarrow – there is a lot of carrying stuff long distances. Oh and the other essential bits of kit (that I didn't have but Gerri kindly lent us one) were torch (bring one next time) and something to heat water (ran out of gas canisters)

Did you have good weather?

AM - Weather couldn't have been better.

JJ - Yes – a tiny bit of rain over night and rather oddly thick fog early on the completion day but that cleared. I have pics of the fog which I can send

What was your warm-up routine?

AM - To keep Bubbles as chilled out and relaxed as possible, was all going well till the Red Arrows decided to fly over!

JJ - Went for short hack around the field in the morning early then went out about 1/2 hour before my time to warm up. Initially I thought the whole thing was going to be a waste of time as she was very hot and a bit stropky. However we 'negotiated' and I won and by the time we went in to do our test I thought she felt as if she had turned the corner.

How many people did you have on your support crew?

AM - Travelled on my own so just had the other members of Malvern that were there competing! GG - my husband Ted, he was the chauffer.

JJ - Charlie – who was our volunteer helper for the club all morning – and he wasn't very well either – so was a bit stoical of him to do it whilst I plaited and washed Ash



PHOTOS

P3
Julie and Ash at the head of the line.

P4
TOP: Kat and Julie with their ribbons

BOTTOM: The 'Garrott' base camp





CLUB CONTACTS

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

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Committee Members

- ◆ Julie Jeffes
- ◆ Janet Schooling
- ◆ Clare Chapman (Secretary)

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

Pepper Pot Points League

NO LEAGUE TABLE THIS MONTH, AS THE CURRENT YEAR ENDED ON 30th SEPTEMBER.

Results will be announced at the AGM

If you would like to check your points, please e-mail mhrcnewsletter@hotmail.co.uk for a copy of your ranking.

You can start collecting points for the 2014/2015 league from 1st October 2014 - GOOD LUCK.

EVENTS CALENDAR

October 2014

5th = Team Endurance Final

5th = Mercian Hunter Trials, Frampton Court (Frampton RC)

18th = Area Novice Show-jumping, Kings Equestrian, Bromyard (Bromyard RC)

29th = Mercian Quiz and Presentation Evening, Mortimers Cross Inn, Leominster (Vale of Arrow RC)

November 2014

1st = Area Novice Dressage, Hartpury Arena (Cheltenham RC)

May 2015

2nd - 3rd = Intermediate BRC Winter champs, Bury Farm

Schedules are available by e-mailing mhrcnewsletter@hotmail.co.uk or by checking the individual club

CHAMPIONSHIP RULES

There has been lots of discussion on FaceBook recently regarding qualifying for and competing at BRC Championships. Hopefully the below points can help clear up some of the matters that have arisen.

To confirm, it is a condition of entering an Area Qualifying competition that you should be then eligible, and available, to attend the corresponding Championship as well. The exact wording the rulebook states "Clubs or individuals entering Area Qualifiers must be willing and able to compete at the Championships should they qualify. Teams or individuals not wishing to compete at the Championships may enter the Area qualifier to compete HC if the organiser is willing to accept them and they are eligible. Any team or individual competing HC will not be eligible to compete at the championships." However, the Committee understand that competing at any of the Championships does involve a lot of travelling, expense and time, so have never attempted to enforce this point with any member. But to be fair to everyone who competes, the following points should be noted for the future.

- For team competitions, a maximum of two members from the Qualifying team can be substituted at the Championships. Therefore, if you would like to compete on a team at a qualifier, but know that you will not be attending the Championships, please inform the Area Manager when making your entry. This way, the teams can be put together to make sure that at least two members in each are prepared to go to the Championships and substitutes can be added should the team be lucky enough to qualify.
- For members who have qualified as individuals only, then the decision to compete at the championships is a completely personal decision. However, as we have found out recently, you must send the forms back to Head Office to confirm that you are not attending, as even without an entry form from you, they will presume you are attending and will issue times!

If you are unsure of what Championship venue corresponds to which qualifier, then please check out the latest edition of the BRC rulebook, which can be downloaded for free from www.bhs.org.uk/enjoy-riding/british-riding-clubs, or borrowed from the committee.

After further discussions, the committee would also like to help out with some of the financial burden, by paying for 50% of each member's entry fee who does attend the Championships. This will be back dated for 2014, so anyone who went to Lincoln or Swalcliffe will be refunded in due course.

The next two Area competitions are the Winter Showjumping at Kings Equestrian, Bromyard, with qualifiers for the Novice Championships at Hartpury Arena and the Intermediate Championships at Bury Farm, and the Winter Dressage at Hartpury Arena, which has not been confirmed as holding the Intermediate, but will be a qualifier for the Novice Championships again at Hartpury Arena. Check out the Event Calendar for details.

