

# CAMBRIDGE AND DISTRICT RIDING CLUB

## December 2007 Newsletter

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### Ramblings from the Chair

By Karen Froud

Happy Birthday C&DRC!

The club celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary year in 2007. Those at the AGM honoured this milestone with a piece of chocolate pony cake. I hope the founder members are pleased with the state of the club today and all the activities within it. We now have a new (well, slightly reshuffled) committee, and some new things to try for 2008. I do hope you will join the winter unmounted rally on February 22<sup>nd</sup> where Celia Witcher will be showing how we can understand our horses with the aid of a set of reins, a tolerant friend, a hard chair and other such means... It is aimed to be light hearted and interactive, and can be relevant for beginners, advanced riders, and may even shed some light to the non riders.

We also have planned a Spring Ceilidh. Barn Dancing is a great fitness workout, in my view, as well as a hilarious co-ordination exercise. No previous skill is required. So do book out April 5<sup>th</sup>. Non horsey friends are welcome too.

Happy Christmas and an Exciting New Year!

Karen

### Website Updates

Do remember to check the website for additional training and event dates between newsletters. [www.CandDRC.org.uk](http://www.CandDRC.org.uk)

### Club Awards

The following awards were given for 2007 at the AGM:

Achievement Award for highest place(s) at RC Championships -

Senior - Sandra Baker (4<sup>th</sup> at Addington in the Dressage to Music);

Junior - Alice Ellison.

Allrounder Award -

Senior to Bob Gale;

Junior to Charlotte Horne.

Behind the Scenes Award - for help at the Cottenham Show, amongst others, to Mary Owen.

Dressage Points Champion from the Milton Winter League -

Saly Wilkin with Jouet Du Chene.

White Horse Cup - Niki Shaw.

Red Baron Cup winner (junior version of White Horse) Megan Hart with Champagne.

Well Done to All.

### Membership Renewals

Membership for 2007-2008 became due on 1<sup>st</sup> October. This will be the last newsletter sent if you do not renew. Subs are still £20 or £15 for any subsequent family members at the same address. Please send your cheque and renewal form to Nettie.

## **C&DRC Clothing**

We hope you like the new logo, on display at the AGM, as designed by Siobhan Pryke. We now have fitted ladies polo shirts, in Navy and Cambridge Blue, and a smart Navy fleece with Pale Blue inserts. Unfortunately prices are not yet finalised, but do contact Kerry Simson in the new year with your orders and watch the website.

## **The AGM**

We apologise for the technical error at the AGM that prevented the DVD of Frostie Taylor being projected. I do hope that those who wanted to managed to see it on the small screen.

## **Spring Party**

By popular request from the AGM, C&DRC will be holding a Spring Party with the Cambridge Crofters Ceilidh Band at the Arkenstall Centre, Haddenham, on Saturday April 5<sup>th</sup>. There will be food and a bar and all members and non members are welcome. This should be great fun, and also hopefully will raise some money for club funds. More details nearer the time, but mark the date in your diaries.

## **The Unmounted Rally: Achieving Harmony with your Horse**

With Celia Whitcher on Friday February 22<sup>nd</sup> at Rampton Village Hall, 7.45pm. Celia is the Area 7 Riding Club Chairman. She herself competed internationally in Three Day Eventing and she has trained the British Paralympic squad. Her expertise in achieving balance, feel and awareness with your horse is utilised in this fun and informal unmounted session. Audience participation in the exercises is encouraged (but not obligatory) and the session is suitable for all ages, abilities, disciplines

and also for the non-riding helper and reluctant husband/boyfriend!

All questions are welcome (as long as they do not involve politics or religion I am told) and Celia welcomes problems to be brought to her.

Refreshments will be served after the rally.

There will be a charge of £3 per head.

## **Novice Indoor Show Jumping Qualifier**

Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2008 at The College, Keysoe

This is a two round contest for teams of 4 over a course at 80cm and then 85cm. The juniors will run in the morning and the seniors in the afternoon. There will be a clear round class at 2'3" before each class, at 8.30am and 1pm, but numbers will be strictly limited so it is advisable to enter this in advance. The schedule can be seen on [www.keysoe.com](http://www.keysoe.com).

Anyone wishing to enter the team competition please contact Judi Shaw (seniors) or Sharron Dyke (juniors) ASAP or at latest by Jan 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Please see the article on "Area Qualifiers-Ins and Outs" in this newsletter.

## **Novice Indoor Dressage Qualifier**

A new winter dressage competition is being held concurrently with the jumping at Keysoe on Jan 27<sup>th</sup>, to qualify for a championships at Hartpury (again with the SJ) in April. Teams of four are composed of two riders doing Prelim 12 and two riding Novice 27. Horses must not have more than 75 BD points. Both classes have Senior, Junior and open (warm up) sections.

