



MHRC NEWSLETTER

January 2015



Lindsay Rose

GUT INSTINCT

On the 15th January, the club took over the Hunter's Inn once again, for the first Horseless Clinic of the year. The speaker was Lindsay Rose, the company vet for Protexin Premier Equine, a company specialising in the feeding of pre and probiotics to animals. Lindsay has been heavily involved in researching the use of bacteria to treat problems arising in the gut and this covers a huge range of animals, from our horses and other pets, to crocodiles and elephants!

Her talk began by discussing grass and what an easy source of food it is, but that it takes a hugely specialised gut to survive on it alone. The horse is that specialist, obtaining over 80% of its energy from grass and hay alone, and producing a massive 50 litres of saliva a

day. However, this can also cause problems to the modern horse – its stomach constantly produces acid, which needs a steady trickle of food and saliva to neutralise it. Without this, the excess acid can 'slosh' around, especially in hard working animals, and produce stomach ulcers. 80% of race-horses will have some type of ulcer, while 60% of 'happy hackers' also suffer. However, the symptoms shown by horses can be very varied and often very subtle, and the severity of symptoms may not correlate with the severity of the ulcer itself.

All this leads to a difficulty in diagnosing and managing the condition – with only two licensed products on the market for treatment, both of which are very expensive, Protexin are one of the compa-

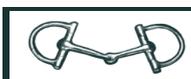
nies looking at alternative supplements that can help. The definition of a Probiotic is "a live micro-organism which when administered in adequate amounts confers a health benefit on the host." The only yeast product that is EU licensed for feeding to horses is *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*, which is present in all Protexin products. The yeast is micro-encapsulated to survive passage through the stomach and then provides a beneficial environment in the hind gut so that the natural bacteria thrive, the nutrients gained by the horse are increased, and he becomes happier and healthier.

After the talk, there was a short Q&A session, where a lot of members got advise on

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Editor's Bit

Stephen Hawking might have the lowdown on how time works, but I would still like to know how come these first few months of the year go so slow! I can't help give a little cheer each evening, as leaving work at 17:00, and still having daylight above the hills, is definitely cause for celebration, but it makes the elusive spring feel even further away. I'm starting to get twitchy, wanting to see that smart cob emerge from beneath the hairy cart horse I seem to own at the moment. Exactly how many times a week should you be having to clip away the bridle path behind his ears? Mind you, after trampling his bridle into the mud yet again this month (that microsecond between taking it off and getting the headcollar on is proving just enough time for him to nip off!) I'm not actually sure which is the dirtier. Oh, roll on T-shirts, short boots, chaps and so many more hours of sunlight in a day!

Until next time,

Best Wishes, Caroline





Louise with her new horse (above) and her old boy (right)



2014 was the year of the horse, according to the Chinese calendar, and it was certainly a busy and productive year for the club.

Louise Revill was a new member and had a very up and down few months. "After starting the year well, my horse had some problems that required surgery and she is now roughed off for a few months. Later I lost my old boy after an accident in the field. On the up side, my 4 year old has gone off to Vittoria Pannizon to be broken and I'm very excited about my 2 year old (who's 32 year old granny I still have) and I'm picking up a new horse at the weekend so hopefully I'll be able to take advantage of my membership this year!"



Janet and Biscuit

Janet Schooling is a member of the committee, but hasn't had the chance to compete for a while. The photo shows her competing for MHRC on Biscuit, at the Mercian Hunter Trials this year. "Biscuit was bought for £160 and delivered as a weanling to keep my 2nd homebred filly company when she was weaned. I made sure this time I bought one big enough for me to ride! Not like the first one that was only 11.2hh! Well, Biscuit sure did grow and I can say 'does my bum look big on this' and truly answer NO (no comments thank you)! I broke him in with Julie Mansell, who finished him off for 3 weeks and did the first canter and jump bit, as I am too old and scared for that now. What a little star he is turning out to be. I can say I am getting my enjoyment



out of riding again and looking forward to the season ahead. Biscuit is certainly a character; he is rude in the stable and escapes at the smallest opportunity; loves the grass ornamental circle in front of our house, placing some lovely footwork over

it. He refuses to load without a treat! Yes to those who know me well, I resort to treats, which over the years I have condemned! But he is the most willing and happy character I have had for a long time. He has no agenda other than to work hard for me, with a little cheeky bunny buck thrown in if he is not happy with what I am asking. I truly have a Super Cob in the making."

Jodie Powell says "My first year with Malvern Hills Riding Club has been enjoyable and successful; everyone has made me feel so welcome and given me great support along the way. I have made some lovely friends. I would like to thank everyone for all the great support and making me feel so welcome."

Our Chairwoman, Lyn Harber, sums up the year too "There have been many achievements during 2014 - my personal preference is for each and every one who has represented the Club, especially all the first timers; to share their excitement, tears and sheer satisfaction of taking part made me feel so proud to be part of the Club. The icing on the cake was to win the Mercian Trophy after waiting 20 years. I cannot wait for all the competitions to start again in 2015, Malvern Hills Riding Club are on a mission."

SHOWING CLINIC

"The Showing Register" Clinics & Talent Spotting for HOYS

22nd Feb at Cross Farm, Stonehouse, Glos. Discount for BRC, BHS & TSR Members Inc Talent Spotting for the TSR/HOYS Training Pathway - You could find your path to HOYS in the TSR Showing Master Class with Michael Eilberg!

Very friendly everyone welcome, all levels & type of horse/pony. Sessions covering Flatwork, giving a show, turnout, in hand, presentation, ring craft. Get those inside tips that could help your showing performance no matter what level you compete at.

90 min sessions in small groups £25 BRC, BHS, TSR Members £35 Non Members. Booking form and full details at <http://www.theshowingregister.co.uk/masterclassdates.asp>





JOE'S JUMPING JAUNT

The first two clinics of the year were held on 20th and 27th January, at Hillview arena. It was great to see so much interest from the club, so there ended up being three sessions each evening. Our instructor this time round was Gloucestershire based Joe MacDonald, who has been instrumental in teaching many of our club members, both in organised clinics and privately.

The session format on the 27th was designed to improve jumping around a whole course. To start with, riders warmed up over a low cross pole, approaching in trot over poles on the ground and remaining on a circle on landing. As horses and riders settled in, the jump increased in size and the poles were taken away. Now warmed-up, the exercises progressed, jumping two or three fences at a time, on varying straight and curved approaches, and using the huge variety of different designed fillers that Hillview owns.

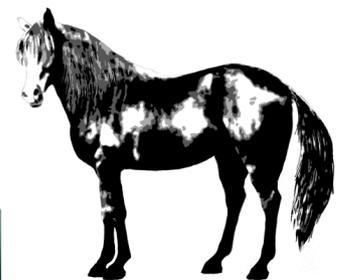
Joe's technique is to watch the rider through the exercise, then discuss how it went and what to change, before sending them away to try again. Once all the jumps had been tackled, the whole course was put together to end the evening, with a sneaky second course added in to try as well. An extra challenge came in the form of the two resident kittens, Spooks and Magic, whose sudden appearance between the fillers of a jump, was very entertaining!

Given just five words to sum up the sessions, Jodie Powell came up with "Jumping, fun, interesting, learning and happy", Emma Horton-Smith "Conquered nerves and had fun," while Julie Jeffes "Jumped bigger than expected – good!"

There are still a couple of places open on the next two clinics, 3rd and 10th February – please contact Julie if you're interested.



Instructor Joe



HORSELESS CLINICS

12th February = History of the Icelandic Horse and Gaited Competitions with Fi Pugh

12th March = Foot Balance and Remedial Shoeing with Graham Fleet

Hunter's Inn, Longdon. £5 per member (£8 Non-members) to include a chip supper.

8 O'clock prompt start.

13th April = Developing Core Strength Without Your Horse with Plum Gregg

Something a bit different. Learn exercises that you can do at home to help your riding. If you want to have a go on the night, please wear comfortable clothes and feel free to bring along gym mats. Some equipment will be available to share. Spectators welcome if you want to learn but not participate!

Hanley Swan Village Hall – 8 O'clock prompt start, but we have hired the hall from 7:30 should anyone want to change there. £5 per member (£8 Non-members). Tea and Cake refreshments (anyone willing to provide a homemade cake or man the tea urn, please contact Caroline). Session will end be 9:30 as we only have the hall for two hours!

GUT INSTINCT CONTINUED

particular problems they are facing with their horses.

Then Jess Bowen, the South West manager for Protexin, showed off some of the products available and handed out some lovely goody bags for

the attendees, which included a week's supply of gut balancer, the standard pen and an air freshener to cover those winter mucking-out smells!

The evening ended with the famous Hunter's chip supper and a chance to have a chat, catch up and swap plans for the coming year.

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 2015





CLUB CONTACTS

For the latest club news see www.malvernhillridingclub.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

EVENTS CALENDAR

February 2015

3rd = Joe MacDonald Jumping Clinic, Hillview, Malvern
10th = Joe MacDonald Jumping Clinic, Hillview, Malvern
12th = Horseless Clinic, Hunter's Inn, Longdon
22nd = TSR Showing Clinic, Stonehouse, Glos

March 2015

12th = Horseless Clinic, Hunter's Inn, Longdon (**please note change of venue**)
22nd = Area Winter Intermediate Dressage Qualifier (ISIS)

April 2015

4th - 5th = BRC Winter Novice Championships, Hartpury
13th = Horseless Clinic, Village Hall, Hanley Swan (**please note change of date and venue**)
19th = FOTH Eventer Challenge, Swalcliffe (CEVRC)
25th (**please note change of date**) = FOTH Combined Training, Dodderhill (WDRC)

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)

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.

CLASSIFIEDS

HOME SOUGHT FOR CONNEMARA PONY.

Aged 20, 14hh, kind temperament. Currently based in Hanley Swan. Would make ideal companion but also has good paces. Alternatively owner would consider taking in another horse/pony and offering free grazing with field shelter, provided his owner maintained responsibility for his care. Telephone 01684 310389.

HORSEY HELPER REQUIRED

I am looking for someone to do my small yard at home once a day, for an hour maximum, in Hanley Swan, from 24 February for 6 weeks. I am having an operation and cannot muck out Doris while recuperating. Does anyone know a reliable horsey person they can recommend who would be available for paid work? If so please contact me on 01684 311198 or diane@hswan.eclipse.co.uk

BRC NOTICE

BRC membership cards

Some of you may have already received your official BRC membership cards, but might have spotted a problem. We've been contacted by BRC to say that there was a mix-up and some of the cards have been sent with the incorrect names / membership numbers, or have been sent to the wrong address. They are aware of the problem and brand new cards will be sent ASAP to anyone affected. If you don't receive a new 2015 card in the next couple of months, please let us know so that we can chase BRC on your behalf.





MHRC NEWSLETTER

February 2015



THAT'S WHY MHRC GOES TO ICELAND!

It was back to our old favourite, the Hunter's Inn at London, for the second Horseless Clinic on 12th February, with member Fi Pugh taking the speaker's stand. Fi and her husband keep their Icelandic horses at Old Hills and love to do talks like this to impart some of their love for this breed, which Fi fell for while doing her degree in Scandinavian studies. Her first experience was in Norway, in 1981, when she was invited to go riding by a friend and was told off for not having a hat with her. After trying to explain that she hadn't been expected to ride and so hadn't bought her riding hat along, she was promptly told that it was a wholly hat she needed, not a skull cap! Returning to England, she wrote to the Horse & Rider magazine, then in it's infancy, to find out where she

could get one of these amazing horses, and was lucky enough to be contacted by a breeder in Scotland. After 30 years of breeding, riding, competing, judging and training, as well as being a founder member of the Icelandic Society and working to import the animals into the country, she definitely knows what she's talking about.

The Icelandic horse is unique as being the only breed allowed on the island. IN fact, Icelanders visiting England, with its rich variety of breeds and types, are often hard-pressed to sport the difference, as it's not something they are used to doing. All Icelandic horses in the world today can trace their ancestry back to the Island and to keep the strain pure, any horse that leaves is never allowed to

come back. A severe form of immigration law maybe, but a perfect way to keep disease levels down and control breed characteristics. There are over 97,000 horses registered in their home country. Great Britain lags a lot behind, at only 980 registered individuals, but Germany, Denmark and a few other countries have populations in their thousands too. The International Federation of Icelandic Horses (FEIF) acts as the governing body, holds the worldwide database, organises breeding assessments and organises competitions, as well as training judges, instructors and breeders.

When asked, "What is an Icelandic Horse?" Fi listed a few of the points, with some lovely pictures to highlight. They are Hairy, Hardy and come in

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Editor's Bit

Over the past few weeks, I've started to spend a lot more time in my horsebox as lessons and competitions are suddenly more enticing. I was getting it ready for another outing, when I started thinking and smiling. My emergency kit includes a set of jump leads for those awkward moments when it gets all the way to a show and won't come back, a sledgehammer for those days when releasing the handbrake needs a little more brute force than normal, and a long screwdriver for unsticking the ramp! I don't think I would ever put up with that in my every day drive, but it is just one of those quirks that us horsey minded people seem to take in our stride. Almost as 'quirky' as the pair of boots with a hair grip for a zipper, the breeches worn over leggings so as not to see the holes and the outdoor rugs that look like they're out of some strange production of Frankenstein's Monster. Oh well, maybe those little numbered balls will fall my way one day and I'll get to replace it all!

Until next time,

Best Wishes, Caroline



THAT'S WHY MHRC GOES TO ICELAND! cont



Many Different Colours (most are found, apart from spotted). They have Easy Temperaments and Versatile, with some enjoying jumping as well as the more traditional competitions. They are small, but strong, and especially back in Iceland, work on the land as well as being ridden animals. In fact, the only 'down-side' that Fi could find, was that

they can be prone to Sweet-Itch, but as this seems to be on the rise in all pony breeds, it's hard to hold that against them!

But the most fascinating characteristic of this breed is the two extra gaits they can have – the tölt and the pace – as

well the more usual walk, trot and canter. The tölt is a four time gait, with the legs moving in the same order as the walk, and with no moment of suspension, but tölting horses can move at incredible speeds, a fact highlighted on one of Fi's amazing videos. The pace is a two time gait, with front and hind legs on the same side moving at the same time, creating a smooth action with a moment of suspension. Horses can be classified as either '4-gaited' (walk, trot, canter, tölt) or '5-gaited' (with pace added). There are genetic reasons for the different gaits developing in individuals and, although human trainers can help develop the quality of the movement, if an animal can't do a pace or a tölt, it never will.

Special competitions are held world-wide to show off this unique characteristic. An oval track, 250m long, is laid out, with 3 or 4 judges in the centre. Competitors circle the track, showing off each gait, depending on the level at which they are competing at. Like standard dressage, the quality and action of the paces are judged, and at

higher levels, different speeds and varying 'collection' may be asked for. But unlike traditional English competitions, turnout is a more relaxed affair, with riders wearing comfortable trousers and waterproofs if the English weather lives up to the normal conditions! Tack comes under a few rules – saddles must fit well, but otherwise can be of any type, no martingales are allowed and some bits, such as Dutch Gags, are forbidden. Competitions can range from local competitions organised by the national societies, right up to international world championships, the next one to be held this year in Herning, Denmark.

After such an interesting and passionate talk, everyone gathered round to enjoy a chip supper and to continue talking over what they've learnt. Fi invited anyone from MHRC who would like to have a go themselves, or who would like to visit their ponies, to contact her. It was another enjoyable and informative evening.

RIDDEN CLINICS

DRESSAGE TO MUSIC CLINIC

Saturday 4th April – meet and greet with Amanda Birch, BD listed judge and trainer. Venue and details to be confirmed. Sunday 5th April – individual sessions, maximum of 8 in the day. If enough interest, then a second day will be added. Amanda will help work out a floor plan and suggest suitable music as part of the lesson. £50 per session at Hillview Arena. To go ahead with this, we need confirmed numbers, so please contact Julie ASAP to add your name to the list.





BRING ON THE BOOSTERS!

.Oh no, I hear you cry, not another article on passports! Sadly, yes, it's that time of year again. With the first Area Qualifier coming up in a few weeks' time, this is just a little prompt to check your horses' paperwork. Whether rightly or wrongly, whether you believe in it or not, British Riding Clubs are extremely hot on the whole issue, and as members we have to abide by their rules if we want to represent MHRC at team events. The full rules and regulations can be downloaded from the BRC website for free as part of the 2015 Rulebook, but to paraphrase **there must be no gaps in your horse's vaccination history and if there are, you must initiate the cycle from the beginning, with at least the first two shots given before the event, and no injection can be given within 7 days of the event.** Passports can be inspected at any BRC competition – failure to produce one, or where one does not show evidence of continuous cover, **will** mean disqualification and you will not be allowed to compete. And remember, for a team event, this will also impact on your fellow member's

chances. It's a long way to travel to many of this year's qualifiers – a shame if you have to turn around before your horse is even off the lorry! There is a simple process for the checking of passports (which means you won't have to queue on competition mornings!), which involves uploading a couple of images of your horse's details to the BRC Area 18 website, and updating booster info once a year. Having done this myself for the first time last year, I can confirm it literally takes five minutes to do. And not to belabour the point, but it is your responsibility to make sure everything is in order ... the club can't be responsible for any entry fees or travelling costs that might be lost because the rules aren't followed. If you have any queries or would like help uploading your details onto the website, then please contact MHRC's Passport Officer, Luran Jones, who will be happy to help. So, mini-lecture over and to end on a positive note, thank you to all the members who have done all this already ... it makes life a lot easier in the long run!



JOE'S JUMPING JAUNT PART 2

The second two jumping clinics with Joe MacDonald were held in February at Hillview Arena. Again, the participants were given the challenge of describing the sessions in five words. Catherine Holland said "New set of eyes = good", while Tilly Martin said her lessons were "Surprising, Rewarding, Insightful, Challenging and Dramatic!"