On a last note, we'd like to remind everybody that the MHRC Facebook page is a way for people to communicate with other members and discuss events, news, etc. However, it is a 'public' forum, and some comments that may be taken in good fun when talking to friends, can be misconstrued or be upsetting for anyone reading them where they can be seen by lots of other people. Everyone has different circumstances, knowledge, skills and finances, and may not be in the same position as other members to compete or support the club. The committee would ask that every member is respectful in their comments and that any issues arising for whatever reason are raised with a member of the committee before they are aired in public. Committee members can be reached via the contacts details on the back of the monthly newsletter or the website or by private message through FaceBook. Thank you.





MHRC NEWSLETTER

October 2014



MERCIAN WINNERS 2014



THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO COMPETED IN ONE OF THE MERCIAN TEAMS THIS YEAR.

Jo Jaynes; Karen Withers; Jenny Barnes; Wendy Robinson; Sara Stephenson; Shellee Illingworth; Skye Houldsworth; Wendy Yates; Kelly Mawmen; Emma Cooper; Ellie Burton; Caroline Bates; Linda Kemp; Natalie Smith; Victoria Gregg; Nicola Esling; Lin Harber; Tilly Martin; Sophie Hooper; Julie Reynolds; Anna Robson; Megan Herper; Catherine Holland; Liz Wise; Gerri Garrott; Suzanne Partridge; Camilla Esling; Julie Jeffes; Kat Jones; Lisa Drinkwater; Lyn Tilt; Chris Esling; Jodie Powell; Steph Woolley; Rita Woolley; Janet Schooling; Sue Peckham; Heather Hall.

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Editor's Bit

What an exciting month this had been. Even as the last two Mercian events took place and brought the league to an end, the first of the Winter Area qualifiers took place. I always find it a little sad as the summer competition season gives way to the winter, but with the team events and official MHRC cheer squad, it makes it all the effort worth while. And of course, what better way to finish the year than by winning the Mercian League. Well, at last year's AGM, we did say that we'd go one step further and so what could we do but that keep that promise? So another thank you to everyone who competed and of course to team manager Karen for making sure all those teams were organised to perfection!

Until next time,

Best Wishes, Caroline





FRAMPTON FROLICS



SOPHIE AND DJ

The last ridden Mercian event, the Hunter Trial, was held at Frampton Court on the 5th October. This year had an unusual twist of two members of a team riding the 2'3 course and two members the 2'6, but as ever our members came up trumps and we sent three teams to contest the day. The overall winners were the Worcester Woodpeckers, but all three of our teams did well, with the Malvern Miracles in 3rd, the Malvern Maids in 6th and the Malvern Mares coming in 9th. There were also some individual results with Sue 3rd and Sophie 8th in the 2'3 section and Jodie 4th and Megan 6th in the 2'6.

Megan said "it was a really fun event, albeit running very late. The rain had made the ground perfect and it was a refreshing change to do a hunter trial where you felt you

were going somewhere, rather than just circling a couple of fields. I was pleased with my young horse, who waited perfectly in the collecting ring for an hour before doing a great round to come 6th."

For Sophie's horse, DJ, it was his first time going cross-country. "And mine for over 15 years!", Sophie added, "When I got going I actually really enjoyed it. The setting was amazing and the going was good. It was lovely being part of a team, with lots of support and lots of smiling faces to greet you at the finish."

Janet agreed that the setting was lovely, but that "it was a tough course for the 2'3. Well built and flowing though, with a walk track that provided a bit of a breather for horse and rider! The best jump was the pipe jump at 13, but the scariest was the

steps, which were on a bounce stride and there was at least one fall there during the day – they didn't leave a lot of room for a young horse to make a mistake! But the best bit of the day was meeting up with the gang and the lovely hot chocolate with marshmallows and chocolate sauce!"

Malvern Maids

Tilly Martin and Bob
Elizabeth Wise and Golden
Partner
Chris Esling and Arthur
Megan Harper and Tequila
Sunrise

Malvern Mares

Janet Schooling and Biscuit
Sue Peckham and Billy
Camilla Esling and Roland
Catherine Holland and
Lexicon

Malvern Miracles

Sophie Hooper and Doctor
Joe
Heather Hall and Jester
Lyn Tilt and Apache
Jodie Powell and Trixie

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY - AGM

The MHRC annual AGM will be held on 20th November at Hunter's Inn, Longdon. Once again, this is free for existing and new members. There will be review of the year, presentation of prizes, plans for next year, refreshments and the famous raffle. This year, we will also be commemorating 100 years since the end of World War I and how horses were instrumental in the conflict. We would like members to bring along any family photos they would like to share, from which a display will be made to accompany the speaker. Anyone who would like to donate a raffle prize, please contact Lyn Harber.

