

Cambridge and District Riding Club

Articles of
special
interest:

- Area 7 novice Indoor show jumping report.
- Ringstead holiday.
- C&DRC May show at Cottenham racecourse
- Bitting clinic with Hilary Vernon

Ramblings from the chair...

I do not wish to tempt fate, but I do believe that the mud is receding....it no longer takes an age to walk across my yard, carefully extracting each foot from the quagmire...and both I and the horses can start to think of going out in the field again...hurrah!

Spring events are starting... not that we at CDRC have let up through the winter. Training is in full swing. Despite a last minute change of date due to snow, we had a great turnout for the fascinating bitting talk by Hilary Vernon. How many besides me went home and tried a different bit I wonder? Several people have taken up her offer to do a one-to-one fitting with individual horses. Do let us know how you get on!

CDRC hosted the Indoor Show Jumping qualifier this year at Manor Farm. We had an enjoyable and successful day, both with respect to our team performances and money raised. It was great to see so many people come to help set up on the Saturday evening, both regulars and new faces. An hour of your time here makes so much difference to the organisers, and it's a great way to meet your fellow club members aswell. Please please can you do the same for the Cottenham show! This is running in its usual May Bank Holiday Sunday slot. All help to set up on Saturday may 2nd from 2pm will be gratefully appreciated, as will helpers at the end of the day on the Sunday.

Area 7 have also run the first and second rounds of the Windsor Horse Show qualifier in Riding Test. Cambridge fielded entries in both the junior and senior sections. Cindy Wells and Cornelius Fudge were the top CDRC combination and went forward to the second round where they were runners up. We now wait to hear how many qualifiers are being held nationwide as they may yet get to ride at Windsor. Fingers crossed! The show jumping component will be held on Good Friday, also at Manor Farm. Do have a go! We also would appreciate volunteers to pick up poles for an hour during the day. Details are on the website.

The most recent event was the Ceiledh in Haddenham last Saturday. One participant summed up the evening by saying how much her jaw ached from laughing so much. We had a great time and raised around £250. Many thanks to all who donated food and time to this event, and especially Sharon Macleod, the organiser.

I am now looking forward to the Lucinda Green cross country clinic, and my first BE event in too long...

Have a good spring. And enjoy this newsletter!

Karen

Area 7 Indoor Novice Show jumping Qualifier

Cambridge Riding Club hosted the BRC Area 7 Novice Indoor Show Jumping Qualifier on Sunday 22nd Feb at Manor Farm Equestrian Centre, Houghton, By kind permission of the Maguire family.

Entries for both the Junior qualifier and the Senior qualifier were larger than previous years, with 17 teams entering each class. 16 Teams came forward on the day to contest the junior qualifier. Course builder Philip Parren had designed a fair course, with faults being fairly evenly distributed around the course, although one fence in particular seemed to cause quite a problem for both the junior and senior riders. The bright blue CDRC fillers, which have tropical fish swimming across them, proved a little too scary for some horses and ponies!

Cambridge Riding Club had five teams entered in the Junior Qualifier, and It was lovely to see some of our younger members having a go at representing the club for the first time. We also welcomed several new members to the club.

After the first round of the competition, there were only two teams on a zero score, and they were Cambridge St Catherines and Cambridge St Edmunds. Following the second round, where all teams jumped again, the judges were left with four teams tying with four faults each. Thoses four teams then jumped off over a third round jump off course against the clock. When the results were given, it was a win for Cambridge St Catherines, with Cambridge St Edmunds in second, Aspley Guise RC in third and North Mymms in fourth place. Cambridge Pembroke were fifth.

Due to the large numbers of entries in the classes, it meant that two teams from both the Junior and Senior classes, would qualifier for the BRC National Championships at the end of March.

The Afternoon saw the senior competition take place over the same course as the juniors, with the "Fish" fence causing more than its fair share of problems, and after the first round, some teams decided to withdraw from the second round and call it a day.

Cambridge had three teams entered, all of which went forward to the second round. As there was only one team on a score of zero after the second round, the lower places were decided on time, and Wittering Academy were declared the outright winners, Cambridge were second, with Huntingdon RC taking third and fourth spot.