TRAINER PROFILE

Joe was born in 1984, but didn't start riding until he was 12 years old and joined the local Pony Club. He started BSJA at 15, bringing

ponies on up the levels, and was soon on up to horses. While studying for an Equine Degree at Hartpury, he started training with Roland Fernyhough and was chosen for the Equine Academy. On leaving, he became involved with the BBC's 'Only Fools on Horses' for Sports Relief, where he met Tim Stockdale, who took him on as stable jockey after the show. Now Joe has his own yard and training centre in Kemble, Gloucestershire, and has been involved in teaching many MHRC members, past and present.

HORSELESS CLINICS

12th March = Foot Balance and Remedial Shoeing with Graham Fleet. Hunter's Inn, Longdon. £5 per member (£8 Non-members) to include a chip supper. 8 O'clock prompt start.

13th April = Developing Core Strength Without Your Horse with Plum Gregg. Something a bit different. Learn exercises that you can do at home to help your riding. If you want to have a go on the night, please wear comfortable clothes and feel free to bring along gym mats. Some equipment will be available to share. Spectators welcome if you want to learn but not participate! Hanley Swan Village Hall – 8 O'clock prompt start, but we have hired the hall from 7:30 should anyone want to change there. £5 per member (£8 Non-members). Tea and Cake refreshments (anyone willing to provide a homemade cake or man the tea urn, please contact Lyn or Caroline). Session will end be 9:30 as we only have the hall for two hours!

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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.

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	Lyn Tilt	30
	Rita Woolley	30
	Sophie Hooper	30
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15th	Chris Esling	15
	Tilly Martin	15
17th	Julie Jeffes	10
	Wendy Yates	10
19th	Janet Schooling	5
	Kat Jones	5

RIDDEN CLINICS

MINI SHOW-JUMPING TRAINING

For riders wanting to build confidence or bring on novice horses. Maximum height 2'3". Hillview Arena with Sophie Hooper. Maximum of 3 per group with a 6pm or 7pm start. 1st Series = Tuesday 24th February, 3rd and 10th March. 2nd Series = Tuesday 17th, 24th and 31st March. £17 per person. If there is enough interest, then some Saturday afternoon sessions might be added. If you've missed out on the first series, you will be given priority for the second series. Contact Julie to book a place.

EVENTS CALENDAR

March 2015

3rd = Mini Show Jumping Clinic, Hillview Arena
10th = Mini Show Jumping Clinic, Hillview Arena
12th = Horseless Clinic, Hunter's Inn, Longdon (please note change of venue)
17th = Mini Show Jumping Clinic, Hillview Arena
22nd = Area Winter Intermediate Dressage Qualifier, Crown Farm, Ascot-Under-Wychwood (ISIS) (please note change of venue) (S)
24th = Mini Show Jumping Clinic, Hillview Arena
31st = Mini Show Jumping Clinic, Hillview Arena

April 2015

4th - 5th = BRC Winter Novice Championships, Hartpury
4th = Dressage To Music Meet and Greet, venue TBC
5th = Dressage To Music Clinic, Hillview Arena
13th = Horseless Clinic, Village Hall, Hanley Swan (please note change of date and venue)
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30th - 31st = Festival of the Horse, Aston-Le-Wells (BRC)

June 2015

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

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.

MHRC COMMITTEE MEMBERS - working for you in a roundabout way!





MHRC NEWSLETTER

March 2015



Dressage in the Cotswolds

The 21st March turned out to be just the sort of lovely sunny day that was perfect for taking a drive in the Cotswolds – which was a good job, as the



Kat and Dotty

Area Dressage Team had to head off to Crown Farm, Ascot-under-Wychwood, for the Intermediate qualifier. Although more well known for its BE events and Summer competitions held on grass, Crown Farm stepped in last minute to hold this competition when the previous venue, Abbey Dressage, cancelled.

However, it seemed to work OK, utilising the larger outdoor school for warm-up and the small indoor school for the tests themselves.

It was a long day, with Jodie Powell and Bleanagloog Black Diamond starting off the team in the Prelim 13 competition. This was by far the biggest class, with 21 entries, and they did a grand job to come 6th with a score of 159. Then it was on to Novice 28 for Kat Jones and Redbackcappuchino. With 16 entries in the class, the competition was tough, but Kat brought in a 7th place for the team.

MHRC then got a bit of a break and we decided to start a new tradition. With the on-site burger van a bit expensive, a nice stroll through the near-by village brought us to a lovely pub. Chips and a drink went down very well as we dissected the competition so far! But it was soon time to wander back as Catherine Hol-

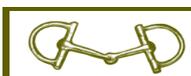
land took her turn in the spotlight.

She kindly offered to step into the remaining Novice place as a last minute replacement, although her youngster, Lexicon, had only been out at Prelim level previously. Unfortunately, a miscommunication meant that she'd learnt the wrong test (it happens to us all!), but a quick scabble round produced a copy of the right one and she still got to ride down the centre line with myself frantically trying to read the surprisingly complicated test. However, Elementary 42 went a lot more smoothly with The Artful Archie, and with the judge making a point of saying what a lovely test it was (and that she had awarded a 9 for one

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Editor's Bit

Did you read the story in Horse & Hound? A Dressage horse sold for a record breaking £120,000 recently - a surprise birthday present from a husband to his wife! I'm not sure if they make rugs out of bubble-wrap, but wouldn't you be tempted after spending that much? The thought did run through my head as I watched yobbo horse climb up the banked straw at the back of his stable, reach over the top of the hay rack and stick his whole head into the old feed bag I'd put up there out of the way while I was clearing out the tack room. Maybe cute for a pony, but a 16hh carthorse - hmmm! He definitely seems keen to get us thrown off the yard - limboing under the electric fence when horses are being fed next door and ambushing the yard owner as he carried some brand new saplings down the field for spring planting in the wood. I suppose I should be happy that I didn't have to feed him that day! And look out to anyone who happens to leave a wheelbarrow anywhere within reach - they are so obviously for climbing on. One day, he might finally grow up one day!

Until next time,

Best Wishes, Caroline





Dressage in the Cotswolds Cont...

of the movements), it made a fantastic end to the day and an overall 10th place.

When asked what their best part of the day was, the pub seemed to be mentioned a lot! But Kat also said of the day "Dotty was feeling the joys of spring and decided to give me an exciting warm up, by losing the plot over a bird flying out of a tree and then taking a dislike to a collie that wasn't anywhere near her. She refused to go down to the far end of the arena for a good 10 minutes! The joys of TB mares in spring! But great support from MHRC and help with Dotty!" Jodie described "the outdoor warm up was lovely, but the indoor school was dark and horrible! And the catering they had was very expensive."

Overall, the team came 11th, which although not a qualification place, was still an excellent result for the first Area competition of 2015. The winners on the day were Evenlode, with Bewdley in 2nd place, Worcester in 3rd, Isis 3 in 4th, Cheltenham Tigers in 5th and Shropshire South 2 in 6th.

DRESSAGE TRAINING

With Nick Lawson
At Hillview Arena
Thursday 9th, 23rd
and 30th April
Thursday 7th May
Maximum of three in
a group.
£20 per session.
6pm or 7pm start.

Contact Julie to book
a place.



TEAM CALL - MAY

Fancy competing on behalf of MHRC in May? – well there are four official competitions to choose from.

10.05.2015 Mercian Two Phase Competition (heights start at 2'3). No schedule as yet, but keep an eye on your inbox as we'll e-mail it to you as soon as we have it.

24.05.2015 Area Show Jumping Qualifier (heights from 80cm to 1.10m). This is our very own competition and schedules have been circulated. Entries close 27th April.

25.05.2015 Mercian Showing (for Coloured, Working Hunter, Riding Club and Veteran). This takes place during our Open Show and is very popular. Entries close 15th May.

30.05.2015 Mercian Dressage to Music (Intro, Prelim and Novice). No schedule as yet, but keep an eye on your inbox as we'll e-mail it to you as soon as we have it.

More details in the calendar and in your 'Competition Dates' chart. Please contact **Karen or Chris** if you are interested in being on any of the teams – the earlier the better so you won't miss out!

Mini Jumping Clinics

On 24th February, the mini showjumping clinics started at Hillview Arena, ably taught by Sophie Hooper. The clinics were aimed at the novice horse or the nervous rider, starting over cross-poles and keeping the height small. The first series of three was filled very quickly, leading to a second series being added taking them through to the end of March.

The first lesson began with trotting over individual poles, then over a series, working on keeping them straight and moving forward. Then a small cross-pole was added. After that, the lesson progressed around a course, still

keeping to cross-poles, but working on different lines between the jumps. By the second lesson, the jumps had gone up, with a couple of uprights and spreads, plus a double, but the same principles of calm were adopted throughout the exercises.

Lyn Harber noted that there was "progress for all who participated. From nervous beginnings to jumping a complete course with a smile. Well done everyone."

While Kat Jones said that the one thing she took away from the clinics was that when jumping a grid, you ride after the last fence as if there was another one in front of you.

"Dotty got some confidence back," she added, "so much so we are attempting a very small Combined Training this weekend."

Jane Downham found the clinics "friendly, encouraging, thrilling and hell on my nerves. I learnt to trust my horse and that she is not all that crazy."

Kelly Hudson "loved this clinic. It was just what Barney and I needed (me more than Barney). The first week I was almost too scared to ride in the group, but by the last week, I was cantering over the jumps. I have learnt to trust Barney and myself—we can do this!"





FOOT FEATURES

The latest horseless clinic was held on 12th March at the Hunter's Inn and the speaker was Graeme Fleet, doing his first talk ever. Graeme did a sports science degree and kind of fell in farriery, luckily getting an apprenticeship with a top trainer, through which he's had experience of shoeing international competitor's to happy hackers, shetlands to shires.

Foot balance is the most important aspect of foot care that the farrier should be concerned with. Why? Consider that the foot is the horse's only contact with the ground and that they spend nearly all their time on their feet. The foot needs to protect the limb from that stress, whether they are grazing in a field or galloping over fences. There are no muscles in the lower leg - all movement is created by the tendons and the knee working together.

So what is good foot balance? There are three planes of balance – the HOOF PASTER axis, the MEDIOLATERAL BALANCE and the ROTATIONAL SYMMETRY.

MEDIOLATERAL BALANCE – this is the perpendicular plane to the long axis. This balance is the once most likely to be missed, but is the most important one to correct. By holding the foot between the legs, a farrier will actually twist the foot out of line and make it harder to asses. Therefore, a T-square is the most important tool that a farrier can use to measure this – it prevents any optical illusions creating straight lines where there are none, and vice versa.

Using his hand made model, Graeme showed how an imbalance of just 3/8th of an inch at the bottom of the foot, creates 3 or 4 inches of extra swing at the knee, and even more as you move up the joints of the leg. A horse can only compensate so much, and once this limit has been exceeded, shoulder and back problems will result.

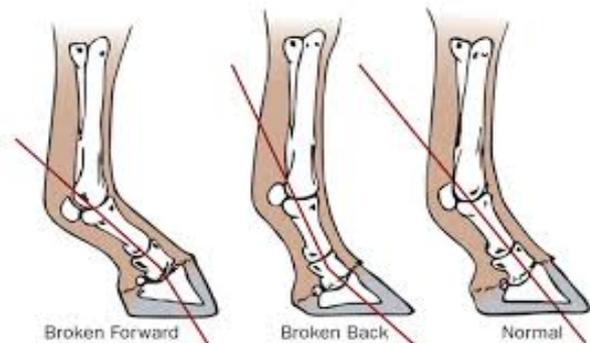
ROTATIONAL SYMMETRY – this deals with how much the leg twists out of straight while in motion. Problems at the knee will lead to

problems with the cannon bone, causing the fetlock and the foot to twist inwards. Remedial trimming and shoeing can help this.

Interestingly, Graeme is a big fan of trimming foals, even as young as 2 – 3 hours old. Any birth defects can be tackled straight away, creating a flat, balanced plane for them to walk on from day one. It can make a huge difference and by leaving it until they are 12 or 18 months old, the problem can have become 'fixed' and harder to tackle.

Then it was time for questions and the main topic of conversations was studs – should you stud with one or two or none? Graeme's opinion is that because the studs are designed to sink into the ground, they shouldn't affect long or short term foot balance. One stud allows the horse to rotate, such as on tight turns in polo or changing direction when jumping, but 2 studs may create more grip and create a more even push off point. The debate has been raging for 20 plus years and MHRC couldn't come to a conclusion this night!

It was time for chips and a more informal chat, but Graeme finished off his excellent talk with one final thought. 95% of horses that are taken to the vets have a lameness caused by a foot imbalance, so it's something we should all be aware of and be willing to discuss with our farrier.



Hoof Pastern Axis



Showing different 'twists' in the same horse

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 2015



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	Jodie Powell	95
2nd	Megan Harper	85
3rd	Camilla Esling	50
	Elizabeth Wise	50
	Wendy Robinson	50
6th	Anna Robson	35
	Caroline Bates	35
	Steph Woolley	35
	Sue Peckham	35
10th	Catherine Holland	30
	Heather Hall	30
	Lyn Tilt	30
	Rita Woolley	30
	Sophie Hooper	30
15th	Chris Esling	15
	Tilly Martin	15
17th	Julie Jeffes	10
	Kat Jones	10
	Wendy Yates	10
20th	Janet Schooling	5

SHOWING CLINIC

3rd April (Good Friday) at Hillview Arena, Malvern. Sophie Hooper will tell you about different classes and which would suit your horse, tack and what to wear, help with ring craft and etiquette, and help with your show routine. Small groups of 4 maximum, £12.50 each. 2pm and 3pm sessions.



EVENTS CALENDAR

April 2015

3rd = Showing Clinic, Hillview Arena, Malvern
4th - 5th = BRC Winter Novice Championships, Hartpury
9th = **NEW** Dressage Clinic, Hillview Arena, Malvern
13th = Horseless Clinic, Village Hall, Hanley Swan (**please note change of date and venue**)
19th = FOTH Eventer Challenge, Swalcliffe (CEVRC) (**S**)
23rd = **NEW** Dressage Clinic, Hillview Arena, Malvern
25th (**please note change of date**) = FOTH Combined Training, Dodderhill (WDRC) (**S**)
30th = **NEW** Dressage Clinic, Hillview Arena, Malvern

May 2015

2nd - 3rd = Intermediate BRC Winter champs, Bury Farm
7th = **NEW** Dressage Clinic, Hillview Arena, Malvern
10th = Mercian Two-Phase, Cleeve Prior (CEVRC)
24th = Senior and Junior Area Style and Showjumping, nr Three Counties Showground (MHRC) (**S**)
25th = MHRC Open Show, nr Three Counties Showground (**S**)
25th = Mercian Showing, nr Three Counties Showground (MHRC) (**S**)
30th = Mercian Dressage to Music, Kings Equestrian, Bromyard (SSRC)
30th - 31st = Festival of the Horse, Aston-Le-Wells (BRC)

June 2015

27th = **NEW** Area Horse Trials Qualifier, Sapey, Bromyard
28th = Area Dressage to Music, Kings Equestrian, Bromyard (SSRC)

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.

HORSELESS CLINIC

13th April = **Developing Core Strength Without Your Horse with Plum Gregg.**

Something a bit different. Learn exercises that you can do at home to help your riding. If you want to have a go on the night, please wear comfortable clothes and feel free to bring along gym mats. Some equipment will be available to share. Spectators welcome if you want to learn but not participate! Hanley Swan Village Hall – 8 O'clock prompt start, but we have hired the hall from 7:30 should anyone want to change there. £5 per member (£8 Non-members). Tea and Cake refreshments (anyone willing to provide a homemade cake or man the tea urn, please contact Lyn or Caroline). Session will end be 9:30 as we only have the hall for two hours!





MHRC NEWSLETTER

April 2015



CHALLENGING TIMES



Photos
Above: Tina,
Jodie, Liz and
Team Manager
Chris at the prize
giving.

Right: Tina,
Jodie, Steph and
Liz after the
round.

The first qualifier for the Festival of the Horse was the Eventer Challenge, held at the BE approved course at Swalcliffe, on 19th April. MHRC sent one team to contest the 90cm competition, which involved a course over show-jumps immediately followed by a shortened Cross-country jaunt over some impressive fences.

It was bitterly cold and, after the warmer weather, a few of the horses used this to an excuse for some high jinks. Buzz definitely tested Tina's seat round the show jumps, but sadly had one down, but had no jumping faults cross-country. Historically, MHRC has incurred rather a few time

faults for going too fast round this course, so this time everyone discussed slowing down – unfortunately, the horse's obviously weren't involved, as those pesky faults had to be added again. Liz, on her young horse, went clear round the showjumps, but then Elvis decided to let her have a closer look at the trekener, but both Steph and Freckles, and Jodie and Trixie, got home with double clears (and some time faults – but as a club we've voted to ignore those from now on!). The team ended up in a fantastic 3rd place, behind the

'Cheltenham Naughty 90's' in 1st and West Oxfordshire in second. A big thank you goes to Jenny Barnes, who volunteered to help fence judge all day so the event could go ahead.