Fees for 2015 will stay the same at £25 for a Full Riding Membership, but we are introducing a Supporters Membership package at £15 for non-riding members. Discounts will be given to anyone who joins and pays on the night of the AGM - £5 off Full Membership and £3 off Supporter Membership.

If you are attending the AGM, please RSVP to mhrcnewsletter@hotmail.co.uk or text/phone 07900 376 272, so we can have an idea of numbers.





SHOWJUMPING SHINERS

The winter season of BRC qualifiers kick-started on 18th November, with the Novice and Intermediate indoor showjumping at Kings Equestrian, Bromyard. Despite a tense morning (because the organisers hadn't noted the receipt of our declaration forms the night before and wanted the originals – thank you to Helen Robson for driving these over!), everyone rose above it to do well for the club. The Novice team of Catherine Holland on Lexicon, Wendy Yates on Bel-

la, Sue Peckham on Brigadier William and Jodie Powell on Bleannagloos Black Diamond sadly weren't in the rosettes this time round, but the Intermediate team of Anna Robson on Santa Fe, Wendy Robinson on Sonas Oliver, Liz Wise on Pumba and Megan Harper on First Song, came in 3rd. Wendy also came 6th and Megan 4th in the individual competition.

As Wendy says of the day, having only been able to ride Oliver three times in

as many weeks leading up to the show "I wasn't sure how things would go. I only had a brief warm up, but he managed a good couple of bucks, before a couple of warm up jumps. It was straight in to jump a lovely clear in the first round. Our second round started well, but we unfortunately had one fence down, dropping us from 2nd to 6th. But the rain held off all day and a big thank you to Bromyard RC who ran the event."

A Question of Quizzes

The last event in the 2014 Mercian calendar took place on 29th October. It was a long drive out to Mortimer's Cross Inn, Leominster, but our 'Malvern Mares' quiz team of Rita and Steph Woolley, Camilla Esling and Caroline Bates were up for the challenge.

There were eight rounds, ranging from 'History' and 'TV', which were our best rounds, with a score out of 9 out of 10, to 'Current Affairs', 'General Knowledge', 'Science and Nature' and 'Music'. Over tea of jacket potatoes and lots of fillings, the surprisingly tough round of

'Breed Standards' was held, where the team had to guess ten different horse breeds from a general description. It was a good, fun night, and MHRC had the biggest cheer squad – thank

you to everyone who came to support. At the end of the evening, the team came in 3rd place, only a handful of points from the winning team.

As you can tell from the front of the newsletter, the evening ended on a brilliant high when MHRC was awarded the Mercian League Cup. The club last won it in 1994 ... lets keep our fingers crossed that it won't be another 20 years before we awarded the honour again!



'Quizzers' Camilla and Rita



Merican Team Manager, Karen, and the Cup



CLUB CONTACTS

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

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Emma Cooper (Website)
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Committee Members

- ◆ Julie Jeffes
- ◆ Janet Schooling
- ◆ Clare Chapman (Secretary)

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

Pepper Pot Points League

2014/2015 Current Ranking

If you would like to check your points, please e-mail mhrcnewsletter@hotmail.co.uk for a copy of your ranking.

PL	NAME	PTS
1st	Megan Harper	75
2nd	Jodie Powell	55
3rd	Elizabeth Wise	45
4th	Wendy Robinson	40
5th	Camilla Esling	35
	Sue Peckham	35
7th	Anna Robson	30
	Caroline Bates	30
	Heather Hall	30
	Lyn Tilt	30
	Rita Woolley	30
	Sophie Hooper	30
	Steph Woolley	30
14th	Chris Esling	15
	Tilly Martin	15
16th	Catherine Holland	10
17th	Janet Schooling	5

EVENTS CALENDAR

November 2014

1st = Area Novice Dressage, Hartpury Arena (Cheltenham RC)

11th = Area 18 AGM, Beckford Inn, Tewkesbury

18th = Flatwork Clinic, Hillview Arena, Malvern

20th = MHRC AGM, Hunter's Inn, Longdon

December 2014

2nd = Flatwork Clinic, Hillview Arena, Malvern

January 2015

15th = Horseless Clinic, Hunter's Inn, Longdon

February 2015

12th = Horseless Clinic, Hunter's Inn, Longdon

March 2015

12th = Horsless Clinic, Village Hall, Welland

April 2015

16th = Horsless Clinic, Village Hall, Welland

May 2015

2nd - 3rd = Intermediate BRC Winter champs, Bury Farm

Schedules are available by e-mailing mhrcnewsletter@hotmail.co.uk or by checking the individual club websites.

MHRC 2015 CALANDAR

We are going to attempt a MHRC Calendar for next year, to raise some club funds and give every member somewhere to write those important club dates! We are looking for good, colour photos of members and their horses at club events, clinics or socials, preferably from 2014, but as this is the first one of these, we will consider anything. As we will be selling the calendar, the photo must not be held under copyright (so those that a professional photographer has taken at a show aren't suitable), unless you have approached the owner and got written permission to use them. If you have a photo you'd like to share, please send a high resolution scan to tillymartin@hotmail.co.uk.

