Well, that’s it - 2017 is now officially underway. The AGM is over, the dates for the Mercian events and the Area qualifiers are pretty much all confirmed, and we’re even forming teams for the first of those qualifiers as we go to press. We also have also been sent confirmation that MHRC will be attending two of the BRC Championships—with our Eventer Challenge team off to the Festival of the Horse, and Laura Bennett getting an individual qualification place for the Novice Winter Championships. Well done everyone - let’s see if we can add to that list in the next few months.

As I write this, the rain is beating against the window and the TV is talking about high winds again - yuck! A competition last month turned into a mud fest, with every pieces of clothing, footwear, plus me and the horse, looking like we’d been for a week long trek through an Indian monsoon. It probably wouldn’t have bothered me if we’d been hunting or eventing - but this was an indoor dressage competition at quite a well known venue! It would make you cry if the fact that you were paying for the privilege of someone telling you where your riding skills are lacking, hadn’t made life seem hilarious anyway!

So definitely roll on the spring

until next time, Caroline
Wet and stormy weather threatened to disrupt this month's filming session, but the Interdressage gods were shining down on us once more, as after a few half-hearted drops of rain, Saturday 28th turned into a lovely, sunny day. There were bacon sandwiches and homemade cookies to keep everyone going while tests were filmed. A huge thank you to those members who filmed and made entries themselves.

**Walk & Trot L.**
1st = Sue Lidbetter & Rosie (Senior Intermediate)
4th = Rita Woolley & Lexy (Senior Restricted)
7th = Lin Harber & Toby (Senior Restricted)

**Walk, Trot & Canter B**
1st = Ethan Knott & Sammi (Junior)
1st = Wendy Robinson & Bailey (Senior)
7th = Lin Harber & Toby (Senior Restricted)

**British Riding Clubs D3**
1st = Wendy Yates & Bella (Senior Restricted)
4th = Steph Woolley & Lexy (Senior Restricted)
3rd = Anne Price & Half A Guinness (Senior Open)

**Freestyle Jumping**
3rd = Wendy Robinson & Bailey (Senior)
1st = Amber Knott & Danny (Junior)
2nd = Ethan Knott & Sammi (Junior)

The next filming session is on the 19th February, so if you want to take advantage of it, please contact Caroline ASAP for a place.

**NEW YEAR - NEW CHALLENGE**

Are you looking for something a bit different to work towards this year? Do you want to take advantage of being a member of British Riding Clubs?

Did you know that there are 4 different leagues you can take part in?

If you show jump at 60 or 70cm, or compete in Intro and Prelim Dressage, then the **BRC GRASSROOTS LEAGUE** is for you.

If you prefer style jumping or riding tests, then why not check out the **BRC RIDING TEST & STYLE JUMPING LEAGUE**.

For fans of combined training, with classes from 70cm to 1m, then as a BRC member you can enter the **BRITISH DRESSAGE COMBINED TRAINING** competitions.

And new for this year, BRC have teamed up with British Eventing to offer a new league for BRC members competing at Novice level.

Details of all these leagues, how to take part and log your points, can be found on the ‘LEAGUES & TEAMS’ page of our website.
The club returned to the Hunter’s Inn, Longdon for another night of celebrating our successes and planning for 2017. Despite a rather chilly night, 84 people made the effort to come along - probably our biggest AGM in the history of the club!

A two-course meal was served early on in the proceedings, so that rumbling tummies didn’t drown out the speakers. Lin welcomed everyone, before Chris and Jodie followed with a round up of the Area and Mercian events. Caroline then updated the members on the Interdres-sage teams and also mentioned the new club website. There was also an update on the accounts, before Lin once again took to the floor for her Chair’s report.

The Award’s ceremony came next, with lots of lovely trophies and rosettes. The winners were:
- Progression Cup = Clare Gabriel
- Achiever’s Cup = Sue Peckham
- Committee Cup = Rita Woolley
- Club Support Shield = The Knott Family
- Ben Roberts Progression Shield = Amber Knott
- Chairman’s Cup = Caroline Bates

The Lofty Cup is awarded to any member and they decided who the cup will be passed onto. Last year’s winner, Sarah Bowness, decided to award it to Liz Whitehead.

A new cup this year, the Golden King Memorial Cup, has been donated to the club by the Jones family, in memory of Midas. Rather than going to a rider in the club, this will be presented to a particular horse and this year, has been awarded to Just Jake, owned by Camilla Esling.

The Pepper Pot League was next, with fabulous rosettes awarded to the top 15 in both the Junior and the Senior leagues. The trophy was awarded to the overall winner, who this year was Tina Price.

For a full list of winners and the reasons behind the awards, please check out the AGM minutes.

Then it was time to say goodbye to two long standing members of the committee, with both Iris Ellis and Clare Chapman stepping down, although both are remaining members of the club. A public thank you and presentation was made to both for all their years of hard work. The rest of the committee will be staying the same, with a few changes to roles and with the addition of Ann Bates as Hon-orary Treasurer.

Once the serious side of the night was over, it was time for Sue Peckham and Caroline Bates to honour their pledge to have their hair cut off in aid of The Princess Trust. With a few quick snips, Jo England gave them soon got rid of their pony tails. The generous members also rose to the challenge of an empty bucket, and filled it with £200 worth of donation for the charity.

The evening ended with the famous raffle, with lots of prizes generously donated by the members. A great evening, enjoyed by all.

**ALSO THIS MONTH …**
Member’s enjoyed show jump training with event rider, Tom Grant, on 19th and 26th at Hillview Arena. There were some challenging moments, but overall everyone seemed to have fun.

Keep an eye out for more dates coming soon …

**JUST FOR FUN**
Of which member did Tom say, “I’ve never known someone think they are going so fast, when their horse is going so slow!“
WHAT’S ON NEXT MONTH?
For schedules, times and future events, please go to www.malvernhillsridingclub.co.uk

February 2017

8th = Horseless Clinic
“WHEN TO FEED SUPPLEMENTS” + Wine and cheese tasting. At Castle-morton Village Hall, WR13 6BE

19th = Interdressage Filming Day. At Hillview Arena, Malvern.

26th = Area 18 Novice & Intermediate Show Jumping Qualifier, Moores Farm, Corse Lawn. Hosted by Cropthorne RC

MERCIAN INTER-CLUB LEAGUE
MHRC will once again be competing in the Mercian Inter-Club league again in 2017 (and after winning it for the past two years, we’re keen to make it the treble.

With lots of competitions aimed at grassroots, senior riders, why not come and have a go?

The league has changed a bit this year, so to check out how and see whether you are eligible to compete, see the new 2017 handbook, which can be downloaded from our website.

INTERDRESSAGE BRC LEAGUE
After the December Competition
1st Cherwell Valley RC 544 pts
2nd Malvern Hills RC 369 pts
3rd Crown RC 234 pts
4th Solent RC 62 pts
5th Kimblewick RC 23 pts

PEPPER POT LEAGUE
AS OF 02.02.2017

SENIOR
1st Wendy Robinson and Bailey 70pts
2nd Tina Price and Tom Thumb 60pts
3rd Wendy Yates and Bella 40pts
Sue Lid better and Rosie 40pts
5th Anne Price and Half A Guinness 30pts
6th Steph Woolley and Lexy 25pts
Rita Woolley and Lexy 25pts
8th Lin Harber and Toby 5 pts

JUNIOR
1st Amber Knott and Danny 80pts
2nd Ethan Knott and Sammi 75pts

SEE THE COMPLETE UPDATED LEAGUE TABLE AT www.malvernhillsridingclub.co.uk

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JUST FOR FUN ANSWER: Kelly Hudson
As most of you know, Lin Harber, our amazing chairman of so many years, was taken seriously ill a few weeks ago. As the newsletter goes to press, we sadly don’t have a positive update for you. Lin is very, very poorly and is fighting a nasty kidney infection in Worcester’s critical care unit. At this time, all the hopes and prayers of the club are with her, Mike, Sarah and the rest of the family. We’ll keep you updated as soon as we hear anything - so please keep an eye on Facebook and your e-mails.

In the interim, if you have any queries or problems, please don’t hesitate to contact any member of the committee, who will endeavour to help you out.

Lin would have been so proud of our riders at the first Area competition this month. A tight, twisty course in the indoor arena at Moores Farm, coupled with a long day and cold, showery weather, would have been enough to put most people off, but all our riders and their cheer squad, kept up the smiles and the laughter all day. A full report is on page 3.

until next time, Caroline
The first Horseless Clinic of 2017 was held on 7th February at Castle- Morton Village Hall. The topic was ‘Supplements- and when you should feed them’. The main body of the talk was by Clare MacLeod, an independent registered equine nutritionist who is passionate about providing advice to help people get the most out of what they are feeding their horses.

The key point that Clare wanted to make was that before you start feeding any supplement, you should make sure that your horse is on a correctly balanced diet. Vitamins and minerals are a hugely important part of good nutrition, but a horse may be deficient for a number of reasons, the main ones being that grass (and associated forage, chaff, etc.), will naturally be low in minerals, while commercial feeds/supplements are only balanced if you are feeding the recommended dose. Therefore a good doer or spooky horse that may be on reduced rations, may be lacking. Many ‘health’ problems will actually sort themselves out once the balance of vitamins and minerals are increased.

Once you have identified a need to feed a supplement, there is then the choice of which one! In the UK, we have the choice of nearly 700 different supplements that we could feed, covering a wide variety of different complaints. The most important thing to consider is the amount of active ingredient a supplement contains. There is no regulation and manufacturers can put in as much as they want, but sometimes this is only enough to support a human and not an animal as big as a horse.

However, you also need to consider that there isn’t a huge amount of research on any supplement in horses, which are largely too expensive to do large scale experiments with. Horses also have a brilliant capacity to thrive on diets that on paper would flag up huge deficiencies if analysed scientifically. They are also hugely individual and what works well with one horse, won’t effect the same condition in another. Therefore, the two takeaway messages are to buy the best supplement you can afford with the highest amount of active ingredient, and to not be scared of experimenting to find something that works for your horse.

The second part of the talk was by Didi Verdina, one of the co-founder’s of Ready-Supp, a company dedicated to producing safe and effective supplements for horses. Their tag line is “Made for Horses, not hamsters”, which ties in with the ethic of using enough active ingredient to support large animals. There was no hard sell and members were invited to discuss their own cases, either after the talk or by contacting the office. Discounts were also offered to everyone who was there on the night.

The talk was finished off with a Q&A session that grilled both Didi and Clare, as members discussed their horses and potential problems. There was also cheese and wine to finish off the night.

It was another great month for the club in the Interdressage BRC League. The club filming day on 19th February was very well attended and once again a number of members made their own videos to enter on the site. Thank you.

**Walk and Trot P**
- 1st = (junior restricted) Abi Render-Garth and Charlie Bear
- 4th = (senior restricted) Suzanne Lidbetter and Midnight
- 6th = (restricted) Katy Spicer and Bo
- 2nd = (senior intermediate) Suzanne Lidbetter and Rosie
- 4th = (senior intermediate) Lin Harper and Toby

**Walk, Trot and Canter C**
- 2nd = (junior) Ethan Knott and Sammi

**BRC Prelim D10**
- 1st = (Open) Tina Price and Tom Thumb
- 3rd = (Open) Anne Price and Half a Guiness

**Intermediate 5**
- 4th = Wendy Robinson and Bailey
- 9th = Julie Jeffes and Billy Miller
- 11th = Katherine Jones and Redback Cappuchino

**Freestyle Jumping**
- 1st = (junior) Oliver Hooper and Pinto
- 3rd = (senior) Sophie Hooper and The King’s Archer

With only two more months to go, it would be great to close the gap with Cherwell Valley RC, so if you’ve been meaning to have a go, now’s your chance. The next two filming mornings are on 4th March and 16th April, at Hillview Arena. Depending on entries, we’ll attempt to fit in jumping and ‘Equi-skills’ tests if they are wanted, as well as Dressage and Showing. Contact Caroline if you’d like to come along.
The first area qualifier of 2017 was held at Moores Farm. Corse Lawn, on 26th February. The organisers, Cropthorne RC, were slightly surprised to have 70 more entries than last year, but rose to the challenge to present a well organised, quick running competition. With the first competitor underfoot at 8 o’clock and the last one more than 12 hours later, it was a long day for everyone involved.

The competition involved jumping two rounds, the second of which was higher and timed, with a jump-off for individual places in the 90cm section too. And with places at both the Novice and Intermediate Winter Championships up for grabs, everyone rode to win. The course was tight and twisty in places, and caused a few issues throughout the day, but in general seemed to ride well.

MHRC send an amazing five teams along to have a go, two in both senior sections and an Intermediate junior team. And it was the juniors that showed us how it was done, with a team win and qualification place, plus individual places for all three members of the team - Esme was 3rd, Sacha 4th and Amber 5th.

There were also individual senior places, with Liz 4th and Chloe 5th in the Intermediate section, and there was a team 6th for the Malvern Green’s in the Novice section.

Runners and Riders

Novice 80cm = Malvern Hills Yellow Annie Robertson and Uwylgwylw Frankie / Clare Gabriel and Icy Blue / Tina Price and Buzz B
Malvern Hills Green Sue Peckham and Copper Kingdom / Wendy Robinson and Lady Cove / Julie Jeffes and Bedazzled / Liz Wise and Pumba. Intermediate 90cm = Malvern Hills Blues Sue Peckham and Mr Gangster / Jodie Powell and Blenagloos Black Diamond / Anna Robson and I Believe I Can Fly / Liz Wise and Showtime Jazz
Malvern Hills Red Jo Jeynes and Emily Jane / Chloe Neathway and Polly’s Patch / Faye Weinard and Estoril Vant Schaaphof / Sarah Bowness and Our Bawn Lodge Malvern Hills Juniors Esme Ruff and Morning Flight / Sacha Willis and Narrow Blaze / Amber Knott and Pennal Zedan

Chloe said “I had a fab day with a lovely bunch of people. It was so nice to hear a cheer at the end of every round. My second competition with the riding club and I was made to feel so welcome!”

Julie ‘really enjoyed the day (minus the miserable weather). I was jumping Ben, who I hadn’t competed jumping for as long as I can remember—he was fab and despite pulling a rail in the second round, behaved really well in what was a tight and spooky arena. The warm-up arena at Moores Farm is really good and the food in the warm cafe also much better than your average show venue. I was very relieved that I didn’t have to wait until 9:30 to do my second round—I think were all finished by Bish, so not anywhere as bad as they thought.”

Clare has ‘a few words about representing the ‘late shift’ at Moores Farm. On arriving, it was great to hear that they were running ahead of time. The weather wasn’t the kindest, with squally showers as we were warming up, but it built up camaraderie! Tina, Annie and I soon ‘found each other’ and warmed up together. It wasn’t my finest hour as nerves got the better of me, and I rode like a wet lettuce in the first round. But the 2nd round was better and we just had an unlucky pole. It was a tight arena and the fences came pretty quick for a big cob! But a great course, testing even the most experienced.

The best thing - as ever - was the MHRC support team. Not one single club had whoops and cheers like we did for our good (and bad!) rounds. People who had ridden in the morning came back even after a hideous early start. Chris and Caroline had taken root they had been there so long, but they gave those of us arriving late such a warm welcome. It was wonderful! If you’ve not yet come out competing, give it a go, because you will be made so welcome, given a warm hug, often fed and you’ll make some great friends who are always on hand to help.”

Anna and I Believe I Can Fly

Jo and Emily Jane

Our successful Junior team

Gymnastic Jumping Clinics

With Plum Gregg at Marlbrook Farm, Welland, WR13 6LE
14th and 28th March / 11th and 18th April. £20 per session.
6pm to 7pm = for riders jumping 70 to 80cm.
7pm to 8pm and 8pm to 9pm for riders jumping 80cm plus.
Contact Julie to book a place.
WHAT’S ON NEXT MONTH?

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

March 2017

2nd Tom Grant Jumping Clinic, Hillview Arena, Malvern.
4th Interdressage Filming Day, Hillview Arena, Malvern
9th Tom Grant Jumping Clinic, Hillview Arena, Malvern
14th Gymnastic Jumping Clinic, Marlbrook Farm, Welland
19th Area Intermediate Dressage, Abbey Dressage, Fiddington, organised by Cheltenham RC
20th Committee Meeting (send any issues or ideas for us to discuss to mhrcnewsletter@hotmail.co.uk)
28th Gymnastic Jumping Clinic, Marlbrook Farm, Welland

PEPPER POT LEAGUES

TOP TEN PLACES AS OF 01.03.2017

SENIOR
1st Wendy Robinson & Lady Cove 130
2nd Tina Price & Tom Thumb 100
3rd Sue Lidbetter & Rosie 75
4th Anne Price & Half A Guinness 60
5th Wendy Yates & Sofia 40
6th Camilla Esling & Roland 30
7th Lin Harber & Toby 30
8th Sophie Hooper & The Kings Archer 30
9th Elizabeth Wise & Showtime Jazz 25
10th Rita Woolley & Lexy 25
Sue Lidbetter & Midnight Express 25

JUNIOR
1st Amber Knott & Pennal Zedan 175
2nd Ethan Knott & Sammy 110
3rd Esme Ruff & Morning Flight 65
4th Sacha Willis & Narrow Blaze 60
5th Oliver Hooper & Pinto 40
6th Abi Pender-Garth & Charlie Bear 25

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

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They say that moving house and getting married are the two most stressful things in life to do ... having never done the latter and the former last happening a long time ago, I find that I probably have to disagree - my top of the list if moving horses to a new yard!