Congratulations to all our members who took part, in what was a very enjoyable day, and a HUGE THANKS to all the kind people who helped us with the setting up on the Saturday night.

Thank you also to Sharon, Rebecca, Rhea, Madelaine, Rachel, Mary Owen and Nicola for their help on the day, and I apologise to anyone I might have missed. It was wonderful to have such support from you all, and it made things run so much more smoothly on the day, and best of all, we raised some much needed funds for the club.

We wish the Juniors - Alice Ward, Chloe Mills, Rachel Dyke, Sophie Howse, Todd Roberts, Sam Bennett, George Spark-Hall and Sam Stringer all the very best of luck for the Championships on Sunday 29th March, and the Seniors - Sue King, Sonia Hansen, Nicola Shaw and Debbie Roberts the best of luck for Saturday 28th March.

We are looking forward to a weekend at Hartpury
many thanks - Sharron and Judi

Calling all junior eventers!

Schools 2 Day Event at Offchurch Bury on 23/24th may. Novice 2'9" and Open 3'3" team and individual event. To be run under RC rules. Open to riders in full time education up to the end of their final year at school. Contact Karen Froud for a schedule. p_kfroud@hotmail.com

Are you a dressage rider?

Are you a dressage rider? Would you be able to help me with my studies?

I am a third year student at the University of Northampton, currently starting dissertation on sport psychology.

I am looking for any Dressage riders who would be interested in taking part in my study about pre-performance routines and a rider's perception of 'flow'.

Riders of any age and any level are welcome to take part; your only qualification for my study is that you are fairly competitive at Dressage, competing on a regular basis!!

You will simply fill in some forms and questionnaires, based around a dressage competition of your choice and the investigation is solely based upon your personal perceptions of your performance, not upon your ability. You will be completely anonymous throughout the finished dissertation and the investigation is extremely unobtrusive.

I would be very grateful if you would call or email me to find out more information and then decide if you would like to help me.

Thank you,
Mel Brace
TEL: 07931166861
EMAIL: melanie.brace07@my.northampton.ac.uk

If you have any articles you would like to go into the newsletter please will you send everything to Karen Froud at p_kfroud@hotmail.com

Ringstead holiday 2008 by Mary Owen

I arrived first at Ringstead, probably because I was still unable to ride so had not been able to bring Amory. Sharon and Katy arrived shortly after with three horses followed by Billy and Tony who had brought a driving cart and all the gear. Rebecca, Kerry and Oliver, Susie and Doris all arrived in quick succession and electric fencing was erected to separate one paddock into two. Katy and Tony harnessed up Magpie and Katy drove, with Tony on the backplate. I went as a passenger accompanied by Billy and Sharon riding alongside. We went for a short trip around the farm, it was sunny but the wind was quite strong. Kerry and Oliver had been hunting in the morning, so did not ride. Steve arrived and most other people rode before we had our evening party.

We had an excellent meal with different people preparing each course, followed by Steve and Tony playing guitars.

On the Sunday everyone went to the beach either on horseback or dog walking, as we had ten dogs with us. The walkers met up with the riders at the Gin Trap pub on the way back to the barn. Steve and Oliver had to go home so the rest of us had another communal meal in the evening.

Some horses were quite tired on Monday so rested or did shorter rides around the farm. In the evening we all went out for a hilarious meal at The Lifeboat in Thornham. Most people had to go home on the Tuesday, but Susie, Doris and Rebecca stayed another couple of nights. The weather was good enough for another trip down to the beach, so several horses went home a lot fitter than when they arrived.

Mary Owen.

STOP PRESS!! Eventing Teams

Riding Clubs head office have decided that members MAY now compete at the British Eventing ODE @ Keysoe on May 9/10th AND the Riding club Area Qualifier on May 17th as long as its NOT over the same level course. For example you may do BE90 (Intro) @ BE and Intermediate @ RC or BE100 (Pre-Nov) @ BE & OPEN @ RC.