TEAM ROLL CALL

- Jodie Powell & Bleanagloss
- Black Diamond
- Liz Wise & Blue Suede Shoes
- Tina Price & Buzz-B
- Steph Woolley & Freckleton
- Matador



Inside this issue:

- Doing the Double at Dodderhil p2
- Team Call - June p2
- The Core of the Matter p3
- We'll Show You Ours p4
- Pepper Pot League, Events Calendar and Other Needful Things p4



Editor's Bit

And, here we are approaching May already. Our BIG WEEKEND is only a few weeks away and it never seems to matter how early plans start being formulated, it creeps up on us all of a sudden. However, my garage looks wonderful, with boxes and boxes of rosettes, trophies and sashes, all ready for you lucky people to win. Those of you who are on the e-mail distribution list will know that I've been circulating a volunteer's list. The weekend needs a lot of feet on the ground to make sure it runs smoothly. If you can help for a whole or half day, Sunday 24th or Monday 25th, please contact me ASAP. While we do appreciate people who turn up on the day to help, there are a number of key jobs that we have to make sure are filled before it can all go ahead, so if you know you're there, please do give me a shout. For the Sunday, we desperately need another helper in the secretary's tent and someone to sit with the Novice jumping judge to write down scores and be an extra pair of eyes. For Monday, we need a rota of people who will man the main gate. And for both days, extra Arena Party help is always appreciated. Setting up on the Saturday also needs a lot of manpower - please keep an eye on FaceBook and e-mails, or give me a ring, as times will be announced shortly.

Until next time and Thanks in advance, *Best Wishes, Caroline*





DOING THE DOUBLE AT DODDERHILL



The second qualifier for the Festival of the Horse was the Combined Training, held at Dodderhill Equestrian centre on 25th April. The club sent along one team and an individual competitor.

TEAM ROLL CALL

Caroline Bates & Smokey Joe

Wendy Yates & Bella

Lauran Jones & Woodboro Kat

Jodie Powell & Bleanagloss Black Diamond

INDIVIDUAL

Sarah Bowness & Appatchy



For the team competition, two members rode a Prelim test and jumped 75cm, while two rode a Novice test and jumped 85cm.

It was a long old day, with our Prelim riders competing first thing in the morning and our Novice riders last of the day, which meant a lot of hanging round. A day made even longer because the catering van had failed to turn up! Although some filled rolls appeared in the afternoon, surviving without a cup of tea all day was tough!



Caroline and Smokey led off the team in the Prelim section. Unfortunately, after a reasonable dressage test, Smokey took a dislike to one of the jump fillers and the pair were eliminated. Wendy, on a happy and fresh feeling Bella ended up in 10th place. But our individual rider, Sarah, on her new horse and competing for the first time for the club, did a smart test and went clear, ending up in individual 4th place.

In the afternoon, it was the turn of our Novice riders. Jodie and Trixie's Dressage went well, but rolled the last pole in the jumping, ending up on 16th place, while Lauran and Woody jumped clear and did a 68% test - their highest score at this level - ending up in individual 9th place.



Overall, the team came 8th. Not enough to claim the two qualifying places, both of which went to Worcester Riding Club, but a good day all around.

Photos

Top Left: Wendy and Bella. Mid Left: Caroline and Smokey. Bottom Left: Sarah and Appatchy. Top Right: Jodie and Trixie. Bottom Right: Lauran and Woody



TEAM CALL - JUNE



If you would like to compete for the club in June, then there are two opportunities.

27th - Area Horse Trials Qualifier. Held at Sapey XC, Herefordshire. Looking for teams from 80cm to 1.10m. No schedule as yet, but we will distribute once we have it.

28th - Area Dressage to Music Qualifier. Held at Kings Equestrian, Bromyard. Looking for Novice, Elementary, Medium and Advanced Medium members. There is also a class for Prelim pairs. The schedule has been sent out by e-mail, but if you would like another copy, please send for one to mhrcnewsletter@hotmail.co.uk.

Please contact Chris Esling ASAP if you would like to compete at either event.





THE CORE OF THE MATTER

The final Horseless clinic of the series was a little bit different from the norm. On the 13th April, the club headed for Hanley Swan Village Hall for a session designed to help improve core strength and flexibility off the horse. Plum Greg led the session and began by pointing out that most of us spend a lot of our hard earned cash on riding lessons, horse feeds and supplements, tack and equipment, but few pennies on ourselves. By using everyday items, there are exercises that we can do to help support muscles and promote flexibility, which will help the riding in the long run. After all, we expect our horses to bend, stretch and flex...and we should be able to as well. If you ask the horse for a movement, but can't give enough to support him through it, the movement will never be performed to the best of standards. It is also a waste of money if your instructor has to use the first half of every lesson to correct your position, so its worth working on this at home.

Rider's do have different needs than other sportspeople. For instance, running is great for general fitness, but has the effect of shortening muscles. As riders, we need to lengthen these to get the full effect from them, so stretching exercises are very important. In fact, the two main things we should be focused on are:

1. Balance, flexibility and strength (and this doesn't mean brute force, but rather the application of forces in the correct way)
2. Mental and physical independence (being able to work arms, hands, legs, seat, in different ways at the same time).

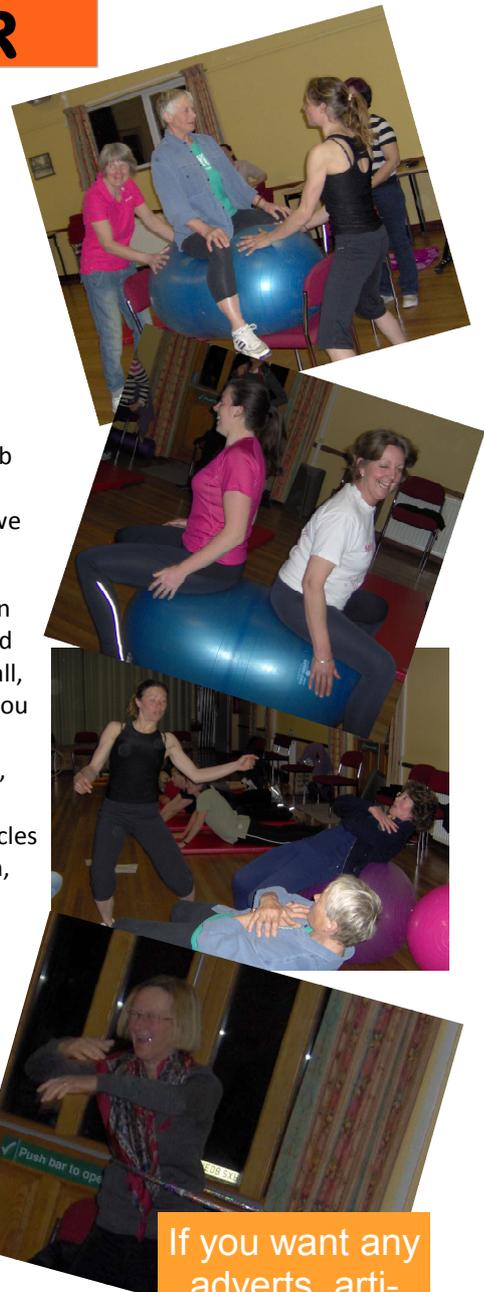
And this basically boils down to two questions – how stable are you in the saddle? And can you maintain your centre of gravity?

Every part of the body has mass. Your centre of gravity is where the average of all these meet. A rider's centre of gravity is just behind the navel, but a horse's centre of gravity will change constantly, not only as it moves but depending on the type of movement it is doing. For instance, a grand prix dressage horse in piaffe will have a much higher centre of gravity than a racehorse at full gallop. Not only does this make the rider's job harder, but shows how easily we can affect the horse and how it moves if we cannot move our centre with his.

There is a simple exercise that you can do to 'feel' which muscles are involved ... take a seat on a chair or exercise ball, as if you were mounted. Make sure you are sat 'square' with equal weight in both seat bones. Take a big breath in, then force it back out through pursed lips, in small, violent bursts. The muscles that you feel contracting at each push, are the ones you need to work on.

Plum then used the second half of the session, showing everyone a variety of exercises, including Hula Hoops, pilates and yoga moves, using bands or ropes to stretch arms muscles, etc. Then there was just enough time to enjoy some tea and cake before heading for home.

The next series of Horseless clinics will begin in the Autumn. If you have any topics you'd like us to cover or know of any good speakers, please contact Caroline with the details.



If you want any adverts, articles, news or photos in the next newsletter please send to Caroline (via post or e-mail) by 25th May 2015

PROPOSED CROSS-COUNTY CLINIC

31st May, Lincombe XC, with Stella Bayliss. At least one session at 2'3 to 2'6 for beginners and one at 80 - 90cm. Possibly bigger if the demand is there. Cost TBC but will be around £30. If you would be interested, please contact Julie Jeffes ASAP and confirm what sort of height you'd be interested at. This will only go ahead if there is enough interest.



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	Jodie Powell	130
2nd	Megan Harper	85
3rd	Elizabeth Wise	80
4th	Steph Woolley	65
5th	Camilla Esling	50
	Wendy Robinson	50
7th	Caroline Bates	40
8th	Anna Robson	35
	Sue Peckham	35
10th	Catherine Holland	30
	Heather Hall	30
	Lyn Tilt	30
	Rita Woolley	30
	Sophie Hooper	30
	Tina Price	30
16th	Sarah Bowness	25
17th	Chris Esling	15
	Tilly Martin	15
	Wendy Yates	15
20th	Julie Jeffes	10
	Kat Jones	10
22nd	Janet Schooling	5
	Lauran Jones	5

EVENTS CALENDAR

May 2015

2nd - 3rd = Intermediate BRC Winter champs, Bury Farm
7th = Dressage Clinic, Hillview Arena, Malvern
10th = Mercian Two-Phase, Cleeve Prior (CEVRC) (S)
24th = Senior and Junior Area Style and Showjumping, nr Three Counties Showground (MHRC) (S)
25th = MHRC Open Show, nr Three Counties Showground (S)
25th = Mercian Showing, nr Three Counties Showground (MHRC) (S)
30th = Mercian Dressage to Music, Kings Equestrian, Bromyard (SSRC) (S)
30th - 31st = Festival of the Horse, Aston-Le-Wells (BRC)
31st = **NEW** Cross-Country Clinic, Lincomb

June 2015

27th = Area Horse Trials Qualifier, Sapey, Bromyard
28th = Area Dressage to Music, Kings Equestrian, Bromyard (SSRC) (S)

July 2015

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

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.

We'll Show You Ours!



The weather might have been a bit hit and miss on Good Friday, but the sun decided to shine down on the showing clinic at Hillview Arena. This was an informal clinic, with Sophie Hooper taking the riders through what they should expect from a 'typical' showing class. From riding in a group to producing a good individual show, from what tack to wear to how to stand and run up a horse for



the judge, a lot was crammed into the hour session. Sophie also discussed each horse individually, suggesting what classes would suit each one and what the rider could do to make sure their horse shines in the line-up.

SOPHIE'S TOP TEN TIPS FOR THE PERFECT SHOW

1. Keep calm and smile
2. Always track right when entering the ring
3. Keep your individual show short and sweet
4. Always wear gloves and have tidy hair
5. Don't wear

(visible!) jewellery

6. Always wear beige or canary breeches
7. Keep your space and distance from others
8. Be prepared to modify your individual show, depending on size and shape of the ring
9. No bling – only use leather tack
10. Use a black or brown shaped numnah with a matching girth





MHRC NEWSLETTER

May 2015



TWO TIMING AT CLEEVE PRIOR



The Mercian Two Phase/Arena Eventing was held at Cleeve Prior on 10th May and MHRC sent two teams. The competition involved completing a course of showjumps, followed by a round of newly made cross-country type jumps, before returning to the main arena for a few more showjumps. Everyone agreed that the hosts had done a great job

at making and designing the fences. Our 70cm team of Chris Esling and Arthur, Wendy Yates and Sofia and Niki Padbury and Fern, couldn't be beaten, despite only having no discount score, and romped home in 1st place, with Chris also winning a well deserved 4th place. The 75cm team of Jodie Powell and Blean-gloss Black Diamond, Jenny Barnes and Linhay Lale, Sara Stephenson and Suzy and Doctor Joe, sadly weren't placed, but there was an individual 5th for Jodie and a 2nd for Sophie.



PHOTOS:

- Top Left: Chris
- Bottom Left: Jodie
- Top Right: Niki
- Middle Right: Sara
- Bottom Right: Sophie

Thank you to Camilla Esling and Karen Withers for taking the photos of our teams.

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- THE BIG WEEKEND p2
- THE BIG WEEKEND p3
- Mercian League Table p3
- Summer BBQ p4
- Pepper Pot League, Events Calendar and Other Needful Things p4



Editor's Bit

Well, what a busy month. As usual a jam-packed issue and so much not covered. There was also lots of training going on behind the scenes, with flatwork and XC clinics throughout May, but sadly no room to do a full report. Suffice to say we send a huge thank you to our instructors, Nick Lawson and Stella Bayliss, and we hope everyone had fun and learnt a little!

Mind you, with everything being so busy, it's hard to believe that the season is half-way over already! Looking at the calendar, the last of the Area Summer qualifiers happen in the next three weeks, then nothing to the Winter competitions start. But there's still plenty of Mercian to go and maybe some more club competitions to follow - watch this space for more details!

Best Wishes, Caroline





** THE BIG WEEKEND **



BEFORE & AFTER



There are always a few smiles when the first mention of 'The Big Weekend' occurs, usually in the first committee meeting back after the new year! But as the slow trickle of cars started arriving at ten o'clock on the 23rd May, none of us could believe just how quickly it had come round once again. Peace was shattered, as our lovely showground underneath the Malvern Hills (thanks once again to Mrs Moss), slowly transformed into a thing of beauty (well, at least for all us horsey fans!). The usual 'discussions' took place, before the posts were placed and rings roped, and the jumps unloaded, sorted and placed around the arena. With sun tans already well underway, we left everything in place, ready for the early start the next morning.

competing for the club. Sammy Jones and Probably Will came 2nd in the Intermediate competition and Anna Robson and Academy Award were 3rd in the Open. Although not placed, also thank you to Stefania Fulford and Mr Buster for representing us in the Open class, and Tina and Buzz, and Sarah and Appatchy for also entering the Style jumping.

As the last competitors drove away, there was just enough time to change the arenas around, move jumps and get ready for the next day's competition.

We were amazed to find people arriving so early yet again and as the beautiful day only got warmer and brighter, arrive they did. I don't think anyone has seen such an attendance at our show in many years and we were all glad we had arranged extra parking this year! All five rings were kept busy and there wasn't a single class not entered.

But first thing in the morning, the Mercian Showing Competition took place, with each team entering a member in four classes - Veteran, Coloured, Riding Club Horse and Working Hunter. Again, this had the biggest entry for many years, with 16 teams entered, four of which were from Malvern.

The **Malvern Missies** of Emma Cooper on It's All About Alfie, Natalie Smith on Brook, Anna Robson on Santa Fe and Julie Reynolds on Kessford Springbok, and the **Malvern Mares** of Rachel Kilmister on Casey George, Nicola Topper on Star Joe and Lucy Conway on Back In Action, weren't placed, but Julie did get an individual 6th in the Veteran class.

However, the other teams, along with a third team from another club, all tied for 1st place! These were the **Malvern Maids** of Catherine Holland on Lexicon (6th Col), Jodie Powell on Bleanagloos Black Diamond (2nd WH), Tilly Martin on Deicin Glyndwr and Camilla Esling –on Just Jake VII (3rd Vet) and the **Malvern Madams** of Sarah Elizabeth Bowness on Appatchy (5th Col), Sara Stephenson on Lledi Susan (3rd WH), Kelly Mawman on Gossgreen Jakara (3rd RC) and

And early it was - as lorries and trailers started piling in, there was just enough time to grab a quick coffee and Danish pastry, before the competition kicked off.

As usual, we ran the four Senior jumping qualifiers, but for the first time also hosted the Juniors too. And I, for one, thought it was lovely to see the ponies there.

In the **Novice Jumping**, MHRC had one team competing and in a close run competition, they came 6th. The jumpers were Sarah Bowness and Appatchy, Julie Jeffes and Be-dazzled III, Sammy Jones and Tangfastic Hari-bo and Tina Price and Buzz-B. Tina and Buzz also jumped off for the individual prize and came 2nd, meaning they are off to the Summer Championships later in the year.

The **Intermediate** team of Liz Wise and Blue Suede Shoes, Emma Horton-Smith and All About Albert, Jodie Powell and Bleanagloss Black Diamond and Anna Robson and Santa Fe were 3rd, with Emma also taking an individual 4th place.

There were also five individuals



JAKE ESLING & HIS MERCIAN 3rd



Decision Making!



ALFIE COOPER & HIS DRESSAGE SASH



ANNA IN ACTION IN THE OPEN RING





** THE BIG WEEKEND **

Suzanne Partridge on Tileford Rosina.

In the other rings, throughout the day, MHRC members did exceptionally well. Janet Schooling and Black Biscuit were 4th in the 2'6 jumping. Rachel Kilmister and Casey George were 1st in the Intro A and 6th in Prelim 14. Sara Stephenson and Suzy were 3rd in Riding Club Horse/Pony. Jessica Stallard and Beacon Midnight were 2nd in Ridden Hunter Pony. Anna Robson and Santa Fe were 6th Ridden Hunter. Emma Cooper and It's All About Alfie were 3rd in the Prelim 7, 3rd in in-Hand Cob and 2nd in Ridden Cob. Emma also finished off the day by taking the MHRC Dressage Champion Sash and Trophy, just topping Rachel by 0.5%.

As the last championship was awarded and everyone made their way home, our gang of helpers stayed behind to tidy everything away. As jumps disappeared back on the trailers, ropes were re-wound and post

pulled up, it was time to leave the field for 12 months of rest before it starts all over again.

Oh, and the teddies! Thank you to everyone who donated - as you can see from the photo, the filled a trailer, but the charity was over the moon. You might have seen them on the news, where they confirmed 12,000 teddies will be sent out to children in war-torn areas. And a lot of those were from us!

An initial estimate (to be confirmed at the AGM) is that the weekend raised a massive £2000+ for club fund! Wonderful!