First off, how on earth do you manage to collect so much stuff? A trip with a car, trailer and the horse lorry were needed before we even moved horses (and we’re talking two horses here, not a whole herd). Sorting it all back out was fun too and despite saying it was an excuse to get rid of stuff, I can’t say that much has gone. A month on and my lorry still looks like the aftermath of a jumble sale!

And then there’s trying to settle the horses into a new routine. Brave, calm and confident ponies when you do something together, but woe betide trying to separate them - screaming, psychotic, stress-heads would probably be the best description. Roll on whenever they finally decide to ‘settle’.

Anyway, a fantastic month for the club, with more great results at Area qualifiers and at the first championship of the year. With the summer season just around the corner, we’re already off to a flying start!

until next time, Caroline
The Area 18 Intermediate Winter Dressage qualifier was held on 19th March at Abbey Dressage, Tewkesbury, on another cold, blustery (but at least dry!) day. The competition involves a 4 person team, each doing a different test and this year, these were Prelim 7, Novice 30 and 34, and Elementary 49. A bit of arm-twisting by Chris, the team manager, persuaded a few extra members to have a go at the Elementary test, allowing us to send a fantastic four teams, plus a few individuals as well.

Junior Individuals (Prelim 7)
- Sophie Bowness & Minty Bubbles
- Ethan Knott & Samantha Spot
- Sacha Willis & Narrow Blaze

Senior Individuals (Prelim 7)
- Shellee Harries & Master Maltstriker
- Wendy Robinson & Lady Cove
- Danielle Lyons & Little Alfie

Malvern Hills Red
- Sue Peckham & Mr Gangster (P7)
- Wendy Yates & Bella (N30)
- Tina Price & Tom Thumb (N34)
- Julie Jeffes & Hederfield Ash (E49)

Malvern Hills Yellow
- Sarah Bowness & Our Bawn
- Nicky Mundy & Gerdinen Arrian (N30)
- Camilla Esling & Ted’s Rainbow (N34)
- Julie Jeffes & Bedazzled (E49)
- Jo Jeynes & Emily Jane (P7)
- Anna Robson & Santa Fe (N30)
- Jodie Powell & Bleanagloos Black Diamond (N34)
- Kat Jones & Redback Cappuchino (E49)

Our juniors got the day off to a flying start, with Ethan and Sophie managing to tie for 4th place individually in the Prelim 7. The seniors then took a turn, with individual placings for Nicki (4th) in Novice 30, Stef (6th) in Novice 34 and Julie (4th) in Elementary. But Tina Price was the star of the day, winning the Novice 34 by a large margin with 79% - and hopefully gaining a place at the Championships at the end of April. In the team competition, the Malvern Yellows were 8th and the Malvern Reds were 4th.

Sophie and Minty

Stef and Buster

MINI JUMPING CLINICS

DATES: 6th, 13th and 20th April 2017
WITH: Sophie Hooper
VENUE: Hillview Arena, Malvern
TIMES: 5pm (if enough interest)
- 6pm and 7pm
HEIGHTS: 5pm - cross-poles
- 6pm & 7pm - up to 65cm
COST: £20 per session

These are designed to get even the most nervous rider or novice horse jumping - small groups without any pressure.

Please contact Julie if you'd like a place.

INPROVING YOUR CONFIDENCE IN THE SADDLE

With Caroline Andrews

DATE: 12th April 2017
TIME: 7:30 pm for 8:00 pm start
VENUE: Hunter’s Inn, Longdon, nr Tewkesbury, GL20 6AR
COST: £5 per person, to include a chip supper.
Non-members welcome. Please make sure you pay on the night.
It seems a long time ago that Laura Bennett and
Lematon Sunshine Surprise won an individual qualification to
the KBIS BRC Winter Novice Championships, but on 1st April it
was finally time for them to strut their stuff in the amazing
arenas at Keysoe Equestrian Centre. With the usual dodgy
weather forecast, we were lucky to have a beautiful sunny day
for the competition itself, although a rainbow did make an
appearance during the prize giving, but the rain stayed well
away.

As the sole representative of MHRC, there was a bit of
pressure to do well, but they more than ably rose to the chal-
lenge. With an impressive score of 69%, they ended up in 3rd
place, although it was hugely close at the top of the leader
board. A fantastic start to the Championship season for the
club - thank you.

INTERDRESSAGE
MHRC once sent a fantastic number of entries for the March Online Inter-
dressage competition. Here is a round-up of the runners, riders and results.

Class: Walk and Trot M
4th = (junior restricted) Abi Render-Garth and Charlie Bear
2nd = (senior restricted) Lisa Drinkwater and Frank’s Grey
4th = (senior restricted) Katy Spencer and Bo
14th = (senior restricted) Abigail Hardy and Milly
15th = (senior restricted) Suzanne Lidbetter and Midnight Express
20th = (senior restricted) Alison Burton and Golly Miss Polly
2nd = (senior intermediate) Suzanne Lidbetter & Rosie
2nd = (senior open) Caroline Bates and Smokey Joe

Class: Walk, Trot and Canter D
1st = (junior) Amber Knott and Danny
3rd = (junior) Ethan Knott and Sammi
2nd = (senior) Caroline Bates and Smokey Joe

Class: BRC Prelim D1
3rd = (senior restricted) Wendy Robinson and Bailey
4th = (senior restricted) Camilla Esling and Roland
6th = (senior restrict-
ed) Julie Jeffes and

Smokey Joe
2nd = (senior open) Tina Price and Tom Thumb

Class: Intermediate Test 6
tbc = (senior) Katherine Jones and Redback Cappuchino
tbc = (senior) Anne Price and Half a Guinness
(still to be judged when going to press - re-
sults will be confirmed next issue)

Class: Freestyle Jumping
1st = (junior) Oliver Hooper and Pinto
2nd = (junior) William Hooper and Rookery Fizz
3rd = (junior) William Hooper and Leo
1st = (senior) Sophie Hooper and The King’s Archer
2nd = (senior) Chris Esling and HalfnHalf

The next organised filming day will be on 16th April - drop Caroline a line if
you’d like to have a go. As its Easter, there’ll also be hot cross buns and some
chocolate goodies for supporters, grooms and riders too!

Kat and Dotty

Sophie and Barney

Amber and Danny

Chris and Arthur
WHAT’S ON NEXT MONTH?
For schedules, times and future events, please go to www.malvernhillsridingclub.com

April 2017

1st - 2nd BRC Novice Winter Championships, College Equestrian Centre, Keysoe, Beds.
6th Mini Jumping Clinic with Sophie Hooper, Hillview Arena, Malvern
11th Gymnastic Jumping Clinic with Plum Gregg, Marlbrook Farm, Welland
12th Horseless Clinic, Hunter’s Inn, Longdon
13th Mini Jumping Clinic with Sophie Hooper, Hillview Arena, Malvern
15th Area Combined Training, Dodderhill Equestrian, Droitwich, Worcester RC
16th Interdressage Filming Day, Hillview Arena, Malvern
18th Gymnastic Jumping Clinic with Plum Gregg, Marlbrook Farm, Welland
20th Mini Jumping Clinic with Sophie Hooper, Hillview Arena, Malvern
22nd Mercian Eventer Challenge, Lincomb EC, Bewdley Bredile Club
28th - 30th BRC Intermediate Winter Championships, Bury Farm, Slapton, Bucks.

INTERDRESSAGE BRC LEAGUE
After the FEBRUARY Competition
1st Cherwell Valley 851 pts
2nd Malvern Hills 628 pts
3rd Crown 383 pts
4th Cumbria 123 pts
5th Solent 77 pts
6th Kimblewick 23 pts

PEPPER POT LEAGUES
TOP TEN PLACES AS OF 01.04.2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Pts</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Tina Price &amp; Tom Thumb</td>
<td>195</td>
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<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Wendy Robinson &amp; Lady Cove</td>
<td>165</td>
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<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Sue Lidbetter &amp; Rosie</td>
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<td>4th</td>
<td>Caroline Bates &amp; Smokey Joe</td>
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<td>Sophie Hooper &amp; The Kings Archer</td>
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<tr>
<td>6th</td>
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JUNIOR

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<td>9th</td>
<td>Sophie Bowness &amp; Minty Bubbles</td>
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SEE THE COMPLETE UPDATED LEAGUE TABLE AT www.malvernhillsridingclub.com

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This has to be the busiest time of year for the club. Even as this goes to press, the committee’s focus is on the Big Weekend at the end of next month - with everything booked, ordered and organised, it’s now a final countdown with sorting entries and last minute flaps! Please keep an eye on your e-mails and on Facebook - as we get nearer the date, times will be finalised and then we’ll have a better idea of when all our wonderful volunteers will be needed. And if you haven’t yet volunteered, then please do drop me a line - the more help we get, the easier the weekend is for everyone.

And if that wasn’t enough, we had two championships to attend this month too - a fantastic achievement and with the Festival of the Horse round the corner, the club is currently 3 for 3! No pressure for the summer qualifiers then, but wouldn’t it be great to get a full house!

As you know, the horse trial qualifier on 4th June has been cancelled - you will still have an opportunity to qualify, but as we go to press we haven’t heard any further details from the Area 18 group. As soon as we know, you will ☺.

until next time, Caroline
The Festival of the Horse Combined Training qualifier took place at Dodderhill Equestrian Centre on 15th April. MHRC sent along a fantastic four teams to compete, including a junior team.

In this competition, two members of the team ride a BD prelim test and jump a round at 75cm, while the other two do a BD Novice test and jump at 85cm. And with this being one of the first competitions on grass, a lot of the horses were enjoying the spring outing, despite the hard ground.

**Runners and Riders**

**Malvern Hills Juniors**
- P/75 = Amber Knott & Pennal Zedan / Ethan Knott & Samantha Spot
- N/85 = Sacha Willis & Narrow Blaze / Esme Ruff & Morning Flight

**Malvern Hills Orange**
- P/75 = Stef Bennett & Mr Buster / Wendy Robinson & Lady Cover
- N/85 = Leanne Bennett & Curra Pokey Joe / Alice Lowe & Bean

The juniors once again did us proud by winning the class, with Amber also overall winner of the Prelim section, and Esme the overall winner of the Novice section, with Sacha in a close second place. So it’s another championship for the Juniors to enjoy.

In the Senior section, our highest placed team was the Malvern Hills Pink who came 3rd, with the ‘‘Purple’’ 11th and the ‘‘Oranges’’ 12th. Individually, Stef won the Prelim section, with Wendy in 2nd, while Steph was 4th in the Novice section with Jodie in 5th - a lovely collection of rosettes to take away for the club.

Sarah Homewood said “I came along to support and cheer. I had a lovely day watching and cheering all the Malvern gang. It’s so fab being part of such a supportive group.” While Stef said, “I was just happy to get a clear round in the jumping, considering I haven’t actually jumper Buster this year due to a recurring knee problem from when he threw me off in February!”

Caroline and Smokey

**VACCINATION CHANGES**

For those of you who have competed for the club at Area in previous years, you will know that under BRC rules, your horse must have a full, complete and up-to-date flu vaccination record in order to compete. For clubs in Area 18, this has previously meant uploading your details onto an online database, so that the officials can check your passport before the competition. However, the database wasn’t always the easiest use and not everyone could upload the necessary details.

*** WELL, GOOD NEWS, THIS HAS ALL CHANGED ***

*** BYE BYE DATABASE ***

Passports must be presented to the official steward at EVERY qualifier you compete at (NB. by law, you must carry your horse’s passport while travelling).

A sticker will be added to your passport, which is dated 7 DAYS BEFORE THE NEXT BOOSTER IS DUE. This will be added to make it quicker for the steward to check at the next event. If you don’t have a sticker, please leave extra time for your passport to be fully checked.

Horses without a complete record will be disqualified from competition - it is YOUR responsibility to make sure it is correct. If you are not sure, there is a handy checker on the Area 18 website - www.brcarea18.co.uk or speak to someone on the committee.
On the 12th April, the club moved into the Hunter’s Inn once more for the latest in our run of Horseless Clinics; ‘Improving your Confidence in the Saddle’ with Caroline Andrews. It was an exciting start to the evening, with leather clad men parading round the car-park - no, sadly not our new MHRC cheerleaders, but a motorbike rally to add some ambiance!

Caroline introduced herself with a bit of background. A one time speed-freak in the saddle, she ended up in an Italian hospital after a riding accident in 2001. Determined to find out why the horse threw her, she packed in her day job and went back to college to study horse behaviour. Determined not to give up riding, she ended up buying a 4 year old mare, Milly. Both were nervous and was looking to the other for leadership, which neither could give. Caroline realised that there was no-one to help her get her head back in the right place, so decided to study the problem herself, applying her horse behaviour skills and learning how the human ticks too. Using Neuro-linguistic programming (NLP), empathy and a genuine back-ground fear of horses, she now helps others get over their own mental blocks.

FOCUS - the first major cause of confidence loss. We focus on what we can’t do, programming the sub-conscious to never be able to do it. By changing our focus to what we want to achieve, or what we can already do, we shift the subconscious into a different framework. It’s important to use positive words. Don’t say, “I can’t hack out”, think “I’m not quite ready yet, but I will hack out soon.” Everyone has some fear of falling off, but one trick is not to think “What if I fall off?”, but to be positive and change it to think “I will not fall off today!”

LEADERSHIP - The horse is a prey animal that is genetically predisposed to outwit predators (ie. us!). Some horses will take this further than others. A calm, confident leader is what will keep the horse safe, so you need to become that leader or the horse will assume the role instead. You need to

(Continued on page 4)

INTERDRESSAGE

It was the last month of the BRC Inter-dressage league and once again we had a huge amount of entries. The club filming day on Easter Sunday was brilliant fun - not only did we have outstanding weather, but lots of cakes, sweets and chocolate to keep us going all morning.

OUTSTANDING MARCH RESULTS
Class: Intermediate Test 6
1st = (senior) Anne Price and Half a Guinness
5th = (senior) Katherine Jones and Redback Cappuchino

APRIL RESULTS
Class: Walk and Trot N
5th = (senior restricted) Danielle Lyons and Alfie
6th = (senior restricted) Rita Woolley and Lexy
8th = (senior restricted) Danielle Lyons and Capuchino
2nd = (junior restricted) Abi Penfold-Garth and Charlie Bear

1st = (senior intermediate) Lisa Drinkwater and Franks Grey
2nd = (senior intermediate) Suzanne Lidbetter and Rosie
9th = (senior intermediate) Suzanne Lidbetter and Midnight Express
3rd = (senior open) Caroline Bates and Smokey Joe

Class: BRC Prelim D2
1st = (senior restricted)

Camilla Esling and Roland
2nd = (senior restricted)
Niki Padbury and Sumak
3rd = (senior open) Wendy Robinson and Bailey

Class: Starter B Plus
2nd = (senior) Anne Price and Half a Guinness
4th = (senior) Camilla Esling and Roland
5th = (senior) Katherine Jones and Redback Cappuchino
6th = (senior) Caroline Bates and Smokey Joe

Class: Freestyle Jumping
1st = (senior) Sophie Hooper and The King’s Archer
2nd = (senior) Chris Esling and HalfNHalf
3rd = (senior) Wendy Robinson and Bailey
1st = (junior) Oliver Hooper and Pinto

Class: Pairs Dressage A
2nd = Katherine Jones and Redback Cappuchino & Niki Padbury and Sumak

Class: Working Hunter
1st = (senior) Sophie Hooper and The King’s Archer
1st = (junior) William Hooper and Rookery Fizz
2nd = (junior) Oliver Hooper and Pinto

The final league results will be finalised soon and reported in the next newsletter. For the current league places, check out page 6.
The first Mercian competition of 2017 was held on 22ns April at Lincomb Equestrian Centre. This is a hugely popular event, with everyone completing a round of show jumps, before starting out onto a round of cross-country fences on Lincomb’s impressive all-weather track. And being so popular, it was a long old day, with the first rider heading out at 8:30 in the morning and the last one 10 hours later!