The Area 7 horse trials qualifier will be on Sunday 17th May 09 at The College Equestrian Centre Keysoe. (with alternative date 5th July should it be rained off) There will be a Novice, Intermediate & Open Senior team and individual competition and Junior Novice & Open and the winners will qualify for the National Horse Trials Championships at Offchurch Bury in August. We are hoping to enter teams in all sections so let Karen Froud or Mary Groombridge know ASAP if you are interested in having a go. New members (must have joined CDRC by 20 April 09) and first time team members encouraged. Come and have a go. NO PRESSURE!

Novice approx 2'9 intro level . Horses may be registered BE but not have any BE points or been placed in the first 6 places pre-nov or completed a BE pre-nov or higher standard course in the current year.
Intermediate 3'0-3'3 Pre-Nov level. No BE points but can be registered with BE Open 2 members of team with max 20 BE points & 2 with max 60 points (can have 2 on team 21-60 points but will be awarded 1 penalty per point 21-60)

TRAINING There are training sessions booked with Nat Dixon (ALSO OPEN TO JUNIORS) at The College Keysoe XC training with Nat on Saturday 18th April 3 sessions Novice 9am Intermediate 11am & Open 1pm cost £33 per person for 1.5 approx hours tuition (including hire of course) Body Protectors compulsory. Please send booking form ASAP & cheques payable to CDRC to KERRY SIMSON 21 MILL GREEN WARBOYS HUNTINGDON CAMBS PE28 2SA

If you want to put your name down for the SENIOR TEAMS please contact KAREN FROUD 07787 576798 p_kfroud@hotmail.com or JUNIORS: Sharon Dyke 01763 248957 or 07902517405 by 12th APRIL 2009.

Please make sure your flu vacs are up to date and send a copy of the flu vac dates and the ID page to Karen Froud asap who is compiling a database for the area. Approximate cost of the ODE will be £45 per person. PLEASE NOTE THE RIDING CLUB RULE HX 1.1.1.which prevents team members from practising over the course in the 3 weeks prior to the area qualifier (no XC schooling) but you may now compete at Keysoe BE but must ride a different level course at the RC event.

As this is the first newsletter I have done the format is fairly basic, however, I am hoping it will be more interesting by the next one!!

Rhea ☺

BOOKING FORM

XC TRAINING WITH NAT DIXON AT KEYSOE Saturday 18th April 2009

Name: _____ Horse: _____ Mobile No: _____

Home No: _____

Level: Novice 9am Intermediate 11am Open 1pm Cheque enclosed for

£33 payable to CDRC

Watch Your Language!

How many different languages and social mannerisms do we have in the human world? Thousands? Tens of thousands? But when it comes to horses – they all have only one language. What is it? Primarily, it is body language they understand and react to. Therefore, it is their body language you should recognize to have a deeper understanding and influence over them.

If you have anything to do with horses you should always be learning and understanding how they think and communicate. You'd be shocked how much better you'd be with a horse when you understand how to influence it by using your own body language and feel.

One of the best reasons for understanding your horse's body language (which shows you the state of its mind), is when you're on its back. Try to make yourself aware of your horse's ever changing emotional state. Truthfully, many people around their horses give this too little regard. They may see things but do not recognise what they mean. It often only becomes apparent to people when an extreme of emotion is exhibited such as nervousness, agitation, fear or excitement.

One might say, why do we need to understand the whys and the wherefores of our horse's body language. We need to learn this so that we can, in turn, learn how to move our bodies to influence and control our horses more safely, increasing their confidence and relaxation with us, thus improving their way of being and going. Many small, and sometimes big, adjustments in how we move around our horses, prove to be endlessly entertaining, heighten the sensitivity of how our horses respond to us and how eventually we can move our horses about with the tiniest indications, which pass from ground work to ridden work. The sort of communication that is not addressed in most British equestrian publications.

