



# Cambridge and District Riding Club

Articles of  
special  
interest:

- Lincoln reports
- Race Night new date 1<sup>st</sup> Feb!
- AGM awards
- Blenheim report
- Ringstead holiday report
- Waresley training day

## Ramblings from the chair...

Happy New Year Everyone!

I hope your New Year Resolutions include booking up for some club activities, and especially coming to the Race Night on 1<sup>st</sup> February. Sadly this had to be postponed in the autumn, but we are hoping for a bumper turnout to a really fun evening this time around. For those who did not attend the AGM, the club again made a loss last year. This is obviously not sustainable, so in order to continue the present levels of activity, we need to ensure that the fundraisers are doing just that. In short if you want to benefit from the riding club, especially when it comes to team competitions and championships, you need to put something in at this stage ... so see you all there!

The committee contacts list will be in the post shortly, detailing who is in charge of what. Do keep hold of this, as it is the only hard copy you will receive. Do note that if you wish to have the newsletter sent to you in hardcopy, you need to inform Nettie Smith as you renew your membership.

I also hope to see you at the jump painting on Jan 20<sup>th</sup> in Earith - bring a paintbrush. Refreshments will be available.

*Karen*

## Blenheim Eventers Challenge

*By Rachel Dyke*

On Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> September Cambridge & District Riding Club sent a team of 4 riders to take part in the Eventers Challenge competition held at the prestigious Blenheim International Horse Trials in Oxfordshire.

Following various trials and tribulations in the run up to the event and two of the original team members having to withdraw their horses due to foot problems, we eventually managed to get a team together which consisted of Kerry Johnson on Go with the Flo, Rachel Dyke on Blue Orleans, Karin Newell on Ronaldio and Polly West riding Hokey Pokey, who was very kindly lent to her by Kerry at the last moment when her own horse pulled a shoe. Judi and Niki Shaw came along with us for moral support (and a good day out) This year the competition had a new format whereby 2 of each team's riders rode in the morning and 2 in the afternoon.

Our first two riders for Cambridge were Kerry and Polly. Kerry rode a fantastic fast clear round on Flo in a very impressive time and Polly did an amazing job on Toby (who she had never ridden before). Polly was very unlucky to just the last fence down, a set of wavy planks that were very close to the last cross country fence and just did not give you enough time to get your horse back.

Having watched our first two riders compete we had plenty of time to have some retail therapy and we set off to browse the dozens of fabulous stalls that were on offer.

Before long it was time to tack up Louis and warm up ready to compete. To my surprise as I got to the collecting ring I saw William Fox Pitt standing at the entrance being interviewed by a film crew. As I got to the entrance the film crew walked away a short distance leaving William standing alone. Being the cheeky person that I am, I asked William if I could have a photo taken with him. To my surprise not only did I get my photo taken, but William actually stood with me for about five minutes chatting about the course and the competition and how his dressage had gone.



After a short while I was joined by our other team member Karin Newell and we started our warm-up. This proved quite a challenge as someone in their wisdom had placed a little wooden statue of an 'owl' on the ground just behind the practise jump, so as you landed over the jump the horse was immediately confronted with the owl. Louis being the idiot that he can be used the owl as a good excuse to buck and shy every time he went over the fence.

Before long it was my turn to go and Louis redeemed himself after his antics in the collecting ring, and he went in and jumped a beautiful clear round.

Karin followed me in and also rode a good round, but just rolled a pole in the show jumping phase.

Our team finished on just 4 faults and we awaited the final result. When the results came out Cambridge were in 7<sup>th</sup> place out of 45 teams which was a fantastic result for us.

Thank you to Mary Groombridge for organising the team entry and to Kerry, Karin and Polly for being my team mates and Judi and Niki whose help and support was very much appreciated and lastly to Sharron (Mum) for driving me there.