70cms

**MALVERN LADYBIRDS**
Jodie Powell & Mon Gris
Lydia Burrows & Hayeston Sam
Chris Esling & Hf N Half
Julie Jeffes & Billy Miller

**MALVERN BUMBLEBEEs**
Gina Halford & Arte del Calico
Sara Stephenson & Lliedi Susan
Wendy Robinson & Lady Grove
Anne Price & Half a Guinness

80cms

**MALVERN BUTTERFLIES**
Clare Gabriel & Icy Blue
Nicki Mundy & Holly
Jo Jeynes & Emily Jane
Liz Wise & Jazz

**MALVERN DRAGONFLIES**
Sue Peckham & Danny
Ali Park & Mr Gangster
Stefania Bennett & Mr Buster
Pam Render & Zena

In the 70cms, the Ladybirds were 6th, with Chris 4th individually. And in the 80cms, the Dragonflies were 5th and the Butterflies were 2nd, only beaten by 8 time penalties by Bewdley. Nicki was 6th individually.

It was Lydia’s first time competing for MHRC. “I loved it! You are all so welcoming and friendly. Chris Esling was on my team too, and her & Arthur are just fab. She smiles the whole way around the course! People commented on how she was having so much fun. Can’t wait for the combined training.”

While Goo Price would have just liked a rider with a Sat Nav 😊

Team manager Jodie was “pleased to see that the day ran very well, with no hiccups. All the club members rode so well and made me proud. Lin would have been proud of them all too. Well done Malvern, let’s keep up the good work.

For a look at the full results, go to our website, and to see where we currently stand in the Mercian league, check out page 4.

(Continued from page 3)

spend time with your horse and learn when he is genuinely scared of a situation or is just trying to distract you to get out of work that is too hard, too scary or just not something they are interested in doing. By forming a plan every time you interact with your horse, and by adapting the plan as things happen, you can stay in control of the situation.

MINDFULNESS - you need to anchor yourself in the moment, using all 5 senses. Split time into short moments (ie, don’t think about riding all the way round the bride path, but just concentrating on the ride to the next telegraph pole or gate). Become aware of your thoughts and not become embarrassed or judgemental of yourself - it’s ok to have thoughts, just don’t overthink them. You need to acknowledge the anxiousness, as by ignoring it, it will just get worse. Use breathing exercises, singing, counting hoof beats to help control extraneous worries and fears creep into the moment.

Caroline led the group through some exercises to help focus the brain into the moment, which yielded some surprising results. With eyes closed and breathing deeply, just the thought of approaching a situation that would scare you, made most people drop their hands, lean back and sit deeper in their chairs. A perfect example to show that subconsciously, we know how to deal with our own doubts!

The evening was finished off with a Q&A session and Caroline kindly gifted everyone in the room access to a 10 minute online workshop. Then it was time to relax with a plate off the Hunter’s amazing fish and chips.

If you have any ideas for further Horseless Clinics, or know of anyone who would like to do a talk for the club, then please contact Karen Withers. Further dates and details of future clinics will be advertised as soon as they are confirmed.
The BRC Winter Intermediate Championships were held from 28th to 30th April at Bury Farm Equestrian. It was exciting for the club, as it was the first time we had sent members to this championship.

On Friday, Tina Price and Tom Thumb contested the individual Novice dressage title, after qualifying at Abbey Dressage earlier in the year. Unfortunately, it wasn’t their day and although they produced a fantastic test, they weren’t in the final placings.

On the Sunday, it was the turn of our Junior jumping team, who qualified at Corse Lawn. With their first round just after 9 o’clock, it was very early starts for all three ponies and parties! It was a tight, twisty course and well up to height, with plenty to spook at. Esme and Poppy were the first to tackle the course, and had an unusual stop at the first fence, a big oxer off the corner, which caught a few people out over the day. Sacha was next in and produced a lovely clear round, but despite lots of vocal encourage from Amber, naughty Danny took a dislike to one of the fillers and was sadly eliminated. With over three hours of waiting for the second round, there was plenty of time to enjoy some bacon buttles, chips, a few glasses of wine and great company, before the girls were called to jump again.

The second round course looked big, but both Esme and Sacha made it look easy as they flew round to get a clear round apiece. There was more than a little excitement from the club when Sacha was then called back for the jump-off, as there were a number of people on zero faults. The jumps were put up again and the course changed, but Blaze popped round. Hearts pounding, the whole cheer squad was on the edge of our seats as they came into the last double. A bit of a rub on the first pole made as gasp, but just as we thought she’d done it, the second fence wobbled ... and fell.

There was then more panic as one official had told Sacha it was unmounted prize-giving - which was wrong. So a quick scurry to get back on Blaze and into the arena ... just in time to receive her 9th place rosette and join in the lap of honour .

It was a fun day full of excitement and laughs. A special thank you Kirsty Knott, who went up even earlier in the morning to be our official volunteer of the day - a condition of entry that allows us to send teams off to any of the championships. For more photos, check out the album on Facebook.

The next championships is the Festival of the Horse in May, and once again we will be sending both Juniors and Seniors to compete in the Combined Training and Eventer Challenge events.
WHAT’S ON NEXT MONTH?
For schedules, times and future events, please go to www.malvernhillsridingclub.com

May 2017

6th - Mercian Combined Training & Style Jumping, Dodderhill Court, Droitwich, Worcester RC
13th - Area 18 S1 & XC Training day, Wayfarer Eventing, Cheworth
14th - Mercian Show Jumping, Cleeve Prior, Croptonhe RC
14th - BRC Grassroots XC & SJ Training, Deer Park Cross-country, Andoversford
20th - 21st = BRC Festival of the Horse, Washbrook Farm, Aston-le-Wells, Northants.
28th = Area Show & Style Jumping, nr Three Counties Showground, Malvern, MHRC
29th = MHRC Open Show and Mercian Showing, nr Three Counties Showground, Malvern, MHRC

INTERDRESSAGE BRC LEAGUE
After the MARCH Competition

1st Cherwell Valley RC 1050pts
2nd Malvern Hills RC 794 pts
3rd Crown RC 480 pts
4th Cumbria RC 165 pts
5th Solent RC 77 pts
6th Kimblewick RC 23 pts

CURRENT MERCIAN LEAGUE

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<td>ALVECHUR RC</td>
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PEPPER POT LEAGUES

TOP TEN PLACES AS OF 01.05.2017

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<td>10th</td>
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SEE THE COMPLETE UPDATED LEAGUE TABLE AT
INTERDRESSAGE
Wow, what a ‘Big Weekend’ we had this year. Even after spending months on the organisation, it still seems to arrive suddenly! And such up and down weather - the grime of set-up on Saturday was overlaid with sunburn on Sunday, then with rust on Monday! Still we had loads of great comments from competitors and everyone seemed to have fun, which is what it is all about. And it was gratifying to see so many MHRC members carrying off rosettes and prizes across the weekend.

And of course, before that, another fantastic championship result! Once again, it was very noticeable on the day that Malvern were one of the loudest clubs there (along with a club from Cornwall!), clapping and whooping as our riders galloped out onto the XC course or finished their dressage tests. It was even noticeable to the commentator, who started urging the other clubs to be as loud as us - as if!

June is a bit quiet for the club - a well earned break for us to all gather ourselves up before July arrives in force, with plenty more qualifiers and other club events. Keep an eye on your inbox for more info as we get it,

until next time, Caroline
May has been a great month for MHRC in the Mercian league. On 6th May, Worcester Riding Club hosted the Style Jumping and Combined Training at Dodderhill Equestrian Centre, and we went along 4 teams.

In the Style, two members of the team had to jump 2’3 and two the 2’6 course. And there were plenty of rosettes all round. Sophie Hooper won the 2’3 section, with Sara Stephenson in 2nd and Lyndsey Bakewell in 4th, and Stefania Bennett was 3rd in the 2’6. Overall, the Malvern Eagles came 3rd and the Malvern Buzzards won the day.

In the Combined Training, the height was set for the whole team, but two members each rode a different test. Again, plenty of individual honours came our way. Jo Jeynes was 2nd in the Intro A section, with Lydia Burrows 5th. Lyndsey Bakewell was also 5th, but in the Prelim section, while both Sophie Hooper (Prelim 14) and Stefania Bennett (Novice 27) won their sections. This meant that both our 2’3 and our 2’6 team were placed 1st.

**Style Jumping**
- Malvern Buzzards : 2’3 Clare Gabriel and Icy Blue & Sophie Hooper and The King’s Archer 2’6 Stefania Bennett and Mr Buster
- Malvern Eagles: 2’3 Sara Stephenson and Suzie & Lyndsey Bakewell and Jessie 2’6 Jo Jeynes and Emily Jane & Wendy Robinson and Lady Grove

**Combined Training**
- 2’3 Malvern Hills Purple: Intro A Jo Jeynes and Emily Jane & Lydia Burrows and Hayestown Sam Prelim 7 Sara Stephenson and Liedi Susan & Lyndsey Bakewell and Jessy
- 2’6 Malvern Hills Pink: Prelim 14 Sophie Hooper and The King’s Archer & Pam Render and Zena Novice 27 Wendy Robinson and Lady Grove & Stefania Bennett and Mr Buster

Then it was off to Evesham for the Show Jumping competition on 14th May. We only sent two teams, one for each section, and it was the Malvern Purples in the 70cm class who brought home a 5th place rosette.

**Show Jumping**
- 70cm Malvern Purple: Sara Stephenson and Liedi Susan / Kay Chambers and Tigger / Lydia Burrows and Sam / Chris Ealing and Bleanagloss Black Diamond
- 75cm Malvern Red: Jo Jeynes and Emily Jane / Nicki Mundy and Hollyberry / Wendy Robinson and Lady Cove / Sophie Hooper and The King’s Archer

As Sophie said, “it was great to finally get out with Barney and represent the club away from home. It was a very cold day, but great team support as always. I also had Ollie with me and he proved to be a very lucky team mascot! The following week we went to the Cropthorne Mercian Showjumping and although our team was not successful Barney tried his heart out, but his big fat legs could not move fast enough 😊”

For the current league places, check out the back page of the newsletter.

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**Happy Birthday Lin**

On 28th May, the day of our Area qualifier, it was Lin Harber’s birthday. Knowing that she was devastated not to be part of the Big Weekend this year, a bunch of MHRC groupies visited her with pressies, cards and all our love.

Lin has very much kept up to date with all the club news and is thrilled at all the successes. Although progress is slow, she is making a good recovery and hopes to be back out supporting the teams soon.
The third BRC national championship of 2017 was the Festival of the Horse, held at Aston-le-Wells. We had a whole bevvy of members heading that way to compete in both the Eventer Challenge and the Combined Training. It was a weekend of very contrasting weather - and more than one heavy down-pour to make sure we were all awake. The beautiful venue is split between two ‘areas’, with the combined training taking place on some truly fantastic arenas, while the Challenge classes were held on grass - first over a round of show-jumps with some tricky lines, and then round a shortened cross-country course.

The Junior Combined Training team of Ethan Knott on Samantha Spot, Amber Knott on Pennal Zedan, Esme Ruff on Morning Flight and Sacha Willis on Narrow Blaze, were 16th, with Amber winning a 10th place in the 75cm section. Sacha also competed in the Junior 90cm Challenge, where she came an impressive 16th from over 60 entrants.

We only had the one representative in the Senior Combined Training, Stef Bennett and Mr Buster, and they came 20th after a couple of naughty stops in the jumping.

But it was our Senior 90 Challenge team who came top of the bunch. Sue Peckham on Mr. Gangster were 3rd individually, with only 0.8 of a time fault. Elizabeth Wise on Showtime Jazz, and Tina Price on Buzz-B were also clear jumping, with a handful of faults between them, while Jodie Powell on Bleanagloos Black Diamond ended the day on 12 faults. This meant that in the final reckoning, the team were placed 2nd, but also won the award for ‘Best All Scores To Count’.

“I have never felt so nervous warming up,” said Liz, “Jazzy had to step into Pumba’s qualifying shoes and it was our first run xc together. Pumba must have had a word as she flew and it felt amazing coming through finish. Made all the better by usual cheer squad and incredible support! Fabulous day!”

Sarah Homewood came along to support. “I didn’t really do much apart from grom for Liz, but as always I have such a blast supporting the Malvern gang, feels like you’re part of a family! Dotty the sausage dog would like to be considered for a mascot hahah! For me the best thing is hearing the cheers of support, that’s what it all about.”

Sue “had great fun at the Eventer Challenge champs at Aston Le Walls. All came as my groom and we had plenty of vocal and very supportive members of Malvern Hills to cheer us on! Gang was on top form and thoroughly enjoyed himself - he felt amazing! He is much better when he doesn’t have to do stressage!”

Jodie thought it was an “amazing day with amazing support. Trixi was amazing too. The course was lovely and rode well. Although I did end up getting a shock when I visited the toilet and Liz and Chris came along and started banging on the sides of the loos 😄”

Megan “had a fab time at FOTH, first time back competing as a member of Malvern. The ground was perfect after a deluge of rain, and the course full up to height. It was a bit emotional going round the xc as ‘Sexpot’ was giving me such a good ride - he is 19 years old and I had considered retiring him.”

Stef “was thrilled to qualify as an individual for the champs; it’s just too bad it wasn’t Buster’s day. Great fun though. And so proud to be flying the flag for MHRC.”

Megan Harper on First Song, although qualifying last year as part of the now defunct Corse Lawn Riding Club, competed as part of the ‘Area 18’ team in the 100 Challenge. With only 1.2 time penalties, she was awarded 2nd place in the individual placings.

Sacha and Blaze

Amber and Danny

Jodie and Trixi

Tina and Buzz

Sue and Gangster

Liz and Jazz
The MHRC Big Weekend - how quickly it comes round each year! 2017 was a mixed bag, weather wise. With beautiful sunshine, shorts and sunglasses, the Area qualifier on Sunday was an exciting day of jumping. It was rather different on Monday, with stormy, wet weather making us glad for waterproofs and hot drinks!

The new layout of the showground seemed to work well, with more space for people to warm up and vehicles kept away from the horses and pedestrians. Setting up the showground on Saturday was fantastic, with a huge amount of people arriving to help rope off arenas and set up the courses.

By 7:00 on Sunday, the first lorries started to arrive. The day involved 6 different classes, all qualifiers for the National Championships at Lincoln later in their year. MHRC had representatives in nearly all classes, but it was our Senior 70cm team and Junior Style team which won the day and qualification. Individually, Olly Hooper also qualifies in the Junior 70cm by winning the class, and fingers crossed for Tina Price and Sophie Hooper, who should also qualify as the highest placed individuals not in the winning teams.

**Area Show & Style Jumping Qualifier: Senior 70cm**

2nd Julie Jeffes and Hederfield Ash 3rd Lydia Burrows and Hayestown Sam. Team 1st (Julie, Lydia, Wendy Robinson & Lady Cove / Sara Stephenson & Lleidi Susan) Junior 70cm 1st Oliver Hooper and Pinto. 2nd William Hooper and Gucci Guy Senior 80cm 2nd Malvern Hills Red (Sophie Hooper & The King’s Archer / Stef Bennett & Mr Buster / Julie Jeffes & Bedazzled II / Pam Render & Zena) 2nd Tina Price and Buzz-B (not placed) Malvern Hills Blue (Jo Jeynes & Emily Jane / Sue Peckham & Copper Kingdom / Gina Hfard & Arte De Calcio Senior 90cm 3rd Fay Weinand & Estoril Van Schaaphof 4th Alex Riches & Mr Darcy 5th Emma Horton-Smith & All About Albert 2nd Malvern Hills Team (Faye / Alex / Jodie Powell & Bleanagloos Black Diamond / Anna Robson & I Believe I Can Fly) Junior 90cm 3rd Esme Ruff and Morning Flight 6th Sacha Willis and Narrow Blaze 110cm 2nd Anna Robson and Academy Award Senior Style Jumping 1st (75cm) Sophie Hooper and The King’s Archer 3rd Team (Sophie / Wendy Robinson & Lady Cove / Sue Peckham & Mr Gangster / Tina Price & Buzz-B) Junior Style Jumping 1st (75cm) Amber Knott and Pennal Zedan 2nd (85cm) Esme Ruff and Blue Suede Shoes 4th (85cm) Sacha Willis and Narrow Blaze 1st Team (Anna / Sacha / Esme / Ethan Knott and Samantha Spot)

Sadly, we did not get a huge turnout to change the showground around on Sunday night, so a huge thank you to Steph Woolley, Anna Robson, Tina Price, Sarah Bowness and kids, Sara Stephenson, Linda Kemp, Chris & Camilla Esling, Sophie Hooper and Emilyn (with his fantastic truck!), who stayed on to help out.

The Mercian team showing in the morning had the best of the weather and with 17 people in each class, it was a hard job for the judges to sort out the order. Overall, MHRC won the day, with Anna Robson winning the Riding Club horse and plenty of other rosettes coming our way.