HORSELSS CLINICS

We have once again arranged a series of Horseless Clinics over the winter months and we hope you'll all be interested in coming. Venue and Speakers will be confirmed by the next newsletter, but please see the Events Calendar above and add those dates to your diaries.

HORSEY CLINICS

The first winter training sessions are to be held at Hillview Arena, Malvern. These will be with event rider Dominic Ruane and will focus on flatwork. The first two sessions are on 18th November and 2nd December, further dates to be confirmed, and cost £17 per person each, maximum 4 riders per session. These will run 6 to 7pm and from 7 to 8pm. Please contact Lyn Harber to book your place.





MHRC NEWSLETTER

November 2014



AREA DRESSAGE

The second Winter Area qualifier was held at Hartpury Arena on 1st November and this time it was the turn of the Novice Dressage teams to strut their stuff. Once again, MHRC raised an impressive three teams to compete, which meant that our 'loud-n-proud' cheer squad was kept busy all day.

Jodie Powell and
Blaennagloos Black Diamond
Wendy Robinson and Sonas Oliver
Katherine Jones and Redback Cappuchino

In each team, two members rode Prelim 18 and two rode Novice 24, one from each performing in the morning and one in the afternoon. This split the individual competition into four sections, with four separate judges, and approximately 22 riders in each. This also meant that each team was spread throughout the day ... meaning MHRC were there from 10:34 to 15:42!

There was lots of strong competition and sadly none of the teams were in the rosettes, but came a very respectable 12th (MnM's), 13th (Mars) and 17th (Maltesers). However, two members managed some individual section places, with Camilla Esling coming 6th and Jodie Powell 4th.

Chairwoman Lyn Harber went along to cheer. "I sat and watched proudly each one of our team members compete at the Area Dressage Competition and was so pleased that we had three teams taking part, including some First Timers. Having said that I did feel a little guilty

Camilla and Ted's Rainbow



Malvern Mars

Camilla Esling and
Teds Rainbow
Wendy Yates and Bella
Steph Woolley and
Freckleton Matador
Julie Jeffes and Hederfield
Ash

Malvern Maltesers

Megan Harper and
Tequila Sunrise
Caroline Bates and
Smokey Joe
Catherine Holland and
The Artful Archie
Julie Jeffes and
Bedazzled III

Malvern MnMs

Catherine Holland and Lexicon

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Editor's Bit

Wow, a busy month as we come to the end of the year and lots to accompany the usual newsletter. If you haven't renewed your membership already, then you'll find the new form attached, along with the 2015 member survey, so if you weren't at the AGM, this is your chance to let us know what you want from the club next year. And if that wasn't enough, there's also the full minutes of the AGM for you to get your teeth into ... phew!

You'll also find the event's calendar starting to fill up for next year, so make sure you get those important dates in your diary. I should have the Mercian dates for the next newsletter too, but keep an eye here, on Facebook and the website for any changes as we head into the new season.

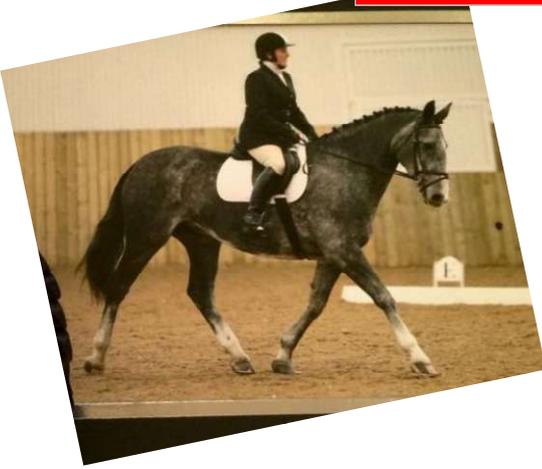
Until next time,

Best Wishes, Caroline





...cont



Jodie and Black Diamond

not going outside to wish each member good luck, but I was determined to watch each member in the ring. It was a long day for everyone, including our stalwart helpers Tilly Martin and Rita Woolley, together with our loyal supporters during the day. The Club has a great camaraderie and spirit - long may it continue. It is so important giving support to everyone with the highs and lows of the competition. To watch one very pleased Jodie Pow-

ell receive her 4th placed rosette at the end of the day activated me getting out of my long term seat to give a celebratory hug." one competing at Novice or Intermediate level that would be interested in taking part, please contact Chris Esling or Linda Kemp.

Important member of the cheer squad!



ell receive her 4th placed rosette at the end of the day activated me getting out of my long term seat to give a celebratory hug."