## Lincoln BRC Championships September 2012

*By Sue Peck and Humphrey*

Humphrey and I arrived at the Lincoln show ground on the Friday afternoon before the senior day of competition on the Saturday (the juniors competed on the Sunday) and after having Humphrey's passport checked to clarify his flu vaccinations and get booked in, we had his stable allocated. The organisers had the Cambridge RC stables together which was great. Nikki Goldup's horse,



Wanda, was next to us which was even more brilliant as she can plait tails and kindly did Humphrey's (she also has a supply of sloe gin handy which is another bonus for those pre competition nerves). With Rachel Dyke's three horses that she was competing on in the junior section and Nicola Shaw's Earl Grey nearby too there was lots of friendly support and encouragement nearby.

After a night with lots of noise coming from the stables, lots of neighing and banging, we had an early start as our tests were between 9 and 10am. I was doing a Riding Test by default, having only come 2<sup>nd</sup> at the qualifiers, as Rachel Rennie was unable to go, so Humphrey and I took her place.

Unfortunately I managed to mess up the Riding Test by getting my bearings wrong and made a few more annoying mistakes!! Thankfully our Novice test went much better and I managed to remember where I should have been going and in the right order, which does help!

Later on, Serena Allery and I were doing our stint of helping in one of the show jumping arenas when some results were being announced. I heard them say 'Humphrey' and was just thinking that there must be another horse called Humphrey there, when it was followed by my name and that we were 6<sup>th</sup>! I was amazed and obviously pretty chuffed and



very proud of Humphrey as I had hoped but not expected to have been placed at the 'National Champs' with so many amazing competitors. This was mine and Humphreys first 'Lincoln' together and it was a great and fun weekend.

## Lincoln BRC Championships - Juniors

*By Sharron Dyke*

C&DRC junior members enjoyed success at the recent BRC National Championships. On Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> September we sent 3 junior show jumping teams and an individual dressage rider to the National Championships and all 3 teams were very successful.

The Junior Open Show Jumping team consisted of:

Will Anthony on Sewstern Briggs  
Emily Procter on Maybe its Maureen  
Sophie Howse on Hacker Jack  
Rachel Dyke on Boris Canello

Boris was very kindly lent to Rachel at the last minute by Debbie Nicholls from Ickleford Equestrian Centre. Despite having a few faults over the two rounds the team did extremely well to finish in 7<sup>th</sup> place overall.

The Junior Style Jumping team consisted of:

Ella Rogers riding Ruby Tuesday  
Rachel Dyke riding Dumbledore Cindy  
Emma Butler riding Ben  
Lizzie Stavroulakis riding Spot on Zig Zag

The ground conditions were not great in this ring, with very short grass and rock hard going but the horses coped very well and the team finished in 8<sup>th</sup> place, with Emma Butler taking 9<sup>th</sup> place as an individual.

The Junior Novice Show Jumping Team consisted of:

Rachel Dyke riding Waterside Bay  
Hettie Rogers riding Rhydycar Hollihock  
Ella Rogers riding Ruby Tuesday  
Lizzie Stavroulakis riding Spot on Zig Zag

The Novice show jumping ring was by far the worst of the whole show ground, with virtually no grass cover and rock hard ground, had it been any other competition I do not think any of the team would have wanted to jump on such ground. After the conclusion of the first round we were on a zero score, with Lizzie, Rachel and Ella all jumping lovely clear rounds.

We moved over to a different ring for the 2<sup>nd</sup> round of the competition and both Hettie and Rachel jumped beautiful clear rounds, whilst Ella and Lizzie were very unlucky to just roll a pole each. This put us on a final score of 4 faults and there were only two teams on a score of zero out of the 22 teams that started the class. Rachel had jumped a double clear and had qualified for the third round jump off. There were 24 riders through to the individual jump off and Rachel was drawn 13<sup>th</sup> to go (unlucky for some). She rode a really



lovely flowing round and managed to knock 2 seconds off the time. We then stood and watched the remaining 11 riders as one by one they tried to better the time. Luck was definitely on our side that day, and most of the remaining riders had fences down which meant that Rachel had won her 3<sup>rd</sup> National Championships Title in just 12 months!

When the results were given out Cambridge had been the fastest

of the 4 faulters and we were in 3<sup>rd</sup> place which was a fantastic result and meant that we got to do the mounted team presentation where the girls were handed some lovely rosettes and some vouchers from the sponsors NAF. Rachel collected a lovely silver salver, sash, rosette and voucher from NAF for her individual win.