And lastly, a huge thank you to all our amazing volunteers - without you this show couldn't go ahead. To say an extra special thank you, we are organising a BBQ in July - more details overleaf.



Sarah taking a flyer in the Novice



Teddies, Teddies Everywhere!

TEAM CALL - JULY

If you would like to compete for the club in July, then there are three opportunities. The **Mercian Show and Style Jumping** and the **Mercian Dressage** are both coming up soon. For the jumping, we are looking for people to jump 70 or 75 cm, and the Dressage tests are Intro, Prelim and Novice. The schedules has been sent out by e-mail, but if you would like another copy, please send for one to mhrcnewsletter@hotmail.co.uk.

Please contact Karen Withers ASAP if you would like to compete at either event.

The **Badminton RC Dressage Class** is for three members all doing a prelim test. If you are interested, please contact Kat Jones on kjones661@btinternet.com or 07935 671 437.



NEW OFFER FOR BRC MEMBERS

Members of BRC can now save 50% of Tottie clothing. Simply join Tottie VIP at www.tottie.co.uk/whats-going-on/vip/ and receive money off your order, plus free gifts, promotions and exclusive previews of Tottie's latest products.



Current Mercian League Table

Malvern Hills RC	39pts
Crothorne RC	30pts
Bromsgrove RC	16pts
Worcester RC	13pts
Bewdley BC	13pts
Bromyard RC	10pts
South Shropshire RC	9pts
Vale of Arrow RC	7pts
Cheltenham RC	4pts
Frampton FRC	2pts
Wyvern RC	1pts

If you want any adverts, articles, news or photos in the next newsletter please send to Caroline (via post or e-mail) by 25th June 2015





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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 mhrnewsletter@hotmail.co.uk for a copy of

PL	NAME	PTS
1st	Jodie Powell	250
2nd	Sarah Bowness	120
3rd	Anna Robson	115
	Camilla Esling	115
5th	Elizabeth Wise	110
6th	Sara Stephenson	100
7th	Emma Cooper	90
8th	Megan Harper	85
9th	Catherine Holland	80
	Tina Price	80
11th	Chris Esling	75
12th	Sammy Jones	70
13th	Kelly Mawmen	65
	Sophie Hooper	65
	Steph Woolley	65
16th	Rachel Kilmister	55
	Tilly Martin	55
	Wendy Yates	55
19th	Emma Horton-Smith	50
	Wendy Robinson	50
21st	Julie Jeffes	45
22nd	Caroline Bates	40
	Niki Padbury	40
	Suzanne Partridge	40
25th	Jessica Stallard	35
	Sue Peckham	35
27th	Heather Hall	30
	Janet Schooling	30
	Lyn Tilt	30
	Rita Woolley	30
31st	Juliet Reynolds	15
32nd	Kat Jones	10
	Natalie Smith	10
34th	Jenny Barnes	5
	Lauran Jones	5
	Lucy Conway	5
	Nicola Topper	5
	Stefania Fulford	5



EVENTS CALENDAR

June 2015

21st = Area Dressage, Crown Farm, Ascot-under-Wychford
27th = Area Horse Trials Qualifier, Sapey, Bromyard
28th = Area Dressage to Music, Kings Equestrian, Bromyard (SSRC) (S)

July 2015

5th = Mercian Show and Style Jumping, Lincomb, (BBC)
11th = **NEW** MHRC BBQ, Queenshill, Upton
19th = Mercian Dressage, Sinton Green, (WRC) (S)
28th - 29th = Badminton RC Team Dressage Challenge

August 2015

2nd Aug = Team of Three SJ, Hickstead (BRC)
7th to 9th = Horse Trials Championships, Swalcliffe (BRC)
9th = Mercian Arena Eventing, Bissell Wood (Bromsgrove RC)
23rd = Mercian Combined Training, Hanbury (WDRC)

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. More details can be

SUMMER BBQ

11th July 2015
The Garden House, Queenhill,
Upton-on-Severn

**** 6:00pm start ****

£5 per ticket
(friends and family welcome)

PLEASE NOTE THAT IF YOU VOLUNTEERED AT EITHER OF OUR TWO SHOW DAYS IN MAY, YOUR FREE TICKET IS ALREADY ON IT'S WAY

For more details and how to order tickets, please see the attached form.

We look forward to seeing you there!





MHRC NEWSLETTER

June 2015



MUSICAL MOMENTS



Jane and Zonda

Dressage to Music has become very popular recently, meaning a new Mercian level competition took place at the end of May, along with the Area qualifier at the end of July. And for the first time, MHRC sent representatives to both events. At the Mercian, Jane Downham competed in the Intro Freestyle on Gleaming Dynamite and came 6th, both Liz Whitehead on Gawun Azwan and Steph Woolley on Freckleton Matador in the Novice Freestyle, to come 3rd and 1st respectively, and Steph and Freckles also came 1st in the Elementary Freestyle. Below, Jane takes up the story.

I'm not very good at dressage - I think it's the fact I can't remember the test. I have just taken on a young horse, and have parted company on several occasions, so am not full of confidence. However, I thought I could give the DTM a go - ride the BD Intro B walk and trot test and just add music. Simples! So I put my name forward.

I understood that we had a second team member for prelim. We just needed a third for the Novice, so I kindly 'volunteered' my friend Liz. I had completely forgotten that she was recovering from broken ribs after falling from her horse 12 weeks previous. Her trusty stead was also off the road. But Liz is always up for anything, even though she needed a horse. A 24 year old hack, Az, was recruited from a friend straight from the field. We would have 3 weeks to put it all together. Plenty of time - NOT!

Looking up DTM on the internet I found that I needed to put some compulsory movements into my test. My original idea of using a BD test was already out of the window. The next problem was the music. I didn't know what artist or track to use,

or how to copy the music onto a disc. I would have to persuade my other half (Ian) to help on the music front. Liz, on the other hand, was well away. She had dragged Az out of the field, designed her floor plan, and added a bit of Madonna. After studying my horse's movement in walk and trot, I came up with a couple of 1980's tracks, by Matt Bianco, giving our test Jazz Latin flavour. I had to find an arena 20 x 40 to try out my floor plan, so requested the help and facilities of Sharon Thomas. Armed with a portable cd player and 2 tracks we set to work. We fiddled about with the floor plan and videoed. In an hour we cobbled together something that resembled a test that contained the compulsory dressage moves within the time allowed. Now I needed to enlist the artistic skills of Ian to add the music to the moves, and copy 2 discs for the big day.

I planned to practise with Liz on the Bank Holiday Monday. To add pressure I found that we needed to have a music licence in order to play tracks in public. We could get around this by becoming a British Dressage member, using a music membership. I downloaded the forms, sent them

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Editor's Bit

Well, for once, I had planned exactly what I wanted to say in this column, but as you can see, a huge, bumper issue of the newsletter has limited my space some what - never mind, maybe next time.

It was a great day at the Area Horse Trials this month, and although there were a few thrills and spills, the atmosphere amongst the members was amazing and I hope everyone had as good a time as I did. It's wonderful to see so many people having a go. Although the Area Summer season is effectively over, there are still plenty of Mercian events coming up, so why not make this the year you join one of the teams. If I can do it on yobbo horse, you can too!

Best Wishes, Caroline





MUSICAL MOMENTS cont.



Liz and Az



Steph and Freckles

If you want any adverts, articles, news or photos in the next newsletter please send to Caroline (via post or e-mail) by 25th July 2015

off with a £30 fee, in return for a membership card and some cd stickers. I spent the Sunday at our Malvern Show as part of the arena party. I came home to find Ian sat at the computer with a pile of discs in the bin. He was very grumpy. It had taken him all day to copy the tracks to disc that would play on a cd player. He explained in his moody way, the 2 discs he had copied would play in the car, on an old cd player, but not on the player I had bought especially for practise. I rang neighbours to try my new burnt discs on their music systems. Fortunately the gods were with me and the sound of music played from the speakers. Relief!

Four days to go and the practise session with Liz was a shambles. I couldn't remember my own floor plan, the music didn't fit, my 20 metre circles were oval and my horse found a new skipping gait. Liz was in a similar situation, although she didn't forget her floor plan, but the music didn't fit and Az was as stiff as a board. There were a few adjustments to be made for us both. I promptly hired Moores Farm arena on the Wednesday evening to try and piece things together.

Two Days to go. Things weren't looking much better after my session at Moores. It was just as bad as before and nothing seemed to go to plan. News came that our 2nd team member for prelim had to pull out due to unfortunate circumstances and Liz was still waiting her membership bits. Well, we were doomed, nothing more could go wrong!

One day to go. Life can deal out some cards and I was dealt one of the worst. Friday afternoon I had news that my father was suddenly taken to hospital and sadly he died that evening. I was devastated. Knowing the best thing to do was keep busy, I convinced myself that I needed to continue making myself look like a prat. I hardly slept and my eyes looked like I had gone under the knife. It wasn't a good look.

We got to the venue a couple of hours early, enough time for me to ease my grief and replace it with nerves. Spooky horse, nerves - not

a great combination! I didn't have enough courage to trot around the warm up arena. The fear of an explosion of excitement was too great. We finally became calm and looked on at the smartly turned out horse and rider combinations. Fear came over me when my name was called, no backing out now.

Entering the indoor arena, a gallery of faces seemed to be focused on us. Zonda's eyes were on stalks, a gallery of people, mirrors and flower pots to distract from the job. We stand square. Hand up. Music starts. Salute. We're off. Rein back, side pass, turn on forehand, couple of serpentine down the centre line – no, not actually part of our test! Finally Zonda settles and we were getting into it, just as we were on the final movements. Halt. Salute. Pat. Done. Relax Applause. Out of the arena, back to trailer, un-tack, load up for Ian to take Zonda home. Waved them off. Liz arrives as cool as mustard. How does she do it? I worked up the courage and finally decided I was brave enough to get my test sheet. We were slated!

There was a photographer, so as I am looking at pictures of me and Zonda, when Liz pulls me away, frantic mentioning a 6th place. I have to get my horse and get in the arena for rosette. Well, no horse, no jacket, no hat, so I go into prize-giving on foot, with a borrowed jacket, borrowed hat, and run my lap of honour after 5 cantering horses, much to the crowd's amusement. I did the 'Malvern Madams' proud keeping up with them horses. After all the excitement, Liz was in. She rode a great test and looked so calm and collected. Az, her 24 year old hack, was pulling out all the stops and looked to be enjoying every moment. Liz was beaming when she came out of that arena and they were rewarded with a 3rd place. I had filmed the lot so we could relive it later. I loved every moment; the people and the venue were great. The day for me was filled with all sorts of emotions, fun and laughter won the order of the day. It's a must for all to try and it's definitely on my agenda again.

Our sole representative at the Area DTM competition on 28th June was Steph Woolley and Freckleton Matador, who competed in both the Novice and Elementary qualifiers. They came 4th in the Elementary, but swept the opposition away to win the Novice with a score of 76.66% (2nd place had 68.88%), meaning they have qualified for the championships at Bury Farm later on in the year. A fantastic result!





IN PICTURES: AREA HORSE TRIALS

It was a very warm, sunny day for the Area Horse Trials on 27th June. Congratulations to everyone who represented the club.

Our 90cm team came 2nd, just beaten to a qualification place by Worcester, with individual places for Camille (4th), Megan (5th) and Emma (4th).

A = 80cm team

Sammy Jones & Tangfastic Haribo
Tilly Martin & Deicin Glyndwr
Plum Gregg & Steady Castle Euro

B = 80cm team

Lauran Jones & Woodboro Kat
Lauren Rowe & Utamarette
Anna Robson & Santa Fe

90cm team = 2nd

Camilla Esling & Just Jake VII
Megan Harper & Tequila
Emma Horton-Smith & It's All About Albert
Jodie Powell & Bleanagloos Black Diamond

90cm individual

Catherine Holland & Lexicon

100cm individual

Steph Woolley & King's Cruise



IN PICTURES: AREA HORSE TRIALS



'A Fab day and great to be out eventing as part of a team'
Emma Horton-Smith



A Message from Chris ...



Hi All.

With the last of the Area Summer Qualifier competitions now over, I just wanted to take the opportunity to thank everyone who has come forward to represent our fantastic club this summer. Thank you all for putting up with my constant ranting about vaccinations, etc. ! Thank you for turning yourselves and your horses out so beautifully. But the biggest thank you is for your amazing sporting attitude and your support of each other, even if it wasn't your day! For the fortunate members who are off to the Riding Club Championships, the very best of luck flying the flag for Malvern Hills, and I would like to think that we might have even more teams next year to take on all the other clubs in our very competitive Area18!!

Best Wishes,

Chris (Area Team Manager)



Summer Dressage

The Summer Dressage and Riding Test qualifiers were held at Crown Farm, Ascot-under-Wychford, on 21st June. MHRC was well represented by a team in both the Prelim and the Open Dressage classes, plus three individuals in the Prelim Riding test class.

For the Prelim class, all members of the team ride the BRC D3 test, which is equivalent to a BD Prelim level test. Our three horse team of



Freckles and his 'Itching' Team!

Camilla Esling & Ted's Rainbow, Tina Price & Tom Thumb II and Jodie Powell & Bleanagloss Black Diamond, did a great job to finish in 3rd, with an individual 3rd to Jodie, 5th to Tina and 7th to Camilla.

For the Open competition, each member of the team had to ride a different test, three to do a BD Novice level and one a BD Elementary level. For MHRC we had Camilla Esling & Just Jake doing Novice 24, Tina Price and Buzz-B doing Novice 34, Julie Jeffes & Hederfield Ash doing Novice 30 and Steph Woolley and Freckleton Matador doing Elementary 45. And they certainly pulled out all the stops and came in 1st, beating Worcester on collectives and qualifying for the National Championships in September. There were also individual places for Camilla, 3rd, Julie, 2nd, and Steph, who won the Elementary 45.

The BRC Riding tests are slightly different to Dressage tests, in that they concentrate solely on the rider, their position and effectiveness in the saddle. Our three individual riders did amazingly well, with a 6th for Tina & Tom Thumb II, a 3rd for Jodie & Bleanagloss Black Diamond and a 4th for Steph and Freckleton Matador..

Camilla had a long day, with her first test at 9:30 and the second at 3:30, but at least it gave her time to plait! "It was an open, windy, venue, but there was a nice, calm atmosphere ideal for dressage," she said, "Our best movement of the day was Jake's medium trot across the diagonal, towards the lorry park and his mate, Roland, whose wobbly centre line later in the day was our worst! I was able to watch all the other MHRC members and everyone had lovely tests, which showed in the results. We are part of a very competitive RC area and the standard is always high, but we held our own. To have a team qualified for the championships is fantastic, and a great excuse for the MHRC 'Bake Off' to be staged with our own Lin 'Mary Berry' Harber as head judge!"

When asked to describe the day in ten words or less, Jodie said "Great company, great friends, great support, equals a fantastic day", while Camilla added cryptically "Freckles and his itching team ... meets mother Esling performing splits!"



Tina and Buzz



The winning team - off to the Champs (from left - Julie, Camilla, Ted's Rainbow, Steph, Tina and Chris.



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
mhrcnews-
letter@hotmail.co.uk for a
copy of your ranking.

PL	NAME	PTS
1st	Jodie Powell	370
2nd	Steph Woolley	310
3rd	Camilla Esling	265
4th	Tina Price	190
5th	Megan Harper	135
6th	Anna Robson	120
	Sarah Bowness	120
8th	Julie Jeffes	115
9th	Elizabeth Wise	110
10th	Emma Horton-Smith	105
11th	Sara Stephenson	100
12th	Emma Cooper	90
13th	Catherine Holland	85
14th	Chris Esling	75
	Sammy Jones	75
16th	Kelly Mawmen	65
	Sophie Hooper	65
18th	Tilly Martin	60
19th	Rachel Kilmister	55
	Wendy Yates	55
21st	Wendy Robinson	50
22nd	Caroline Bates	40
	Niki Padbury	40
	Suzanne Partridge	40
25th	Jessica Stallard	35
	Sue Peckham	35
27th	Heather Hall	30
	Janet Schooling	30
	Liz Whitehead	30
	Lyn Tilt	30
	Rita Woolley	30
32nd	Jane Downham	15
	Juliet Reynolds	15
34th	Kat Jones	10
	Lauran Jones	10
	Natalie Smith	10
37th	Jenny Barnes	5
	Lauren Rowe	5
	Lucy Conway	5
	Nicola Topper	5
	Stefania Fulford	5
	Victoria Gregg	5

EVENTS CALENDAR

July 2015

5th = Mercian Show and Style Jumping, Lincomb, (BBC) **(S)**
11th = MHRC BBQ, Queenshill, Upton
19th = Mercian Dressage, Sinton Green, (WRC) **(S)**
28th - 29th = Badminton RC Team Dressage Challenge **(S)**

August 2015

2nd Aug = Team of Three SJ, Hickstead (BRC) **(S)**
7th to 9th = Horse Trials Championships, Swalcliffe (BRC)
9th = Mercian Arena Eventing, Bissell Wood (Bromsgrove RC)
23rd = Mercian Combined Training, Hanbury (WDRC) **(S)**

September 2015

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

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.

TEAM CALL - AUGUST

If you would like to compete for the club in August, then there are two opportunities.

The **Mercian Combined Training** and the **Mercian Eventer Challenge** are both coming up soon. For the CT, we are looking for 2'3 teams (doing either an Intro or a Prelim test, two per test per team) and 2'6 teams (Prelim or Novice, 2 per each per team). For the Eventer Challenge there will be classes for 2'3 and 2'6. The schedules will be sent out by e-mail as soon as we have them.

Please contact Karen Withers ASAP if you would like to compete at either event.

