



WORCESTER & DISTRICT Riding Club



From the Chairman

Welcome to the inaugural edition of our soon to be quarterly newsletter. We hope you will enjoy reading about how our members are getting on as they embark upon their various different journeys with their 4 legged friends.

In Worcester and District Riding Club we are fortunate to have an eclectic mix of members from happy hackers to international riders of Dressage and Eventing honours to local level competitors who enjoy nothing more than riding their horses and the camaraderie of being in a team with like-minded individuals (oh and the wonderful cake that Gill and Nicki provide of course!) The committee would like to ensure that each and every one of you gets a chance to have your say in how the club operates and you are the best people to tell us if we could be doing something better or if you would like to see different events happening. The committee works very hard behind the scenes to organise the club and the various events but we rely on the direction of our members to guide us. Please do get in touch with any of the committee members if you have any new ideas you would like considering and we'd be happy to chat to you and the committee about them.

Finally, if you have any horse-related stories that you think our members would like to hear about in future editions of the newsletter please do get in touch and email your ideas to **Becky Edwards - briggs_rebecca@sky.com**



Joyce

Competition update

The Mercian calendar kicked off this year with Arena Eventing held at Cleeve Prior. We had a really good turn out sending 3 teams. The course was superb and everyone had a fab time. Worcester Wrens team were placed 3rd, Jodie Aston Rouse was individual 3rd.



Jodie Aston Rouse on Hope at the Arena Eventing

The second event was the Showing at Malvern, here we entered two teams with one team being place 6th and individual placings going to Nicki Mundy 1st Coloured class, Laura Bennett 6th Working Hunter and Leanne Bennett 6th Veteran. The competition was very strong and our members were all turned out impeccably, as this picture of Heidi Ugarte and Puzzle King demonstrates - look how shiny white he is...Wow!



Following this was the Dressage to Music. Unfortunately we were unable to make a team of three so Nicki Mundy and Laura Bennett

entered as individuals, both coming 2nd in their respective classes.



Laura Bennett and Nicki Mundy at the Mercian Dressage to Music.

The next two events were Style and Show Jumping on the 5th July, one team was entered in both the style and show jump for 70cm and 2 teams for the style and show jump for 75cm. Report to follow next newsletter!

The next event will be Dressage held at Gumburn Farm, Sinton Green on 19th July and the schedule has been emailed out for this.

It's been a fantastic year so far for the Area teams as well this season. Jess Viney won her section and qualified as an individual for the Intermediate Dressage Championships. Two teams qualified for the Combined Training Championships with Vicki Hancox picking up a 2nd and Joyce Brown a 9th in their respective sections at the championships.

Show jumping was a particular success with both the Intermediate and Open teams qualifying for the National Championships along with the Style team, and the Novice team placed 3rd. There were numerous individual placings including Beth Evans individual 3rd, Vicki Hancox individual 5th and Karen Richardson individual 6th in the intermediate. Vicki Hancox was individually 2nd, Beth Evans individual 6th and Meg Pountney individual 4th in the Open. In the Style Jumping Vicki won the 85cm section and Leanne Bennett came 6th in the 75cm section.



Intermediate SJ Team -Karen Richardson, Beth Evans, Vicki Hancox, Mandy Owen.

In the Dressage competition, although none of our teams won, several horses won their sections and have qualified to compete at Lincoln. The prelim teams were placed - just awaiting confirmation of results from Area 18!

The Area Horse Trials and Dressage to Music report will appear in the next newsletter!

