

# Cambridge and District Riding Club

Newsletter Editor: Evelyn Little 07901 915 303

## Special Interest Articles:

- Festival of the Hunter XC Championship Report.
- Area 7 Qualifier Reports.
- Celia Whitcher Ridden Clinic
- Meet Polly and Frostie Taylor.

## Club Highlights:

Summer BBQ 30<sup>th</sup> Aug

AGM 7<sup>th</sup> November

## Stop Press.....Cambridge Juniors are National X Country Champions

Congratulations to the Cambridge Junior squad who convincingly won the hunter trials at the Festival of the Hunter at Aston le Walls. A fantastic result!

The season of 2008 qualifiers is here and keeping team managers and competitors alike busy. This was not helped by endless rain causing the cancellation of the horse trials qualifiers at Milton Keynes, on June 8<sup>th</sup>. After much debate, this was rescheduled for July 6<sup>th</sup> at Little Downham, where we had a jolly day joining in the area 8 event. Many thanks to all the CDRC members who fenced judged that day. Without you we could not have participated.

The knock on effect of all this rain is that the music has had to be put back (from 6<sup>th</sup>) to August 23<sup>rd</sup>. There are still spaces available for this event if anyone is interested.

We hosted the dressage qualifier at Cottenham racecourse on July 20<sup>th</sup>. The organisation of this event has been somewhat testing. It did not help that having booked a date specifically



not to clash with BD or BE events; I then discovered that 3 pony club dressage qualifiers were taking place nearby on that day. Consequently available judges were like gold dust...but after many hours of phoning, emailing and negotiating with BRC head office, the day went ahead smoothly, with 130 horses competing. And once again the sun came out for us at Cottenham!

Many thanks to all of you who gave your time on that day. We were delighted by the number of club members who came to help by setting up

arenas, stewarding, scoring writing or running. It was a true team effort on the ground, as well as by the mounted members. In addition to providing a qualifier for the area, we have also made a significant amount of money for the club funds, so it was all worthwhile!

I hope to see you at the club BBQ at Knights End Farm EC on August 30<sup>th</sup>. I am looking forward to it already.....

Have a good summer

Karen – The Chair

## Festival of the Hunter XC Championships

On Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> June, Cambridge Riding Club were represented at the National Cross Country Championships at Aston le Walls by Junior team members Charlotte Horne on Pinky, Holly Jukes on Rekon, Rachel Dyke on Mirror Man II and Toby Chapman on Sportsfield Sea Fever, who had qualified back in October last year at the Area 7 qualifier at Alconbury, along with the winning individual Alice Ellison on Heidi.

Having been down to Aston le Walls on the Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> to support the senior team, and to walk the course, Rachel and I nearly didn't come back on the Sunday, as the course was well up to height if not bigger than it should have been, asking plenty of questions for a novice competition. The speed was set at 450 metres per min, which having watched the seniors, was quite a pace.

Charlotte was our first rider to go, this was to be her last riding club competition on Pinky, who after the last couple of years doing all the area teams with Charlotte, has finally been handed down to younger sister Louise. Pinky flew round, like the reliable superstar he is, coming just 1 second off

the optimum time of 4mins 51secs. This gave Charlotte just 0.4 of a penalty.

Second to go for CDRC was Holly on Bridget, who is well known throughout the club for being an absolute speed merchant cross country, with very little in the way of brakes. Holly rode a brilliant round, using as much of the course as she could, in order to take the long route to every fence, this plan paid off when Holly crossed the finish with only 3 penalties!

Next to go was Rachel on mirror Man II, who has a knack of going at 450 metres per min, and he made nothing of the testing course, even flying the bogey corner fence at the widest part. When the timekeeper gave out Rachel's time as 4mins 50secs a huge cheer went up from the Cambridge supporters, as this meant she had only 0.4 of a penalty, putting us way ahead of any other team.

Last to ride for the team was Toby, who was under the instruction to 'kick on' and go for the time, as Dapple is very reliable, but naturally goes slightly slower than he needs to be. Toby obliged, and got Dapple into a gallop down the back straight of the

course, giving us our forth clear round and only getting 6 penalty points.

It soon became very clear that no club could touch the Cambridge team, so we settled down to watch Alice Ellison compete as an individual rider on her new pony Izzy, who had substituted Heidi due to lameness. Alice did a fantastic job with Izzy, who is not the calmest pony XC, but came in with a lovely clear round, and only just outside of the individual placings.