If you have a plain old curiosity or even a deep desire to improve your equestrian skills using FEEL instead of other ways to get things done with a horse, then this type of handling develops an improvement of skills based on a philosophy towards horses and ponies that combines patience, respect, empathy and feel. To enjoy a full day's learning at the beginning of these skills with your horse, I am looking for a maximum of seven enthusiastic people with such an interest to spend the day with Charles Wilson (see charleswilson@sinningtonmanor.co.uk). The venue will be Knights End Riding Centre, Knights End Road, Nr. March, Cambs on 11th April 09. This is an extremely user friendly centre owned and run by the very welcoming Little family. There is a comfortable club room for lunchtime and a stable can be made available for your horse for the additional cost of £5 per stable. The cost of the day will be £95 made payable to CDRC.

On the three occasions my horse and I have spent with Charles Wilson, we have found him to be a relaxed, quiet and unassuming, well spoken, Northern gentleman, whose teaching style is relaxed and uncomplicated. Charles Wilson is classically trained, with extensive three day event experience, teaching, running his own stud and farm combined. Charles went over to the States to experience and study what the Parelli method could offer him and he returned to develop his more relaxed interpretation of the skills he had learned. Charles prefers to call his style the practice of good horsemanship, rather than the more bandied about title of "natural horsemanship" which is a title some may shy away from.

Some of the smallest, minor adjustments and skills I have learned so far have helped me far more than anything I had in my repertoire before to improve my own very unconfident, volatile and angry horse. These skills are not just for the more spirited and spooky horse, but will enliven and lighten the more placid horse; loosen the stiff, slow the speedy, alter ingrained behaviour of years and improve the awareness of both horse and human. If there is some aspect which requires addressing in hand or in the saddle. Charles Wilson is at ease on a placid pony or a spirited 16'2.

The day is spent achieving relaxation in both parties; a lot of quiet concentration goes on. The process of quiet learning brings about complete absorption in what one is doing and from that, much enjoyment. If you would like further details of this day (i.e., what equipment you should bring), or to reserve your place on this day's course, or would just like to come along and watch, (spectators £5), please contact me, Caroline Mitchell, by telephone in the evenings from 8.30p.m. to 9.30 p.m. on 01480 831240 or e-mail on caroline.mitchell@papworth.nhs.uk.

The only equipment needed is your usual saddle and bridle and clothing you will be comfortable and warm all day in, your riding hat, a rope halter and a lead rope of some 12' with, ideally, some weight in the rope. The halters are available from Charles Wilson on the day. A suitable type and length of rope can be obtained from your local boat chandlers and they are usually happy to splice on a suitable clip. Otherwise, Charles also has these to purchase.

This day will appeal equally to the nervous novice and the completely confident equestrian; Charles Wilson ensures that you will all work at your own particular level simultaneously.

Caroline Mitchell

Bitting Talk "An Evening with Hilary Vernon" from Informed Bitting

Having had to re-schedule our evening talk with Hilary Vernon from Friday 6th February due to horrendous snow conditions we postponed the talk to Friday 27th February. Having telephoned and emailed everyone to explain the situation and give them the new date it seemed that even more people wanted to attend the evening!

Hilary, gave a very informative talk with some entertaining stories she had encountered along her career which has resulted in her becoming a very knowledgeable bitting clinician. She explained in detail how important it is to make sure your horse is comfortable in its back, teeth, etc and how the mouth and tongue fit into the body with the tongue eventually ending in the muscles of the chest.

Hilary went onto explain how important it is not only to have the right bit for the horse but equally how important it is to train the horse correctly for the job you intend it to do, after all, a bit won't solve all your problems if your training isn't up to scratch!

Having counted around 60 people attending the talk, there were many questions being asked, and Hilary did her best to answer all of them logically to us and not blind us with science! She explained all the different types of bit actions etc and how she designs bits as well. There

were many people wanting to arrange for Hilary to come out and look at their horses at the end of the evening to try and solve issues that many of us experience on a day to day basis!!

Hilary is very happy to arrange bitting days in our area, if you would like to book a session with Hilary, please let me know. Currently we are looking at March 14th &/or April 4th.

Joanne Harrison

*** Badminton Horse Feeds Competition ***

Read the advertisement feature below then answer the following question:
"What should form the basis of any equine diet, to aid digestion and gut action, and is found in Feed'n'fibre?"

Answers to Karen Froud on a postcard, email or text by april 14th. Correct answers to be drawn out of a hat.