The dates for the Intermediate Dressage qualifier have been announced as 22nd March at Abbey Dressage, Fiddington. Any-

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

- Last month it was reported in the newsletter that the Intermediate Showjumping team of Wendy Robinson, Megan Harper, Anna Robson and Liz Wise came 3rd at the qualifying event at King's Equestrian. However, after the results were double checked by BRC, it transpires we were actually 2nd. Unfortunately, there weren't enough teams on the day to allow us to qualify, but it does mean a few extra points for the Pepper Pot League! Well done all.
- Sophie Hooper is the owner of Hillview Arena in Malvern and has become the newest member of the MHRC Committee. She has kindly offered a half price discount for any current MHRC member who wishes to hire the facilities at Hillview. These include a 60m x 35m, floodlit arena, a full set of Working Hunter and Show Jumps, a large car park, and a smaller unlit arena. Current prices are £15 per hour for flatwork and £20 per hour with the use of the jumps, plus £2 for use of the floodlights. This is for a maximum of two horses, but additional horses can join in for £5 per horse. To take advantage of this offer, please make sure that you have your current MHRC membership card with you. To book a session, you can contact Sophie on telephone 01684 310 745, mobile 07968 172 440 or e-mail sophie@hillview.myzen.co.uk. For more details, check out the website www.hillview.myzen.co.uk.



Annual General Get Together

The MHRC AGM was held on 20th November at the Hunter's Inn, Longdon, and there was a great turnout of familiar faces and first timers.

As ever, the bar did a brisk trade as everyone had a brief catch up before the meeting began.

It has been a busy and exciting year for the club, and this was ably brought to life with Lyn's Chairman's report, plus the team's activities were summarised by Karen, Luran and Chris, our hard-working team managers. After Karen's report, the whole room took part in a Champagne toast to the new Mercian Cup winners - let's hope we can keep hold of it for another year.

As a change of pace, Lyn then read a tribute to the horses that have been involved in conflict down the centuries, focusing on the anniversary of World War 1. Steph Woolley then read 'The Remount Train' by Will Ogilvie, which was followed by a two minutes silence while Elgar's Nimrod was played. I think that everyone will agree that it was a very moving and touching moment.

The prize giving is always fun and there were lots of rosettes and trophies on offer. For a list of winners, please see attached the full minutes of the evening.

Then, once all the serious business had been attended to, it was on to the drawing of the ever-popular raffle. Once again, there was a bit of a scrap over Steph's amazing fudge, but there were lots of other things on offer, from free rug washes to boxes of chocolates, a set of travelling boots to a McTimoney treatment, from wine to jewellery.

The evening was finished off with a chance to chat and mingle, and it was lovely to say hello to so many people. The Hunter's had done as proud again, with enough chips and sandwiches to feed some of us for lunch the next day too!

The Remount Train by Will H Ogilvie

Every head across the bar,
Every blaze and snip and star,
Every nervous twitching ear,
Every soft eye filled with fear,
Seeks a friend and seems to say:
'Whither now, and where away?'
Seeks a friend and seems to ask:
'Where the goal and what the task?'

Wave the green flag! Let them go! -
Only horses? Yes, I know;
But my heart goes down the line
With tem, and their grief is mine -
There goes the honour, there goes the faith,
Down the way of dule and death,
Hidden in the cloud that clings
To the battle-wrath of kings!

There goes the timid childlike trust
To the burden and the dust!
Highborn courage, princely grace
To the peril it must face!
There go stoutness, strength, and speed
To be spent where none shall heed,
And the great hearts to face their fate
In the clash of human hate!

Wave the flag, and let them go! -
Hats off to that wistful row
Of lean heads of brown and bag,
Black and chestnut, roan and grey!
Here's good luck in lands afar -
Snow-white streak, and blaze, and star!
May you find in those far lands
Kindly hearts and horseman's hands!



CLUB CONTACTS

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

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Lauran Jones (Facebook Admin / Passport Guru / Show Secretary)

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Janet Schooling (Social Secretary)

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Pepper Pot Points League

2014/2015 Current Ranking

If you would like to check your points, please e-mail mhrnewsletter@hotmail.co.uk for a copy of your ranking.