Anyone wishing to ride on a team please contact Rebecca Seymour ASAP, latest Jan 1<sup>st</sup>, preferably by text.

## **Area Qualifier Competitions: the Ins and the Outs**

### **...or What's New and What You Should Really Know Already...**

The Area qualifiers are the regional team and / or individual competitions in each discipline which qualify the winners for the National Riding Club Championships. We are in Area 7 which covers Cambridgeshire, Bedfordshire, Northamptonshire & Hertfordshire. All administration is managed by the British Riding Clubs office at Stoneleigh. In order for club teams to be eligible to compete at the championships, should they qualify, a preliminary entry must be made for each team at least 3 weeks before the competition date. This is accompanied by an entry fee that C&DRC pays. A second entry must then be made to the event secretary, usually 1-2 weeks prior to competition date, and it is the fee for this that we ask competitors to pay. As you can appreciate this does mean that team organisers require a firm commitment 4 weeks before each qualifier so that entries can be made in time. Stoneleigh have a zero tolerance policy and will NOT accept late entries. Sadly we are finding that entries are being made, only for people to drop out at the last minute, which is costing the club. Therefore for 2008 we are instigating a new policy. Preliminary entries will only be made once the entry fee has been paid to the team managers. Teams will only be entered if 3 or 4 members have put their names forward. If there are two remaining competitors we will not this year enter a team and hope someone appears. Instead, waiting lists will be kept. So PLEASE be organised early! We do appreciate that a lot can happen in four weeks in the world of horses, and obviously there will be valid reasons why some entries will have to drop out, but by running a wait list hopefully these places can be filled, and if so, costs reimbursed. I hope you agree that this is

ultimately fairer for all.

Having said this, the club policy is to encourage anyone who wants to have a go to do so. Spectacular previous form is not required!

Riding Club rules do change slightly year on year so do familiarise yourselves from the website [www.bhs.org](http://www.bhs.org) and follow the Riding Clubs link. If in doubt consult your team organiser. What will not change is the need for up to date vaccination certificates to be produced at each event so do make sure these are in order.

Finally, all the area competitions are run by volunteers for us. They do not make up the rules! So please be nice to them!

### **Dressage to Music**

Apologies for not yet organising more music training sessions. However you may be interested to hear that Alison Kenwood, an area 7 RC competitor, has a company that will assist in your music choice, choreography, and will even create a test for you and your horse from scratch for £100. If you are baulking at the creative bit, do look at her website [www.freestyledressage.co.uk](http://www.freestyledressage.co.uk). Manor Farm had her do a day of test creation earlier in the autumn. If there is sufficient interest we could do the same?

## **New Training**

### **Gridwork with Fran Berry**

A new session to be held at Manor Farm, Houghton on Thursday evenings for 4-5 people. This is open to all levels, in grids it is the exercise, not the height that is important. Fran is an excellent assessor and will adjust according to the combinations present. For those who have not yet been, the venue is near St Ives, easy to find, has plenty of parking and the session is in the large indoor school which has a lovely surface. Details and booking from Rebecca Jarvis (NO phone calls after 9pm please). We have had a lot of interest for these sessions just through word of mouth so do book early.

### **Flatwork with Virginia Brinton**

Virginia, who has ridden to Prix St George level and trained riders to Advanced Medium, has kindly agreed to teach some sessions aimed at those who would like to push their horses further. It does not matter what type of horse you have, and juniors are welcome. Just be prepared to work hard! Sessions are on a Saturday morning, in the indoor school at Milton Farm College, just outside Cambridge. More details from Rebecca Jarvis.

### **Midweek Equine Afternoons**

Do you enjoy doing different things with your horse, but in a non competitive way? Are you free during the week? Would you like to explore new disciplines? Then why not join this new group. The aim is to have a varied monthly session: be it flatwork, jumping, a hack, an unmounted visit etc. First meeting is on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> March. Details from Karen Froud.

### **Gill Meningen Flatwork**

These sessions through the autumn have proved popular, especially for the more novice rider or horse. They will continue in the new year. They are being held on Ed

Runciman's outdoor arena on the High Road, Little Downham, near Ely. Contact Ali Leonard for more details.

### **Spring Cross Country Training**

There will be a CDRC XC day at Washbrook Farm, Aston-le-Walls near Daventry on Saturday April 12<sup>th</sup>. This is a fantastic venue with jumps at all levels. The training is aimed at those qualified for the Festival of the Hunter so will be over fences of 2'9" to 3'. However it is open to all and sessions will be run at other levels as well; according to demand. The trainers will be Ann Taylor for the Juniors and Nigel Taylor for the seniors. Both are international horse trials competitors and British Eventing accredited trainers.

Each session will be for 1 ½ hours and will comprise 4 (max 5) riders. The cost is £37.50 for juniors, £40. for seniors.