**Mercian Showing:**

**Coloured Horse** 2nd Sophie Hooper & The Kings Archer 3rd Jo Jeynes and Emily Jane 5th Lydia Bakewell & Jessy 7th Clare Gabriell & Icy Blue 5th Suzanne Lidbetter & Rosie 9th Megan Harper & Sextop 12th Leanne Bennett & Magic 16th Sarah Homerwood & Mildred Riding Club Horse 1st Anna Robson & Santa Fe 3rd Wendy Robinson & Lady Cove 7th Steff Bennett and Mr Buster 14th Katie Hawkesworth & Bedazzled Working Hunter 2nd Alex Harris & Ted 3rd Sara Stephenson & Lleidi Susan 5th Natalie Smith & Brook 6th Tina Price & Buzz-B Teams 1st = Malvern Hills Pink (Sophie, Leanne, Anna & Alex) 3rd = Malvern Hills Purple (Jo, Megan, Stefanie & Sara) 5th = Malvern Hills Red (Clare, Sarah, Wendy & Natalie) 6th = Malvern Hills Blue (Lyndsey, Suzanne, Katie & Tina)

And then it was on to the open classes. With 4 rings going on at once, there was plenty to watch and enjoy. MHRC members did amazingly well, carrying home plenty of rosettes. A special well-done has to go to Jo Jaynes and Emily Jane, who took the Reserve Showing Champion at the end of the day.

**Open Show Results:**

Class 1: 2’0 Very Pre-Novice Jumping 6th Sacha Willis & Dinky 2’3 Pre-Novice Jumping 4th Katie Hawkesworth & Bedazzled 10th Best Ridden Pony 1st (un-led) Abigail Garth & Charlie

(Continued on page 5)
Over the winter months (October to April), MHRC competed in the Interdressage online leagues, and the final points were recently calculated. It was a fantastic season and we ended up in 2nd place in both the Winter Team League and the British Riding Club League.

In the final couple of months, we really closed the gap on Cherwell Valley - if there had been another month of competition, we may well have pipped them to the post! It was definitely quality over quantity that got us through, with many more higher places to our name - so well done everyone.

In total we had 33 Members competing in a variety of classes, from dressage of various levels, jumping, showing, working hunter, pairs dressage and, of course, who can forget the wonderful hobby horse competitors at Christmas? There were monthly filming sessions held at Hillview arena, but many members filmed at home and did their entries themselves.

For our 2nd place in the Winter League, every member who took part on behalf of the club receives a medal, which will be presented to everyone at the MHRC Summer BBQ.

2016/2017 Tadcaster Animal Physiotherapy Winter League
1st Cherwell Valley 1128
2nd Malvern Hills 942
3rd Summerwood (USA) 660
4th Crown 545
5th Hidden Creek (USA) 411
6th Irish Rovers (Ireland) 338
7th Team Jones 252
8th NHP (Japan) 181
9th Corner House (USA) 169
10th Cumbria 165
11th Townfoot 109
12th Swang Pony Centre 91
13th Solent 59
14th PlumeTree 57
15th County Lane 22
16th Orchard Farm 19
17th FatPony (South Africa) 19
18th Cotteswold Mounted Archers 19
19th TROTT (Canada) 18
20th Kimblewick 12
21st Team Canada (Canada) 12
22nd Bracco 7

British Riding Club League
1st Cherwell Valley 1177
2nd Malvern Hills 1001
3rd Crown 557
4th Cumbria 183
5th Solent 77
6th Kimblewick 23

British Riding Club League Individuals
1st Henri Senn & Bobby (Crown RC) 242
2nd Camilla Haw & Merrion Lad (Cherwell RC) 202
3rd Diana Theopoulus & Magic (Cherwell RC) 154
4th Cassie Senn & Cody Boy (Crown RC) 85
5th Wendy Robinson & Bailey (MHRC) 84
6th Suzanne Lidbetter & Rosie (MHRC) 70

A big thank you to everyone who took part ... keep an eye on your club communications as I’m sure we’ll have another go next winter.

(Continued from page 4)
WHAT’S ON NEXT MONTH?

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

June 2017
3rd = Mercian Dressage, venue tbc, Alvechurch RC

July 2017
2nd - Area Horse Trials Qualifier, West Wilts, Trowbridge, Area 18 Group
9th - Area DTM Qualifier, Kings Equestrian, Bromyard, Worcester RC
23rd - Area Dressage & Riding Test Qualifier, Hanbury Showground, Redditch, Wyvern RC
30th - Area Style Jumping Training, Radcot Equestrian, Faringdon, West Oxon RC
30th - Hickstead Teams of Three Jumping

August 2017
4th - 6th BRC National Horse Trials, Swalcliffe, Banbury, Oxon
19th - Mercian Eventer Challenge (on grass), Longlands Livery, Taddebigge, Alvechurch RC

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Points correct following the Showing on 29th May

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<td>LYDIA BARRIS &amp; Hayeston Sam</td>
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SENIOR

PEPPER POT LEAGUES

TOP TEN PLACES AS OF 01.06.2017

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<td>11th</td>
<td>Sacha Willis &amp; Dinky</td>
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SEE THE COMPLETE UPDATED LEAGUE TABLE AT www.malvernhillsridingclub.com

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camillaesling@gmail.com
Well, it might have been a quite month for RC competitions, but it’s been a busy one for the committee as we set out to plan the next few months of MHRC activities. There are lots of new dates for your diaries over the next couple of pages, whether you’re after socials, clinics or competitions 😊

It’s also been a hot month! I hope all our members, two and four footed, have managed ok in these high temperatures. Nice for sitting in a pub garden, but not so nice while trying to teach yobbo horse his medium trot! Hopefully, by the time this goes to press, the weather will have broken - of course then we’ll be moaning whatever it chooses to do next.

Some good news about Lin - she has now been moved to a rehabilitation hospital, where they can really concentrate on getting her back on her feet. She is determined to be back home by Christmas and is so gutted to be missing out on all our fun. She has kept up with all the news and gossip, and also sends her personal THANKS to everyone who helped us make the Big Weekend go so well.

until next time, Caroline
The only competition for the club this month, was the Mercian Dressage on the 3rd June, held at Longlands Livery and hosted by Alvechurch Riding Club.

In each team, a rider had to do Intro B, Prelim 12, Prelim 18 or Novice 28. The best three scores counted in the overall places, with the lowest prelim score dropped.

In the team places, the Dragonflies were 6th and the Butterflies 2nd. There were plenty of individual rossies too. In the Intro B, Anne was 4th and Sarah was 5th, while in the Prelim 12, Sara was 3rd and Liz 4th. Our only win of the day was won by Lyndsey in the Prelim 12, where Gina also came 6th, while Nicki was our only place in the Novice with a P18 = Gina Halford & Trefeinon Six
N28 = Lyndsey Bakewell & Amy Malvern Bumblebees
IB = Lydia Burrows & Hayestown Sam
P12 = Liz Whitehead & Raven Royale
P18 = Pam Render & Zena
N28 = Wendy Robinson & Lady Cove
Malvern Dragonflies
IB = Linda Kemp & Tanzanite Mist
P12 = Sara Stephenson & Llledi Susan
P18 = Anna Robson & Santa Fe
N28 = Nicki Mundy & Harry

“...the weekend ran faultlessly,” said Gina, “Alvechurch did their best to get all results out as quickly as they could. Being fairly new to the club, I found the support from everyone outstanding! I have always been made to feel welcome and supported, especially by Chris and Jodie, who were there all day to collect results and lots of rosettes! For me, I was competing my mare that hadn’t been out for 7 or 8 months and I was very anxious about how shw would behave (typical chestnut mare!). I was over the moon with her coming individually 6th, especially as I didn’t ride her to her full potential. The only criticism I would have is the telegraph pole in arena 3. They had plenty of room to place the arena, but decided to have the pole right next to ‘B’!”

Anne and Sara

For Stefania, it was a different story. “Unfortunately, Buster did not rise to the occasion and behaved like a 3 year old thoroughbred because of ‘something’ (I have no idea what!) that was spoiling him far across the other side of the field. I guess you can’t win them all 😕”

Sarah, Sophie and Henry

**SUMMER BBQ**

**SATURDAY 29th JULY 2017**
Garden House, Queenhill, Upton-on-Severn, WR8 0QZ (signposted from the B4211 Upton to Longdon Road)

**GREAT FOOD ** **FANTASTIC COMPANY **
** A FABULOUS EVENING CHILLING & CATCHING UP WITH RIDING CLUB FRIENDS **

From 16:00 - food served from 17:00

PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN DRINKS & SOMETHING TO SIT ON

All tickets will be entered into a raffle for some fantastic prizes

£5 per ticket - Family and Friends welcome.

Tickets can be purchased using the form below, or via our website using paypal.

www.malvernhsridingclub.com

___

Linda

well deserved 5th.

Malvern Ladybirds
IB = Sarah Bowness and Toby
P12 = Clare Gabriel and Icy Blue
P18 = Lyndsey Bakewell & Jessy
N28 = Stefania Bennett & Mr Buster

Malvern Butterflies
IB = Anne Price & Half A Guinness
P12 = Nicki Mundy & Holly

___
2017 sees the 7th year of the District Council’s community sports awards. These are awarded in a number of categories and highlight excellence in any field of sport taking place within the district.

We were extremely excited to find out that MHRC had made it to the shortlist in two of the categories.

‘Club of the Year’ highlights the achievements of the club over the past 12 months. With our fantastic successes at Area and Mercian level, in Interdressage and at the all the different BRC Championships, our nomination form was rather long. Also highlighted was the fantastic support we get from our cheer squad, as well as the inclusive nature of all club activities.

Even more exciting, and very poignant, was that Lin Harber, nominated for the ‘Unsung Hero Award’ has also reached the final shortlist. It was quite emotional as we broke the news to her. As we all know, Lin comes along to all club events, is hugely supportive to every member and works hard behind the scenes making sure the committee get it all right!

The awards ceremony takes place in 13th July, where we’ll find out if we’ve won. So everyone cross their fingers, toes, hooves and paws 😊

DRESSAGE CLINICS

With KAREN NICHOLAS BHSII.

12th, 20th and 27th July.
Hillview Arena, Malvern.

10 minutes warm-up followed by 30 minute private session.

£25

First session - 18:30
Last session - 20:30

Due to this new format, it is very important that riders turn up on time for their booking.

Once booked, refunds may not be able to be given.

Contact Julie to book your place.

MHRC EVENTER CHALLENGE

13th August 2017

Nr Three Counties Showground, Blackmore Park Road, Malvern.

A mixture of XC & SJ in a grass arena.

SELECTION TRIAL FOR THE BLENHEIM INTERNATIONAL HORSE TRIALS RIDING CLUB CHALLENGE

If you are interested in representing the club at Blenheim, you will need to enter this competition.

Open classes 75cm to 105cm.

Schedule to be confirmed soon - please keep an eye on our website and our Facebook page.

 ALSO PROGRESSIVE CLEAR ROUND.

A set course of show jumps - height starts at 60cm. A great opportunity to school your horse on grass.
WHAT’S ON NEXT MONTH?
For schedules, times and future events, please go to www.malvernhillsridingclub.com

July 2017

2nd - Area Horse Trials Qualifier, West Wilts, Trowbridge, Area 18 Group
9th - Area DTM Qualifier, Kings Equestrian, Bromyard, Worcester RC
12th - Karen Nicholas Flatwork Clinic, Hillview Arena
20th - Karen Nicholas Flatwork Clinic, Hillview Arena
23rd - Area Dressage & Riding Test Qualifier, Hanbury Showground, Redditch, Wyvern RC
27th - Karen Nicholas Flatwork Clinic, Hillview Arena
29th - MHRC Summer BBQ, The Garden House, Queenshill, Upton-on-Severn
30th - Area Style Jumping Training, Radcot Equestrian, Faringdon, West Oxon RC
30th - Teams of Three Jumping, All England Jumping Course, Hickstead, West Sussex

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PEPPER POT LEAGUES

TOP TEN PLACES AS OF 01.07.2017

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

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07875 364 658
camillaesling@gmail.com

PEPPER POT LEAGUES

TOP TEN PLACES AS OF 01.07.2017

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WHAT’S ON NEXT MONTH?
For schedules, times and future events, please go to www.malvernhillsridingclub.com

July 2017

2nd - Area Horse Trials Qualifier, West Wilts, Trowbridge, Area 18 Group
9th - Area DTM Qualifier, Kings Equestrian, Bromyard, Worcester RC
12th - Karen Nicholas Flatwork Clinic, Hillview Arena
20th - Karen Nicholas Flatwork Clinic, Hillview Arena
23rd - Area Dressage & Riding Test Qualifier, Hanbury Showground, Redditch, Wyvern RC
27th - Karen Nicholas Flatwork Clinic, Hillview Arena
29th - MHRC Summer BBQ, The Garden House, Queenshill, Upton-on-Severn
30th - Area Style Jumping Training, Radcot Equestrian, Faringdon, West Oxon RC
30th - Teams of Three Jumping, All England Jumping Course, Hickstead, West Sussex

CURRENT MERCIAN LEAGUE

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<td>Cheltenham RC</td>
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Well, this month really has started off with a bang. With our wins at the Horse Trials and Steph winning at the DTM qualifiers, that means that the club is 7 for 7 - yes, we’ve qualified for all **6 BRC championships, and the Regionals, in 2017**. We’ve come close before, but this is the first time in the history of the club that it has happened - so congratulations to everyone who has competed and made this happen.

It does feel odd to already be at the end of the Area Summer season - although I’m sure that Chris is more than glad for the break! But there are still a few more Mercian team competitions left to run and all being well, the Interdressage competitions will start up in October, so still plenty to look forward to this year.

As we go to press, we are busy with the preparations for the Eventer Challenge, which this year we hope will be bigger and better. The change of venue onto grass will hopefully make it feel more like a mini Blenheim, so please come along and have a go or support us in the new venture.

until next time, Caroline
On 2nd July, the club travelled the 90 minute journey down south to the West Wilts Equestrian centre for the Area Horse Trials qualifier. It was a warm, sunny day, perfect for a day out in the beautiful Wiltshire countryside.

The venue was great, with all three phases reasonably close to one another (which was even better for the spectators!) and, despite it also being an Area 9 qualifier and an unaffiliated event, it never seemed over crowded throughout the day.

MHRC sent a record number of representatives this year, with three teams and 3 individuals.

80 Senior Team
Victoria Gregg & Langson Governor / Camilla Esling & Teds Rainbow / Steph Woolley & A Lot About Lexy

90 Junior Individual
Esme Ruff & Morning Flight / Sacha Willis & Narrow Blaze

90 Senior Teams
MALVERN HILLS BLUE
Sue Peckham & Mr Gangster / Jodie Powell & Bleanagloos Black Diamond / Tina Price & Buzz B / Emma Horton-Smith & All About Albert

MALVERN HILLS GREEN
Abi Hardy & Oxview Mist / Lyndsey Bakewell & Lyndell Amadallas / Victoria Gregg & Rock Supreme / Sue Peckham & Copper Kingdom

100+ Senior Individual
Laura Benne & Lematon Sunshine Sadie

It was the 90cm competitor’s who started the day - and an early start it was, with our first dressage test at 08:36! MHRC kind of dominated the senior section, with a team win for the Malvern Blues, and an individual win for Victoria and Rocky, with a hugely impressive final score of 19.8. Individual places also went to Emma in 3rd, Sue in 4th and Jodie in 6th. The juniors also did extremely well, with a 3rd for Sacha and a 4th for Esme. Laura was our sole representative in the 100+ class and had a fantastic day, coming 2nd overall. Things didn’t quite go to plan for our 80cm team, but Victoria and Governor came home with an individual 4th place.

A massive thank you has to go to our official volunteers, who gave up the whole day to fence judge at the event so that all our competitors could take part - so thank you Anna Robson, Linda Kemp, Linda Metcalf and Jo Jeynes.

For a full list of results, check out the MHRC or the BRC 18 websites. Or for more photos check out our Facebook page.

UPDATE: Sadly, we were contacted by HQ to say that one of the horses in the 90cm team wasn’t eligible to enter the event. Once that score was removed, our team dropped down to 2nd place and out of the qualification spot. This was a huge blow to Chris, the team manager, the rest of the team and the whole club. Please remember that YOU are responsible for checking eligibility. BRC does change the criteria from year to year, and if you compete in any affiliated events, then please double check before putting your name down for a particular qualifier. The BRC rulebook can be downloaded for free and can be found on the BRC, MHRC and Area 18 websites - committee members also have hard copies and will assist you if you’re not 100% sure.

However, a bit of good news was that Laura Bennett has also qualified with her 2nd place in the 100 and will be joining Victoria at the championships.
It was a bit warm and muggy on 9th July, when the club headed over to King’s Equestrian, Bromyard, for the Area Dressage to Music qualifier... and once again we sent a record number of entries.

Steph and Freckles were the stars of the day, comprehensively winning the Senior Novice class with the Dolly Parton inspired routine and only narrowly missing out on winning the Elementary class with Despicable Me!

There was also a 2nd place for Amber, plus a 4th for Anne, and Julie came 3rd on Ben and 5th on Ash.

To watch all the club videos from the day, go to our website and follow the links to our YouTube Channel.