To our delight Cambridge were not only declared the team winners but also got the award for 'all four score to count' and Charlotte and Rachel finished 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> individually.

I would like to say a really big thank you to Alice and all the team for making the long journey to Aston le Walls well worth while. The club is very proud of you.

Sharron Dyke



Cambridge Junior Team.

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*"It soon became very clear that no club could touch the Cambridge team"*

## Area 7 Dressage Qualifier, Cottenham Racecourse 20<sup>th</sup> July

Having been involved in the running of the day, this seemed to overwhelm the final results! However CDRC sent a number of teams to compete, as below, and who convincingly upheld the name of the club. We were also delighted that for the first time we had a junior contingent for Cambridge. The two teams finished very respectfully, and also did a lot of score collecting between tests!

### Senior Novice Team 9<sup>th</sup> Place

Deb's Wade	Eric
Cindy Wells	Cornelius Fudge
Mary Williams	Make a Splash

### Senior Open Team 3<sup>rd</sup> Place

Sandra Baker	Sooty Bear - 1 <sup>st</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> individually
Rebecca Jarvis	Eye of the Tiger
Sara Murfitt	Alice Springs - 6 <sup>th</sup> individually
Eddie Pounce	Fargo - 2 <sup>nd</sup> individually

### Senior Riding Test Team 4<sup>th</sup> Place

Deb's Wade	Eric
Cindy Wells	Cornelius Fudge
Rebecca Jarvis	Eye of the Tiger - 6 <sup>th</sup> individually
Eddie Pounce	Fargo - 3 <sup>rd</sup> individually

### Junior – Trinity Team 2<sup>nd</sup> Place

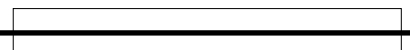
Rachel Dyke	Portland Lass
Megan Hart	Pitlands Woodside Harmony - 2 <sup>nd</sup> individually
Siobhan Gilligan	Pathfinder Tigga - 6 <sup>th</sup> individually
Rhea MacLeod	Wabby Chique Van't Heike

### Junior – Queens Team 5<sup>th</sup> Place

Rachel Dyke	Biscuit
Megan Hart	Red
Emily Procter	Chinook Marquis
Alice Ward	Deanna

All of the juniors rode lovely tests. Cambridge Trinity was the only team with all four riders scoring over 60% in their tests, so well done all, and best of luck to Rhea, Rachel, Megan and Siobhan at the National Championships at Lincoln in September – Sharron Dyke

Well done all. Best wishes to Sandra for Lincoln – Karen.



## Area 7 Show Jumping Qualifier, Earls Barton 22<sup>nd</sup> June

Cambridge was well represented at this event with two teams qualifying for the finals at Lincoln Showground. The style team were the first team to qualify; doing some lovely rounds the judge couldn't fail to give them good points. We also had first and second placings with two of our team members.

KERRY SIMSON	HOKEY POKEY
LUKIE TOLHURST	TARGET HILL
POLLY TAYLOR	SECRET PASSION
KAREN FROUD	TEXAS ROSE



The Novice qualifier consisted of three teams with two of these coming first and second. It was a closely contested event and very exciting for the Cambridge supporters as we had several going forward to the jump off. The Trinity team were the eventual winners and the St. Johns team were second.

RACHEL NIXON	MONTGOMERY
COCO CHAMBERS	SILVER PEARL
ELEANOR TAYLOR	GULLIVER
CHARLOTTE LEE	JAYLANS FIRST EARLY

KERRY SIMSON	HOKEYPOKEY
CHARLOTTE LEE	ONYX NUGGET
DEBBIE ROBERTS	TINKER
NICOLA SHAW	EARL GREY

CLAIRE ELBROW	SKIPPERS TILLY
KAREN TYRRELL	WULFSTAN JAZZ SINGER
LUKIE TOLHURST	TARGET HILL
BARRY MENIGAN	SILVER SPIRIT

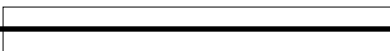


The Intermediate team were very unlucky, but came a creditable second.



COCO CHAMBERS
BARRY MENIGAN
SARAH SIMMONS
POLLY TAYLOR

TEXAS ROSE
NEWS FOR YOU
PACIFIC BLUE
SECRET PASSION



Our Open team could only field three horses on the day as the fourth horse was kicked, and went lame the night before, therefore we didn't have a "drop" score, never the less everybody did their best and did really well, but were unable to win this class. I must make a special mention to Alison, she tells me it was the first time EVER that she had jumped a clear round in any competition with Casey, so, "VERY WELL DONE, ALISON AND CASEY" let's hope it's the start of a good run.