Over in the dressage arena, Nuala Hemmington was also representing Cambridge in the Junior Dressage. Sadly we did not get to see Nuala's test as we were so busy going from one show jumping arena to the other. I believe that the test went well and that she was pleased with it, but on this occasion they were not placed.

Well done to all the Juniors. Thanks to all the parents and supporters for helping to make this yet another successful championships for Cambridge & District Riding Club.

Subscriptions were due on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2012, so please renew ASAP if you have not already done so!

## Show jumping dates

*By Judi Shaw*

JOHN ADAMS SJ TRAINING has been arranged for Thursdays 17<sup>th</sup> January, 14<sup>th</sup> February and 14<sup>th</sup> March 2013, all to be held at Houghton Hall EC, from 6-8pm, cost £25.

These clinics are mainly for those wanting to do the NISJ qualifying teams, 80-90cms. Team members will take priority but a waiting list will be held. Cheques made payable to Cambridge and District RC, must be sent to confirm places. Contact Judi Shaw at [j.shaw@canddrc.org.uk](mailto:j.shaw@canddrc.org.uk) or mobile 07702 891119.

Novice Indoor SJ - Area 7 Qualifier to be held at Patchetts EC, Watford, WD25 8PE on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2013. This competition will include the Royal Windsor Horse Show qualifier.

Names must be sent to SJ Team managers BEFORE 25th January 2013.

The schedule is now available and can be found on the riding club website.

# Ringstead Holiday 1<sup>st</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> October 2012

*By Mary Owen*

This year the holiday was mainly about young horses gaining confidence and enjoying the hacking around Courtyard Farm and Ringstead. Margaret and Karen spent Monday and Tuesday hacking together on their well behaved youngsters. Unfortunately, Margaret was quite ill and up all one night, with a sickness bug. They then went home for Karen to prepare and pack for the long journey down to Wales for the Endurance Championships at the end of the week with Jay.

Doris, Zoe, Rebecca and Mary also went hacking in pairs. A visitor to the farm had brought a folding DIY ladder/platform to use as a mounting block. Doris thought it would be ideal for mounting the long legged Fuchsia so promptly went off to Hunstanton to order one. Fuchsia was very good hacking around the farm and by the end of the week had crossed the road and gone further afield accompanied by Zoe on Phil.



Rebecca had just brought Hermione back into work after injury and Mary had just started riding Poppy again after injuring herself. Hermione was quite sharp the first day, but settled down. Every day we seemed to meet the deer just off the track where we were riding. On Thursday Rebecca and Mary went to the beach at Holme to ride to Old Hunstanton and back across The Downs. Both

horses were trotting confidently along the beach until Mary was suddenly hanging off sideways. Luckily Poppy swung round again and caught her. Mary felt as though she had been hit with a brick on her chest, which we assume was because Poppy stopped so suddenly at the change in the sand under her feet that Mary nearly went over her head but hit it, and felt winded. However they continued with the ride home and everything was alright until eating in the evening. Mary thought as she had not fallen off, she could not have damaged herself badly, but passed out and the ambulance took her to Kings Lynn hospital where she was kept in overnight and x-rayed. Supposedly no broken ribs but it took about five weeks to cough or sneeze without it hurting!

Margaret had recovered from her bug and so rejoined us at the weekend with Andrew and their older horses for a further couple of days hacking. Mary was annoyed to miss two days hacking. She had tried riding after her mishap but only lasted less than half an hour. The weather was kind to us throughout. We did get some rain but never when we were riding. Everybody was keen to return next year so the barn is booked again from Monday 30<sup>th</sup> September to Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> October, 2013.