VOLUNTEER CALL UP

The BRC Horse Trials Championships takes place from the 7th to 9th August at Swalcliffe, Oxon. As you can imagine, this takes a large number of people to keep it running smoothly, so BRC are looking for volunteers. If you fancy helping out on one or more of the days, please contact Chris Esling ASAP, who will forward all names to HQ.





MHRC NEWSLETTER

JULY 2015



LEAPING AT LINCOMB

The Mercian style and show jumping competition was held at Lincomb Equestrian on the 7th July. MHRC sent five teams.



Rachel and George

In the 70cm Show jumping, we had two teams. The **Malvern Maids** of Suzanne Lidbetter and Tileford Rosina, Caroline Bates and Smokey Joe, Danielle Diment and Alfie and Anna Robson and ?. And the **Malvern Madams** of Anne Price and Half a Guinness, Niki Padbury and Fern and Rachel Kilmister and Casey George. In the 75cm show jumping we had one team - The **Malvern Ladies** of Helen Robson and Kara, Chris Esling and Half n Half, Jodie Powell and Blenagloos Black Diamond and Tina Price and Tom Thumb. There were no team or individual places in either class, but everyone did a brilliant job.

In fact, despite having to jump a largely rustic course, our style jumpers did great, with a 2nd place in both the 70cm and 75cm class. The **Malvern Mares** of Anne Price and Half a Guinness, Rachel Kilmister and Casey George, and Sara Ste-

phenson and Liedi Susan competed in the 70cm. While the ?? Of Stefania Fulford and Mr Buster, Julie Jeffes and Hederfield Ash, Jodie Powell and Bleanagloos Black Diamond, and Tina Price and Tom Thumb II, were in the 75cm class. There were also some individual places, with Anne and Tina coming 2nd in their classes, and Julie coming 4th.

It was Rachel's first competition for the club. "I haven't done much since I have had my boy, so, quite frankly, nervous did not come close! I had entered the 70cm style and the show jumping, having never done a style competition in my life - but always up for a challenge! I have been to Lincomb once before for a fun ride and it's a nice, large venue. The style course



Tina and Tom

(Continued on page 2)

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EDITOR'S BIT

Hello and welcome to the new look newsletter - I hope you like it. I was kind of getting a bit bored of the other design. Not that I've had much of a chance to be bored this month, with two Mercian competitions for Yobbo pony to have a go at. Great fun, if a little bit wet on occasion - roll on the next one!

This month also saw myself, Lyn and Chris go off to the Area 18 Liaison Committee meeting. This is a chance for all the club reps to get together and thrash out any problems or issues. And as a result, is always rather interesting! Scarily, one of the things on the agenda was sorting out the Area qualifiers for next year! The good news is that MHRC, but popular demand, will once again be hosting the show jumping, so for those organised people with a 2016 diary, you can pencil in the May bank holiday weekend as *busy!* As usual, as soon as we know dates and venues, we'll let you know, and you might have already noticed that the winter qualifiers are already appearing. I know - the thought of it - I'd quite like a summer first.

One of the other things on the agenda was the Horse Trials Qualifier. As you can imagine, this takes a huge effort to run and the amount of manpower needed is phenomenal. We risk losing this qualifier completely and to that end, we have tentatively put our names forward as one of the organising clubs. This is something for us all to think about and discuss at a later date, as it may involve us all!

So on that note

until next time, Caroline

FOODIE FUN

If it's one thing that MHRC can do well, it's eat! And the inaugural Summer BBQ on 11th July definitely proved that.

The weather wasn't too kind to us, as the sun disappeared earlier in the day, but at least the rain stayed away as people began to arrive at the venue.

The food was amazing - beautiful rare breed steaks, sausages and burgers were on offer, with an amazing array of sides, including salads, pasta, potato wedges, coleslaw and lovely fresh bread. Puddings there were a plenty, with fruit covered in chocolate, lemon posset, meringue, banana rum cake, chocolate brownies and cheesecake, plus some famous Woolley fudge for passing around afterwards.

The committee decided to put on the BBQ as a special thank you to everyone who helped out at our two day show in May. Once again, we'd like to reiterate that - without the help and support of the club members, we wouldn't be able to put the competitions on.

A huge thank you has to go to Lyn and Mike Harber, who kindly opened up their house, garden and grounds for the club.



LEAPING AT LINCOMB cont.

(Continued from page 1)

was mostly rustic fence, which I have not jumped at all on my boy, but it was a nice, spacious course to show your rhythm. The last fence was a hanging U shaped pole, with no filler or ground line, so I feared that would be our bogey fence. We went clear however, and even got an 8 for that fence! The show jumping had more jumps than the style, but not many fillers or scary fences. The timed section allowed no areas for short cuts, so it was difficult for a slower paced horse to make the time quick. We had a lovely clear, however weren't quick enough for an individual place. It's why I preferred the style, as it wasn't all about speed, but about technique and rhythm. The best bit of the day was being made to feel so welcome and part of the team, but also that our style team of three secured 2nd place!

Anne Price has also been to Lincomb many times before "with daughter and pony club! I went there earlier this year for some cross-country schooling

MYSELF! – well, I jumped all the little ones, then Amy got on and jumped the big stuff. I thought both courses were fine. The style course asked enough questions in terms of trying to jump it 'correctly' – riding good lines, etc. The show jumping was ok too, although I had just walked the style course and didn't give it my full attention (but rusty these day!), so didn't really 'clock' where the timers were. Goo executed a brilliant turn for me from fence 8 to 9...so I got us eliminated for not going the long way round and through the start timer. Oops! I thought it was before fence 7 – lesson learnt – ALWAYS MAKE SURE YOU KNOW WHERE THE TIMED SECTION STARTS AND FINISHES. It was a tad cramped in the practice arena at times, but I enjoyed the relaxed atmosphere and the stewards were friendly."



Chris and Artur



Anne and Guinness

SINTON GREEN DRESSAGE STARS

It was off to Sinton Green on the other side of Worcester, for the Mercian Dressage competition on 19th July. We entered three teams, who had to ride four different tests. The scoring is always interesting, with the overall 'place' (rather than the percentage) of the Intro and Novice rider, plus the highest placed Prelim rider. Our highest placed team was the **Malvern Madams** who came 7th, but our other teams were in the top 20, out of 30 plus teams, so a great result all round. In the individual section, there was a 6th for Anne and a 9th for Lin in the Prelim 7, a



Lin and Toby

4th for Sara in the Intro B, and a 9th for Tina and a 10th for Stefania in the Novice 28. A few members also entered extra classes as open individuals, with a 8th for Caroline in the Intro B, and a 2nd for Jodie, 5th for Anne and 7th for Tina in the Prelim 12. Anne Price had fun, 'apart from having my 'trainer' (aka, my daughter, Amy) telling me not to be so soft with him. "But he makes me laugh!" says I. "MOTHER!" is the reply! Anyway, I thought everyone was helpful and smiley, and the arenas were flat, which is a luxury after having evented years ago. Apparently, to those who were watching, the halt in the Prelim 12 was brilliant, but the P7 halt was not – ooops! Everyone I spoke to seemed to have enjoyed themselves and we were happy with our tests. It's all a bonus to me, so as long as I don't let Guinness down too much (I remembered the test and the chocolate!) then who cares! As always, waiting for the results was hard (especially when you are supposed to be somewhere else by then – another ooops!), but scoring is a tough job. Luckily for Goo and me, the wait was worthwhile!"

The full roll call

Malvern Madams

Intro B - Jane Downham and Gleaming Dynamite

P7 - Anne Price and Half

a Guinness

P12 - Lucy Conway and Back in Action

Nov 28 - Stefania Fulford and Mr Buster

Malvern Ladies

Intro B - Sara Stephenson and Lliedi Susan

P7 - Caroline Bates and Smokey Joe

P12 - Linda Kemp and Princess

Nov 28 - Jodie Powell and Bleanagloos Black Diamond

Malvern Mares

Intro B - Karen Kilby and Courtwood Lodge C-D

P7 - Lin Harber and Toby

P12 - Philippa Lord and Stonehall Hurley

Nov 28 - Tina Price and Tom Thumb II

Thanks to Camilla Esling for the photos, and to everybody who came along to cheer the teams on.



Sara (left) and Caroline (right)



Stef and Buster

EVENTER CHALLENGE & BLENHEIM TEAM SELECTION!

On the 29th August, MHRC as holding an Eventer Challenge competition at Hillview Arena. As well as being a fun competition for members and non-members alike, this will also act as a selection competition for the Blenheim RC Eventer Challenge on 17th October.

The Blenheim Challenge is always a tough competition. Jumps tend to be up to height and set on a twisty course with a very tight time. This year, MHRC can send one team to contest the 90cm competition and if you would like to be considered for the team, then you must enter the selection section at the show on the 29th. Those placed 1st to 4th will form the team, with those in 5th and 6th acting as reserves, just in case! Please read the eligibility and rules of entry of both our show and at Blenheim, before deciding whether you would like to go (these have been e-mailed out to members, but please contact Caroline if you'd like to see them again). Our aim is to make the competition on the 29th as close to the real thing as we possibly can, giving the team a chance to experience some of what they might be up against in October!

If you don't want to go to Blenheim, then there are 4 other open classes you could enter too. MHRC members get a discounted membership and if we need to restrict entries, then you'll get priority. And with Sophie Hooper at Hillview kindly donating a Free Arena Hire Voucher to 1st place and Pioneer Feeds, Ledbury, donating a £10 voucher for 2nd place, plus special rosettes for the Highest Placed Member in each class, (not forgetting Pepper Pot Points!) then why not come along for some fun!

Don't fancy competing? Well, you can still join in the fun as we need three or four people to act as Arena party during the day. Please contact Caroline if you' can help out - lunch and refreshments provided!

MERCIAN LEAGUE

1st	Crothorne	69
2nd	Malvern Hills	66
3rd	Bewdley	56
4th	Worcester	54
5th	SSRC	48
6th	Vale of Arrow	43
7th	Bromsgrove	41
8th	Bromyard	37
9th	Cheltenham	13
10th	Alvechurch	9
11th	Wyvern	5
12th	Frampton	2

Current point totals after the Dressage. Only 5 competitions to go!

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

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COMING UP

August 2015

2nd	Team of Three SJ	Hickstead	(BRC)	(S)
7th-9th	Horse Trials Championships	Swalcliffe	(BRC)	
9th	Mercian Arena Eventing,	Bissell Wood	(Bromsgrove RC)	(S)
23rd	Mercian Combined Training	Hanbury	(Worcester RC)	(S)
29th	(NEW) MHRC Eventer Challenge	Hillview Arena		(S)

September 2015

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

October 2015

4th	Mercian Hunter Trials	Frampton Court	(FRC)	
10th	(NEW) Area Novice Dressage	Abbey Dressage	(Cheltenham RC)	

November 2015

1st	Riding Test and Style Jump training (unmounted), Kings Equestrian, Bromyard (organised by Area 18 Committee)			
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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. More details can be found on your 2015 Competition Guide.

BRC National Championships

The BRC Summer championships are held on 5th and 6th September 2015, and hold classes for Juniors and Seniors in Dressage, Show and Style Jumping. Congratulations to Tina Price, who has qualified for the Novice Jumping Champs with Buzz B, and our Dressage team (Camilla Esling, Julie Jeffes, Steph Woolley and Tina again!), who've qualified for the Open Championship.

However, even if you haven't qualified for a championship class, then you can still be a part of the experience.

If your horse is over 18 years old, then why not consider the 'In The Pink' showing class, held on the morning of Sunday 6th? The schedule is on the BRC website and entry forms will follow soon. Don't forget to let us know that you're going!

Or if you don't feel like taking your horse, then why not join our enthusiastic cheer squad? Our club is well known for having the biggest (and loudest!) group of supporters, so the more the merrier.



Current League Placings after Mercian Dressage.

PL	NAME	PTS
1st	Jodie Powell	415
2nd	Steph Woolley	310
3rd	Camilla Esling	265
4th	Tina Price	255
5th	Julie Jeffes	170
6th	Sara Stephenson	160
7th	Megan Harper	135
8th	Anna Robson	125
9th	Sarah Bowness	120
10th	Elizabeth Wise	110
11th	Emma Horton-Smith	105
12th	Rachel Kilmister	95
13th	Emma Cooper	90
14th	Anne Price	85
	Catherine Holland	85
16th	Chris Esling	80
17th	Sammy Jones	75
18th	Kelly Mawmen	65
	Sophie Hooper	65
20th	Tilly Martin	60
21st	Wendy Yates	55
22nd	Caroline Bates	50
	Wendy Robinson	50
24th	Niki Padbury	45
	Stefania Fulford	45
	Suzanne Lidbetter	45
27th	Jessica Stallard	35
	Sue Peckham	35
29th	Heather Hall	30
	Janet Schooling	30
	Liz Whitehead	30
	Lyn Tilt	30
	Rita Woolley	30
34th	Jane Downham	20
35th	Julie Reynolds	15
36th	Kat Jones	10
	Lauran Jones	10
	Lucy Conway	10
	Natalie Smith	10
40th	Danielle Diment	5
	Helen Robson	5
	Jenny Barnes	5
	Karen Kilby	5
	Lauren Rowe	5
	Lin Harber	5
	Linda Kemp	5
	Nicola Topper	5
	Phillippa Lord	5
	Victoria Gregg	5

PEPPER POT POINTS LEAGUE 2014/2015



MHRC NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2015

Bissell Wood Eventing



Natalie and Titano

The Mercian One-Day Event took place this year at Bissell Wood Equestrian Centre on 9th August, with all three phases taking place in arenas. MHRC sent along two teams, one to compete in each section.

The Malvern Maids were Sara Stephenson on Liedi Susan, Anne Price on Half a Guinness and Niki Padbury on Fern. All rode Prelim 7 and jumped a 2'3 course and, despite only being a 3 'man' team, they won 3rd place. Sara also came 6th individually, while Niki topped the leader board and took 1st.

The Malvern Mares were Anna Robson on Santa Fe, Helen Robson on Kara and Natalie Smith on Titano, and this time they rode Prelim 18 and jumped 2'6. Another 3 'man' team, but they finished in 6th place, with an individual 5th for Anna.

Natalie had a good day, was a bit disappointed by the dressage scores. However, managing to snap a pole in the show jumping is no mean feat, especially as it stayed up! With just one fence down for both her and Helen, plus a nice clear for Anna, the team came 6th. "It was the first time out with the club on my new horse," she said, "and my first dressage test in a good few years (even if I did do it in my jump saddle!). Dare I admit that I actually enjoyed it?"

Anne wasn't sure how much of a success she was. "For some reason the venue blew Goo's brain out and he totally lit up in his test. It made a change to be charging up the centre line chomping at the bit rather than trying to keep him going for the whole test! The jumping was a bit dodgy and we had a fence down. My team mates Sara and Niki both went really well and as always the team supporters were lovely – I'm not used to such support and it is very welcome.

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EDITOR'S BIT

As this 'went to press' we received some absolutely fantastic news. Our Open Dressage team were at the British Riding Club National Championships in Lincoln and came 2nd, only beaten into first place by four points. An absolutely amazing result - well done Camilla, Julie, Steph and Tina. There'll be a full report in the next issue, but for now, we can all have a little celebration.

And talking of championships, we've started receiving details of the winter competition season as well as dates for next year's champs. Updates will be sent out as soon as things are confirmed, but for now, please find attached the Winter Season Competition Guide. If you've never competed for the club, or maybe not at Area level, why not give it a go.

Hopefully by next issue we'll have the club winter season sorted out too, with a few things closer to home. It really does feel like the year is coming to an end as we start discussing AGM's, Horseless Clinics, and Christmas!!

until next time, Caroline

Combining Fun



Jenny (left) and Niki (right)

The Mercian Combined training was held at Hanbury on 23rd August, and was run by the Worcester riding club.

For the Mini class, two riders did the Intro B test and two did Prelim 4, with all four then jumping a course of 2'3. The Malvern Madams of Niki Padbury and Fern, Sarah Bowness and Barney, Anne Price and Half A Guinness and Jenny Barnes on Linhay Lane, came 3rd, with an individual 3rd in the Prelim section for Anne too.

In the midi class, two riders rode Novice 30 and two rode Prelim 18.

The Malvern Maids of Stefania Fulford and Mr Buster, Julie Jeffes and Hederfield Ash, Jodie Powell and Just Jake II and Tina Price on Tom Thomb II couldn't be beaten and took 1st place. All four were also placed individually,

with Julie 2nd and Stefania 3rd in the Novice section, and Jodie 2nd and Tina the winner of the Prelim section.

Anne Price said "We had a lovely time. It was a great venue and had lovely going thanks to all the rain. Goo did a good test and was more rideable – or perhaps I just made more of an effort! He was jumping really well until I returned to 'numpty mode' and rode and awful corner, so we had one down. Well done to everyone – I gather we had lots of success. I am so enjoying being part of a team again after so many years, and also the 'ground crew support' – it's much appreciated, thank you."

While Stef thought the setting was 'interesting' – "cows next to the dressage and chickens next to the jumping! We all had fun," she added, "and were chuffed with our team win, so the rain couldn't dampen our spirits."

Dressage and Jumping Go Big!

Gerri & Murphy



MHRC sent rider's to two of the big National shows with two Dressage teams off to Badminton and one Jumping team to Hickstead.

The Riding Club Dressage competition at Badminton involves three riders, all doing Prelim 13, with all three scores to count. Malvern Hills A was Katherine Jones and Red-backcappuchino, Jodie Powell and Bleannagloos Black Diamond and Gerri Garrott and Murphy. Malvern Hills B was Tina Price and Tom Thumb II, Louise Revill and Momentus and Stefania Fulford and Mr

Buster. Although neither team were placed, there were some great individual performances from Stef and Jodie, who both got through the individual final.

support from Rita Woolley, Tina's Mum and of course, Gemma. Everyone did a fantastic job and all the horses were impeccably behaved, despite the noise of the hounds and the very strong gusts of wind. We had a lovely picnic again. It would seem that the Co-op had been visited by several MHRC members the night before and Rita even managed to find dome fudge to bring along!"

