

Cambridge and District Riding Club

Articles of
special
interest:

- Ringstead holiday
- Race night
- Area 7 qualifier reports
- Windsor report
- Treasurer needed!

Ramblings from the chair...

Lincoln Championships, here we come again!

It has occurred to me that this is the first time I have actually ridden in all three disciplines of summer qualifiers in the same year. Having established that I was free for Lincoln, I went to the dressage determined to qualify. However my horse had other ideas. Probably not unrelated to recent turnout onto new grass, she took one look at Wittering's elegant flower pots, put her head in the air and produced an appalling test. Oh well, there went that idea ... However two weeks later, with no expectation, we saddled up for the show jumping, and our style team took the red rosettes. So we are aiming for Lincoln after all, along with the show jumpers, the riding test team and lots of juniors. I am very excited about this!

Read on inside this newsletter for full reports of all these events and more.

The Area 7 show jumping qualifier worked well at Cottenham racecourse. Matthew Gingell was a highly helpful host, the rain in the week prior to the show ensured excellent ground conditions for July, and we had the space for three big rings and a large warm up area. Huge entries meant a full day of jumping over all three rings, and lots of fences to bring, assemble, and take away again! Many thanks to the gangs of volunteers who helped us to do this; we couldn't run these events without you. We were very envious of the lovely Jump 4 Joy course that Littleport Pony Club kindly loaned to us for the senior ring. We should have made a good profit on the day. I suggest we discuss how to spend it at the AGM, but some new plastic jumps may be top of our list. Please come along to the AGM in November and bring your ideas!

Congratulations to Cindy Wells and Cornelius Fudge who represented Cambridge at Windsor Horse Show in the Riding Test. They made the final round and finished third overall in the championship.

Also congratulations to Debs Wade and Mary Williams who beat strong competition to win the Level 1 BHS Trec pairs at Forest Edge recently.

Best wishes go to the junior eventing team and Harriet Morris who are heading to Offchurch in August. Good luck and enjoy.

Have a good summer. Hope to see many of you at the Race Night.

Karen

AREA 7 QUALIFIERS

Area Horse Trials Qualifier, Keysoe, 17th May

Senior report by Karen Froud

My spring campaign had been geared towards the RC area qualifier where I was planning to run in the senior intermediate class. As a final warm up run I rode at the BE event at Keysoe the week before in the BE90 class (previously called Intro). I enjoyed my ride over a course that was not complex, but solid and up to height. Simon Bates, our host, had kindly agreed that in order not to breach the RC rules of no practicing over the course for 3 weeks in advance of the qualifier, no fence would be reproduced from the BE90 in the RC intermediate class, and similarly for the pre-novice with respect to the RC open.

Imagine our surprise on Saturday 16th when we discovered that the 85cm RC novice course was exactly that of the BE90! It was not quite what our smaller, less scopey and more novice competitors had bargained for ... Well the CDRC team went into overdrive. I can honestly say my phone was red hot all Saturday afternoon and evening. Eventually, after talking to various other clubs team managers, the area rep Rosemary, and even Roy Turner, head of BRC competitions, we managed to get two fences reduced in height, but it was still going to take some riding.

On the day we had a great competition. Generally people rose to the challenge, including our junior on a 12.2hh pony who showed us how to do it with a clear round. The juniors were spectacular with the teams finishing 1st, 2nd and 3rd, and Georgie Morris winning individually. The seniors showed more erratic form but the Morris family pulled off a family double when Harriet won the senior open. Another individual placing went to Jo Lawrence, 5th in the intermediate class. I myself was delighted to ride round the intermediate course, although I did not trouble the winners.

However, on the grounds that we did not believe that a course could be both 90cm for BE and 85cm for BRC within the space of a week, a letter was sent to Stoneleigh regarding our concerns. The competitions committee have taken this matter on board and promise greater clarification for 2010. So watch this space.

Meanwhile CDRC prepare for the championships at Offchurch. The juniors will run on Friday Aug 7th, and the senior open 3DE will be 7th to 9th. Do come along to cheer on our riders. If you want to join a support crew, contact Sharron Dyke.

The senior teams were as follows:

Novice:

Jo Lawrence, Barry Meningen, Daniel Peacock & Rosie Groombridge;
Sonia Hansen, Barry Meningen, Anna Cook & Coco Chambers;

Intermediate:

Jo Lawrence, Suzy Baker, Hetty Sclater & Karen Froud;

C&DRCs next social event will be a race night which is booked for October

Open individual: Harriet Morris.