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<th>Junior Novice (no points)</th>
<th>• Amber Knott and Pennal Zedan</th>
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<td>• Steph Woolley and Freckleton Matador</td>
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<td>Senior Novice (with points)</td>
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<td>• Tina Price and Big Ted</td>
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<td>• Julie Jeffes and Bedazzled Ill</td>
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<tr>
<td>Senior Elementary</td>
<td>• Steph Woolley and Freckleton Matador</td>
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On 13th July, the committee were invited to attend the Sport’s Awards Ceremony, organised by the District Council, at the Bank House, Bransford. The Sport’s Awards were set up to recognise the people and organisations that are essential to keeping local sport alive. MHRC were immensely proud to be shortlisted for two of the 13 categories - ‘Club of the Year’ and ‘Unsung Hero of the Year’.

The night began with some a lovely buffet and a glass (or two!) of Pimms and then we were entertained by a children’s modern dance troop. There was also a hugely inspirational talk by Andy Lewis, one of GB’s top Paralympic Triathletes, while the night was hosted by Radio Hereford and Worcester’s Andrew Easton, who kept us laughing all evening.

Sadly, we didn’t win either category, but were second in both, which is a huge achievement. It was fantastic to represent the club in such a setting, albeit a bit unusual to be getting (Continued on page 5)
On the 23rd July, we sent a record number of entries to the Dressage and Riding Test qualifier at Hanbury. With the weather forecast looking a bit dire, we ended up having a fantastic day, with plenty of sunshine and not a raindrop in sight.

**SENIOR NOVICE TEAMS**
- **MHRC RED** = Jo Jeynes & Emily Jane / Sophie Hooper and The King’s Archer / Sue Peckham & Copper Kingdom / Sara Stephenson & Liliedy Susan
- **MHRC GREEN** = Gina Halford & Treifenon Six / Pam Render & Zena / Lisa Drinkwater & Franks Greylad / Megan Harper & Imperial Moonlight
- **MHRC BLUE** = Caroline Bates & Smokey Joe / Clare Gabriel & Icy Blue / Liz Whitehead & Raven Royale / Sarah Bowness & Toby

**SENIOR PAIRS**
Liz Whitehead & Raven Royale / Jane Downham & Gleaming Dynamite

**SENIOR OPEN TEAMS**
- **MHRC YELLOW** = Julie Jeffes & Bedazzled / Jodie Powell & Blenagloos Black Diamond / Camilla Esling & Teds Rainbow / Steph Woolley & Freckleton
- **MHRC PURPLE** = Sue Peckham & Mr Gangster / Tina Price & Tom Thumb / Ambers Kno Ʃ & Average At Best

**JUNIOR NOVICE TEAM**
Sophie Bowness & Minty Bubbles / Ethan Knott & Pennal Zedan / Amber Knott & Average at Best / Oliver Hooper & Pinto

It was the Juniors who came out on top once again, with the team winning their section. Sophie was 1st, with Oliver, Amber and Ethan all coming 2nd in their respective sections. Also taking top spot were Liz and Jane in the Pairs class, the first time MHRC has entered this class.

In the Senior Prelim Team class, it was MHRC Blue who did the best, with a 3rd place. Individual rosettes went to Liz (5th) and Sara (6th). The Malvern Yellows came 6th in the Senior Open class, with an individual win for Steph and Julie was 5th.

In the Riding Test class, where two members of the team ride a Prelim test and two ride a Novice, we had more success, with the Roses coming 2nd and the Daises 3rd. Steph once again won her Novice class, with Tina 5th and Julie 4th, while in the Prelim section Karen was 6th and Camilla was 5th.

For a complete list of results, check out our website or the Area 18 website, and for more photos, go to [this link] for Sara and Suzy.

[This link] for Jane and Liz

Anna Robson & Santa Fe / Julie Jeffes & Hederfield Ash

**SENIOR INDIVIDUALS**
Tina Price & Buzz-B (Novice 27)
Megan Harper & Strawberry Hill (Novice 24)

**SENIOR RIDING TEST TEAMS**
- **MHRC ROSES** = Karen Withers & The Kings Archer / Sarah Bowness & Toby / Tina Price & Buzz B / Steph Woolley & Freckleton
- **MHRC DAISES** = Camilla Esling & Teds Rainbow / Gina Halford & Treifenon Six / Jodie Powell & Blenagloos Black Diamond / Julie Jeffes & Bedazzled

**BLUEBELLS** = Caroline Bates & Smokey Joe / Sue Peckham & Copper Kingdom / Tina Price & Tom Thumb / Julie Jeffes & Hederfield Ash

**INDIVIDUAL RIDING TEST**
Amber Knott & Average At Best

**JUNIOR NOVICE TEAM**
Sophie Bowness & Minty Bubbles / Ethan Knott & Pennal Zedan / Amber Knott & Average at Best / Oliver Hooper & Pinto

It was the Juniors who came out on top once again, with the team winning their section. Sophie was 1st, with Oliver, Amber and Ethan all coming 2nd in their respective sections. Also taking top spot were Liz and Jane in the Pairs class, the first time MHRC has entered this class.
British Summer time decided to give us a scare on the day of the Summer BBQ - but it ended up being a relatively nice evening for the festivities.

There was food a plenty and a chance to catch up with everyone, without the distraction of those pesky horses.

As a special surprise, Lin skyped in from her hospital bed so she could be part of the gathering. We also managed to surprise Mike, who had a birthday the next day, with a fantastic cricket themed cake by Camilla Esling.

There were 6 fantastic prizes on offer, with each ticket added to the draw. Anne Price won a free photo shoot with Jess Photography, Sophie Hooper won a £10 MHRC voucher, Abi Render-Garth won a Haygrazer bag, Amber Knott won some riding leggings and a hat silk from Hardy Clothing, Iris Ellis won a tub of Baileys horse treats and Pam Render won an hours free Arena Hire at Hillview.

A huge thank you to everyone who donated prizes - please support these people and companies - there are links on our website for all our fantastic sponsors.

There then followed a presentation of the medals we won by coming 2nd in the Interdressage Winter League. These were stunning medals and a lovely reward for everyone’s hard work last year.

At which point, the rain, which had held off all evening, decided to arrive. So it was a quick tidy up and everyone off!

A huge thank you to Mike, for allowing us the use of his garden and house once again (although I think he’d had his instructions from Lin!). To Camilla for the wonderful cakes and to Ann for the salads and sides. Also to Sarah, for being unexpectedly being left with the cooking - you did a fantastic job!

(Continued from page 3)

ready for a ‘club’ event in a dress and high heels, and there was more than one tear and a lot of laughs around our table - and you’ll be pleased to know that we were still one of the loudest cheer squads in the room!

To read our nomination forms, head over to our website, or to see the official film and photographs of the night, head over to https://www.malvernhill.gov.uk/sports-awards
WHAT’S COMING UP NEXT?

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August 2017

4th - 6th BRC National Horse Trials Championship, Swalcliffe, Banbury, Oxon
13th MHRC Eventer Challenge, Clear Round & Blenheim Selection Trial, Nr Three Counties, Malvern
19th Mercian Eventer Challenge (on grass), Longlands Livery, Tardebige, Alvechurch RC
19th South West and Wales Regional Championships, Hartpury College, Glos.
28th Mercian One-Day-Event, Ace XC, Tewkesbury Cheltenham RC and Frampton RC

September 2017

2nd - 3rd BRC National Championships, Lincolnshire Showground
14th - 15th International Horse Trials inc RC Challenge, Blenheim
17th Mercian Dressage to Music, Kings Equestrian Centre, Malvern
24th Mercian Hunter Trials, Frampton Court, Frampton Family Riding Club
29th - 1st Oct  BRC Dressage to Music Championships & Quadrille Selection

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SENIOR

TOP TEN PLACES AS OF 01.08.2017

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24th Mercian Hunter Trials, Frampton Court, Frampton Family Riding Club
29th - 1st Oct  BRC Dressage to Music Championships & Quadrille Selection

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13th MHRC Eventer Challenge, Clear Round & Blenheim Selection Trial, Nr Three Counties, Malvern
19th Mercian Eventer Challenge (on grass), Longlands Livery, Tardebige, Alvechurch RC
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<th>CLUB</th>
<th>PTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>MALVERN HILLS RC.</td>
<td>68</td>
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<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>ALVECHURCH RC.</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>CROPHTORNE &amp; LVEISHAM RC</td>
<td>45</td>
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<tr>
<td>4th</td>
<td>BROMYARD RC.</td>
<td>32</td>
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<td>5th</td>
<td>SOUTH SHROPSHIRE RC</td>
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<td>6th</td>
<td>BEWDLEY BRIELE CLUB</td>
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<tr>
<td>7th</td>
<td>WVVERN RC.</td>
<td>19</td>
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<td>8th</td>
<td>VALE OF ARROW RC.</td>
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<td>FRAMPTON RC.</td>
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<td>WORCESTER RC.</td>
<td>13</td>
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<tr>
<td>12th</td>
<td>CHELTENHAM RC.</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Well, that’s it folks … no, don’t panic, I mean that’s the end of the Summer season - as we go to press, members are preparing for their trip to the National Championships at Lincoln, which means that officially, the BRC Summer is over.

Of course, that can only mean one thing - the Winter season is here 😊

You’ll find this newsletter is crammed full of new dates for your diary - from fundraisers, new competitions and new events. There is a lot more in the pipeline too, so keep an eye on the website and your e-mails. As we confirm more activities, events and clinics, we’ll let you know. Area Winter qualifiers are being planned by the clubs too, so remember to check out www.brcarea18.co.uk for those as well.

We’re also looking for new speakers or topics for our Horseless Clinics this year, so if you know someone who would like to come along, or have a burning desire to learn about something specific, then please give us a shout.

So there’s no excuses to get the Winter blues this year!

until next time, Caroline
The Horse Trials championships were once again held at Swalcliffe Equestrian at the beginning of the month. The club sent along two individuals - Victoria Gregg and Rock Supreme in the Senior 90, and Laura Bennett and Lematon Sunshine Sadie in the 100+.

The champs are run on a long format, including roads and tracks, for all sections. For Victoria, this meant a two day competition, with Dressage and Jumping on Saturday and Cross-country on Sunday. Whereas Laura had a three day competition.

It was Rocky’s 2nd ever event, the first being the area qualifier, and Victoria was pleased with their result. And Laura had a cracking weekend, placed 4th individually.

We caught up with Laura to find out a bit more about her and Sadie:

**How long have you been a member of the club?**
For two years.

**And what’s your day job?**
I currently work in a school and am just about to go back to Uni to do a PGCE in primary.

**What’s your favourite horse activity?**
I love to go for a nice gallop around the farm and help my husband round up the sheep.

**And your least favourite?**
Probably poo picking in the winter, when the weather is wet, cold and the fields are muddy.

**Have you competed at the BRC Horse Trials Championships before?**
Yes, several times.

Tell us about your horse?
Sadie is a warmblood x thoroughbred, 9 years old and 16.2hh.

**How long have you owned her?**
Since she was a very green five year old and had never seen a cross-country fence before.

**What does Sadie like?**
Sadie loves Effol horse treats! They are her absolute favourite and won’t eat any others. She waits for them at the side of the lorry.

**And dislikes?**
She really dislikes living out. She loves her stable and if she is out in the winter for too long, she will bring herself in - clean over a four foot fence!

---

Laura and Sadie - looking smart in the vet trot-up.

Victoria and Rocky, flying high.

---

**MALVERN HILLS RIDING CLUB TABLE TOP SALE**

**FRIDAY 20th OCTOBER 2017**

**HUNTER’S INN, LONGDON, NR. TEWKESBURY, GL20 6AR**

Doors open to public 19:00.
£1 entry.
£10 per table
Sellers arrive and set up from 18:00.

Call Karen on 07894 800 221 to book now.
We must have done something right, as the weather was fantastic for our Eventer Challenge on 13th August. This was a new venture for us, moving the competition onto grass and incorporating some solid fences in the cross-country section.

Despite the hard work in the weeks leading up to the competition, the course looked amazing, with some interesting dressing of fences including boats in the water tray and Eeyore in the dog kennels!

This competition is always used to pick the team we send to the Riding Club Challenge at the Blenheim Horse Trials. After a close run class, the team ended up as Amber, Anna, Steph and Jodie, with Victoria and Alice as reserves.

Overall it was a fantastic, fun day. The committee received lots of really positive feedback so looks like we’ll be running it again next year in the same format.

**MEMBER PLACINGS**

**75cm**

1st = William Hooper and Gucci Guy / 3rd = Anna Robson and Santa Fe / 4th = Wendy Robinson and Oliver / 5th = Sara Stephenson and Suzy / 9th = Gill Young and Bod / 10th = Sacha Willis and Dinky

**85cm**

4th = Wendy Robinson and Oliver / 10th = Gill Young and Millie

**95cm**

1st = Amber Knott and Mr Gangster / 2nd = Anna Robson and I Believe I Can Fly / 3rd = Steph Woolley and Freckleton Matador / 4th = Jodie Powell and Bleanagloos Black Diamond / 5th = Victoria Gregg and Rocky / 6th = Alice Lowe and Bean / 7th = Megan Harper and First Song / 8th = Sacha Willis and Narrow Blaze / 9th = Victoria Gregg and Governor / 10th = Genevieve Manning and Harry / 105cm

2nd = Victoria Gregg and Brollie / 3rd = Anna Robson and Academy Award / 4th = Anna Robson and I Believe I Can Fly

A huge thank you must go to our two sponsors for the day. Pioneer Feeds, Ledbury, generously donated a £10 voucher for the winner of each class, while Jess Photography, gave each 2nd place a free print of their favourite photo from the day. Please support both companies - links can be found on our website.

Official photos of the day can be found at Jess Photography and ‘unofficial’ members photos can be found on our Facebook page. A complete list of results is on our website.
After a bit of a break, the Mercian series ramped up again, with two events in August.

On 19th, we sent two teams to the Alvechurch Eventer Challenge: 2’3 Malvern Lions
Sara Stephenson and Lliedi Susan / Jo Jeynes and Emily Jane / Anna Robson and Santa Fe
2’6 Malvern Tigers
Lydia Burrows and Hayestown Sam / Lyndsey Bakewell and Lyndell Amadallas / Shellee Harris and Master Maltstriker / Anna Robson and I Believe I Can Fly

And it was a day of 5ths, with Sara winning an individual 5th in the 2’3 section and the 2’6 team coming 5th overall.

Shellee “had a good day on Saturday. The weather held for most of the day and the course, although basic, caused quite a few problems! Thankfully not for Billy! I liked the idea of having a style fence on the xc (especially as we received the highest Mark in our class...9/10. 😊). As I won’t be competing for a while now, it was a lovely day to finish on, and it was also nice to spend the afternoon eating sausage sandwiches and chatting with team mates that I haven’t really had the chance to get to know before.”

“We had a great time,” said Lydia, “Sam and I had a great day. We usually do 2ft3 but had our brave pants on to do the 2ft6. The ground was great. We had to do the SJ first (but my sat nav error picked us up 4 faults!) then a tack check and out onto the xc course including a style fence. Alvechurch had put on a great show. And the ground was good going. Had a lovely day competing for MHRC.”

Then on Bank Holiday Monday, it was the Mercian One-Day-Event, and we sent one team of Alex Harris on Dollar, Sara Stephenson on Lliedi Susan, Jo Jeynes on Emily Jane and Stef Bennett on Mr Buster. In the glorious sunshine at Ace XC, it was lovely to have all three phases in such a compact area - easy on the cheer squad’s feet! Cheltenham and Frampton RC had worked together to put on the event, which ran well and on time. The XC course was varied and inviting, and, with no-one eliminated off the course, it provided a great opportunity for the true grass-roots rider and novice horse.

Our team did fantastically to come 2nd overall. Alex also won the Walk and Trot section with her 4 year old, home-bred mare, and Jo came 6th in the Prelim 7 section.

There’s just three Mercian competitions left for the year - Dressage to Music, the Hunter Trial and the Quiz. Please contact Jodie ASAP if you’d like to represent the club.
It was the second year that the South West and Wales Regional Championship was held, once again at Hartpury College. The event is for the teams that are placed 2nd (or in some cases 3rd) at the Summer qualifiers held all over the south of the country.

MHRC were in a strong position, gaining 5 qualification places across all four classes. **PRELIM RIDING TEST** TEAM 1 = Jodie Powell and Bleanagloos Black Diamond / Julie Jeffes and Bedazzled/ Steph Woolley and Freckleton Matador / Sarah Bowness and Toby TEAM 2 = Tina Price and Buzz-B / Karen Withers and The Kings Archer / Camilla Esling and Teds Rainbow / Gina Halkford and Trefeirnon Six **PRELIM DRESSAGE** Sarah Bowness and Toby / Caroline Bates and Smokey Joe / Wendy Robinson and Sonas Oliver **STYLE JUMPING** Sophie Hooper and The King’s Archer / Tina Price and Buzz-B / Jodie Powell and Bleanagloos Black Diamond / Stefanie Bennett and Mr Buster **SHOW JUMPING** Sophie Hooper and The King’s Archer / Stefanie Bennett and Mr Buster / Pam Render and Zena

Our only team result was a well deserved 2nd place in the Style Jumping, with Stef placed 1st individually in her section. There were also individual places for Julie (3rd Riding Test), Steph (6th Riding Test), Wendy (6th Dressage), Sophie (4th Style Jumping) and Tina (4th Style Jumping).