## AGM Awards 2012

- Senior Achievement Team - Cambridge Royals Endurance team of Rachel Casbon, Jane Fricker, Karen Tyrell and Shirley Swanson for winning the RC Open and also the Novice Championship
- Senior Achievement Individual – Sue Peck
- Junior Achievement Team - Novice Indoor SJ Team of Rachel Dyke Emma Butler, Hettie and Ella Rogers for winning at the Championships
- Junior Achievement Individual – Rachel Dyke for winning the Novice SJ Championship at Lincoln
- Senior Versatility – Karin Newell (for last minute team member on several occasions)
- Junior Versatility – Tara Jeffries who has been in different teams and picked up second places in novice horse trials and style jumping qualifiers.
- Most Improved Senior – Cathy Jeffries – rising from 46<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> in the points league in one year.
- Most Improved Junior – Lizzie Stavroulakis – who has only been riding two years and competed in teams for Horse trials, SJ and Style jumping. Being part of third placed SJ team at Lincoln.
- Senior Appreciation awards - overall champion to Sue Casbon for helping at the May Show and with the endurance team. Other awards to Rachel Casbon for running training and to Mary Groombridge and Sharon Macleod for the catering at Waresley Park and the Horse Trials.
- Our own Charlotte Dujardin – Rachel Dyke – for outstanding achievement as a junior.
- Our own Jess Ennis – Kerry Simson – for having three horses in the top ten of the points league.
- Lifetime contribution awards to Judi Shaw and Polly Taylor.
- Thank you presentations of flowers were made to Nettie Smith at the 'end of an era' for Milton dressage shows and also to retiring committee members Rebecca Jarvis and Rebecca Seymour for many years of service to C&DRC.

### Junior Points League – Red Baron Cup

1 <sup>st</sup>	Emma Butler	51 points	Ben
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Hettie Rogers	49 points	Rhydycar Hollihock
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Rachel Dyke	47 points	Waterside Bay
4 <sup>th</sup>	Rachel Dyke	40 points	Blue Orleans
5 <sup>th</sup>	Ella Rogers	35 points	Ruby Tuesday
6 <sup>th</sup>	Lizzie Stavroulakis	33 points	Spot on Zig Zag

## Senior Points League - White Horse Cup

1 <sup>st</sup>	Serena Allery	85 points	Time to Shine
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Sue Peck	65 points in 7 events	Humphrey
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Serena Allery	65 points in 10 events	Moreno Utopia
4 <sup>th</sup>	Kerry Simson	51 points	Hokey Pokey
5 <sup>th</sup>	Karen Froud	40 points	Texas Rose
6 <sup>th</sup>	Kerry Simson	37 points	I Should Coco

## Jump painting on 20<sup>th</sup> January

*By Kerry Simson*

Thank you to all those who offered help and came along to move the jumps from Barry's on Sunday 18th November.

We are going to have a Jump Painting day on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2013 at New Farm Earith to tidy up the wooden showjumps and working hunter fences ready for the May show at Cottenham. We will meet in the barn at Barry's yard at 11am and Karin Newell has kindly offered to provide warm refreshments for helpers. So come on folks don't be shy, your club needs you and your paint brush! Mary Owen is going to source some paint but please bring along any spare paint you may have at home and wire brushes, paint brushes, masking tape etc.

## Pre-season fitness work weekend 21-24<sup>th</sup> Feb

*By Kerry Simson*

We have booked the Bunkhouse Barn, stables and paddocks at Courtyard Farm Ringstead (see [www.courtyardfarm.co.uk](http://www.courtyardfarm.co.uk)) for 3 nights (Thurs to Sat) 21-24<sup>th</sup> Feb 2013. Members are welcome to come along and join us and make use of the lovely sandy tracks around the farm to do some hacking and canter work or ride to the beach for a splash in the sea.

We are planning to enter the Eventer Trial at Burnham Market Eventing Centre on the Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> Feb to have a run round the XC course before the event season starts (see [www.muskateereventmanagement.co.uk](http://www.muskateereventmanagement.co.uk) for details and booking forms for that competition).

If you want to come along please send a cheque for £15 per night (to sleep in the barn) and £10 per night for a stable, payable to Courtyard Farm to Kerry Simson, 86 Station Road, Warboys, Huntingdon, Cambs PE28 2TH by 1<sup>st</sup> February to reserve your space.

## C&DRC Horse Trials Teams 2013

*By Kerry Simson*

Date for your Diary: The Area 7 Horse Trials Qualifier for 2013 will be held on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> June at Milton Keynes Eventing Centre.