ROSEY GROOMBRIDGE  
ALISON LEONARD  
SARAH SIMMONS

WINCHESTER  
CASEY JONES  
MOBILE PHONE



I'm sure everyone would like to wish our teams "good luck". The finals are at the Lincoln showground on the 6th September, entry is free, so if anyone would like to come and support our teams, then please come along!!

Judi Shaw

### Juniors

Cambridge Riding Club sent 4 teams and 3 individuals to the above show jumping qualifier at Earls Barton, Northamptonshire. The junior novice teams consisted of Rhea MacLeod on Whabby Chique Van't Heiki, Rachel dyke on Biscuit, Megan Hart on Pitlands Woodside Harmony and Samantha Bennett on Toby, the second team being Lauren Howse on Wickford Cariad, Megan Hart on Splodge, Rachel Dyke on Portland Lass and Samantha Bennett on Mystery. All rode well and both teams were placed but sadly did not qualify for the Championships this year. Congratulations to Samantha and Toby who rode 3 faultless rounds to win the competition as individuals and therefore qualifying for Lincoln in September.

Our two individual riders in the Novice section were Sophie Howse on Banner and Charlotte Horne on Cassy.

The junior equitation team consisted of Megan Hart on Pitlands Woodside Harmony, Rachel Dyke on Biscuit, Rhea MacLeod on Wabby Chique Van't Heike, and Charlotte Horne on Cassy. The team finished a creditable 5<sup>th</sup> place.

The CDRC junior open team consisted of Brogan Burnett on Little Tiggywinkle, Alice Ellison on Izzy, Jo Harris on Lowmoor Abigail and Toby Chapman on Sportsfield Sea Fever, with Alice also riding as an individual on Handsome Frankie. The open competition was fiercely competitive, with Cambridge tying on 4 faults after the second round. The teams on 4 faults then jumped a third round to decide the winners. After a nail biting third round, Cambridge were declared the winners and have qualified for the National Championships at Lincoln in September. We wish Brogan, Alice, Jo, Toby and Sam the best of luck.

Sharron Dyke.

## Area 7 Horse Trials Qualifier, Ely Eventing Centre 6<sup>th</sup> July 2008

Following the cancellation of the original Horse Trials Qualifier at Milton Keynes, and numerous problems regarding balloting the teams etc, the Area 7 Horse Trials Qualifier finally took place on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> July at Ely Eventing Centre.

Cambridge sent two junior teams to the competition comprising of the following:-

Cambridge Trinity	
Megan Hart	Pitlands Woodside Harmony
Rachel Dyke	Portland Lass
Rhea MacLeod	Whabby Chique Van't Heike
Siobhan Gilligan	Pathfinder Tigga

Cambridge Queens	
Harvey Roberts	Tamarind
Samantha Bennett	Toby
Georgie Morris	Ripple Onyx
Rachel Dyke	Biscuit

All the riders did reasonably good dressage tests putting the teams in a good position going into the show jumping. The show jumping course caused a few problems for some of our riders, but we still managed to get Cambridge Trinity through to the cross country without any penalties to add. The cross country course was up to height and quite a long route however, all the Cambridge riders got round without any problems. Once the time penalties had been added to the score board it became clear that Cambridge had been narrowly beaten by Rockingham Forrest Riding Club, and we finished a creditable 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place, just missing the qualifying for OffChurch Bury Championships.

Congratulations must go to Megan Hart and her lovely new pony Pitlands Woodside Harmony, who finished on his very good dressage score with no penalties to add, meaning that Megan won the competition as the highest placed individual. She will be off to the OffChurch Bury Championships to represent the club in August – good luck Megan.

Sharron Dyke.

**P.S. Any one interested in competing in the Area Hunter Trial Qualifier on October 12<sup>th</sup> at Wittering should contact Sharon please.**

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### Trec Success for CDRC Members

Well done to Cindy Wells, Mary Williams and Deborah Wade who all competed with great success at the Lilley Manor Le Trec competition. Cindy won her singles class and Mary and Debs came second in the pair's class. It's only their second full Trec event so well done them.

If any member has a story or report from a recent competition, that they would like to tell other members about, then send it in to myself. Don't be shy, if you've 'done good' then let us know.....