2 prizes of a bag of feed'n'fibre; 2 runners up prizes of a tub of tasty treats

All to be collected from Fen Farm Supplies, Witcham, nr. Ely

Experience and Innovation

Badminton Horse Feeds use the latest research in producing a range of feeds to meet the needs of horses and ponies in all situations. They adopt a holistic approach in formulating these feeds to provide optimal nutrition for health and well-being. This ensures horses and ponies are happy and satisfied from the inside while owners see the benefits from the outside – shiny coat, healthy appetite, bright eyes and an active life. Their comprehensive range of feeds includes well tried products, which have stood the test of time, and the latest innovative ideas in feeding.

Badminton Horse & Pony Cool Mix was the first coarse mix produced by the company and it is still one of their most popular feeds today. This quality lower energy mix is oat-free, so can assist in maintaining a calm temperament. It is suitable for any leisure horse or pony, and makes a great choice for good doers and overweight horses, as well as that fizzy horse. It can also be used as a fittening feed to get horses back into work after the winter. Badminton produce a cube version too, which Mary King uses for her horses.

Badminton Feed 'n' Fibre was launched in the autumn and is already proving a popular choice with horse owners. An oat-free mix is combined with long fibre from natural dried grass to aid digestion and gut action. The correct balance of feed and fibre has been mixed together in one bag to give you a complete feed, when fed in conjunction with your usual additional forage. Feed 'n' Fibre is just one product in the new Rich Fibre range which also includes High Fibre Complete, a chunky nugget, and Easy Rider, a combination of long fibre and small vitamin and mineral pellets. For more information on these and any other products in the Badminton range, log onto www.badmintonfeeds.co.uk or call 01425 658450 for details of your local stockist.



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POPLAR PARK HOLIDAY

Friday 22nd -Tuesday 26th May 2009

The annual club excursion has been arranged over the Whitsun Bank Holiday weekend to Poplar Park Equestrian centre nr Hollesley in the Rendlesham Forest nr Woodbridge, Suffolk.

The village is in walking distance with a pub & shop & there is plenty to do in the area for non-riding family members who want to come along including walking the coastal path, cycling, catching the ferry across the Bawdsey River to Felixstowe & the towns of Woodbridge & Ipswich are a short drive away.

It's an informal weekend where everybody does their own thing i.e. hacking out on your own or in groups along sandy forest tracks or using the training facilities at the equestrian centre including the XC course (2ft-3'6) & the show jumps and arena's (when not in use for lessons). Stabling for horses is in one of the 3 stable yards mostly on straw which is included; please bring your own shavings if required. A £5.00 deposit is required upon arrival, refunded at the end of your stay provided your stable is left clean. You will need to bring your own hay, feed, mucking out equipment, tack etc. There are WC/ Showers in the stable yard for those camping or sleeping in lorries (don't expect The Ritz!)

There is a show at the centre organised by Easton Harriers Pony Club on the Monday (schedules will be on horse dates website) with Show Jumping, Dressage, Showing & Gymkhana classes for all abilities which we can enter on the day (dressage entries in advance)

The cost is £30 per night per horse (including camping & use of the cross country course, show jumps etc)

Please complete the booking slip below and send a cheque for £30 per horse, per night made payable to CDRC to:- Nicola Shaw 61 Histon Road, Cottenham, Cambridge CB24 8UF by Monday 4th May to secure a place or ring 01954 205308 if you have any queries.

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BOOKING FORM FOR POPLAR PARK 2009

Name

Address

.....

Telephone: Home Mobile

Stabling Required:

How many stables required Friday Saturday Sunday Monday

1

2

3

Name of Horse/Pony			
Height of Horse/Pony			

Lastly...

SARA BAILEY MEMORIAL FUND

In the early 1980's Sara was tragically killed while competing in a three-day event. She had been a keen member of the Cambridgeshire Hunt Branch of the Pony Club, and a valued instructor. The Cambridgeshire Branch of the British Horse Society set up a memorial fund.