Pam said “It was a fab venue and a lovely show jumping course, which rode fab. MHRC members were friendly and supportive as usual, however I didn’t a chance to watch or catch up with anyone else apart from my jumping pals, but I’m sure you all looked and did great.”

Stef was “absolutely chuffed to win our sectin of the style jumping and thrilled that the team came 2nd. Buster was a complete star, focusing on the job at hand despite being very scared of the large arena, spectators and their noise. Buster obviously felt he had done enough for the day with his win though, as we were then eliminated at the same fence in both rounds of the show jumping - the highs and lows of jumping! Although unfortunately, the day did not have the same championship atmosphere as the Festival of the Horse back in May, it was still great to take part amongst the great comradery of Team MHRC. Thanks as always to Chris and team for getting us there and organising us all!”

---

**INTERDRESSAGE IS BACK!**

MHRC is once again contesting the BRC Interdressage league. Take part in Dressage, Jumping, Showing and Fun classes. Film your entries at home or at one of the MHRC organised filming days at Hillview Arena.

8th October, 19th November and 17th December 2017

Win prize money, rosettes and medals - plus earn points for the club.

For more info, check out our website or Interdressage.com, or chat to Caroline.

Schedules and booking information will be sent out nearer the dates.
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17th Mercian Dressage to Music, Kings Equestrian Centre, Malvern
24th Mercian Hunter Trials, Frampton Court, Frampton Family Riding Club
26th - Carl Hester Yard Visit
29th - 1st Oct BRC Dressage to Music Championships & Quadrille Selection

October 2017
8th - MHRC Interdressage Filming Day, Hillview Arena, Malvern
10th - Mercian Quiz and Presentation Evening, The Talbot, Knightwick, Bromyard RC.
20th - MHRC Table Top Sale, Hunters Inn, Longdon
22nd - Area Novice Winter Dressage Qualifier, Hartpury College, Glos.

PEPPER POT LEAGUES
TOP TEN PLACES AS OF 29.08.2017

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<th>Name</th>
<th>Pts</th>
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<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Sophie Hooper &amp; The Kings Archer</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Wendy Robinson &amp; Lady Cove</td>
<td>530</td>
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<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Stef Bennett &amp; Mr Buster</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th</td>
<td>Sara Stephenson &amp; Lliedl Susan</td>
<td>405</td>
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<tr>
<td>5th</td>
<td>Jo Jeynes &amp; Emily Jane</td>
<td>365</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6th</td>
<td>Tina Price &amp; Buzz-B</td>
<td>330</td>
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<tr>
<td>7th</td>
<td>Jodie Powell &amp; Bleangloos Black Diamond</td>
<td>295</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8th</td>
<td>Steph Woolley &amp; Freckleton Matador</td>
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<tr>
<td>9th</td>
<td>Anne Price &amp; Half A Guinness</td>
<td>225</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10th</td>
<td>Lyndsey Bakewell &amp; Lyndwll Star Justice</td>
<td>220</td>
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SUE Peckham & Mr Gangster 220

JUNIOR

<table>
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<th>Place</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Pts</th>
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<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Amber Knott &amp; Pennal Zedan</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Oliver Hooper &amp; Pinto</td>
<td>275</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Sacha Willis &amp; Narrow Blaze</td>
<td>255</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th</td>
<td>Ethan Knott &amp; Sammy</td>
<td>250</td>
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<tr>
<td>5th</td>
<td>Esme Ruff &amp; Morning Flight</td>
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<tr>
<td>6th</td>
<td>Abi Render-Garth &amp; Charlie Bear</td>
<td>160</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7th</td>
<td>Amber Knott &amp; Average At Best</td>
<td>110</td>
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<tr>
<td>8th</td>
<td>Sophie Bowness &amp; Minty Bubbles</td>
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<tr>
<td>9th</td>
<td>William Hooper &amp; Gucci Guy</td>
<td>105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10th</td>
<td>William Hooper &amp; Rookery Fizz</td>
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Ethan Knott & Pennal Zedan 75

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

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<td>BEWDELEY BRIDLE CLUB</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>12th</td>
<td>CHELTENHAM RC</td>
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Wow, what an absolutely amazing month we have had - this year has been plenty amazing already, but it barely felt that we took a breath in the last few weeks. I sadly couldn’t attend the National Championships this year, so the first I knew of the club’s success was a flashing blue light on my mobile when I returned from a hack. I have to admit to being more than a bit perplexed (and rather worried), as I listened to a message made up of almost continuous sobbing! But once actual language started to come through, I found my own tears flowing just a little too freely!

And the month only got better, with great results at Blenheim and the Mercian events, a fun filled XC clinic at Sapey and a wonderful visit to Carl Hester’s beautiful yard at Newent. I ran out of room to do a full report, but suffice to say it was a lovely morning. We got to see a lot of young and upcoming horses at various levels of training, plus a few already out at Grand Prix. And, of course, got a cuddle with Valegro, Utopia and Nip Tuck. The demos were informative and I think we all came away with things to mull over. So we’re expecting big things from our dressage teams next season ….

until next time, Caroline
It’s been a fantastic year and somehow, sending a record number of members to the BRC National Championships on the 2nd and 3rd of September, was just the cheery on top of the icing on the cake.

And as you’ll know from Facebook and the front of the newsletter, we had the most fabulous result. Our Senior 70cm Show Jumping team ended up the day on 0 faults, making them the National Champions for 2017.

There were also some fantastic individual results, with Amber Knott and Sophie Hooper both coming 4th in the Junior and Senior Style Jumping respectively. While Steph Woolley was 5th in the Senior Open Dressage and won the Senior Novice Riding Test.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Member Name</th>
<th>Lydia Burrows</th>
<th>Amber Knott</th>
<th>Oliver Hooper</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>How long have you been a member of MHRC?</td>
<td>This is my first year.</td>
<td>I’ve been a member of this fantastic club for 2 years</td>
<td>1 year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What’s your day job?</td>
<td>Salon owner</td>
<td>Working on my A-levels so I can get a day job!</td>
<td>Still at school</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Favourite Horsey Activity?</td>
<td>Riding club events, especially jumping</td>
<td>Eventing, especially cross-country.</td>
<td>Jumping and galloping</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>And least favourite?</td>
<td>Unpacking kit after a show</td>
<td>Poo-picking, although my amazing grandparents tend to do it for me.</td>
<td>Cleaning Tack</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is this your first time at a BRC Championship?</td>
<td>This was my first ever</td>
<td>Yes, doing combined training, dressage and show jumping.</td>
<td>No - first time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Your horse’s Name?</td>
<td>Sam</td>
<td>Harvey, although we call him Bean.</td>
<td>Pinto</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>And details?</td>
<td>8 year old, 15.2hh, ISH</td>
<td>Rising 6, 16.2hh, something Irish!</td>
<td>17 year old, 13.2hh, unknown breeding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How long have you owned your horse?</td>
<td>4 years</td>
<td>Just over 2 months</td>
<td>1 year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What does your horse like?</td>
<td>A good scratch on the shoulder, anything for a treat, jumping</td>
<td>Plum Gregg, although she makes him work. Rolling and eating lying down.</td>
<td>Polos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>And dislike?</td>
<td>Getting rained on or his feet muddy</td>
<td>Nothing - he’s a happy horse.</td>
<td>Having a bath.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

“Oliver and I really enjoyed our first RC Championships”, said Sophie, “apart from the nightmare journey there that was nearly 6 hours! Barney and Pinto were both stars and I was very pleased with how he behaved for Karen. It was fantastic to see the 70cm SJ team win and so many members do so well. I was amazed Ollie remembered his Novice test and the whole event was a wonderful experience for him - he can’t wait to go back again. Last, but definitely least, thank you to Chris for organising and to Kirsty for the very tasty lasagne.”

Tina agreed that it was an “Absolutely brilliant weekend with fantastic people. And so much food! I was a little disappointed that I let Buzz down to have one pole, but 15th out of 90 I was chuffed with. So pleased with the 70 team and Steph doing amazing. I think we ought to go next year even if we don’t qualify, just to party! We party true Malvern style.”

“Wow, what an amazing weekend at the BRC National Championships,” said Lydia, “Sam took it all in his stride, being away at our first ever overnight show. We were
clear in the 1st round and the 2nd round was going so well, until I had a sat nav error, jumping the wrong fence. But the rest were clear so they could discard me score. A big thanks to Chris for taking us in her lorry, and all the team for the help and support. It’s so much appreciated. We had the best time - so many giggles, great company and so much lovely food. Thanks to the Knott family for the lasagne, BBQ and bacon butties! I want to do it all over again and loved every minute. I keep looking back at the photos, as it feels like a dream!”

Jodie went along as support and cheer squad, “It was weird being there without a horse, but lovely at the same time as I got to watch and support everyone. It was a tense moment watching Sara jump her second round on Suzy, as we knew that if she went clear, they would win. Well, to say the cheer was loud was an understatement and the tears came thick and fast between myself and Chris. Then, when I hugged Sarah and Toby, the tears started again. It was such a magical moment. And the weather was fair to us all too - a massive improvement on last year!”

“It was a brilliant weekend,” said Julie, “no serious rain for a start and a large group of us. Winning the

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Member Name</th>
<th>Sara Stephenson</th>
<th>Sophie Hooper</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>How long have you been a member of MHRC?</td>
<td>8 years</td>
<td>5 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What’s your day job?</td>
<td>Grass Cutting</td>
<td>Mum and groom to Will and Ollie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Favourite Horsey Activity?</td>
<td>Team competitions</td>
<td>Working Hunter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>And least favourite?</td>
<td>Tack Cleaning</td>
<td>Clipping</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is this your first time at a BRC Championship?</td>
<td>Yes, first time</td>
<td>No – first time.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Your horse’s Stable name?</td>
<td>Suzy</td>
<td>Barney</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>And details?</td>
<td>19 year old, 15hh, Welsh Section D</td>
<td>9 year old, 16hh of unknown breeding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How long have you owned your horse?</td>
<td>8 years</td>
<td>3 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What does your horse like?</td>
<td>Jumping and edible treats</td>
<td>FOOD!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>And dislike?</td>
<td>Large groups of noisy ramblers in brightly coloured jackets!</td>
<td>Being clipped</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

team jumping was obviously the best bit. It was slightly odd to be starting my round of show jumping in the fog as I was the first on - it was quite poor visibility in the collecting ring, which was a new challenge. Ash managed to crash through the first jump, which was not a good start, but then got better and didn’t have a fault thereafter - so earned her place by doing a clear second round. Lovely to finally get a rug after all these years of nearly being there. Hoping to be able to do it again next year. Still working on the optimum camping arrangement - maybe it includes a brand new Oakley!”

“I loved the champs and representing MHRC,” said Ethan. The best bit was riding for the club. Nerves got the better of me, but hopefully next time I’ll know what to expect. Danny knew what to do, but I didn’t - I will next time. The worst bit of the weekend - Daddy and
Fudge snoring in the lorry!”

Sara agreed, “It was an amazing weekend. Far bigger than I was expecting and run in a very professional manner. Being on the winning team was incredible - I still feel excited about it now, but having the support of such an enthusiastic club makes it extra special.

And the last word has to go to Chris, team manager extraordinaire, “We have had record numbers of members coming forward to compete in our Area Qualifiers this year, so it was no surprise that 24 of us members and supporters made the long and worthwhile trip to Lincoln. I had Lydia and her horse Sam for company in my lorry which made the trip go quicker. We all had base camp set up pretty quickly and soon got down to the important business of eating and drinking. The Friday night party was great fun, made all the better by Kirsty’s lasagne and everyone went to sleep very happy, although a bit nervous about the competition to come. Saturday morning was an early start for everyone, but the sun was soon shining and everyone went off to do their various tests and first Jumping rounds. I had to miss some of it as Rita and I had put our names down as volunteers, so we headed off to write for two of the dressage judges for the morning. It was very exciting to get back to base and find that the Show Jumping team had finished their first round on zero. The nerves really kicked in then (me included!) The second round was nerve wracking, as the first two members (Julie and Sarah) jumped beautiful clear rounds but Lydia then had a slight and very understandable Sat Nav issue and got eliminated. So it was down to Sara and Susie to jump clear as all the other teams were on 4 faults or more. I have never seen Sara ride so well and determinedly as she did that day. Of course she was clear and the whole support team erupted except me, who started blubbing knowing how much this win would mean to Lin. The mounted prize giving was great fun with all the team members receiving rosettes, sashes and rugs, followed by an out of control lap of honour! We also received a beautiful silver salver as a memento. So as the day came to an end, with some lovely tests ridden and Steph’s win in the Riding Test Championship and Sophie’s lovely Style jumping round (to finish 4th) we felt very justified in cracking open the Prosecco at 6 o’clock and the wonderful Knott family providing us with a great BBQ to finish the day.

Sunday was Juniors day and they didn’t let us down with some great Dressage, Style Jumping and Show Jumping. I have so enjoyed seeing our juniors improve throughout this year and to see so many of them at Lincoln made me very proud of our amazing and supportive club. We all made the trip home on Sunday with next years Championships on the radar! Let’s make 2018 another great year for the club.”

NEW CLUB CLOTHING

Available to purchase now.

Only £24

Waterproof gilets in navy, with yellow club logo on front and name on back.

Available through our website or contact Linda.
To raise extra money for club funds, we’ll be having a ’PRODUCE’ table. We would be grateful for any donations of cakes, crafty items, garden produce, jams, chutneys, etc, etc, that we could sell. If you can’t attend on the night, please pass any donations to a committee member in the week before the sale.

**MALVERN HILLS RIDING CLUB TABLE TOP SALE**

**FRIDAY 20th OCTOBER 2017**

**HUNTER’S INN, LONGDON, NR. TEWKESBURY, GL20 6AR**

![Horse in action](image)

Doors open to public 19:00.

£1 entry.

£10 per table

Sellers arrive and set up from 18:00.

Call Karen on 07894 800 221 to book now.

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**BLENHEIM RIDING CLUB CHALLENGE**

The riding club headed off to the Blenheim Palace International Horse Trials on 14th September. We entered a team in the 90cm Challenge, where riders tackled a course of show jumps, then went on to a tight, twisty round of cross-country obstacles. The team was Steph Woolley on Freckleton Matador, Anna Robson on I Believe I Can Fly, Amber Knott on Mr Gangster and Jodie Powell on Bleanagloos Black Diamond.

The new format of the competition had the 100 and 90 rings running alongside each other, and this, coupled with the small arena, tight turns and slippery ground after intermittent rain, proved a challenge for some riders. But our team did fantastically, ending up on a very respectable 9.2 faults. This put them in 13th place out of 46 teams.

Top Right: Jodie and Trixie Bottom Right: Steph and Freckles Top Left: Amber and Gangster Bottom Left: Anna and Nellie

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**BRC AREA 18 TRAINING DAY**

**SATURDAY NOVEMBER 4th 2017**

LINCUM EQUESTRIAN, STOKEPORT, WORCESTERSHIRE, DY13 9RB

Dressage with international dressage rider Jai Britton & Show Jumping and Arena XC with event rider Wayne Garrick

1 hour group session (max. 4 riders) with each £55 per person

Dressage Training with Jai Britton
1 hour group (2 riders) £42.50 per person
1 hour group (3 riders) £25 per person

OPEN TO ALL MEMBERS OF AREA 18 RIDING CLUBS
Please contact Octavia Walters to book.
Please confirm club name and height of jump preferred.
07810 375 363
On 17th September, we sent one team to the Mercian Dressage to Music competition at Kings Equestrian, Bromyard. It was a great day of lovely routines, catchy music and great results. The team was made up of Jane Downham and Gleaming Dynamite in the Intro section, Sara Stephenson and Lliedi Susan in the Prelim and Julie Jeffes and Hederfield Joe in the Novice. They did brilliantly well, with Jane 6th, Sara 8th and Julie 9th, leaving the team in overall 6th place at the end of the day. Also well done to Jane and Katie Hawkesworth on Mathilda, who had a go at the open pairs class and came 2nd. To see videos of all the tests, visit our YouTube channel (links are on the results page of our website).

Top Right: Julie and Joe  Bottom Right: Sara and Suzy  Top Left: Jane and Zonda  Bottom Left: Jane and Zonda / Katie and Mathilda

Karen and Alison meet Nip Tuck during the club visit to Carl Hester’s yard

Valegro takes our visit in his stride

Fun at Sapey on the XC clinic. Top: Julie and Sara take a well earned break. Middle: Ethan and Danny have a sneaky canter through the water. Bottom: Sam and Lydia avoiding tigers in the ditch.
It’s hard to believe, but the last ridden Mercian event of 2017 took place on 24th September, the ever popular hunter trial at Frampton Court Estate. This is always a long course, through fields, woods and tracks, giving the riders an extra challenge.