Junior report by Sharron Dyke

CDRC sent three junior teams to Keysoe on May 17th

As many of our team members went over to Keysoe on the Saturday afternoon to walk the cross country course for the junior open competition, we were alarmed to find that the course was the exact same as the BE Intro from the previous week. Under BRC rules, the fences should be a maximum of 85cm, except for "some" at 90cm. Having walked and measured the course, it was decided to lodge an official complaint with the Area 7 representative.

The complaint was upheld, and fence 4 was narrowed and the huge brush fence had a smaller alternative placed next to it.

The day of the competition dawned, and many of us were up at 5am to get to Keysoe early, as teams had to be declared by 7.30am for an 8.00 start.

The weather was not as bad as predicted, and the ground conditions were very good. The dressage was on grass, but the show jumping was on the all weather arena, and caused few problems for most people.

The Cambridge teams put in a really good effort, and it was good to see riders helping each other out. At the end of the competition we were in a very strong position, with all three teams having three riders clear cross country.

Sadly, having finished the class in good spirits at 2pm, the day was somewhat ruined by the fact that at 7.30pm we still had no final results, and no rosettes!

It was confirmed on the Monday that in fact CDRC had finished in 1st, 2nd and 3rd places, and have therefore qualified for the national championships at Offchurch Bury in August. Congratulations to all three teams for an excellent result.

1st: Georgie Morris- Ripple Onyx, Emily Dickson – Sir Ropourt, Rachel Dyke – Biscuit, and Niki Hopkin – Kayleigh.

2nd: Chloe Mills – Ladies First, Rachel Dyke – Oops a Daisy, Holly Jukes – Rekon, and Alice Ward – Deanna.

3rd: Sophie Howse – Wickford Cariad, Lauren Howse – Blue Oasis, Rebecca Page – Just Juno and Emily Procter – Stylo.

Pictures from the area 7 show jumping qualifiers are now available on the website:
Jnaphotography.com

Area Dressage qualifier, wittering academy 28th June

Senior report by Rebecca Seymour

The dressage qualifiers were held at Grange Farm Wittering on the 28th June 2009. It was a glorious day, if a little hot for the three junior and five senior teams competing for a place at the championships held at Lincoln Showground later in the year. In addition to the dressage teams two senior riding test teams were entered to compete for a place at the finals.

The music qualifiers were also held the same day and Cambridge had individuals competing in these qualifiers, as well as a pair in the Pairs to Music class.

Cambridge Selwyn consisting of Kerry Simpson, Siobhan Pryke, Barry Meningen and Jo Lawrence won the Senior Novice and have qualified for Lincoln.

The Cambridge Jesus team of Shirley Swanson, Eleanor Taylor, Barry Meningen and Polly Taylor in the Novice open section came 4th with Barry Meningen winning his Novice 30 section and therefore qualifying as an individual. Other Cambridge senior Novice teams came 10th and 14th.

Cambridge St Johns Riding Test team came 2nd and may have qualified for Lincoln (depending on numbers) This team was made up of Eleanor Taylor, Claire Elbrow, Rebecca Jarvis and Anna Cook. Our other Riding Test team came 6th.

Junior report by Sharron Dyke

Cambridge riding club sent 3 junior teams to the area 7 dressage qualifier.

All of our riders performed to high standards, though the marks which were awarded, were lower than what was expected for the tests performed.

Cambridge Queens finished 4th overall, Cambridge Trinity were 7th and Cambridge Kings were 9th. Congratulations to Rosie Peck, who finished a very creditable 2nd place individually, and has also qualified for the national championships held at Lincoln in September. And also to Charlotte Horne and Rachel Dyke who finished joint 6th individually.

Junior Showjumping report by Sharron Dyke

Cambridge riding club were playing host to the area 7 show jumping qualifier on Sunday 12th July at Cottenham Racecourse.

The number of entries to this qualifier exceeded all expectations, which made quite a long day for all of the competitors; the junior classes had a total of 26 teams and several individual entries.

The first event of the day was the Junior Novice Style Jumping, with 10 teams vying for the two qualifying places.

After the second round of the competition there was only four teams on a zero score, three of which were Cambridge teams. An exciting jump off followed, and Cambridge clinched the three top places along with the individual winner!

The afternoon saw the Junior Style jumping and the Junior open start at roughly the same times, which unfortunately led to some hold ups at the ring side.