PL	NAME	PTS
1st	Megan Harper	85
2nd	Jodie Powell	80
3rd	Camilla Esling	50
4th	Elizabeth Wise	50
	Wendy Robinson	50
6th	Anna Robson	35
	Caroline Bates	35
	Steph Woolley	35
	Sue Peckham	35
10th	Heather Hall	30
	Lyn Tilt	30
	Rita Woolley	30
	Sophie Hooper	30
14th	Catherine Holland	20
15th	Chris Esling	15
	Tilly Martin	15
17th	Julie Jeffes	10
	Wendy Yates	10
19th	Janet Schooling	5
	Kat Jones	5

EVENTS CALENDAR

December 2014

2nd = Flatwork Clinic, Hillview Arena, Malvern

January 2015

15th = Horseless Clinic, Hunter's Inn, Longdon

February 2015

12th = Horseless Clinic, Hunter's Inn, Longdon

March 2015

12th = Horseless Clinic, Village Hall, Welland

22nd = Area Winter Intermediate Dressage Qualifier (ISIS)

April 2015

4th - 5th = BRC Winter Novice Championships, Hartpury

16th = Horseless Clinic, Village Hall, Welland

19th = FOTH Eventer Challenge, Swalcliffe (CEVRC)

26th or 27th = FOTH Combined Training, Dodderhill (WDRG)

May 2015

2nd - 3rd = Intermediate BRC Winter champs, Bury Farm

10th = Junior Area Style and Showjumping, Cleeve Prior (CEVRC)

24th = Senior Area Style and Showjumping, nr Three Counties Showground (MHRC)

25th = MHRC Open Show

June 2015

28th = Area Dressage to Music, Kings Equestrian, Bromyard (SSRC)

July 2015

28th - 29th = Badminton RC Team Dressage Challenge

September 2015

5th - 6th = BRC National Championships, Lincoln Showground

Any events with a (S) at the end have schedules available. E-mail mhrnewsletter@hotmail.co.uk or by check out the individual club websites for a copy.

AREA 18 AGM

The Area 18 AGM took place on the 11th November at the Beckford Arms near Tewkesbury. MHRC was represented by Lin Harber, Lauran Jones, Chris Esling and Linda Kemp. The meeting began with the minutes from the last AGM being agreed upon, followed by the treasurer and chairman's reports. There was then a rundown of the achievements of Area 18 at the qualifiers and championships in 2014, followed by the presentation of the perpetual trophies. No issues were raised. The AGM was declared closed, and was immediately followed by the first of this years Area meetings. Again the minutes from the last meeting were agreed. The dates for next years qualifiers were then discussed, with most clubs agreeing to host their usual competitions. It was announced that the new Intermediate dressage qualifier would be hosted by Isis dressage group and will be held at Abbey Dressage on the 22nd March 2015. MHRC will host the usual SJ and Style qualifier in May. In AOB, the requirement to send helpers to qualifiers was discussed, as many clubs were unhappy that this was a condition of entry, as it has meant that they had been unable to send teams to qualifiers. It was decided that it would no longer be a compulsory requirement, but that clubs could ask for help if necessary. The horse trials will be 'sub-contracted' to a venue tbc as it will mean far less work and stress finding helpers.





MHRC NEWSLETTER

December 2014



Editor's Bit

Wow, here we are at the end of another year. Forgive me for taking up more of the newsletter than usual, but I just wanted to spend a bit of time putting my time with the Malvern Hills Riding Club in perspective (don't worry – I'm not leaving yet!).

It has been absolutely fantastic being a member this year. Do you know we have had a record amount of team places this year? - 5 wins, 6 seconds, 7 thirds, 3 fourths, a fifth and 3 sixths, ranging from fun events through Mercian grassroots and right up to the top levels of the National BRC champs. We've had members competing for the club at Blenheim and Hickstead, while outside of the club competitions, we can bask in a little bit of reflected pride and glory, as members have competed at the Badminton Grassroots championships, the Hartpury Horse Trials, the Horse of the Year Show and the Three Counties County Show. More than one member has taken that next step this year and gone affiliated, whether it has been with British Dressage, British Show Jumping or British Eventing. And it's been great to see so many success stories being shared, liked and commented on FaceBook, through the newsletter and by word-of-mouth.

Right down at the other end of the level is me! If my own year hasn't quite mirrored the success of the club, then it's still been a pretty good one. My first 'RC' event with Smokey this year was a flatwork clinic at Tewkesbury Riding School, on one of the wettest, stormiest nights of last winter. Poor Nick Lawson can't have known what hit him, as a hairy, completely wound up four year old bounced into the arena, with a rider who was so nervous she could barely talk! It wasn't the most successful of lessons, compounded by a colic relapse overnight so the whole thing has been buried as a bit of a nightmare.

However, things were to get better – slowly. A moment of madness had me putting our name forward for the Mercian Show Jumping. Bearing in mind that Smokey had only ever competed over 60cm jumps and only at trot, suddenly being faced with 75cm fences and having to canter through the doubles, was all a bit of a stretch. But somehow, we got round most of the course and, even if we were eventually eliminated, I was so proud of my baby pony. A huge thank you to the other members of the team who performed a lot better than us and meant I got to take a team rosette home – my first one ever!

Fast forward to now and look what else we have done? Smokey turned five and also won his first Dressage class, went to his first Dressage championships and came 3rd, schooled over cross-country jumps, managed his first show jumping clear round and competed in his first arena one-day-event. And the year culminated in representing the riding club at Hartpury in the Winter Dressage Qualifier. I can't be much prouder with our progress this year.