Mary Groombridge has kindly agreed to co-ordinate the Horse Trials team entries again this year for C&DRC with Sharron Dyke as assistant team organiser and also co-ordinator of the Festival of the Horse and Hunter Trials teams.

We hope to enter teams in the Novice (up to 90cm) Intermediate (1m) and Open (1.10m) sections, so don't be shy if you would like to have a go on the teams and represent your club then now is the time to make a plan, start getting your horse fit and get out there practising.

If there is enough interest we can organise some team XC training sessions at Waresley, Little Downham or Milton Keynes. Please let Mary Groombridge (m.groombridge@canddrc.org.uk) or Sharron Dyke (s.dyke@canddrc.org.uk) know ASAP if you would be interested in training and at what level so we can get something organised for March/April.

Sharon Macleod has booked dates for John Adams showjumping training at Little Downham and the next one is on Sat 19<sup>th</sup> Jan. Check the C&DRC facebook page for details or text Sharon on 07947 118221 and she will add you to her text messaging contacts list to receive reminder texts about the regular John Adams training sessions.

We will also organise some team SJ and Dressage training at Barry Meningen's yard in Earith, on grass, in April/May to run through the tests and practise over the club's newly painted showjumps.

As the club pay for the prelim entries for these team events (and members pay only the Area entry fees) we will expect to see potential team members at the fund raising events throughout the year. The first of these is the Race Night on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> Feb 2013 to help boost club funds, and you could also help with jump painting on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> January.

## C&DRC Training Day at Waresley Park 3<sup>rd</sup> Feb

*By Kerry Simson*

As there was little demand for a full blown camp at Waresley, we have decided to organise a training day instead, which will be open to all levels of horse and rider. This will be held on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2013 from 10am until 4pm, at a cost of £60.

Full details and the entry form were emailed round to all members in December, and can also be found on the riding club website diary page.

There will be 4 groups of different levels:

**Group 1** Novice Riders/young horses with Fran Berry

10 - 11.30am Polework

2 - 3pm Novice Level gridwork/Jumping (up to approx 80cm)

**Group 2** Novice Jumping with Val Gingell (approx 70-85cm)

10 - 11.30am Gridwork

2 - 3pm SJ course or arena XC

**Group 3** Intermediate Jumping with Fran Berry (85cm-1m)

11.30am - 1pm Gridwork & SJ

3 - 4pm Arena XC (skinnies/corners etc)

**Group 4** Advanced Jumping (1m and above) with Val Gingell

11.30am - 1pm Gridwork/SJ

3 - 4pm Arena XC

There is still one space left in group 4 (Advanced). The other three groups are now full, but there is a waiting list if you send in booking form and cheque. Contact Kerry to check with her first.

Make sure you have renewed your membership if you want to attend this or other C&DRC training, in order to be covered by our insurance.

## Charlie's top tips for avoiding mane pulling

*By Serena Allery*

- 1) Move slightly away from milk crates / other source of human's height to make human step off and move you back into place.
- 2) Gently push human off milk crates.
- 3) If human places comb / brush down on stable door gently push it off the door.
- 4) Wiggle ears and lips in disgust at having mane pulled.
- 5) Curl head and neck around human – humans call this a hug.
- 6) Move round and lift lips to human's face, wiggle gently but do not use teeth or tongue – humans call this a kiss.
- 7) Repeat above as necessary to avoid having mane pulled, or at least acquire treats for having it done.

Don't forget the diary is updated at the start of each month on the C&DRC website:

# *Cambridge & District Riding Club*



# **RACE NIGHT**

*Fri 1st February*

***The Village Hall***

***Rampton***

***7.45 pm***

*Under Starters Orders 8pm!*

*£1 Bets, **Six Races**, Horses, Trotters, & **Yes Pigs!***

**£10.00** Per Ticket

***Tables of 10 Can Be Reserved***

***Ploughmans Supper Included***

***Licensed Bar***

***Free Losers Raffle – Excellent Prizes!***

*For Tickets Call:*

***Sharon: 01353 662098 or txt 07947118221***