Area 7 now has a new website!!

Visit:

www.area7brc.com

However, most competitors remained good humoured about this and enjoyed the remainder of the classes.

The style jumping class had 8 teams go forward two of which were from Cambridge; Cambridge continued their winning streak by not only winning the team qualifier but the individual also.

The open Showjumping also saw 8 teams going forwards to battle for the two qualifying places. After the second round there were just two teams left on a zero score these were; Huntingdon and Cambridge. A close jump off followed, which resulted in Cambridge winning their thier class of the day, and also fielding the individual winner.

Congratulations to all of the juniors for their achievements at this event and good luck to the following riders at the National championships held at Lincoln in September:

Junior Novice winner's

Harvey Roberts –Tinker
Todd Roberts – Tamarind
Rachel Dyke – Mirror Man
Sam Bennett – Toblerone

Junior novice 2nd place

Sophie Howse – Wickford Caraid
Emily Proctor – Stylo
Rebecca Page – Just Juno
Rachel Dyke – Oops-a-daisy

Junior style jumping

Georgie Morris – Ripple Onyx
Megan hart – Dallas
Emily proctor – Stylo
Rachel Dyke – Oops-a-daisy

Junior open jumping

Georgie Morris - Ripple Onyx
Alice Ellison – Rubie
Megan Hart – Hacker Jack
Tabitha Love – Dottie

Novice individual – Harvey Roberts – Tinker

Style individual – Rebecca Page – Just Juno

Open individual – Megan Hart – Hacker Jack

CDRC AGM - Friday November 13th

To be held at Rampton Village Hall at 7.30pm.

- Let your views be heard!
- What do you feel about the diary and newsletters?
- Is summer training worthwhile or should we break through July and August?
- Could you offer a role on the committee, organising a topic you enjoy?
- DVDs of CDRC rider activities
- Bring a plate of food and join in the party
- Catch up on the gossip of course!!

The Newsletter, The Diary, and The Internet: Are they working for you?

As from the AGM last October it was agreed that the newsletters would be published on the club website, with an email reminder sent to all when a new one was posted; and the diary would be updated for the first of each month. It was felt that this would keep everything more current, and reduce paper use and postage costs. Anyone unable to access the website could opt to receive a paper copy as before, but the diary would only be sent out with the newsletters.

We are hearing mixed reports of the success of this system and I am not convinced how many do actually read their newsletters now. We plan to have a review of this system at the 2009 AGM on November 13th. Please come along to give your views. Feel free to email me before this date as well. We can only modify things if we get feedback. Meanwhile a reminder will be sent out each month as the diary is updated.

CDRC Jumping Field

We have two good courses of jumps belonging to the club, and it would be great if we could find/ rent a field where they could be laid out for the summer to use for schooling, training and mini shows. If you have any ideas contact Judi Shaw.

BRC Autumn Event

This year, instead of the annual conference, British Riding Clubs is holding an Autumn Event with lectures and demos at Hartpury on November 16th. More details will be available nearer the time, but if there is sufficient interest we can organise a group trip.

Wanted: CDRC Treasurer from Oct 2009 to Sept 2011 (or longer!)

Straightforward spreadsheets are already set up, but we need someone to plug in the numbers and produce annual accounts, as well as be responsible for banking and paying cheques to trainers, venues etc. Some free time and an interest in the RC is more important than specialist knowledge. If you can help, please contact Karen Froud or Rachel Keaveney.

A story of Castles, Tanks, Hovercrafts and 5 minutes of fame with Mike Tucker

By Cindy Wells

Well OK there was only one castle, but it was Windsor! Back in February, I entered the Amtrust Equine Insurance Riding Test competition at Manor Farm. I was both surprised and pleased to be the highest placed CDRC member on the day, and went through to the next round, in which we were placed 2nd. Imagine my surprise when a few months later I got a phone call saying that we had qualified for the Finals at Windsor Horse Show. After a slight panic on my part I got a grip on myself and accepted the place ☺

On the day Mr Fudge proved that he is a true all-rounder and took the atmosphere of Windsor in his stride, in fact he got quite bored by all the waiting around in the drizzle, although we were quite amused by all the attention his feathers created! When we finally got into the arena he had one good look at the crowd, the marquees and the advertising boards, and then concentrated on his job. I was very pleased with the test I rode, but didn't think for one moment that it would be good enough for a placing out of a class of 23. I took Fudge back to the lorry, un-plaited him, gave him hay, made myself a cup of tea and relaxed ...