So that's enough gratuitous gushing about myself – what about you? Why not share your round up of 2014 with your fellow members – the good, the bad and the ugly (I mean things that happened, not the good, bad and ugly members!)? Send me a photo and your story and I'll add them all to the January newsletter.

I really must end now and get on to some proper riding club news. But first just one more thing – a huge thank you to **you** – to every member who has competed, supported, cheered, organised, run round or just been there this year. **You** are what make this club just that little bit special.

So now it just remains to be said that I hope you had a great Festive season and here's to 2015 with the MHRC.

Until next time,

Best Wishes, Caroline



2014: Smokey's first look at cross-country jumps!

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2015 Rules and Regs

OOOPS!

There was an error in the last newsletter. It implied that the Area Intermediate Dressage competition (to be held in March 2015) was for anyone competing in Novice or Elementary tests only. However, this isn't quite true! A team should consist of four members, each doing a different test, with the best three scores to count. The tests for the qualifier are Prelim 18, Novice 28, Novice 34 and Elementary 42. There will also be individual sections in all four tests. If you are interested in being on a team, or going as an individual, remember to contact Chris Esling, the Area Team manager.

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 2015

After much discussion, it has been decided to introduce a few rules and guidelines for 2015. With the cost of team entries, and the amount of paperwork needed, this should make it easier on members and organisers to keep track of things.

MERCIAN, AREA AND OTHER COMPETITIONS

- ◆ These must be paid PRIOR to the closing date of the competition.
- ◆ Team Managers will confirm the team members and send one reminder for payment. If payment is not received, the member will be withdrawn from the team and a reserve substituted.
- ◆ Payment can be made by cash or cheque (made out to Malvern Hills Riding Club), given to the respective team manager, or by PayPal through the link on malvernhillsideingclub.co.uk
- ◆ To withdraw an entry, a vet's certificate must be produced and given to the Team Manager, and a refund will be given by the club. Notice of withdrawal should be given to the team manager either in person or by phone call.
- ◆ In the case of short notice withdrawal from a team (i.e. within 24 hours of the event), or when a vet's certificate is not available, any refunds must be agreed on by the Committee.

CLINICS AND TRAINING SESSIONS

- ◆ These must be paid for 7 days PRIOR to the session.

- ◆ The Organiser will confirm who is attending and send one reminder for payment. If payment is not received, the member will be withdrawn from the training and a reserve substituted.
- ◆ Payment can be made by cash or cheque (made out to Malvern Hills Riding Club), given to the Clinic organiser, or by PayPal through the link on malvernhillsideingclub.co.uk
- ◆ Anyone withdrawing from a clinic once payment has been made will only automatically receive a full refund if a replacement can be found or a vet's certificate produced.
- ◆ In the case of short notice withdrawal (i.e. within 24 hours of the lesson), any refunds must be agreed on by the Committee.

MEMBERSHIP FEES

- ◆ Membership runs from 1st January to 31st December each year. No discounts will be given to anyone joining part way through the year.
- ◆ According to BRC rules, anyone competing on a team must have their membership registered with head office by the Preliminary Entry closing date.
- ◆ Membership can be paid for by cash, cheque (made out to Malvern Hills Riding Club) or by PayPal.
- ◆ A current membership form must be completed for each member wishing to join. If paying by PayPal, please print off the e-mail receipt and send this with your form to the membership secretary as proof of payment.





FLATWORK FUN

Four flatwork clinics with event rider Dominic Ruane, were held on 18th November and 2nd December at Hillview Arena. They were well attended and everyone seemed to have enjoyed the sessions. Dominic's approach is to use a variety of exercises over poles to improve the way of going and to ride corners correctly at all paces to promote flexibility. Lyn Harber was there to watch and was 'able to pick up some tips'. Her

favourite comment from Dominic was in response to Freckles (ridden by Steph Woolley) and his rather enthusiastic work over the poles – "I see no problem with elevation there!"

The club are looking to engage Dominic's services as an instructor again in the future, so keep an eye on announcements in the newsletter for the next sessions.



HAT STANDARDS

There's been a lot of coverage in the equestrian press regarding the withdrawal of standard (BS)EN1384 from hat manufacturer, but putting it simply, what does this mean for you? It is worth double checking any hat that you **compete** in and if it **only** conforms to this standard, then you may need to replace it or relegate it to your happy hacking wardrobe. The change in regulation doesn't mean that any hat you own is no longer safe – far from it – hats made to this standard have been protecting rider's heads for nearly 20 years. But as this standard will no longer be regulated, a lot of competi-

tion bodies are looking at changing their rules. British Riding Clubs will allow you to compete in hats only conforming to (BS)EN1384 during 2015, but all hats will need to be retagged in 2016 – which probably means a new piece of coloured tape for us all! If you compete under affiliated rules for any discipline, it's worth double checking with the ruling body, but so far the consensus seems to be the same for all of them – allowed in 2015, but not in 2016. However, if your hat conforms to multiple standards, then you are likely ok.