Evelyn

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## Calling All Members.....

Do you think you could ride in a CDRC team??

### Team Selection Policy

It has come to my attention that the policy for CDRC team selection is not always known, so I hereby intend to clarify it: Our stated aim is that anyone who wishes to ride at a qualifier will be entered where possible. Teams have to be entered as a four. If more than one team wishes to compete, but there are not enough rider/horse combinations to make two teams, a waiting list will be kept. If more than one team is entered, competitors will be grouped according to their ability. The Trinity team is our number one. Priority will be given to those members who a) have paid their entry fee, b) have shown reliability on previous teams and c) who have helped the club behind the scenes.

We feel it is more important to have members who will reliably appear on the day and pull together as a team, than to pick outstanding individuals. That given, the aim is to do well at qualifiers, so that CDRC can be represented at the national championships where possible.

We also compete in other RC events such as the Hickstead and Blenheim teams of three jumping. These are regarded more as fun days (and are paid for entirely by the people involved, not by the club) so if three eligible friends wish to enter a team together we are happy to oblige. Ultimately the decision lies with the team manager, who is responsible for entries, but do bear in mind they are not mind readers, so if you would like to have a go, have a new horse or if you have qualified out of your existing level please communicate this to them.

## Quadrille

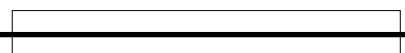
In the past CDRC has entered for the quadrille qualifier at Addington in October. Members have raised money to purchase costumes for this event, I am delighted to say that some of these extravagant outfits are to be re-used this year by St Edmundsbury RC, who have kindly given a donation to us in return. CDRC wishes them the best of luck for Addington, and if you are going to watch this spectacular event then please cheer them on.

Maybe we will have a CDRC team again in the near future.....

## Dalham Hall Stud Visit....

18 people attended the Dalham Hall Stud visit on the 30<sup>th</sup> May this year, getting a rare insight into the Thoroughbred breeding HQ of HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum. The sheer size of the operation and standard of facilities was breath taking, and the talk's given/guided tour was informative and interesting. The stud covers 1000's of acres, both farmed and grazed, and incorporates many smaller studs and breeding yards as a whole. It proved to be a very well oiled machine and a truly huge enterprise. Of particular interest was the superb condition of the older brood mares, which are housed in huge barns in even larger paddocks, living as natural a life style as any equine could want. The foster mares and foals were a huge hit with the members and the stallions on the yard were impeccably behaved and in great condition. Several stallions were brought out for the CDRC members to view, two of which were Lampara and Authorized. The trip ended with a stop at the Bedford Lodge for tea and coffee, with the general feedback from everyone being that they had enjoyed the day and could we go somewhere else next year??

Evelyn Little



## Celia Witcher Ridden Clinic – Harmony with your Horse

Just a quick summary of the Celia Witcher clinic that we rode in on Friday night. Her tagline is Achieving Harmony with your horse and most of it is well-established commonsense stuff, but she has a couple of interesting points to make.

Her teaching at the clinic on Friday broadly covered these areas.

- 1) Is the rider sitting effectively (at halt, walk, trot)?
- 2) Is the rider blocking the horse with body or reins?

### **Sitting Effectively**

The rider needs to be "plugged in" and "pegged on". Plugged in relates to the sit bones being in contact with the saddle but not driving. Pegged on involves having the knees in proper contact with the saddle. Not gripping necessarily but the knees work as a boundary to the horse just like rein or calf and then can help you keep control of the shoulders. It also helps to keep your knees in a good position. In order for the rider to be effectively left standing in a balanced position if the horse was to be taken away from underneath them they should check that the correct ear, shoulder, hip, heel alignment exists and that the knee makes a balanced arrow head shape. It's useful to find a friend to look at you to help you be objective about this even if you normally ride shorter or longer than this arrowhead requires. It will make your riding more effective. I had to take my stirrups up 3 holes and it did improve my balance and seat, especially at rising trot which is where we had the most problems. The upper body needs to be relaxed and not rigid.