The Teams of Three at Hickstead is, surprisingly enough, for three riders. One jumps a round at 85cm, one at 95cm and one at 1.05m. MHRC were represented by Jodie Powell and Bleannagloos Black Diamond, Sammy Jones and Probably Will and Anna Robson and Academy Award. On the day, it was a close run thing, but the team were put in 11th place. However, a few days later and a recount of the faults, and the team were moved up to 10th place and into the rib-

Kat said it was a "Fab day at the Badminton Championships. Many thanks for the excellent

(Continued on page 4)

Eventer Challenge and Blenheim Trial



Anne Price and Guinness

The 29th August saw the first MHRC Eventer Challenge held at Hillview Arena, Malvern. The weather was smiling on us, as it was the only dry and sunny day of a rather wet bank holiday weekend. Sophie had built a challenging and twisty course, that involved 8 show jumps in the arena, then jumping out onto the grass bank, round a series of rustic cross-country type obstacles, then back into the arena and a race to the last jump. With the whole round timed, this provided a fast, furious and definitely entertaining day.

The 75cm class was first and was won by our very own Anne Price and Half a Guinness. 2nd was Jill Cartlidge, followed by four more MHRC members. 3rd was Deborah Lennard and Bill, 4th Lyn Tilt and Little Apache, 5th Lisa Drinkwater and Basil, and 6th Tina Price and Tom Thumb.

The 85cm class was much smaller and with lots of eliminations over the course, there were only three left in to claim the rosettes. 1st was Louise Essen and Buff Beauty, followed by Deborah Lennard and Bill in 2nd and Helen Robson and Kara in 3rd.



Emma and It's All About Albert

The 95cm class was split into two sections, an open for non-members and a selection section (not easy to say!) for MHRC

members wanting to compete at Blenheim. The open section was won by Megan Hay and Hope Valley Colleen, with Georgie Toole and Kissemmie Midnight Magic in 2nd and Jess Morris and Cystal Clear in 3rd, all of who are members of Bromyard Riding club and will be representing their club in the same competition. Heidi Jarvis on Penny was 4th, with Gill Young and Victor in 5th and Kathy Goulding on Libby in 6th.



Deborah Lennard and Bill

Our selection trial was really exciting to watch, but the overall winner was Emma Horton-Smith on It's All About Albert. 2nd place went to Jodie Powell and Just Jake II, with Natalie Smith and Titano in 3rd. Victoria Greg on Rock Supreme came 4th, Anna Robson on Academy Award 5th and Levi Hunt on Grands Crus 6th. The first four will form our team for the Blenheim challenge, with 5th and 6th acting as reserve.

The last class of the day was the 1.05m and the jumps really did look huge. 1st place went to Anna Robson on Academy Award, with Gill Young and Issen in 2nd and Levi Hunt and Grands Crus in 3rd.

A huge thank you to everyone who helped set up, judge, steward and pick up poles, especially for having to hammer one reluctant fence each time it fell! And to Camilla Esling for the brilliant photos.



Anna Robson and Academy Award

Support our Sponsors

Our Eventer Challenge had two very generous sponsors. Hillview Stables and Arena, (Blackmore Park Road, Malvern, WR13 6NN) offers a range of competitions and clinics each month. The impressive, floodlit, 60m by 35m Leisure-ride arena can be hired for private sessions, with or without a selection of show or working hunter fences. Owner, Sophie, is a UKCC level 2 trainer and is available for horse schooling or tuition. And MHRC members get a discount off hire fees. Check out the website at www.hillview.myzen.co.uk

Pioneer Feed and Country Store, (Lower Road Trading Estate, Ledbury, HR8 2DJ), stock a huge range of horse, pet and farm feeds and supplements, plus yard and grooming equipment, electric fencing products and assorted pet toys. If they don't have it, they can get it in! They also have a rug cleaning/re-proofing service and can arrange clipper sharpening/maintenance. The shop is open 8:30 to 5:50 Monday to Saturday, or a delivery service is available for account holders. Well worth a visit next time you're in town.



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 League Placings after MHRC EVENTER CHALLENGE

PL	NAME	PTS
1st	Jodie Powell	530
2nd	Tina Price	350
3rd	Steph Woolley	310
4th	Camilla Esling	265
5th	Julie Jeffes	240
6th	Anna Robson	220
7th	Anne Price	210
8th	Sara Stephenson	200
9th	Sarah Bowness	150
10th	Emma Horton-Smith	145
11th	Niki Padbury	140
12th	Megan Harper	135
13th	Stefania Fulford	115
14th	Elizabeth Wise	110
15th	Catherine Holland	95
	Rachel Kilmister	95
17th	Emma Cooper	90
18th	Chris Esling	80
	Sammy Jones	80
20th	Deborah Lennard	65
	Kelly Mawmen	65
	Sophie Hooper	65
23rd	Tilly Martin	60
24th	Lyn Tilt	55
	Natalie Smith	55
	Wendy Robinson	55
	Wendy Yates	55
28th	Caroline Bates	50
	Helen Robson	50
30th	Levi Hunt	45
	Suzanne Lidbetter	45
32nd	Jenny Barnes	35
	Jessica Stallard	35
	Sue Peckham	35
	Victoria Gregg	35
36th	Heather Hall	30
	Janet Schooling	30
	Liz Whitehead	30
	Rita Woolley	30
40th	Jane Downham	20
	Lisa Drinkwater	20
42nd	Julie Reynolds	15
	Kat Jones	15
44th	Lauran Jones	10
	Lisa Higgins	10
	Lucy Conway	10

47th	Danielle Diment	5
	Gerri Garrott	5
	Karen Kilby	5
	Lauren Rowe	5
	Lin Harber	5
	Linda Kemp	5
	Louise Revill	5
	Martin Febery	5
	Nicola Topper	5
	Phillippa Lord	5
	Samantha Stoddart	5



Dressage and Jumping Go Big! Cont...

(Continued from page 2)



bons. A great result considering over 100 club teams take part.

Jodie said "Hickstead was amazing and to be in the ribbons was just fantastic. Great company down there too!"

Jodie and Trixie

Thank you to Rita for the lovely Badminton photos.

COMING UP

September 2015

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

October 2015

- 4th** Mercian Hunter Trials Frampton Court (FRC)
10th (NEW) Area Novice & Intermediate SJ Kings Equestrian (Bromyard RC)

November 2015

- 1st** Riding Test and Style Jump training (unmounted), Kings Equestrian, Bromyard (organised by Area 18 Committee)
22nd (NEW) Area Novice Dressage Abbey Dressage (Cheltenham RC)

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. More details can be found on your Competition Guide.



MHRC NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2015



Bringing it on at Blenheim



Jodie and Jake

The Riding Club Eventer challenge is held every year as part of the Blenheim International horse trials, but this year saw the introduction of a new 90cm class to run alongside the established 100cm class, and MHRC were granted a team place. After running our selection trial last month, the team that went along on the 17th September to represent the club was Natalie Smith on Titano, Anna Robson on Academy Award, Victoria

Gregg on Boots and Jodie Powell on Just Jake VII.

Jodie said of the day "The day was a great experience. The warm up was a little on the small side, but Jake was amazing and

I'm truly grateful to the club for helping us get there, and to Chris and Camilla Esling for letting me have the ride on Jake. Fantastic friends and lots of great support."

"It was a bit of a funny day really," said Natalie, "The general consensus was the new 90cm ring was a bit of an afterthought and it was so far out of the way that you literally could have been at any venue. I think most of us walked the 100 and said we would rather have jumped that and been in that ring! As a team, Plum did an amazing speed round and I am sure got the fastest time of the day. My new chap was a handful to say the least and did not make it much fun, but we only got 8 faults so kept it together well."

The team ended up on a score of just 18 faults, putting them in 19th place out of 35 teams, a great result for such a prestigious venue

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EDITOR'S BIT

I have to admit that sometimes being part of this club can be hard on the hankies and definitely makes my family think I'm crazy! I refer, obviously, to the moment I found out that our wonderful Dressage team had come 2nd at the National Championships. Sat at the computer, managing to whoop, laugh, cry and punch the air at the same time was pretty good multi-tasking, even if I do say so myself. You can read a full report of the weekend on the following pages and I make no apologies for devoting nearly the entire issue to celebrating the achievement. Well done ladies, we're so proud (and maybe just a little bit jealous ☺).

For a little club from a small corner of the UK, I think we've done really well on the National circuit. With teams at Blenheim and Badminton performing brilliantly, rosettes from Hickstead and now this from the National Champs, what an amazing Summer season we've had. And there's still a few more competitions to go before we wave goodbye and say hello to the Winter season.

I'd just like to finish off by saying please note some new dates appearing in the calendar - as the Area and Mercian clubs (and us, of course!) finalise Winter plans, we'll let you know as soon as we can of new events, changes and schedules. More in the next newsletter, but for now I'll leave you enjoy the rest of the read.

until next time, Caroline

NATIONAL BRC CHAMPIONSHIPS



The Prize-Giving Ceremony!

The pinnacle of the British Riding Club year – the National Championships – was held on 5th and 6th September at the Lincoln Showground. For the third year in a row, MHRC was represented, with individuals in the Novice show jumping and Senior Riding Test, and, for the first time in the club's history (we think!), a team in the Open Dressage competition.

Tina Price originally qualified Buzz-B for the Novice show jumping at our own qualifier back in May, but an injury meant he was unable to go. As her young horse, Tom, was going as part of the Dressage team, BRC allowed her to compete on him instead. Despite being a big test for the youngster, he did really well.

Steph Woolley qualified as an individual for the Senior Riding Test competition at the qualifier on 21st June on Freckleton Matador. With 6 different arena's holding the competition, they did an amazing job to win in their arena with a huge score of 88, which also meant they were 10th overall in the individual results.

Our Open Dressage team also qualified back in June. Steph on Freckles and Tina on Tom, were joined in the team by Camilla Esling on Just Jake VII and Julie Jeffes on Hederfield Ash. There were some great scores and

goodies. The next morning everyone was a bit more sombre with some serious dressage to do. I had volunteered to be our club helper as each club has to provide one helper per team, so I went off to do some dressage writing and didn't see everyone's test except Camilla's, who fortunately was in the next arena to me so I could keep having a sneaky peek. When the scores started going up later I couldn't quite believe how well we had done but we were all pretty well resigned to the fact that we probably wouldn't come anywhere, so took plaits out and had several cups of tea. Then Rita appeared on her trusty bicycle to say that we had come second and mounted prize giving was in twenty minutes. So with all hands on deck horses were re-plaited and we took off to the arena like lightning.

What pride we all felt watching our team collect their rosettes and only four points behind the winners. With twenty teams from all over the country this was an outstanding result. It was a fantastic weekend spent with fantastic friends."

Julie "When I have been before the ground conditions have been awful – really rock hard but this time they were really good due to the rain. Ash was quite hot to warm up but was going really well by the time we were ready to go in. She did a lovely test only spoilt by her stupid rider getting the test wrong towards the end – so I was lucky she got placed despite this. Tina had obviously decided that we were done and weren't going to be needed for the prize giving so took

individual results, with Steph 4th in Elementary 45, Julie also 4th in Novice 30 and Camilla 2nd in the Novice 24. The overall team winners were Bradley Dale Riding Club on a score of 6, but just 4 points behind them were our very own MHRC team. A brilliant result for everyone involved.

Camilla "My main memories from the weekend include our 'team hack' around the show ground on the Friday evening, which Jake and Tom found rather exciting! All were fine in trot but when we all popped into canter it seemed to not so controlled anymore and all of us did wonder if the Malvern Hills RC were about to disgrace themselves before the competition had even begun! Also the second string of the Woolley stable did not have four legs but two wheels! Thank the Lord for Rita and her bicycle, which meant we didn't miss prize giving - it would have been an even longer journey home had we missed that! There was only one down side of the weekend...I'm not sure we were the loudest club for once, well not in the evening...oh well always next year to improve on that!"

Chris Esling – Team Manager "We had an eventful start to our trip to Lincoln when the motorway ground to a standstill (typical Friday traffic) and a very helpful Dad and daughter also going to Lincoln pulled up beside us and helpfully suggested that we follow him to avoid the jam. He promptly pulled out and crossed into the outside lane and just disappeared into the traffic never to be seen again! We were by then reduced to nervous laughter when we were passed by Rita and Tina travelling in tandem in the second lane waving smugly and then calling to say that we were in the wrong lane but in fact they were!! So we all managed to sort ourselves out after much laughter and finally got to the show ground where Julie had already arrived and kept us all a space so that we could be together. We had a great night as it was my birthday and everyone had been very kind and brought

out all her plaits. I have never seen a pair of grooms (Steph and Tina) put plaits in so quickly – all of 10 minutes for the whole neck. I usually leave about 45 minutes!! It was amazing that we got any sleep at all as 'inflatable' bed with nifty internal pump failed to inflate. Lucky to be part of big team as day (or night) was saved by the loan of seat cushions from the Woolley's lorry."

Steph "The Championship weekend was a fantastic experience despite the terrible traffic on the drive up. Friday afternoon is never going to be great but with delays on the M42/M40, roadworks round Coventry and delays round Newark and Lincoln it took about 4.5 hours to get there. Julie and Charlie had arrived first and saved us all a spot so we could park together and with Tina right behind us all the way up, and Chris, Mills and Linda in hot pursuit only 20 mins behind that, we all arrived and got settled at the same time. Having registered the horses we took them for a leg stretch round a beautiful grass headland before putting them into their stables. All the horses were in fine form, despite the drive, so it proved for an exciting hack! We then had a lovely evening celebrating Chris' birthday including bubbly, balloons and a bit of cake on a stick. It was a pretty chilly night with some heavy rain and then an early and dry start to get the horses fed and plaited in the morning. Tina was on first show jumping Tom Thumb. Unfortunately I didn't get to watch as I was doing my Elementary team test shortly after so had gone to warm up, but Tina was pleased with Tom's attitude to the course and enormous arena. Freckles had got a bit excited about Tom going but soon settled down and warmed up nicely. We were first on at 9am and apart from one minor blip in our transition from medium to collected canter, I was really pleased with our test. I then



Chris and Rose



Camilla and Jake

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

headed over to the Riding Test arenas for my individual test. I saw a little bit of Mill's team test in the distance before going in to do mine. After the Elementary, the Prelim test felt very easy so I was able to enjoy the ride and Freckles remained nice and calm throughout. Mum and I then headed back to watch Julie's test which looked wonderful until an error of course towards the end led to a bit of tension in the last couple of movements, which was such a pity. Because Tina was on a bit later we all had time to take the horses back to the lorries to untack and then settle them into their stables before heading back to watch Tina's test. Despite a mix up by the collecting ring steward, the fire alarm going off on the industrial building next to her arena and already having done a round of show jumping, Tina and Tom produced a lovely test (we won't mention the missing circle!). So with everyone done, we headed back to the lorries for a cup of tea and to wait for Chris to come back after her morning's dressage writing as our volunteer. On the walk back to the lorries we called into the scoreboards and saw that Mills, Julie and myself were all in strong positions in our sections so we had our fingers crossed that the team might just get placed. Chris gave us a call from the dressage scoreboards later with an update to say Mills was lying in second and Julie and I were both in 4th. With no notices to say when things were happening and not expecting the prize giving to be until later in the afternoon, we took our time over lunch and then headed down to the scoreboards. On the way we passed a ring which had lots of horses all milling around but didn't think

too much of it. Mum had brought her bike because of the size of Lincoln Showground so had gone on ahead. She reappeared waving her arms to tell us she thought the team had come second. We all had a good look at the results before asking when the prize giving was going to be, while Chris rang Lin to give her the update. It came as a bit of a shock to find out that prize giving was due to start imminently! We then had a bit of a panic as Mum rode off to talk to the prize giving team to let them know we were on our way, while the rest of us rushed back to the stables to grab horses, get tacked up and



Tina and Tom

(Continued on page 4)

Rider Name			
Julie Jeffes	Camilla Esling	Steph Woolley	Tina Price
How long have you been a member of MHRC?			
I'm not really sure – probably 4 years.	6 years or so	Not really sure – quite a while. Getting on for 10 years?	12 or 13 years
What's your day job?			
I work for the Blue Cross and run their direct marketing.	Work for a fine art and antique auction house in Malvern.	Manufacturing Process Engineer	Florist
Favourite Horsey activity?			
Eventing – but I only do that now vicariously through my daughter, Charlotte. I have to opt for Dressage, in terms of what I do most, but I quite like a bit of jumping too, as does Ash.	Cross country or a good day's hunting.	Eventing and riding on the beach.	Competing in MHRC teams
Least Favourite Horsey activity?			
Hacking – no winning involved!	Fun Rides ... ironically!	Pure show jumping.	Putting in studs!
Is this your first time at the National Championships?			
No, I have been lucky enough to go three times now. Once on Ash's big brother and last year with Ash ... all doing Dressage.	No. I competed as an individual in the dressage in 2010.	Yes, first time at Lincoln.	No, have been once before.
What's your horse's name?			
Hederfield Ash	Just Jake VII	Freckleton Matador	Tom Thumb II
How old is your horse?			
6	20	7	6
And how high? And what breeding?			
14.3hh, Connemara x Trakehner	16hh and who knows!	17.1hh British Warmblood by Monte Carlo	15.2hh French Thoroughbred
How long have you owned your horse?			
I bred her.	8 years	Since he was 2 years old	3 years
What are your horse's greatest likes?			
Doing big trots!	Cross country start boxes, eating and pretty mares.	Snogging people! Nick-named "The Ginger Snog" by our physio.	Anything - he loves fun.
And dislikes?			
Waiting around – starts to paw and gets irritable.	Other horse's in the collecting ring and prize giving's.	He's a pretty laid back horse, although doesn't like being left on the lorry. Much happier tied up outside with a haynet.	Staying in the stable too long.