The 2015 British Riding Club Rule book is now available for free download from the BRC website. This includes all the rules and regulations you'll need to follow to enter Area qualifiers, including eligibility for horse and rider, dress code, the new BRC Dressage tests and lots more. It's well worth having a read through so you don't get caught out next year!

CLINICAL TIMES

HORSELESS CLINICS

A chance to catch up, socialise and learn something new!

15th January = speaker TBC

12th February = Fi Pugh
"Icelandic Horses and Gaited Competitions"

Hunters Inn, Longdon
8 O'Clock Start

Chip Supper to be provided.
£5 per member, £8 non-members
Pay on the day - no need to book!!

Evening Jumping Clinics With Joe MacDonald

20th and 27th January
3rd and 10th February

At Hillview Arena, Malvern.

£17 per session

Please contact Julie Jeffes (see contacts page) to confirm place.





CLUB CONTACTS

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

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Pepper Pot Points League

2014/2015 Current Ranking

If you would like to check your points, please e-mail mhrcnewsletter@hotmail.co.uk for a copy of your ranking.

PL	NAME	PTS
1st	Megan Harper	85
2nd	Jodie Powell	80
3rd	Camilla Esling	50
	Elizabeth Wise	50
	Wendy Robinson	50
6th	Anna Robson	35
	Caroline Bates	35
	Steph Woolley	35
	Sue Peckham	35
10th	Heather Hall	30
	Lyn Tilt	30
	Rita Woolley	30
	Sophie Hooper	30
14th	Catherine Holland	20
15th	Chris Esling	15
	Tilly Martin	15
17th	Julie Jeffes	10
	Wendy Yates	10
19th	Janet Schooling	5
	Kat Jones	5

MHRC CALENDAR

The 2015 MHRC Calendar is now available, featuring members and their wonderful horses.

Pick up in person from Upton Countrywide Stores (please ask for Tily Martin) or from Lyn Harber. Cost £7.

Or if you would like one posted, please send a cheque or cash for £8 to Caroline Bates at the address opposite.

EVENTS CALENDAR

January 2015

15th = Horseless Clinic, Hunter's Inn, Longdon
20th = Joe MacDonald Jumping Clinic, Hillview, Malvern
27th = Joe MacDonald Jumping Clinic, Hillview, Malvern

February 2015

3rd = Joe MacDonald Jumping Clinic, Hillview, Malvern
10th = Joe MacDonald Jumping Clinic, Hillview, Malvern
12th = Horseless Clinic, Hunter's Inn, Longdon

March 2015

12th = Horseless Clinic, Village Hall, Welland
22nd = Area Winter Intermediate Dressage Qualifier (ISIS)

April 2015

4th - 5th = BRC Winter Novice Championships, Hartpury
16th = Horseless Clinic, Village Hall, Welland
19th = FOTH Eventer Challenge, Swalcliffe (CEVRC)
26th or 27th = FOTH Combined Training, Dodderhill (WDRRC)

May 2015

2nd - 3rd = Intermediate BRC Winter champs, Bury Farm
10th = Mercian Two-Phase, Cleeve Prior (CEVRC)
24th = Senior and Junior Area Style and Showjumping, nr Three Counties Showground (MHRC)
25th = MHRC Open Show, nr Three Counties Showground
25th = Mercian Showing, nr Three Counties Showground (MHRC)
30th = Mercian Dressage to Music, Kings Equestrian, Bromyard (SSRC)
30th - 31st = Festival of the Horse, Aston-Le-Wells (BRC)

June 2015

28th = Area Dressage to Music, Kings Equestrian, Bromyard (SSRC)

July 2015

5th = Mercian Show and Style Jumping, Lincomb, (BBC)
19th = Mercian Dressage, Sinton Green, (WRC)
28th - 29th = Badminton RC Team Dressage Challenge
28th (to 2nd Aug) = Team of Three SJ, Hickstead (BRC)

August 2015

7th to 9th = Horse Trials Championships, Swalcliffe (BRC)
9th = Mercian Arena Eventing, Bissell Wood (Bromsgrove RC)
23rd = Mercian Combined Training, Hanbury (WDRRC)

September 2015

5th - 6th = BRC National Championships, Lincoln Showground
27th = Mercian Eventer Challenge, Lincomb (Bromyard RC)

October 2015

4th = Mercian Hunter Trials, Frampton Court (FRC)

Any events with a **(S)** at the end have schedules available. E-mail mhrcnewsletter@hotmail.co.uk or by check out the individual club websites for a copy. More details can be found on your 2015 Competition Guide.