### **Correct Contact**

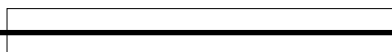
Celia talked about correct holding of the reins with the thumb on top and how important this was and then she demonstrated to the three riders what she meant by light contact and heavy contact and when to use both. It turns out that I don't use my thumbs strongly enough and it lets the reins slip but also it affects my ability to then apply heavy contact (for correction of the horse) when it's necessary. I was also not moving my contact forwards and backwards enough, thus restricting Eric's head and neck, thereby blocking him. He is a big active horse with lots of movement and I need to allow him more freedom to move his head. Also she mentioned that the width of your reins should be the same as the length of the inside of your fingers from knuckle to 1st joint as that will help you to be more comfortable and more effective.

### **Up or Down Rider?**

At rising trot it's essential that you spend as much time sitting as you do in the air. She asked "are you an up or a down rider?". I admit that I'd not really ever thought about this. After a moment it became obvious to be that I'm an "up" rider. I try to ride and sit as lightly as I can in the saddle so as not to interrupt or unbalance my horse. But it turns out that this is why I have a horse that whizzes round in rising trot and ignores requests by my seat to slow down, keep \*my\* rhythm, and balance himself. Usually it is relatively easy for me to control his speed and cadence in sitting trot. This is because I don't spend enough time in the saddle at rising trot. This actually made the most difference to my riding and Eric's way of going in the clinic and it was instant. That alone was worth the £14 and the trip to Manor Farm! She also talked about steering and halting with seat and seat bones and reins being only for balance and emergency stop. This is not news to most riders, although it is important to school the horse to listen to the seat. She did say the rider should look between the horse's ears and not around the circle in the direction that you want to go in, it's quite unsubtle to the horse and over-balancing to ride in this way and you should be in good enough control of your seat bones for this not to be necessary.

I really liked Celia and the clinic. Her teaching doesn't seem to conflict with anything my trainer (Gill Menningen) teaches and is in-line with classical principles and also other well-known riding teachers like Heather Moffet. I'm hoping that we might be able to persuade Celia to come and visit the yard for some more teaching because I think she has a lot to offer riders seeking to ride in a more harmonious way.

Deborah Wade



## Just Dressage Magazine.....

I am writing to introduce a new magazine called Just Dressage which is to be launched throughout the UK in September. Just Dressage Magazine will focus on issues appropriate to all dressage enthusiasts, both affiliated and unaffiliated.

The magazine will be available by subscription and will be mailed directly to your door. However, for the first issue, due to be

mailed around September 18<sup>th</sup> we are sending the magazine out free of charge across the database and would like to offer your riding club members the chance of signing up to receive this first issue free.

I wonder if you would be able to make your members aware of this, either by your newsletter or website, so they are able to email us with their

contact details if they are interested in receiving their first copy free. Anyone interested should email us at [enquiries@just-dressage.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@just-dressage.co.uk)

Keep an eye on our website, which will be launched fully at the same time as the magazine, on [www.just-dressage.co.uk](http://www.just-dressage.co.uk) for further information.

We look forward to hearing from your members with their contact details.

Yours sincerely

Sarah-Jane Prew  
Editor  
Just Dressage  
01409 271 411

Thank you Sara, I'm sure our members will be interested in receiving their free copy - Evelyn

## \* The Annual General Meeting Friday 7<sup>th</sup> November at Rampton Village\* Hall

## Hickstead Report, 27<sup>th</sup> July 2008

Last year it was "THE MUD" this year, it was "THE DUST" and "PHEW" the heat.

Cambridge fielded two strong teams of three. This class is a speed class, one round against the clock. Eighty two teams started, so we knew we were in for a long day, and some 'HOT' competition. Four of the riders had been the previous year and two had never competed at Hickstead before. These 'newcomers' did a superb job and both jumped clear for their respective teams. Our St Johns team all jumped clear in fast rounds and were placed third, the Trinity team were also fast but had four faults (I think they were placed about fourteenth) Well done to you all!

DEBBIE ROBERTS  
STACEY BARHAM  
JO HARRIS

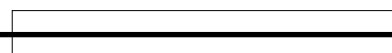
TINKER  
HUGO THE BOLD  
LOWMOOR ABIGAIL

RACHEL DYKE  
NICOLA SHAW  
SARAH SIMMONS

PORTLAND LASS  
EARL GREY  
PACIFIC BLUE

Thanks to all teams members

Judi Shaw  
senior chef d'equipe, show jumping and style jumping.



## Ending with the Editor

Its newsletter time again and the reports have come in thick and fast! Well done to the juniors, who have done fantastically this season, you're giving us seniors something to aim for!