So it was quite a shock later on to discover that we were in 2nd place and were needed to ride again in the top three in the Castle Arena Championships. I ran all the way back to the lorry and dragged poor Fudge out again, thankfully a friend appeared to help tack up as I got myself ready. We trotted at high speed all the way across the lorry park (scattering some pedestrians on the way), and cantered up the horse walk as our warm up, as they were calling our number by this point! When we got into the big arena I saw our names on the big purple screens and heard Mike Tucker announcing "and now Dr Cindy Wells riding Cornelius Fudge", I thought this is it, my 5 minutes of fame, I've been announced by Mike Tucker!!

Whilst they worked out the scores, the Royal Military Tattoo arrived for their practice in the collecting ring, which involved marching soldiers, a band, a couple of tanks, a few other noisy military vehicles, and finally an enormous hovercraft! At this point Fudge lost his cool and bounced around amongst the other horses and ponies. I was very grateful when they called us back into the arena for the prize-giving as it was away from the tanks and the hovercraft!

We had our photograph taken many times, lots of people congratulated us, shook my hand and made a big fuss of Fudge (who had thankfully calmed down again), suffice it to say that we came 3rd in the Championship. The lap of honour got rather exciting as I overtook both the 2nd and 1st placed riders on the way out of the arena - yes the hovercraft had been started up again, it was chaos!

It was a long and fantastic day, but I loved every minute of it, and Fudge was a complete star.

C&DRC race night!

October (yes I know it seems a long way off right now) ... we'll be getting ever closer to the clocks changing, and feeling that a long winter is ahead of us ... What you need is an evening out with friends at the CDRC Race Night!

Who cares if your cob wouldn't win any races against a thoroughbred, or if you don't have a horse at all - here everyone has an equal chance of winning! Entry tickets are £10 and include a buffet dinner and your race card for the night. There will also be some fun competitions to enter, get designing your silly/fancy hat now!

There will be 8 thrilling races, and all bets will be £1 each. Bring your friends, even non-horsey ones should enjoy a fun night out!

Put it in your diary now - Friday October 16th 7.30pm at Rampton Village Hall. Tickets £10 per person, can be purchased from Sharon Macleod (01535 662098/07947118221) Please buy your tickets in advance so we can buy enough food for you, we wouldn't want you to starve on the night.

C&DRC HOLIDAY

Courtyard Farm, Ringstead, Norfolk

Saturday 24th – Thursday 29th October 2009 (5 nights)

Courtyard Farm is about three miles from Holme beach by the shortest route. The farm has numerous tracks and nearly all the field margins can be ridden on which gives tremendous scope for really good hacking, without road work, and also joins up with the Peddars Way. It is also easy to go across country cutting out most of the roads to get to the beach. It is ideal for young horses as they can be hacked around the farm without going on the roads at all. Most of the verges are wide and the drivers seem to be much better at slowing down for horses than in Cambridgeshire. Burnham Market cross country course is within half an hour if people want a schooling session or lesson.

There are eight stables and three fields available to us. The bunk barn has two dormitories that hold twelve people, as well as having a kitchen, communal room, showers and loos. Ringstead charges are the same as last year. The cost is £85 for five nights for one person with one horse. Dogs are being charged as an extra, at £1 per head per night. Dogs are welcome on the farm, but have to be kept on a lead/under control because of the game. They are allowed to run freely in the camping field but are not allowed in the barn. There are two kennels with runs near the stables or they can sleep in your tents, lorries etc.

It may also be possible to organise cross country training with Emily Lochore over Burnham Market cross country course if people are interested. Two years ago it cost £15 for a schooling session, or £20 for cross country hire with instruction (4 people per session).

If you would like to come - please send a **DEPOSIT of £45.00 by 1st SEPTEMBER 2009** to Cindy Wells (address as per contacts list, or you can email Cindy at c.wells@canddrc.org.uk)

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Booking form for CDRC Holiday October 24th to 29th 2009:

Name:		
I enclose my deposit for £45.00 for 24 th – 29th October 2009		
I require a stable for my horse	Yes / No	
I require a field for my horse	Yes / No	
I would like to sleep in the barn	Yes / No	
I will be sleeping in my horse box / tent	Using barn facilities	Yes / No
No		
I will be bringing a dog/ or dogs	Yes / No	Number:
I would like to go to Burnham Market - cross country schooling / cross country		

instruction