After last year’s heavy downpours, it was lovely to be bathed in sunshine for the majority of the day. It was an early start, with William and Oliver Hooper heading out in the open 70cm section. They both did brilliantly, especially as it was Oliver’s very first hunter trial.

Then it was the turn of the 70cm teams, of which we had two. Despite one retirement in each class, the Malvern Poppies ended up on 0 faults and came 2nd, closely followed by the Malvern Roses in 3rd. Sarah took the individual 5th place, narrowly beaten by Anne in 4th.

Our 80cm team were next to compete and there were a few nerves regarding one jump in particular - the ditch palisade into the woods. So, of course, that’s where the cheer squad had to stand to give moral support. Despite watching more than a few sticky moments there, all our members jumped it beautifully. And the end of the day, they were the only team on a zero score and took the winner’s rosettes. There were also some individual prizes, with Abi in 8th, Sophie 5th and Jo 2nd.

The day ended with Camilla Esling bringing 23 year old Jake out of semi-retirement for a play in the open 80cm. After a lovely round, they came 3rd.

70cm: MALVERN POPPIES Sarah Bowness and Toby / Steph Woolley and Lexi / Lydia Burrows and Hayestown Sam / Sara Stephenson and Lliedi Susan. MALVERN ROSES Clare Gabriel and Icy Blue / Julie Jeffes and Hederfield Ash / Tina Price and Tom Thumb / Anne Price and Half A Guinness

80cm: MALVERN DAFFODILS Sophie Hooper and The Kings Archer / Wendy Grimsby and Foxie / Jo Jeynes and Emily Jane / Abigail Hardy and Oxview Mist

For more photos, check out our Facebook page.
WHAT’S COMING UP NEXT?

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

October 2017

8th - MHRC Interdressage Filming Day, Hillview Arena, Malvern

10th - Mercian Quiz and Presentation Evening, The Talbot, Knightwick, Bromyard RC.

20th - MHRC Table Top Sale, Hunters Inn, Longdon

22nd - Area Novice Winter Dressage Qualifier, Hartpury College, Glos.

November 2017

19th - MHRC Interdressage Filming Day, Hillview Arena, Malvern

December 2017

17th - MHRC Interdressage Filming Day, Hillview Arena, Malvern

30th - MHRC Xmas Fun Show, Hillview Arena, Malvern

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MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY
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PEPPER POT LEAGUES

TOP TEN PLACES AS OF 29.08.2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Pts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Sophie Hooper &amp; The Kings Archer</td>
<td>620</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Wendy Robinson &amp; Lady Cove</td>
<td>530</td>
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<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Sara Stephenson &amp; Lliedi Susan</td>
<td>490</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th</td>
<td>Jo Jeynes &amp; Emily Jane</td>
<td>435</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5th</td>
<td>Stef Bennett &amp; Mr Buster</td>
<td>420</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6th</td>
<td>Steph Woolley &amp; Freckleton Matador</td>
<td>340</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7th</td>
<td>Tina Price &amp; Buzz-B</td>
<td>330</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8th</td>
<td>Jodie Powell &amp; Bleanagloos Black Diamond</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9th</td>
<td>Anne Price &amp; Half A Guinness</td>
<td>275</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10th</td>
<td>Lydia Burrows &amp; Hayeston Sam</td>
<td>260</td>
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CURRENT MERCIAN LEAGUE

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<tr>
<th>PLACE</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>MALVERN HILLS RC</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>ALVECHURCH RC</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>FRAMPTON RC</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th</td>
<td>SOUTH SHROPSHIRE RC</td>
<td>52 (4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5th</td>
<td>BEWDLEY BRIDLE CLUB</td>
<td>52 (1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6th</td>
<td>BROMYARD RC</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7th</td>
<td>CROPTHORNE &amp; EVESHAM RC</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8th</td>
<td>VALE OF ARROW RC</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9th</td>
<td>CHELTENHAM RC</td>
<td>25 (6)</td>
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<tr>
<td>10th</td>
<td>WYVERN RC</td>
<td>25 (5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11th</td>
<td>WORCESTER RC</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12th</td>
<td>BROMSGROVE RC</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
I usually enjoy this time of year. I don’t mind the Autumnal change to the days, especially when winter nips in the air are still a long way away. But I have to admit to not enjoying this one. The very weekend that the clock’s changed and it definitely started to feel like the end of the year, Smokey got colic. There is something utterly heartbreaking about 600 kilos of horse trying to throw themselves on the concrete to roll - it also takes a lot of human power to keep them on their feet. And have you noticed that the half an hour it takes the vet to arrive is the longest ever?

Touch wood, everything is ok now and he’s back to his usually boisterous, obnoxious self, thoroughly enjoying the fact I’ve had to do early morning stables and he’s getting fed warm mashes twice a day! We might never know what caused it (I have a theory the galloping around the school, bucking and squealing in delight because he’d gotten away from me again, might have had something to do with it), but at least it all seems to be over.

I hope you’ve had a better start to the dark season that I have ...

until next time, Caroline

**** STEPH AND FRECKLES - MORE MHRC CHAMPIONS! ****
On the 1st October, the club was represented by Steph Woolley and Freckleton Matador, at the last of the 2017 championships. It was another trip to Bury Farm Equestrian centre in Buckinghamshire, which although a longish trek, is actually a fantastic venue.

Steph began the day in fine style by winning the Prelim warm-up test. Then it was into the amazing indoor arena for the main event. Steph’s Novice routine, to Dolly Parton’s ‘9 to 5’, ‘Islands in the Stream’ and ‘Here We Go Again’, had everyone foot tapping along. There were huge rounds of applause afterwards and not just from the MHRC Cheer squad. After a short wait, the commentator came on to give an update to the scores - “You all thought it was a good one,” he said, “and that’s shown in the scores. Steph goes into the lead with (260.5 workout p %)”.

There followed a rather tense couple of hours while the other competitors rode their tests. Although it was easy to get distracted in the wonderful café and shop! However, no-one came close to Steph’s score and once the official announcement was made, there was just time for a quick groom over, an interview with Horse and Hound, wiping away some happy tears and then it was back into the arena for the prize-giving.

Freckles was a star, standing for the line-up and photos, but it all got rather exciting in the lap of honour. The reprise of the test was also rather ‘forward-going’, but it was great to clap and cheer along with the music this time, cheering them on.

“I just wanted to say a big thank you to Caroline, Chris and Mum for travelling up to Bury Farm and supporting me that weekend,” said Steph, “I was pleased with Freckles, as he’s so easy to take away to events (even if he does only just fit in a temporary stable!) and despite being a bit tense at the start of his music test in the indoor school, settled down and went well. I didn’t get much chance to watch the rest of the class but had a few people come up to me to say they’d watched and really enjoyed my test, which was lovely to hear. Will need to rethink my music as both judges commented they liked the music and thought it suited us but it had too many vocals. Prize giving got a little exciting and when we did the reprise of the test afterwards, I think its safe to say Freckles was a little more expressive than first time round. It’s been great to see how the dressage to music has taken off in the club with so many people having a go and doing well at Mercian and Area level. Looking forward to doing more in 2018.”

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**TABLE TOP FUNDRAISER**

Thank you to everyone who came along to support our Table Top Sale at the Hunter’s Inn on 20th October, whether it was by having a table, providing produce for the club table or by paying your £1 to come through the door.

It was a hugely successful day and raised over £300 for club funds.

We’ll be doing another one in the New Year, so why not start that tack room clear out now!
The first qualifier of the 2017/2018 Winter Season took place on 22nd October at Hartpury College. We sent an amazing 4 teams, the most we have ever sent to this event. Each ‘team’ was split into 4 classes, with a Prelim and a Novice rider in each of the morning and afternoon sessions.

The morning got off to a great start, with Julie and Ash, who were last minute replacements, winning the Novice 28 class. Anne and Goo also secured the 4th place in the Prelim session. There were lots more rosettes in the afternoon session, with Laura and Sadie just beating Tina and Tom to the 2nd place in the Novice class. MHRC were also 2nd and 3rd in the Prelim class, with Julie and Joe just beating Liz and Jazz.

This put the club in a strong position for the team rosettes and although we didn’t win, the Blues were 2nd, Reds were 3rd and Purples 4th, an absolutely fantastic result. We are just waiting for confirmation from HQ, but the Blues may well have qualified for the Novice Championships in April next year, along with Julie and Ash as highest placed individuals - watch this space!

**ROLL CALL**

**Malvern Hills Reds:**
Wendy Robinson and Sonas Oliver / Kat Jones and Redback Cappuchino / Lisa Drinkwater and Franks Grey / Julie Jeffes and Hederfield Joe

**Malvern Hills Blues:**
Jodie Powell and Bleanagloos Black Diamond / Laura Bennett and Lematon Sunshine Sadie / Alex Riches and Mr Darcy / Liz Wise and Showtime Jazz

**Malvern Hills Greens:**
Julie Jeffes and Hederfield Ash / Ann Brennan and Greylands Beaver Brook / Sara Stephenson and Lliedi Susan

**Malvern Hills Purples:**
Emma Horton-Smith and It’s All About Albert / Tina Price and Big Ted / Anne Price and Half a Guinness / Jo Jeynes and Emily Jane
Thursday, 10th October and the last Mercian event of the year! We sent two teams along to the Quiz, held at The Talbot, Knightwick. It was a fun evening, testing out knowledge of American states, birds, food and drink, and every so often even a horsey question as well!

The Malvern Blues of Kat Jones, Jo Jeynes, Pam Render and Wendy Robinson managed to come dead last from the 17 teams, but the Malvern Reds of Lauran Jones, Caroline Bates, Jane Osborne and Camilla Esling came 3rd.

This also meant that once again, we won the Mercian cup to hold for another year, and a presentation was made to Jodie, our team manager. A fantastic end to the Mercian year.

Malvern Hills Trust Meeting
28th September 2017

The latest meeting of the Malvern Hills Trust (MHT) (the working name of the Malvern Hills Conservators) was held at the end of the last month, and there were a few items discussed that have an impact on horse riders.

HUNTING
No Hunting will take place on the hills and commons without prior written permission of the MHT. The agreed date and the area of the pre-laid trails over which the hounds will be working must be confirmed.

ROCK CLIMBING
Horse rider’s to be aware that climbing is permitted in the area and no advance notice will be given, unless it is a major event. Ivy Scar Rock and Westminster Arms Quarry are very popular.

MOUNTAIN BIKING
There are now 3 bike trails on MHT land and they will be waymarked. Some of the trails will include bridleways. Information on where these are can be found on www.malvernhills.org.uk or phone MHT on 01684 892 002.

If you regularly ride on MHT land and have any issues you’d like to raise, please contact the club who regularly send a representative to the group meetings.

MHRC REVIEW OF THE YEAR 2017

HAVE YOU WON A CHAMPIONSHIP OR BEEN PLACED AT A MAJOR EVENT THIS YEAR?

HAVE YOU COMPETED FOR THE FIRST TIME OR STEPPED UP A LEVEL IN YOUR CHosen SPORT?

HAVE YOU GOT MARRIED, HAD A BABBIE, MOVED HOUSE OR JUST CHANGED YOUR WORLD IN SOME WAY?

It’s not long now until the end of the year, and with that comes the Mega MHRC review. And we’d love to hear what 2017 has meant to you. We all have lives outside the club (well, some do!), and this is your chance to share with the members what you’ve been up to.

Check out last December’s newsletter (available on the website) to see 2016’s review.

If you’d like to be part of it this year, then please e-mail Caroline details and a photo, before 20th December 2017.
We were blessed with beautiful weather on 8th October, the first Interdressage filming day of the 2017/2018 season. With the tests filmed on the day, plus all the entries made by individual members, we started off with a record number of entries:

**Class: Walk and Trot H**
7th (Restricted Senior) = Linda Kemp and Tanzanite Mist
4th (Open Senior) = Caroline Bates and Smokey Joe

**Class: Walk, Trot and Canter A**
3rd (Senior) = Suzanne Lidbetter and Rosie
4th (Senior) = Lisa Drinkwater and Franks Grey
11th (Senior) = Sarah Smith and Bruno
3rd (Junior) = Ethan Knott and Pennal Zedan

**Class: BRC D1**
1st (Senior Restricted) = Sara Stephenson and Lliedi Susan
3rd (Senior Restricted) = Caroline Bates and Smokey Joe
1st (Junior Restricted) = Amber Knott and Average At Best

**Class: Intermediate Test 9**
4th (Senior) = Camilla Esling and Just Jake

**Class: Intermediate Plus A**
2nd (Senior) = Katherine Jones and Redback Cappuchino

**Class: Freestyle Jumping**
1st (Senior) = Sophie Hooper and The Kings Archer
3rd (Junior) = Oliver Hooper and Pinto

**Class: Equi-Skills**
4th (Senior) = Caroline Bates and Smokey Joe
5th (Senior) = Alison Burton and Golly Miss Polly

**Class: In-Hand Coloured**
1st (Senior) = Sophie Hooper and The Kings Archer
1st (Junior) = Oliver Hooper and Pinto

**Class: Ridden Coloured**
1st (Senior) = Sophie Hooper and The Kings Archer
1st (Junior) = Oliver Hooper and Pinto

By my calculations, this puts us well in the lead with 170 points, with last year’s winners Cherwell Valley in 2nd pace with 133.

The next club filming day is 19th November. If you’d like to take part, please contact Caroline. November’s schedule is on our website.

PHOTOS: FROM TOP Sara and Suzy / Sarah and Bruno / Camilla and Jake / Alison and Polly / Kat and Dotty.

If you’d like to see the video entries, head to our website and follow the links on the Results page.
WHAT’S COMING UP NEXT?

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

November 2017
2nd - Polework Clinic, Hillview Arena, Malvern
4th - Area 18 Training Day, Lincomb Equestrian
19th - MHRC Interdressage Filming Day, Hillview Arena, Malvern
23rd - Area 18 AGM and Presentation Evening, The March Hare Inn, Broughton Hackett

December 2017
14th - ‘Rider Biomechanics’, Horseless Clinic, Castlemorton Village Hall
17th - MHRC Interdressage Filming Day, Hillview Arena, Malvern
30th - MHRC Xmas Fun Show, Hillview Arena, Malvern

March 2018
4th - Area 18 Intermediate Dressage Qualifier, Summerhouse Equestrian Centre, Gloucester

PEPPER POT LEAGUES
TOP TEN PLACES AS OF 29.08.2017

SENIOR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Pts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Sophie Hooper &amp; The Kings Archer</td>
<td>740</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Sara Stephenson &amp; Lliedi Susan</td>
<td>535</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Wendy Robinson &amp; Lady Cove</td>
<td>530</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th</td>
<td>Jo Jeynes &amp; Emily Jane</td>
<td>460</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5th</td>
<td>Stef Bennett &amp; Mr Buster</td>
<td>420</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6th</td>
<td>Steph Woolley &amp; Freckleton Matador</td>
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<td>Jodie Powell &amp; Bleanagloos Black Diamond</td>
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<td>Tina Price &amp; Buzz-B</td>
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<td>Anne Price &amp; Half A Guinness</td>
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JUNIOR

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

FINAL MERCIAN LEAGUE 2017

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<td>BROMSGROVE RC</td>
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I don’t know about you, but how hard is it to keep up the enthusiasm for riding at this time of year! Don’t get me wrong, I still love it and love the time I spend at the yard, but there comes a point. When the ice is forming on the outdoor school or you can hear the traffic on the road swishing through standing water, when the bridleways seem to have turned to bogs and ‘grooming’ for a hack is more like scraping the mud flat that actually trying to remove it...this is when it’s hard to remember what all the fun is about. After speaking to a few members, I know it’s not me.

So hopefully MHRC can step in, with a couple of months of fun and frolics! December sees another horseless clinic, Xmas Interdressage and of course, our fun Rally at the very end of 2017. Then into January with some training to get you ready for the new season (details soon!), more Interdressage and our AGM. It’s time to dust of those winter blues and embrace the season 😊

until next time, Caroline
On 23rd November, it was the Area 18 AGM and MHRC sent along some representatives. It was a lovely evening, with an amazing carvery and a choice of scrumptious puddings to start off the night.

The Area Chairman, Noel, then ran through some of the highlights of the year. The Area has done amazingly well at National level, with team places for Worcester RC, Croptorne and Evesham Vale RC, Evenside RC, Cheltenham RC and Bewdley Bridle Club, not forgetting our own contributions to the list.

There was a fiendish quiz, which was won by Cheltenham RC, and also some serious stuff, with discussions about next year’s qualifiers and some of the changes that BRC are looking to implement. The individual winners of the 2017 Horse Trials qualifier were also awarded their trophies, with Caroline excepting the Senior 90 trophy on behalf of Victoria Gregg.

Look out for the Area Newsletter for a full report.

MHRC REVIEW OF THE YEAR
2017

HAVE YOU WON A CHAMPIONSHIP OR BEEN PLACED AT A MAJOR EVENT THIS YEAR?

HAVE YOU COMPETED FOR THE FIRST TIME OR STEPPED UP A LEVEL IN YOUR CHOSEN SPORT?