I hope to see you all at the summer BBQ at Knights End (see right). For those of you who know the place it's a chance to see what we have changed and what we are planning and for those who don't it's a chance to see the facilities at what I hope will be a new venue for club training in the west of the region.

RDon't forget you can contact me by phone 07901 915 303 or by email: [evelyn.little@mitech.org.uk](mailto:evelyn.little@mitech.org.uk).

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We're on the Web!  
[www.canddrc.org.uk](http://www.canddrc.org.uk)

## The Summer Party – Saturday August 30<sup>th</sup> 2008

The CDRC summer party is to be held at Knights End Farm this year, on Saturday August 30<sup>th</sup>. The party will start at 5pm with music and some un-mounted games (for all ages, so don't be shy) and the BBQ will be around 7pm. Food and non-alcoholic drink is included in the ticket price of £5 for adults and £3 for children (vegetarians will be catered for, just let us know how many there are of you). If you wish to bring your own alcohol please do, the club will also be offering some alcoholic beverages on a purely donation bases, but as the venue is not located near to any public transport it would be advisable to have a designated driver at hand!!! Wet weather is catered for, we all know what the British weather can throw at us, but you will need to bring your own chairs/seating. For safety there is a no smoking and no dog policy at the venue so please respect the signage.

For tickets and any further information please call Sharron MacLeod 07947 118 221 or alternatively you can call me (see left).

I hope you will all come along for some good food, good friends and with the games planned, undoubtedly a good laugh.....Evelyn

## Bardy Marvellous

A young man called Jon Bard who works for Jo Wise and Owen Moore at Boxworth has helped me immensely to re start my 4yr WB/TB gelding Delta, so much so that I felt I needed to recommend his services to other horse owners/rider in need...

Delta had come back into work very full of himself and I knew I would need another pair of hands. Jon came for a week in the evenings and charged me a very modest amount to ride Devil horse for me until I was confident enough to get back on him!

Jon can be contacted on 07849 591764.

I can not recommend him enough - Karen Storer.

## FOR SALE or LOAN

Lovely grey gelding aged 9. 12hh done all showing, in hand and ridden, but nothing for a couple of years. He would not suit a tiny child or first ridden unless with someone very experienced, although he does lead extremely well. He is very kind. Good in his stable and travels in trailer or lorry. Would make a fabulous games/jumping pony for an experienced child. A special home is required for this adorable and striking pony.

Alison Yorke Telephone 01223 217844 (Work) 01954 250130 (Home)

# Meet Polly and Frostie Taylor



**Full Name?** - Dr Polly Margaret Taylor

**Age?** - Ancient! I remember the Beatles before they were famous (55)

**Occupation?** - Veterinary surgeon - freelance consultant in anaesthesia. So I get to work with everything from mice to elephants. I left Cambridge University vet school 6 years ago, and have never regretted leaving the bureaucracy and hassle factor. Much easier being my own boss!

**Favourite colour/ Film/ music/ Meal?** - Purple (there's a surprise!)/Notting Hill/ Anything but country & western and rap Favourite meal - what a difficult question - steak, mushrooms, onions and chips!

**Pets owned?** - 2 very small dogs with very large characters, Boo & Scout 2.5 cats. The 0.5 is Oscar a feral who has taken us over but we can't get near, the other 2 hate each other, neither is cuddly, Tink is beautiful, black and has rarely been near me since I vaccinated her months and months ago, Tabby is ancient, cantankerous, but really quite friendly in her old age. We keep a few sheep, but they are not pets! They tidy up the grazing after the horses, and produce lambs to go in the freezer.