A BIG thank you to all those members who have competed in teams and the supporters who have helped to contribute to our successful year in both the Mercian and Area competitions. If you are interested in competing in either Area or Mercian competitions please do get in touch with **Karen Richardson (Area)** karen.richardson@orange.net or **Nicki Mundy (Mercian)** nicki.mundy1@btinternet.com

Training

Club members have enjoyed some excellent, subsidised training sessions over the past couple of months. It can be so hard to please all members when it comes to dates and times but please do let us know what would suit you best and if there is any discipline or instructor you would particularly like to see offering training and we will do our best. Arron Stevenson is responsible for training so please make contact with her in the first instance.- arronstevenson@yahoo.com

Mission France 2015

Working on what has been an incredibly short timeframe, the team themselves are doing a fantastic job of fundraising and our

half of the team (Beth and Vicki) have already achieved funds over £2000 towards their target of £4000 which is brilliant. From canoe trips down the river Wye to training sessions at Dodderhill, a lot of hard work is going on behind the scenes to ensure the riders have every chance of meeting their £4000 half share of the overall £8000 total needed. Many local companies have also got involved to offer their support in the form of raffle prizes and team kit. John Whittaker (Midlands) deserve a special mention as they have been kind enough to kit out one rider from head to toe and have given all 4 team members Union Jack fringes for the horses. As you are aware the committee has agreed that the riding club will make a donation of up to £1000 if required to get them there but at this rate it looks like this offer could well be redundant!

Fundraising continues in earnest with the much-anticipated Race night on the horizon on the 18th July. Tickets are £10 for adults and £6 for children under 12, and include supper and your race card. We are running our own bar so the drinks will be cheap too! There is also a superb raffle being drawn that evening with some amazing prizes which include a day at the races, a tour of the Morgan factory and countless others to suit all tastes! You can buy tickets from either Vicki Hancox, Beth Evans or Alison Harris and there are so many prizes there must be one with your name on it!!



Watch out for more fundraising events when the riders return!

Equine Touch

Recently I attended a 3 day course learning the art of Equine Touch. A useful complementary therapy working with gentle movements over the horse's muscles to

encourage relaxation and self healing. It was an enlightening experience and one that I would recommend for all horse owners. Emma Knowles was our instructor and the course ran at Dodderhill Equestrian which provided a super location with lots of willing horses on which we could practise our new found skills!



If you'd like to know more please do contact Emma directly or have a look at the Equine Touch Website - <http://uk.theequinetouch.com/>
Emma Knowles - Equine Touch instructor and practitioner 07921 258752

Becky Edwards

Where your money is being spent

As some of you may be aware, the club has purchased 2 pairs of show jumping fillers and safety jump cups and strips to complement our show jumps set. A third is being sponsored by chartered veterinary physiotherapist Charlotte Harris - thank you Charlotte!

Training has been subsidised at Lincomb and Dodderhill with the riding club paying the venue hire. Where training has been opened up to non-members the cost they pay is actual cost and members have been subsidised up to £7 for a standard SJ lesson for example. We hope you'll agree that this represents a good saving overall. Payment prior to the lesson secures your place and this seems to be working well with fewer people making cancellations last minute, which of course costs the club directly.

Area pre-entries remain very high at a cost of anything between £28 per team for the Dressage to £50 per team for Eventing. This is a charge payable directly to BRC and is applied to all area competitions in order to fund the various Championships. WDRC members who compete at Area competitions are fortunate to have their pre-entries paid for them. The cost of the competitions still remains high - this money goes to the Riding Club organising the competition (eg £15 per show jumping class at the recent qualifier) and those competing meet this cost. We hope you will agree that without the club paying these pre entries the cost of entering Area competitions would put many off competing altogether!

All Area competitions are open to **all members** (who re not over-qualified) and with jumping starting at just 75cm, and Prelim dressage tests they really are not just for those competing at an already high level. If you enjoy being part of a team and fancy some more competitions then please do get in touch with Karen Richardson via Facebook or email - karen.richardson@orange.net

Finally.... Some good news for Mercian competitors! Due to a recent suggestion and our healthy bank balance the committee has agreed that for every 3 entries at Mercian level the club will pay for your 4th entry fee. So don't be shy your club needs you!

Find us on Facebook...



Caption competition



Can you think of a witty caption for this photo of Evelyn Edwards deep in conversation with Amber? Email your captions to briggs_rebecca@sky.com for a chance to win some RC clothing!

For our next newsletter...

If you have anything horsey you'd like us to include in the newsletter please email Becky Edwards - briggs_rebecca@sky.com . You can also send her your funny photos for our next caption competition if you have any!



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