HAVE YOU GOT MARRIED, HAD A BABBIE, MOVED HOUSE OR JUST CHANGED YOUR WORLD IN SOME WAY?

It’s not long now until the end of the year, and with that comes the Mega MHRC review. And we’d love to hear what 2017 has meant to you. We all have lives outside the club (well, some do!), and this is your chance to share with the members what you’ve been up to.

Check out last December’s newsletter (available on the website) to see 2016’s review.

If you’d like to be part of it this year, then please e-mail Caroline details and a photo, before 20th December 2017.
We had another lovely day filming the club entries for this month’s Interdressage competition. It was great to see some new faces having a go.

**Class: Walk and Trot O**
6th (Senior Restricted) = Jodie Powell and Monty

**Class: Walk, Trot and Canter**

Level B
6th (Senior) = Suzanne Lidbetter and Rosie
8th (Senior) = Suzanne Lidbetter and Midnight Express

**Class: BRC D2**
2nd (Senior Restricted) = Alex Riches and Mr Darcy
3rd (Senior Restricted) = Sara Stephenson and Lliedi Susan
4th (Senior Restricted) = Lisa Drinkwater and Franks Grey
4th (Senior Restricted) = Camilla Esling and Murphy
1st (Junior Restricted) = Ethan Knott and Pennal Zedan

**Class: Intermediate Test 5**
6th (Senior) = Lisa Drinkwater and Franks Grey
1st (Junior) = Amber Knott and Pennal Zedan

**Class: Intermediate Plus B**
2nd = Steph Woolley and Freckleton Matador

**Class: Breed of The World: Part-Bred**
1st = (In-hand) Oliver Hooper and Pinto

1st = (Ridden) Oliver Hooper and Pinto

**Class: Living Out 24/7**
1st = (In-hand) Oliver Hooper and Pinto
1st = (Ridden) Oliver Hooper and Pinto

The next club filming days is on 17th December for Dressage classes and on 30th December for the Hobby Horse Charity Dressage class. Interdressage also have a Fancy Dress class, so if you are entering the Fancy Dress class at our Xmas rally, and would like to double up and enter the same costume in the Interdressage class, speak to Caroline on the day.

---

**HORSELESS CLINIC**

**RIDER BIOMECHANICS**

With Ali Lane

Biomechanics Coach, Equiplates
Instructor and UKCC Dressage Coach

DATE: 14th December 2017    TIME: 7:45pm prompt start (arrive from 7)

VENUE: Castlemorton Village Hall, WR13 6BE

COST: £5 per person, refreshments provided
Non-members welcome.
Please make sure you pay on the night.
WHAT’S COMING UP NEXT?

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

December 2017

14th - 'Rider Biomechanics', Horseless Clinic, Castlemorton Village Hall
17th - MHRC Interdressage Filming Day, Hillview Arena, Malvern
30th - MHRC Xmas Fun Rally, Hillview Arena, Malvern

January 2018

11th - Biomechanics Workshop, Welland Village Hall
19th - MHRC AGM, Welland Village Hall
25th - Biomechanics Workshop, Welland Village Hall

March 2018

4th - Area 18 Intermediate Dressage Qualifier, Summerhouse Equestrian Centre, Gloucester
10th - Area 18 Winter Jumping Qualifier, Linc- comb Equestrian Centre, Worcestershire.

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December 2017

14th - 'Rider Biomechanics', Horseless Clinic, Castlemorton Village Hall
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4th - Area 18 Intermediate Dressage Qualifier, Summerhouse Equestrian Centre, Gloucester
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NO LEAGUE UPDATES THIS MONTH - THE FINAL WINNERS WILL BE ANNOUNCED AT THE AGM ON 19th JANUARY

PLEASE NOTE
Pepper Pot Points earned at the XMAS RALLY and DECEMBER INTERDRES- SAGE will be transferred to the 2018 league. This is to ensure that we have time to order and receive the rosettes in time for the AGM.

INTERDRESSAGE LEAGUES

INTERDRESSAGE BRC LEAGUE (October 2017)
1st Malvern Hills Riding Club (UK) 170
2nd Cherwell Valley (UK) 133
3rd Crown (UK) 48

INTERDRESSAGE WINTER LEAGUE (October 2017)
1st Malvern Hills Riding Club (UK) 155
2nd Cherwell Valley (UK) 128
3rd Summerwood (USA) 123
4th Crown (UK) 47

For Full leagues, check out our website
So, as I write this, the festivities are over for another year, the decorations have been taken down and it’s time to renew that subscription to Weight Watchers! The winter can always be a bit of a downer when you have ponies, but I personally find this bit the hardest. Once the Christmas tree has been stowed away in the loft, the balmy days of summer seem even further away.

But for me, it’s not necessarily the atrocious weather, the constant mucking out of stables or even the idiocy of horses lacking exercise yet on a haylage diet that gets me down. It’s the constant changing of clothes! Gone are those sweet days of grabbing a T-shirt and joddies … half a minute later you’re out the door. Now it’s a twenty minute layering of thermal base-layers, fleece, knee-length socks and those all important top to toe waterproofs. And that’s a least twice a day, one of which takes place at work and causes untold hilarity from my colleagues when I emerge looking like a cross between the Michelin man and an advert for Benetton (’cos no way are any of those clothes gonna match!).

And of course, only us horsey girls know why we suddenly start wearing dark coloured nail varnish at this time of the year. As a friend said, it’s either that or a ‘Country’ Manicure, which is opposite to a French one in that it has wide, black tips to every nail!

Roll on the Summer 😊

until next time, Caroline
It was off to Castlemorton Village Hall for a session on rider position and balance with Ali Lane. The evening started with a discussion about the three ‘boxes’ - the head box, chest box and pelvis box - all of which have to be stacked neatly on top of one another in order to achieve an effective riding position. Ali showed us some simple exercises to help determine whether each ‘box’ was centred correctly, which caused much hilarity as different parts of the body were thrust, pushed, pulled and twisted! Then we were asked to assess our four brave demo riders and discuss any issues they seemed to have. This was hugely interesting and came up with some surprises. Ali then worked on each rider, tweaking the angle of the body or asking the rider to move slightly - although in some cases more major changes were asked for using squishy balls. As most of the changes were quite subtle, it was surprising how much of difference it caused. The evening then broke up into smaller groups, with Ali available to address certain issues or answer query, while everyone enjoyed some mince pies, cake and mulled wine.

We have arranged for some more one-to-one sessions with Ali on 11th and 25th January. If you would like to take part, please contact Caroline to book a slot. More info on the website.

Well done to everyone who took part in December’s Interdressage competition. It was a rather wet and windy one at the club filming day, but everyone persevered to get some great tests in the can. And it was the chestnuts who triumphed, with Murphy and Tom bringing home the red rosettes for Camilla, Tina and Katy.

**The Bouncing Baubles Walk and Trot P**
3rd (Senior Restricted) Linda Medcalf and Midnight Express
8th (Junior Restricted) Amber Knott and Average at Best
1st (Senior Intermediate) Katy Spicer and Tom Thumb

**The Frosty the Snowman Walk, Trot and Canter C**
3rd (Senior) Suzanne Lidbetter and Rosie
3rd (Junior) Ethan Knott and Pennal Zedan

**The Christmas Carol BRC D3**
1st (Senior Restricted) Camilla Esling and Murphy
4th (Senior Restricted) Alex Riches and Mr Darcy
5th (Senior Restricted) Lisa Drinkwater and Franks Grey
1st (Senior Open) Tina Price and Tom Thumb

**The Rudolf the Reindeer Pairs**
2nd = (Senior) Suzanne Lidbetter and Rosie / Linda Medcalf and Midnight

We have dropped to 2nd place in the league, so if you’d like to help us get back on top, check out the January schedule, where there is Dressage, Show- ing, Jumping and even Handy Pony type classes. The club filming day is 21st January at Hillview, or you can film your own entry at home.
MHRC ended the year with a fun, informal Xmas rally at Hillview Arena on 30th December. Sadly, numbers of riders were lacking, but there were plenty of dogs and supporters. The bring and share lunch was a great success as usual, with a veritable banquet of goodies on offer.

It was also a day of huge laughs. The canine ‘free for all’ that ensued at the beginning of the dog show could have kept us entertained all day. As well as George Bowness’ ‘invisible dog’, which slipped its harness half way round the obstacle course and he didn’t notice. Oliver Hooper’s slight miscalculation in not holding on to Pinto’s reins at the fishing obstacle led to an impressive display of moves as he dodged around the arena, looked on by his very sympathetic Mum!

The day was good fun and it was great to catch up with members, whether they took part in the action in the arena or enjoyed the lovely food in the club house. Thank you to Sophie for letting us use her facilities, for Ann, Linda and Chris for helping in the classes and the canteen, and to Alison for judging the classes.

**Fancy Dress**
1st = Linda Medcalf and Midnight Express = ‘The Christmas Knight’
2nd = Suzanne Lidbetter and Rosie = ‘Masquerade Ball’

**Dog Show**
1st = Stef Bennett
2nd = Jodie Powell
3rd = Stef Bennett
4th = Ann Bates
5th = Emma Cooper

**Handy Pony**

**SENIORS**
1st = Suzanne Lidbetter and Rosie
2nd = Linda Medcalf and Midnight Express

**JUNIORS**
1st = William Hooper and Pinto
3rd = Oliver Hooper and Pinto
4th = Maddie and Unicorn Luke

**DOG HANDLERS**
1st = Stef Bennett
2nd = Will Hooper
3rd = Oliver Hooper
4th = Anna Robson
5th = Sophie Bowness
6th = George and Henry Bowness
2017 has been an amazing year - here is a few of my favourite highlights and pictures from the past 12 months.


March = Tina Price and Tom Thumb win the Novice 34 Intermediate Winter Dressage Qualifier at Kings Equestrian.

April = BRC NOVICE WINTER CHAMPIONSHIPS. MHRC was represented by Laura Bennett and Lematon Sunshine Sadie, who ended up in 3rd place. = Our Junior Combined Training Team won the Area Qualifier, as does Stef Bennett in the Senior Individual Prelim section. = BRC INTERMEDIATE WINTER CHAMPIONSHIPS. MHRC was represented by Tina Price and Tom Thumb in the Senior Dressage, and by Amber Knott, Esme Ruff and Sacha Willis in the Junior Jumping. = MHRC were 2nd place in the Interdressage BRC League and their Winter Team League.

May = BIG WEEKEND a game of two halves, weather wise, with sunshine on Area Day and torrential rain on Show day. Our 70cm senior show jumping team and Junior Style team, both triumphed to win the area qualifiers, with individuals Sophie Hooper, Oliver Hooper and Amber Knott, also winning classes. On Sunday, we won the Mercian Showing with Sophie Hooper, Leanne Bennett, Anna Robson and Alex Harris. = BRC FESTIVAL OF THE HORSE CHAMPIONSHIP. We were represented by out Junior Combined Training Team of Amber and Ethan Knott, Esme Ruff and Sacha Willis, Stef Bennett in the Senior Combined Training and our Senior 90 Challenge team of Jodie Powell, Sue Peckham, Liz Wise and Tina Price. They were the stars of the day, coming 2nd overall and winning the ‘All Four Scores’ trophy. = A brilliant day at the Mercian Combined Training, with both our 2’3 and our 2’6 teams winning their classes.

July = Our Juniors (Sophie Bowness, Ethan Knott, Amber Knott and Oliver Hooper) once again triumphed at the Area Dressage qualifier, as did our Pairs team of Liz Whitehead and Jane Downham. = MHRC were runners up in the Malvern Hills District Council ‘Club of the Year’ Award, as was Lin Harber in ‘Unsung Hero of the Year’ Award. = Our Senior 90cm team won at the Area Horse Trials and Victoria Gregg was the overall individual winner of the same class. = Steph Woolley triumphed at the Dressage to Music qualifier, winning the Novice section and only just missing out on the Elementary qualification too.

August = BRC HORSE TRIALS CHAMPIONSHIPS. MHRC was represented by Laura Bennett and Sunnise Sadie in the 100+ class, and Victoria Gregg and Rock Supreme in the Senior 90. = Our new format Eventer Challenge was a great success and our new cross-country jumps looked great. = REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS = Another great day, represented by a huge number of members. Stef Bennett won the Style Jumping and our Style team were 2nd.

September = The club had a fantastic BRC NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS - our 70cm team of Julie Jeffes, Sara Stephenson, Lydia Burrows and Sara Bowness were crowned national champions and Steph Woolley won the Novice Riding Test. = Our 80cm team of Sophie Hooper, Wendy Grimsby, Jo Jeynes and Abigail Hardy triumphed at the Mercian Hunter Trials.

October = Steph Woolley is crowned National Novice Champion at the BRC Dressage to Music Championships = MHRC are crowned Mercian Champions for the third year running.
THE TEAMQUEST NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS 2017
Pershore Plum Team - Guinness’ View!

Hey up! I thought - now here she comes
A-tramping cross my field,
She thinks I’m a saft, all smiling sweet
The headcollar concealed!

But mints on offer always work
I wondered what today?
Not posed or primped or plaited
Simply loaded and away!

Some two and a half hours later
We’d gone from door to door -
When I got out I recognised
Um - I’d been here before

Stables - straw to eat - Oh yum
No no - don’t spray the Jeyes - Oh mum!
Now you’ve spoilt the taste - okay
I’ll have to stick to boring hay 😈

Lots of mates spilled near
Good view too of everything here -
A pick of grass and stretch my legs
All felt fine so off to bed!

At breakfast time - I drooped her off
More grass - I had a good ole scoff!
Then all the poncing/planting stats
Made me feel a right ole tart!

Into the “school” with all the rest
Trotting round - must look my best!
Then I did “A SMOKEY” Test (69.36% !!!)
Pointed toes and puffed out chest 😎

Phew that’s over - minty time
Makes it all worthwhile divine?
Back to my shed for just a while
But yet more grass restored my smile!

Then overnight, while warm and snuggly
The “shed-sum-prison” got to me!
I frog-marched her for early grass
Imprisoned once again - NO LAUGH!

By time the saddle had appeared
Steam was comin’ out me ears!
I’ll teach her to imprison me
Another test - REVENGE -you’ll see!

Indoors eh! - OK -watch this
I had a little “practise fit”
But saved the real thing for the Judge
Oh boy I savoured up my grudge!

Stuck my ears right up her nose
Trotted round in huntin’ mode
Shouted loudly to me mates
Dreaming up some varied “fates”!

Bell rang- Demon shining through
Eyes a flashin’ - Bend -Woo Hoo!
Trot-walk-trot - not on your life
Motorbiking - head up high 😜

Then it happened - prod with spur
RIGHT - YOU’RE OFF! I did concur -
But blinkey blimey broncho style
Ole thing sat tight with teeth clenched smile!!

I gave up and charged onward bound
OK - I’ll simply tow her round
My legs have rarely gone so fast
The centre line came up at last!

Halt - I did - with head held HIGH!
Well that’s that done - Oh my Oh my
You should have seen spectators’ faces
Rather stunned - made me elated!

Think our “team” were quite surprised
Such antics from the “cobby guy”!
My halo from the day before
Was well and truly on the floor. (Ha!)

So back to prison for a while
Mum hadn’t even lost her smile -
No-one believes that I can be
A Stinkpot Monster Chops - Heee Heee!

So seems we’d finished- was I glad
Spose I’d been a naughty lad!
No prizes for this Pershore Plum
lucky not to get smacked bum!

We journeyed home - made not a sound
(Well, thought I ought redeem my crown!)!
Ah bliss - my paddock - free at last
An acre filled with lots of grass!

So finally I think I’d say
After three adventurous days
The Teamquest National Champs with MOM
Had been “Guinnessed” with APLOMB! 😍

The Teamquest National Champs with mum
Was “Guinnessed” by a Pershore Plum! 😍

Addendum:
It seems we won a special prize
She couldn’t quite believe her eyes!
Highest veteran rider score
(Praps not so “naughty” after all 😊)
And PS. She has forgiven me ….. of course!

2017 was a great riding club year for Buster and I - we qualified for championships in combined training, show jumping and style jumping, and were thrilled to win the style individually and get team 2nd. 2018 is likely to be a lot quieter for us (there’s a new jockey on the way!), but I will be volunteering as a helper as often as possible to give something back to such a great club. Here’s to 2018!

- Stef Bennett
WHAT’S COMING UP NEXT?

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11th - Biomechanics Workshop, Welland Village Hall
19th - MHRC AGM, Welland Village Hall
21st - Interdressage Filming Day, Hillview Arena, Malvern
25th - Biomechanics Workshop, Welland Village Hall

February 2018
18th - Interdressage Filming Day, Hillview Arena, Malvern

March 2018
4th - Area 18 Intermediate Dressage Qualifier, Summerhouse Equestrian Centre, Gloucester
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INTERDRESSAGE LEAGUES

BRC League (with December points added)

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Winter League (with December points added)
For Full leagues, check out our website

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