**Horses owned?** - My husband would simply say "too many". I would just say that too many of them are white or going to be white. Frostie of course is the famous 'Little Tiger', CDRC's very own 4 star horse who was clear round Badminton this year, ridden by her talented and loyal partner Phoebe Buckley, who took her up the grades when I left off at Pre Novice. Lyric (Secret Passion) is my new star, ex race horse, turned eventer she's mine, all mine, for fun, and since I got her in February she has been perfect for me - has rarely been unplaced PN eventing, and is so easy to ride that eventing at that level is definitely all fun and not scary. The judges even like her dressage. Fatty, is Eleanor (my daughter)'s TB mare that she evented and did dressage until we couldn't keep her sound enough. She was meant to be a recipient for an embryo transfer from Frostie, but there weren't any embryos, so she had her own Conni cross filly - and hopefully we will do that again ... Dosh (Don't stop me now) is Frostie's one and only ET foal, that Karen Froud and I share - Karen's mare Daffy was her surrogate mum. She is now a yearling - is currently pink, moves beautifully, quite nice to handle and plans to be one of Phoebe's next rides round Badminton - give her a few years. Pi (Cassiopea) is Fatty's Conni/TB foal, also a yearling and Dosh's best mate. She is another shade of pink, tough pony character compared with the classier Dosh, but looks like could be fun. Here, but NOT mine!!! is Gulliver, on loan from Leanne from Kent, who is CDRC's latest solid-as-a-rock supporter. He is ridden mostly by Eleanor, but also by 2 friends. He can stay in a paddock for 2 months and come and fill in the novice SJ team at 24 hr notice, and then do nearly the same for the rescheduled eventing qualifier. He is very well brought up, and dressage is very good, so Eleanor is having a ball with him when she is at home. He is lovely to hack out too, very forward without being mad. Polo - well, all of Cambridgeshire knows Polo - the fat (he always looks fat) white cob who has bucked off most of the riders in the area at one time or another. He is now in honorable retirement, as is not sound except when coming for his tea. He is a great companion for flighty young things and I have to mention Charlie - who is not mine, and doesn't live here any more. He is a striking coloured with a blue eye who has done his bit for CDRC too. He belongs to Shirley Wilson, and I rode him for 2 seasons, taking him from a gangly baby to winning a PN. He is now also with Phoebe, currently doing his first one star at Hartpur!



The two grey ponies

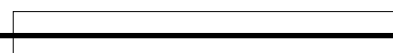


Polly and Lyric at 1<sup>st</sup> PN XC



Dosh (in front) and Pi at weaning

Pictures thanks to Michael J Dixon of Situpandkick



**Family?** - Husband Peter - who is Priest-in-Charge at Coveney and does a fantastic job keeping the Taylor household and "estate" (and me?) in control. Daughter Eleanor - who is no longer a teenager (said I was ancient, Didn't I?). She has done lots over the years with CDRC, loves riding Lyric as well as Gully. She is at Bristol University reading Psychology - though currently in Uganda having a fabulous, life changing, time teaching 100s of displaced kids.

**Favourite horsey activity/discipline?** - Eventing

**Most hated horsey activity?** - Plaiting - I will do a lot for someone else to do it. Next comes washing white horses, but I am well practiced.

**Your horse/rider idol?** - Mary King

**Favourite bit of horsey gear/equipment?** - Horseware rugs - even Frostie can't get them off

**Greatest horsey moment?** - Frostie's first completion at Badminton

**Scariest horsey moment?** - Charlie telling me it was time to move on to a real rider. Complete loss of control when he did the hairiest airs above the ground while bucking out hacking.

**Words of wisdom/advice for others?** - The Riding Club is meant to be FUN

**And anything else you want to add** - I write this in August 2008, currently recovering from back surgery which has completely scuppered equine plans for the rest of the summer. Wonderful support and encouragement from many CDRC friends - thank you! Can't wait to get back on Lyric end of September. Three cheers for Barry (Meningen) who rode her at the last minute – and won! - at the area eventing qualifier, and to Val Gingell and Izzy Edmundson who are currently keeping her occupied. Everyone seems to be enjoying her - but watch it guys - I am having her back!

## Fabulous Frostie...

Frostie is such a great story. I bought her from Val Gingell, who bred her, as a four year old for me to have fun at RC and lower end of eventing. She did all RC activities, and took part in RC area qualifiers in all disciplines - even went to the Championships once (NOT dressage!). Phoebe rode her when I was abroad one summer, and made a much better job of it, although they had their moments too. Despite such days as Frostie decanting Phoebe (takes some doing) twice in a day doing BSJA at Keysoe, Phoebe stuck with her, and rose to the occasion each time she went up a grade - and then she proved herself to be a 4 star horse, becoming the first to get Phoebe all the way round Badminton. She is a TB, but very small, some "measured" 14-2 ponies seem to tower over her, but we call her 15 hands. She is down in front, hates dressage, is a bit wild about show jumping, but show her a cross country course..... They are currently doing the 3star at Hartpury and so far are all set for Burghley - so be there to cheer her on! There are some good bits and pictures about her on <http://www.michaeljdixon.co.uk/> - follow the "Badminton Story" link under "writing" on the home page.



Badminton 2008

Picture thanks to Michael J Dixon of Situpandkick



Cute Frostie!