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

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Julie and Ash

so had to wait but eventually we got our turn and were presented with some lovely rosettes from the sponsors NAF. We then joined the other two teams to canter round for our lap of honour. Jake and Tom found the prize giving rather exciting so everyone ended up heading back to the stables while I waited for the Riding Tests presentations. Freckles and I had won our arena with 80% so were presented with a lovely sash

(Continued from page 3)

dressed. Jake and Tom were both unplaited so once tacked up we had teams of two frantically replaiting - both horses were done in less than 5 mins - so with everyone looking smart we headed down to the prize giving ring. Unfortunately we missed our slot

and rosette. Freckles was getting a bit restless by then so I had a job to contain him during our lap of honour! After the prize giving I took him back to his stable and we then went down to the trade stands to collect our prizes (vouchers for NAF products), have a look at the photos and I caught up with a girl I'd met on a training weekend at Nick Gauntlett's in July. She'd also had a good day winning her class. With all the excitement over, we started to pack up and make the journey home. As ever the support within the team was fantastic and it was a happy set of lorries that headed south for home."

Tina "It was totally unexpected going into the show jumping. It was only Tom's 2nd outdoor jumping round, and maybe only his 4th round ever. Again, he's only ever done a handful of Dressage tests outside and this was only his 2nd Novice test. But he took the whole thing in his stride. Even if he did nearly take out the photographers during the prize-giving. A huge thank you to Steph for helping with the emergency plaiting!*



Steph and Freckles

COMING UP

October 2015

- 1st Flatwork Clinic, Hillview Arena
- 3rd - 4th DTM Championships, Bury Equestrian (BRC)
- 4th Mercian Hunter Trials, Frampton Court (FRC) (S)
- 5th Flatwork Clinic, Hillview Arena
- 6th Mini Jumping Clinic, Hillview Arena
- 8th Flatwork Clinic, Hillview Arena
- 10th Area Novice & Intermediate SJ, King's Equestrian (Bromyard RC) (S)
- 12th Flatwork Clinic, Hillview Arena
- 13th Mini Jumping Clinic, Hillview Arena
- 15th Flatwork Clinic, Hillview Arena
- 19th Flatwork Clinic, Hillview Arena
- 20th Mini Jumping Clinic, Hillview Arena
- 22nd Flatwork Clinic, Hillview Arena
- 26th Flatwork Clinic, Hillview Arena
- 27th Mini Jumping Clinic, Hillview Arena

November 2015

- 1st Riding Test and Style Jump training (unmounted), Kings Equestrian, Bromyard (organised by Area 18 Committee)
- 12th **NEW** Horseless Clinic, Hunter's Inn, Longdon (details next issue!)
- 22nd Area Novice Dressage, Abbey Dressage (Cheltenham RC) (S)

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. More details can be found on your Competition Guide.

PEPPER POT POINTS LEAGUE 2014/2015

There's no league table this month as the 2014/2015 season finished at the end of September. The full results will be available to look at during the AGM and will be published in the AGM minutes. If you would like a copy of your own record, please e-mail mhrnewsletter@hotmail.co.uk



MHRC NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2015



HITTING ALL THE RIGHT NOTES

Congratulations to Steph Woolley and Freckleton Matador, who were our sole representatives at the BRC Dressage to Music Championships, at Bury Farm on 4th October. With an impressive score, they won the Novice (with no BD points) Freestyle Finals and are official Champions of 2015.



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EDITOR'S BIT

Rug Roulette – my favourite autumn pastime. And proof positive that Murphy's Law is a viable way to decide your day's movements. Want a nice, mild sunny day? Not a problem – I'll just turn Smokey out in his rug. Fancy a bit of rain to help the grass grow? I can do that too ... by leaving his rug on the shelf! A part of me (a very small, quiet part that gets shouted down a lot) is actually looking forward to the winter weather settling in, as at least the decisions become easier.

Anyway, back to the club and it's been a great month. As above, huge congrats to Steph for becoming DTM champion at the beginning of the month. And then our first team qualified for a 2016 championship, let's keep our fingers crossed that it's the first of many. Wouldn't it be great if we could send a representative to each of the champs next year? The ridden Mercian season has come to an end, with just the quiz to go at the end of the month, so more fingers crossed for more good news there.

And at least with all those fingers crossed, I won't be able to do up any more rugs, so that's sorted too!

until next time, Caroline

Mercian Madness

The last two ridden Mercian events took place on consecutive weekends, with great results all round.

The Eventer's Challenge was held at Lincumb Equestrian on 27th September and involved a round of showjumps, followed by a timed round of cross-country style jumps, which included jumping out and back into the arena. We sent three teams, all of which were placed! The Malvern Maids of Caroline Bates on Smokey Joe, Anne Price on Half a Guinness, Niki Padbury on Fern and Sarah Bowness on Barney were 4th in the 2'3 section. In the 2'6 section, the Malvern Mares of Anna Millington on Mystic Law, Jodie Powell on Jake, Tina Price on Buzz and Deborah Lennard on Ballybrack Bill were also 4th, while the Malvern Madams of Sara Stephenson on Liedi Susan, Lyn Tilt on Apache, Camilla Esling on Roland and Chris Esling on Half N Half, were 5th.

The Hunter Trial was at Frampton and in each team, two members went round the 2'3 course and two round the 2'6 course. We had three teams. The Malvern Maids

of Helen Robson on Goss Green Jakara, Lyn Tilt on Apache, Anna Millington on Quayside Court and Anna Robson on Sante Fe were sadly not place, but Lyn came 8th in the 2'3 individual awards. The Malvern Mares of Sophie Hooper on Barney Bear, Sara Stephenson on Liedi Susan, Tina Price on Buzz-B and Chris Esling on Half N Half were 3rd, with Sophie 5th and Sara 6th in the 2'3 and Tina 6th in the 2'6. But the Malvern Madams of Anne Price on Half a Guinness, Sarah Bowness on Barney, Anna Millington on Senderos and Jodie Powell on Just Jake were the overall winners on the day, with Anne 3rd and Sarah 2nd in the 2'3 and Jodie 6th in the 2'6.

A brilliant end to the Mercian season, with just the Quiz to go. Apologies for not being able to update you regularly on the Mercian league standings - sadly some issues behind the scenes with the Mercian Committee meant that the scores weren't regularly updated, but check out the back page to see where we are currently!

Dates for your Diary

HORSELESS CLINIC

"Equissage Depth Massage Therapy - Benefits for Horse and Rider" with Teresa Cresswell.

Thursday 12th November

REYNARD ROOM, HUNTER'S INN, LONGDON

19:00 prompt start

£5 per person and will include a chip supper.

Pay on the door.

Non-members welcome.

AGM and SOCIAL EVENING

Thursday 26th November

Hunter's Inn, Longdon in the Marquee!

7:30 prompt, two course meal served at 8pm.

Quizzes and Raffle

Awards Ceremony

£5 discount off 2016 membership if paid on the night.

Only £5 per person - potential new members welcome too.

Please see attached flyer ... all places must be paid for by 20th November.

Please note that the B4211, which is the road through Longdon, will be closed at the Upton end from 8pm to 6pm throughout November and most of December, so if you are coming along to the AGM or any Horseless Clinics at the Hunter's Inn, please check out alternative routes.

THE KINGS OF AREA SHOW JUMPING



Emma and Albert

On 10th October, the Winter Area 18 show jumping qualifiers were held at King's Equestrian, Bromyard, run by the Bromyard Riding Club. It was a bitterly cold day as the Novice team of Debbie Lennard on Billy, Julie Jeffes on Hederfield Ash, Anna Millington on Senderos and Liz Wise on Blue Suede Shoes, warmed up for their first round, but luckily, and unusually for this event, it wasn't raining.

The first round proved to be quite interesting, with a couple of the jumps causing a few stops and one upright a few knock downs, but more importantly, there were lots of time faults over the deceptively



Jodie and Jake

easy looking course. But there was nothing to worry about for our team - since when has Malvern ever gone too slow! With a great start to the day, we finished on 0 faults with only two other clubs.

The course was

changed and the jumps went up for the second round, and this was where it got exciting. With two clear rounds already in the bag and only one more rider to jump, us on the cheer squad were told that if Liz went clear, we'd won - four faults and it was a jump-off with two other teams. Nerves were jangling as Liz and Elvis skipped round the course ... and the roar of victory as she cleared the last jump made everyone take note.

So red rosettes in the bag and a place at the Novice Winter Championships next year - a fantastic start to our 2016 season.

Then it was the turn of our Intermediate team of Steph Woolley on Freckleton Mator, Jodie Powell on Just Jake, Emma Horton-Smith on All About Albert and Sue Peckham on Gangsta.



Novice Team - Off to the Champs!



Liz and Elvis

(Continued on page 4)

CLINICAL MATTERS

October was a month of going back to school for horse and rider, with jumping and flatwork sessions being held each week. These proved so popular, that three evenings a week, MHRC took over Hillview.

Nick Lawson, who taught the Flatwork sessions, had this nice comment to make "I just wanted to say a how thrilled I am with everyone's progress and developments with their equine partnerships... Malvern Hills riding club and their members really are a pleasure

to train. I hope everyone is enjoying the sessions as much as I am."

Keep an eye on FaceBook and your e-mails for updates from Julie regarding the next round of training and clinics.



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

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(Continued from page 3)

The first rounds were great and once again we finished on a team score of 0 ... maybe, just maybe, could we do the double? But the second rounds proved decisive for all the teams and the leaderboard was giving a good shuffle. So while two teams on faults jumped off for the 1st and 2nd places, we settled quite happily for 3rd place on 9 faults, just one time fault away (so maybe you need to disregard what I said earlier!).



An Anglic Intermediate Team!

MERCIAN LEAGUE 2015

PL	CLUB	PTS
1st	Malvern Hills RC	99
2nd	Crothorne RC	96
3rd	Bewdley RC	89
4th	Worcester RC	71
5th	Bromyard RC	61
6th	South Shropshire RC	57
7th	Alvechurch RC	54
8th	Vale of Arrow RC	54
9th	Bromsgrove RC	44
10th	Cheltenham RC	14
11th	Wyvern RC	13
12th	Frampton RC	11

Points as after the Hunter Trial

PEPPER POT POINTS LEAGUE 2015/2016

PL	NAME	PTS
1st	Jodie Powell	95
2nd	Anna Millington	85
3rd	Sarah Bowness	70
	Steph Woolley	70
5th	Anne Price	65
6th	Deborah Lennard	65
7th	Julie Jeffes	60
8th	Sophie Hooper	55
9th	Tina Price	45
10th	Chris Esling	40
	Elizabeth Wise	40
	Sara Stephenson	40
13th	Emma Horton-Smith	30
	Sue Peckham	30
15th	Anna Robson	5
	Helen Robson	5
	Lyn Tilt	5

If you would like a copy of your own record, please e-mail mhrnewsletter@hotmail.co.uk



Julie and Ash

Even though there are no official individual placings at the Winter SJ qualifiers, the hosts had kindly offered these to 10th place, so we came home with a nice smattering of rosettes. Liz was 7th, Julie 4th and Debbie 3rd in the Novice section, with Emma 9th and Jodie 5th in the Intermediate.

As Lyn Harber said of the day "The official MHRC Cheer Squad provided the background entertainment! Our teams were on fire - a great day." Debbie thought it was "A good day to be a rookie for the MHRC team!" while Liz thought the "Photos were fab - the Cheer Squad even better!"

COMING UP

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- 12th** **NEW** Horseless Clinic, Hunter's Inn, Longdon
- 22nd** Area Novice Dressage, Abbey Dressage (Cheltenham RC) (S)
- 27th** **NEW** MHRC AGM and Social Evening, Hunter's Inn, Longdon

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MHRC NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2015

MHRC = MERCIAN LEAGUE WINNERS 2015

Thank you to everyone who competed in the Mercian League this year ...

Jenny Barnes, Caroline Bates, Sarah Bowness, Lucy Conway, Emma Cooper, Danielle Diment, Jane Downham, Stefania Fulford, Lin Harber, Catherine Holland, Camilla Esling, Chris Esling, Julie Jeffes, Lauran Jones, Linda Kemp, Karen Kilby, Rachel Kilmister, Sophie Hooper, Deborah Lennard, Suzanne Lidbetter, Philippa Lord, Tilly Martin, Kelly Mawmen, Will Milde, Anna Millington, Jane Osbourne, Niki Padbury, Jodie Powell, Anne Price, Tina Price, Julie Reynolds, Anna Robson, Helen Robson, Natalie Smith, Sara Stephenson, Lyn Tilt, Nicola Topper, Liz Whitehead, Steph Woolley and Wendy Yates.



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EDITOR'S BIT

Well. I've finally done it. Six years of being on the Mercian Quiz team, with a handful of seconds and thirds (and a 6th which we don't like to mention) and I was finally on the winning team! It would have been nice to think it was the crucial results that made us win the Mercian League for the second year in a row, but to be perfectly honest, we'd kind of worked out we'd won before the first question was asked. But it was a nice cherry on the icing on the very big cupcake!

So, this is it. 2015 for MHRC is pretty much done and dusted. As the committee take a bit of a break, there's just a few flatwork clinics and an Interdressage filming session before we have to start thinking about 2016. With the December newsletter going to be a bit of a small one, once again I'd like to turn it over to you. I'd like your stories and photos of what you've taken from 2015. Did you go to a major competition or finally conquer those nerves to go to your first show? Did you finally crack half pass or finally got your horse passed that dangerous dustbin at the end of the road? Whether happy, sad, funny or just a gush about how cute your horse is, we'd love to hear from you. Please send your photos and stories (max. 150 words) to me at the usual e-mail by 29th December. And in the mean time, have a great Christmas and see you in the New Year.

until next time, Caroline

Ambling Around Abbey Arenas



ABOVE: Victoria and Rocky. BELOW: Anne and Goo



BELOW: The 'Malvern Muppets'



The Area Novice Dressage Qualifier was held at Abbey Dressage on 22nd November on a rather cold, but dry day.

MHRC sent three teams of four riders, two of which had to ride the BRC D2 test (equivalent to BD prelim) and two the BRC D10 test (equivalent to BD Novice).

With the restricted parking at Abbey, the first challenge of the day was playing the Horse Box equivalent of Tetris, but somehow all the riders and teams from the Area managed to find somewhere to park. The morning and afternoon sessions saw two people from each team riding, one in the indoor school and one outside, which made for some mad dashing round for the cheer squad, but it was great to see people turn out to support the teams.

Sadly, none of our teams were placed, but there were a couple of individual rosettes. Victoria Gregg and Rock Supreme were 2nd in the D10 morning section, with an impressive score of 73.96%. Anne Price and Half a Guinness came 4th in the afternoon D2 section with 72.60%.

But while there was a modicum of disappointment over the results, everyone was made to feel much better thanks to Camilla and her amazing carrot cupcakes, which managed to sooth the pain!

Overall, the Bromyard Eagles won the day and are off

to the championships.

Team A = 18th	
D2 AM	Caroline Bates and Smokey Joe 18 th
D2 PM	Julie Jeffes and Hederfield Smokey Jo 14 th
D10 AM	Liz Wise and Pumba 7 th
D10 PM	Kat Jones and Redback Cappuccino 15 th
Team B = 9th	
D2 AM	Sarah Bowness and Our Bawn Lodger 19 th
D2 PM	Sue Peckham and Mr Gangsta 13 th
D10 AM	Victoria Gregg and Rock Supreme 2 nd
D10 PM	Julie Jeffes and Hederfield Ash 11 th
Team C = 12th	
D2 AM	Rachel Kilmister and Casey George 20 th
D2 PM	Anne Price and Half a Guinness 4 th
D10 AM	Camilla Esling and Just Jake VII 8 th
D10 PM	Jodie Price and Bleanagloss Black Diamond 14 th

HORSELESS CLINIC

7th JANUARY 2016 * 8:00 * HUNTER'S INN

"My Journey to the Dressage to Music Championships" with Steph Woolley

£5 * Non-members Welcome * Chip Supper

MUPPETS TRIUMPH AT MERCIAN QUIZ

The last Mercian competition was the infamous quiz, this year held at the Falcon hotel in Bromyard, on 30th October. We managed to round up two teams to go, as being only 3 points ahead in the Mercian League, we wanted to make sure we would bring home the trophy. The teams were the Malvern Marvels of Lin Harber, Julie Jeffes, Sara Stephenson and Jane Osbourne, and the Malvern Muppets of Camilla Esling, Luran Jones, Will Milde and Caroline Bates.

With everyone settled with a drink and poised pens, and the strict rules were read out, it was time to begin. There were 10 rounds, ranging from Food and Drink, Famous Animals, General Knowledge and the ubiquitous picture round, this year a series of cryptic cartoons representing horror movies to celebrate Halloween.

Half way through the even-

ing, everyone took a break for tea – and the food was amazing. A ham joint, Roast Beef, Chicken in and orange sauce, Lamb tagine, cauliflower cheese, jacket potatoes and vegs, plus homemade bread and butter. Followed by profiteroles, lemon tart, vanilla cheesecake, chocolate mousse trifle and fruit compote. And most of us took up the offer to try a bit of everything. The second half of the quiz was a lot harder, being as everyone just wanted to have a nap!

But the final results perked everyone up. The Malvern Marvels came 8th, but the Malvern Muppets, for once not living up to their name, won the red rosette for 1st place. There was a brief hiatus while the points for the quiz were added to the overall totals, and then the Mercian Chairwoman, Liz Willets, announced the results. And Malvern Hills were once again top of the board!