We have 3 sessions booked, so do contact Sharron Dyke promptly to reserve your place. Cheques (payable to CDRC) must be received by March 30<sup>th</sup>.

### **Le Trec**

Debs Wade is in the process of organising some trec training, possibly at Manor Farm, Houghton on 11<sup>th</sup> January prior to the competition there on Jan 12<sup>th</sup>. Do watch the website for updates or contact Debs direct. Trec is great fun, and requires unusual but useful skills from you and your pony. Do give it a go!

## **RC Championships Lincoln Sept. 2007**

### **By Judi Shaw**

#### **Senior show jumping**

It was Friday morning, Nicola and myself set off to Lincoln for the 2007 National Championships. We arrived in good time and fenced off a large area at the corner of our stable block. Throughout the day the horses and riders arrived, along with

some enthusiastic junior rider/supporters for us seniors. Gazebos were erected ready for the evening feast along with wine and beer on tap! Riders exercised their mounts and then bedded them down for the night. Finally we all sat down for the BBQ and booze! After a long and hectic day people started drifting off to be ready for the following day. With 3 teams jumping we were in for some good exercise!!

### **Novice Team**

Barry Meningen	Jelly Bean
Debbie Roberts	Tinker
Jane Hector	Tropical Touch
Nicola Shaw	Earl Grey

The day started well with spirits high after the party atmosphere from the previous night. The course seemed very fair but well up to height. After the first round we were on a score of 8 faults. Going into the second round we were hoping for some improvement as the less experienced horses just might have settled, but this was not to be, again we finished the round on 8 faults. Total score of 16. Barry and Nicola had double clears and went in to a jump off for an individual placing. The two little "bucking" horses did us proud with Jelly Bean again jumping clear to finish in 8th place. Quite an achievement as over a hundred horses started in the competition. So "Well done Barry and Jelly Bean"

### **Intermediate Team**

Michelle Seward	Quality Gold
Harriet Morris	Master Bailey
Wendy Beal	Honey Bee
Sarah Simmons	Twentyfourve

As one of our team members had a fall in the collecting ring and couldn't carry on, this left only three horses to jump. This was a slight disadvantage as all three scores would then count! The horses jumped well over a big demanding course, but were unable to reach a jump off for any of the placings.

### **Open Team**

Jo Lawrence	Gisyerand
Barry Meningen	Chipleas Chesterton
Rosey Groombridge	Quigleys Heart
Throb	
Kerry Simson	Shylock

This class was held as usual in the main jumping arena. The course was very technical and, like all championship classes well up to height. Nevertheless, our riders and horses gave it their best shot and were delighted to finish a very creditable 4th place.

The whole day was absolutely exhausting but thoroughly enjoyable, flitting from ring to ring with a video camera on a push-bike. The recording proved hilarious as in some parts I had actually recorded the journey from one ring to another without even realising it. After the jumping had finished we did our shopping, bought our pictures and went back to "camp" to wave the seniors off, and welcome the juniors who were arriving for Sunday's events. Nicola and I stayed on to support the juniors, so another feast was to come and also a hectic day ahead!

My thanks go to all the CDRC riders, friends, grooms, mums, dads, aunts, uncles, sisters and children who supported our teams over the weekend. Nicola and I had a super time. Also, special thanks to Barry who stepped in as reserve to ride in both the Novice Team and the Open Team.

Hopefully we will be back there next year and go on to greater achievements!!

WELL DONE TO ALL YOU RIDERS AND  
"THANKYOU"

Judi

## **Competition success for riding club members**

This year Sally Wilkin and Nigel (Mac) McMullen from Witcham Equestrian Centre have been competing in the Sissons Farm Equestrian Centre Combined Training League.

Points were accumulated from each show and the winners were presented with challenge cups and special rosettes after the final show in September.

Sally, riding her own Just The Job (Joby), won the overall awards for both Prelim sections, winning two beautiful silver cups. Joby jumped clear in the show jumping section in all of the rounds.

Mac rode Gaelic Justice (Izzy) and came second overall in the first Prelim section. Izzy is a riding school horse who also takes part in dressage and jumping competitions with Mac. She came over from Ireland and

was bought for the school by Sally.

Both riders and horses put in consistent performances over the three shows and thoroughly deserved their success.

September 2007

## **FOR LOAN - Splash**

15.1hh, 6 YO Irish mare.

Very sweet, responsive and willing to please. Hacks out both alone or in company. Enjoys schooling and jumping but is green. Has the potential to do well with an experienced, confident rider. Will live in or out. Good to Clip, load but prefers cold shoeing.

For loan due to lack of time. Available for 2 years.

Call Karen on 07843494958 or email [kw296@cam.ac.uk](mailto:kw296@cam.ac.uk)