A brilliant night – lots of sore throats from all the cheering as Malvern kept up its reputation as the noisiest club in the group! Let's see if we can make it three years in a row!

AT THE AGM

Nothing proves how quickly the year has flown by like turning up for the annual AGM. This year, once again, we returned to the Hunter's Inn Marquee on 26th November and for once had no flooding or ice to contend with ... although the construction guys using the car park probably wished they hadn't taken on the riding club ladies!

Everything kicked off at 7:30, with a brief introduction by Lin before dinner was served. Everyone there agreed that the pub had come up with an amazingly tasty and enjoyable menu, with the hard choice between lasagne, steak pie or cod and chips, with cheesecake or crumble to finish. With full bellies and empty plates, it was then time for the business to continue.

Lin delivered her Chairman's report and it was nice to revisit the open show and the supporter's BBQ through her eyes! She also surprised the committee with a present of personalised mugs - handy for all those caffeine fuelled meetings! Caroline then gave her report on the first year of being secretary, including changes to membership and updates from British Riding Clubs, as well as thanking everyone for their continued help in providing titbits for the newsletter. Unfortunately, Karen couldn't attend the evening due to illness, but Lin read out a statement from her thanking everyone for making it such a great year for the Mercian teams, ending up with us winning the cup once again. Chris's Area Manager's report amusingly recounted our highs and lows of Area competitions, reliving the two brilliant results at the National Championships and the Dressage to Music championship. With a show jumping team already qualified for the first 2016 championships, she ended on a positive look forward to another year.

Lin then announced that both Luran Jones and Janet Schooling were stepping down from the committee due to moving out of the area. Nominations from the floor were sought and both Jodie Powell and Camilla Esling were voted on. The members also confirmed the re-election of the current committee for another year.

Then it was on to the really nice part of the evening, with the awards for 2015 presented to a group of very deserving members. Then there was just time for the answers to the quiz (this year - How Well Do You Know Your Committee?) and for the raffle to be drawn, which as usual, had two tables full of interesting and exciting prizes.

The full minutes of the meeting, along with the Treasurer's reports on the accounts, will be sent out to all members shortly.



2015 AWARDS

LOFTY CUP	Sarah Bowness	PEPPER POT LEAGUE:	
COMMITTEE CUP:	Tina Price	1st	Jodie Powell
BEN ROBERTS PROGRESSION CUP:	Anne Price	2nd	Tina Price
PROGRESSION CUP:	Kelly Hudson	3rd	Steph Woolley
ACHEIVER'S CUP:	Steph Woolley	4th	Camilla Esling
CLUB SUPPORT:	Caroline Bates	5th	Julie Jeffes
CHAIRMAN'S CUP:	Sophie Hooper	6th	Anne Price
		7th	Anna Robson
		8th	Sara Stephenson
		9th	Sarah Bowness
		10th	Niki Padbury

(full points league will be published in the AGM Minutes).

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

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GOOD VIBRATIONS

The club returned to the Hunter's Inn on the 12th November for the first Horseless Clinic of the winter season. The talk was on the Equissage therapy system by Theresa and Saffron Cresswell, who won Pony European Eventing Gold this season.

The company was formed 50 years ago and 20 years ago moved into the treatment of horses. The system uses a cycloidal vibration (i.e. moves around rather than just up and down) to provide a non-invasive, deep penetrating massage therapy – as Theresa said, it's designed to help you help your horse. The vibrations increase the blood flow and circulation throughout the body, and can penetrate up to 4ft along bone or 2ft into soft tissue, so even the biggest of horses can benefit. It has shown benefits in treating arthritic joints, tying-up and damaged ligaments or tendons, as well as reducing swelling. As a purely therapeutic use, it can optimise oxygen uptake and so increase muscle efficiency, plus loosens up muscles to encourage the horse to stretch and use them more. On one of its many settings, it can be just used for relaxation, taking the stress out of competition days, clipping sessions or just taking the edge of a spooky horse.

Theresa discussed a couple of case studies, one being her daughter's eventer, who is treated with the pad for 20 minutes every day. He also wears it in the lorry on the way to lessons or competitions, so that he arrives ready to start hard work straight away. Another pony she saw was badly laminitic and hadn't been out of its stable in 8 months. An 8 minute demo and it was moving more freely and even tried to barge out of the door. The vet treated it the next day and was surprised at the difference and the effects lasted about four days.

It was a very informative evening, with members taking part in demos and discussing individual horses. All rounded up with a chip supper.

If anyone would be interested in having Theresa out to do a demo session on their own horse, then you can call 07825 058 829 or for more info check out www.niagaraequissage.com

COMING UP

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. More details can be found on your Competition Guide.

December 2015

- 3rd Rosie Deakin Flatwork Clinic, Hillview Arena, Malvern (MHRC)
- 10th Rosie Deakin Flatwork Clinic, Hillview Arena, Malvern (MHRC)
- 13th Interdressage Filming Day, Hillview Arena, Malvern (MHRC)
- 17th Rosie Deakin Flatwork Clinic, Hillview Arena, Malvern (MHRC)

January 2016

- 7th Horsless Clinic, Hunter's Inn, London (MHRC)



PEPPER POT POINTS

LEAGUE

After Area Novice Dressage

PL	NAME	PTS
1st	Anne Price	100
	Jodie Powell	100
3rd	Anna Millington	85
4th	Julie Jeffes	75
	Sarah Bowness	75
6th	Steph Woolley	70
7th	Deborah Lennard	65
8th	Caroline Bates	55
	Sophie Hooper	55
10th	Camilla Esling	45
	Elizabeth Wise	45
	Sara Stephenson	45
	Tina Price	45
14th	Chris Esling	40
	Lauran Jones	40
	Will Milde	40
17th	Sue Peckham	35
	Victoria Gregg	35
19th	Emma Horton-Smith	30
20th	Kat Jones	10
	Lin Harber	10
22nd	Anna Robson	5
	Helen Robson	5
	Jane Osbourne	5
	Lyn Tilt	5
	Rachel Kilmister	5

MERCIAN LEAGUE 2015

Final 2015 Places

PL	CLUB	PTS
1st	Malvern Hills RC	117
2nd	Crophorne RC	96
3rd	Bewdley RC	89
4th	Worcester RC	79
5th	Bromyard RC	63
6th	South Shropshire RC	61
7th	Alvechurch RC	54
	Bromsgrove RC	54
9th	Vale of Arrow RC	52
10th	Cheltenham RC	14
11th	Wyvern RC	13
12th	Frampton RC	11

INTERDRESSAGE BRC

LEAGUE 2015/2016

After October Competition

PL	CLUB	PTS
1st	Cumbria RC	
2nd	Cherwell Valley RC	53
3rd	Crown RC	50
4th	Malvern Hills RC	27

INTERDRESSAGE WINTER

LEAGUE 2015/2016

After October Competition

PL	CLUB	PTS
1st	Irish Rovers (Ireland)	63
2nd	Corner House (USA)	58
3rd	Team Jones (UK)	50
4th	Cherwell Valley RC (UK)	47
	Crown RC (UK)	47
6th	Evergreen (UK)	37
7th	ST Riding (Japan)	36
8th	Summerwood (USA)	35
9th	Int2Dressage (UK)	30
10th	Orchard Farm (UK)	28
11th	Cumbria RC (UK)	27
	Millhouse (UK)	27
13th	Malvern Hills RC (UK)	26
14th	Robins Lille RS (Norway)	17
	TRAC (Canada)	17
15th	Team Canada (Canada)	16
16th	Swang Pony Centre (UK)	13
	The 4 13 Ranch (USA)	13



MHRC NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2015



In To Interdressage



On 12th December, a group of slightly crazy Christmas dressage divas descended on Hillview Arena to film their entries for the December Interdressage competition. Interdressage is an internet based competition, with dressage, showing, jumping and fun classes too, and with a special league just for British Riding Clubs, it's a fun way to compete over the winter

months. And the December schedule was all about fun, with Freestyle classes at 'Walk and Trot' and 'Starter' levels, plus a pairs class, handy pony and even one for hobby horses!

Between the showers and gusts of winds, everyone managed to get through their tests – although more than one of us was thankful they were freestyle, as camera hiccups and forgetful moments meant we could basically make it up as we went along! And being Christmas, there were loads of great fancy dress costumes too – which also meant chasing errant bits of tinsel around the arena between takes!

Anyone who would like to see the videos can find links on our facebook page or the Interdressage website. The results will be finalised by 5th January.

Meanwhile, our November entrants did brilliantly. Lin Harber and Toby were 6th in Class 2b 'Walk, Trot and Canter', with a great

(Continued on page 4)

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EDITOR'S BIT

So that's it - the end of 2015. I hope you all had a great Christmas and New Year, and with the festivities over are thinking about getting fighting fit for the 2016 riding club season!

I was thinking about what resolutions to make for 2016 and apart from 'Win the Lottery' (which I am going to work very hard on achieving!), all of mine seem to revolve around the horses once again. Get me fitter - get him fitter - compete more - compete better, etc, etc. But the biggest one for me is to have even more fun than I did this year. And I have to admit that some of my 'funnest' days out have been with MHRC. From non-stop laughing at the Horse Trials Championships to loudly cheering teams as they storm through the competition! From getting my own cheers at the Mercian SJ to eating huge amounts at the BBQ. So thank you everyone for an excellent year - here's to the next one.

until next time, Caroline

OUR 2015!



LEFT: Lucy Conway and Milly, with their first 'first' of 2015 - a win at the Eventer Challenge held at King's Equestrian.

BELOW: Smokey Bates getting a bit excited at his first every hunter trial.



Let me introduce meself –
I'm Half A Guinness Price.
I came back home in April
For a lovely "easy" life!
WRONG! Out she comes announcing
"We've joined a Riding Club -
So best foot foward Stinkpot
No slackin' " (s'if I would!!)
I tucked me 'andsome chinny in
Me irish charm switched on
Cross country, show jumps, dressage tests
You name it ... I'm yer maaan!
The rossies kept on coming
I made new friends – had fun!
Then home she brings a TROPHY
Sez "Look what you have won!" (must have been
fer me good looks!)
Now time for muddy winter slop
We all deserve some rest
So see you all again next year
Let's show 'em - MALVERN'S BEST!!!!
Love
Goo (aka Guinness, Mr Stinkpot, Goolegro (posh
one) and (cringe) occasionally ... yep ... Goobies!)

Volunteering Fun

The BRC national horse trials championships were held from 7th to 9th August 2015 at Swalcliffe Park Equestrian. It takes an enormous amount of people to successfully run a competition like this, so on behalf of MHRC, me and Chris Esling went along to help on the

Saturday. We'd chosen a good day, as we were set the task of fence judging, and it was the turn of the 100 and 100+ teams to compete. As a complete newbie at this, I wasn't sure what to expect, and when the first e-mail arrived asking us to be there at 8 am for the judges briefing, I did wonder what I had got myself in for!



OUR FENCE

On arrival we ducked into the officials pavilion to confirm we were there – to be greeted with tea or coffee (or in my case, a big mug of galaxy hot chocolate!), a bar of chocolate proudly announcing 'I'm a BRC volunteer' on its wrapper, and a table of free gifts from sponsor Horsehage. After plenty of discussion, we made our choice, and then headed over to get our breakfast – a huge, generously filled bacon buttie!

Then the serious bit began. I'm more used to writing for Dressage judges when I do help out at shows, where the only thing you tend to need is some good pens and to have practised writing rhythm a few hundred times! The judges pack was a quite a surprise, with score cards, whistles, flags, walkie-talkie's, rule books, accident forms, and lovely fluorescent tabards. The organiser quickly went through it all and then laid down the rules about what to do when, how to respond on the radio, how to safely stop a rider and what to do in the event of a fall. All scary, and responsible, stuff! One that was all over, it was time to grab a packed lunch from the caterers, then it was off to find our fence.

With a few false starts and a quick trip round some of the course, we finally found fence 13 at the bottom of a steep hill under a lovely big oak tree. A standard 'house' like fence, we realised that it was quite a deceptive question, with a huge amount of shade that changed throughout the day, and an approach that definitely tested the breaks of some of the riders. We had more than a few heart stopping moments as horses that had been poorly prepared coming down the hill, skittered and thumped their way over. But by the end

(Continued on page 3)

Volunteering Fun cont...

(Continued from page 2)



Taking the jump in fine style

of the day, we hadn't had one refusal, fall or serious problem. Boring? Maybe, but less stressful for us!

Oh and lunchtime! As you know, there is one thing that MHRC members can do well and that is eat! And we were seriously impressed by the

lunch provided. A tub of one of the nicest coronation chicken salads I've had for a while, another tub of feta cheese and potato salad, crisps, a roll and butter, fruit, cake and a chocolate bar.

So here are the 7 key things I learnt:

- 1) It is possible to eat food in the two minute intervals it takes for the horses to come past.
- 2) Whistles don't work that well if eating chicken.
- 3) If you're rude to someone out on course, whether riding or walking, every steward will know about it within seconds.
- 4) Having a fluorescent bib, whistle and clipboard is strangely empowering.
- 5) If you stare at someone long enough, they'll work out that they've forgotten to tell you the timings without having to say a word!
- 6) Sneaky loo breaks while wearing a fluorescent bib aren't that easy.
- 7) Air jackets can be heard going off from a very, very, very long way away and can still make you jump.

I have to say that I really enjoyed the day and will be volunteering to help at a championship event again. If you fancy having a go too, then there are two ways to go about it.

- 1) Go through BRC. Check out <http://www.bhs.org.uk/enjoy-riding/british-riding-clubs/brc-volunteers>. You can join the official riding club volunteers club by filling in a form and returning it to head office. There are a number of benefits, rewards and incentives on offer, which you can read about in the current hand book. You will be contacted each year and can volunteer to help at any or all of the various championships, from Horse Trials, the Winter or Summer Nationals and Dressage to Music, to the other events like Hickstead, Blenheim and Olympia.
- 2) Go through MHRC. For every team we send to a championship, we need to send a designated helper to do at least half a day. Contact Chris Esling if you'd be happy to go on the list as a possible volunteer. You'll be contacted nearer the time and the more names that go in the hat, the fewer times everyone has to do it! You'll also be enrolled in the BRC Volunteer's Club and will be entitled to the same benefits, as well as helping us out.

Watching well and working hard



SHOW WHAT YOU'RE MADE OF!

TSR Showing Clinics & Talent Spotting for the TSR/HOYS Training Pathway. Every rider gets the New TSR Train & Reward App & a Goody Bag! Clinics are relaxed & fun for ALL levels of rider & type of horse/pony. You could be talent spotted for the TSR/HOYS Training Pathway! Get lots of tips on showing and what a judge looks for, have your horse ridden by a ride judge! 90 min sessions in small groups.

£25 for TSR/BRC Members / £35 Non Members.

30th Jan at Cross Farm, Nr Stonehouse, Glos
28th Feb at Gracelands Eq, Droitwich with High Horse Showing

Every rider receives 10% off Smart Grooming products www.totallysmart.co.uk

To book your place go to www.theshowingregister.co.uk/masterclassdates.asp

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

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PEPPER POT POINTS LEAGUE

After Nov / Dec InterDressage

PL	NAME	PTS
1st	Anne Price	145
2nd	Jodie Powell	100
3rd	Anna Millington	85
4th	Julie Jeffes	75
	Sarah Bowness	75
5th	Steph Woolley	70
6th	Deborah Lennard	65
7th	Caroline Bates	55
	Sophie Hooper	55
9th	Sara Stephenson	50
10th	Camilla Esling	45
	Elizabeth Wise	45
	Tina Price	45
13th	Chris Esling	40
	Lauran Jones	40
	Will Milde	40
16th	Sue Peckham	35
	Victoria Gregg	35
18th	Emma Horton-Smith	30
19th	Lin Harber	25
20th	Kat Jones	15
21st	Anna Robson	5
	Helen Robson	5
	Jane Osbourne	5
	Lyn Tilt	5
	Rachel Kilmister	5
	Suzanne Lidbetter	5

(Continued from page 1)

score of 70.95%, while Anne Price and Half A Guinness won class 4a: Pick a Test Starter/Intermediate, with 72.83%. To see where we lie in the overall leagues, please see back page of newsletter.

If you'd be interested in having a go at Inter-dressage, please check out the website <http://www.interdressage.com/> - next month includes the BRC D2 test that some of us rode at the qualifier last month. Keep an eye on your e-mails for details of the next filming days.



A Festive Kat and Dotty



Lin and Anne - 'Walking in the Air'



Sara & Sue - Tinsel Pairs!

INTERDRESSAGE BRC LEAGUE 2015/2016

After November Competition

PL	CLUB	PTS
1st	Cherwell Valley RC	128
2nd	Cumbria RC	105
3rd	Crown RC	100
4th	Malvern Hills RC	47
5th	Solent RC	23
6th	Atherstone and District RC	21

INTERDRESSAGE WINTER LEAGUE 2015/2016

After November Competition

PL	CLUB	PTS
1st	Corner House (USA)	166
11th	Malvern Hills RC (UK)	46

MERCIAN LEAGUE

The 2016 competition starts in April this year - keep an eye on the calendar for more details.



COMING UP

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. More details can be found on your Competition Guide.

January 2016

- 7th Horseless Clinic, Hunter's Inn, Longdon (MHRC)
- 30th Showing Clinic / Talent Spotting, Cross Farm, Glos (The Showing Register)

February 2016

- 14th Fun Team Show Jumping, Kings Equestrian (Wyre Forest Pony Club)
- 28th Showing Clinic / Talent Spotting, Gracelands, Worcs (The Showing Register)

March 2016

- 13th Area Intermediate Dressage, Lincomb Equestrian (Bromyard RC)