The award from this fund is used to provide an annual bursary for a keen rider to spend on further training with an instructor approved by the BHS Cambridgeshire committee. To apply for this grant you must reside within Cambridgeshire and Peterborough and be a member of the Cambridgeshire Hunt Pony Club, Cambridgeshire British Horse Society or a British Riding Club.

Applications can be made in writing by 1st August 2009 to the secretary Mrs Julie Wisson, Ivy Cottage, Harbins Lane, Abbotsley, Cambs PE19 6UF or julie@simonsrodents.co.uk. Applicants should submit a written equestrian CV at this time and provide information outlining how the award will help with their future training.

Granta Harriers Hunt Ball

Saturday 18th April 2009 at Homerton College Cambridge All Welcome
Reception 7pm Dinner in the Great Hall 7.30 Dancing to live six piece band. Hunt/Evening dress/Black Tie.

Tickets £48 per person from Ann Joyce Stockton Gate The Town Gt Staughton Cambs PE19 5BE or ring Ann for details 07710298603 or e.mail annjoyce1@gmail.com or Meg Martin 01223 237112

Fitzwilliam Hunt dates for your diary

Sun 5th April Pleasure Ride in Milton Park Peterboro. Info from Debbie Jones 07747 766075

Sun 10th May Milton Park show info from www.miltonshow.co.uk or sae for schedule to Flat 11 The Stables Milton Pk Peterboro PE6 7AF

Sat 23rd May Hound racing at the kennels

Fri 12th June Bangers and Mash Ball at the Holiday Inn Peterboro Tickets £25 per head 7-1am Band & Disco

Sat 18th July Opera by the Lake in Milton Park professional singers from the Royal Opera House sing a variety of well know tunes

Fitzwilliam Pony Club

Sun 19 April Hunter/Eventer Trial at Home Farm Alconbury Open to Non Members (Senior Junior and Mini course in enclosed area for the younger ones) See www.pcuk.org. Fitzwilliam Pony Club branch web site in competitions for schedule

Sun 18th May Junior & Mini-ODE (under 16's) at Milton Park Peterboro see Fitzwilliam PC web site for details

Stewards needed for East Of England show 19-21 June 09 & EQUIFEST 20-24 August 2009

Kay Graves (from Huntingdon RC & RC style jumping judge) has been elected as Chief Light horse steward for EofE show for next 3 yrs and is looking to recruit more stewards to help at this show and the Equifest showing show in August. There will be a stewards briefing meeting before the EofE in July for to stewards to familiarise themselves with the showground and to provide training & information etc about the role. Stewards are provided with passes & complimentary tickets into the show, lunch & refreshment vouchers and a caravan pass if you want to stay over. Other perks include free entry to other events throughout the year ie shire horse show, holiday on ice & a free stewards dinner. Its great fun and not too stressful but you will be expected to be smartly dressed (ladies wear dresses or suits with straw hats) punctual and courteous to judges/competitors. You may be required to let competitors in & out of rings, direct competitors in the ring, add up conformation/ride judge scores, hand out rosettes & record results etc. You can indicate which days (half days) you are able to steward & express any particular interest in breeds/classes/bsja etc and they will do their best to accomodate you. If you can help please contact Betsy Branyon at the East of England

Agricultural society 01733 234451 or e.mail bbranyan@eastofengland.org.uk
or for more info ring Kerry Simson 07833 690812

FOR SALE

Lassiter dressage saddle, GP
saddle, various bridles, bits, rugs etc suitable for 14.00 - 15.00hh pony
or cob. Also black top boots size 5 1/2 with trees. Reasonable prices. For
sale as no longer have stud farm. **tell Ann Macnab 01954 250593.**

9 Year Old Imported German Warmblood Pony X 14.2hh Smart Bright Bay Mare with attractive Markings.
Has done Pony Club, Riding Club, CXC, SJ, ODE's, Dressage, Le Trec, Pleasure Rides, Horseball, Polo,
Mounted Games, etc Well schooled. Sensible without being boring! 100% road/farm work, good box, shoe,
stable manners excellent. Inoculations Up-to-date, etc. Offers in region of £3,000 or £4,500 o.n.o. with
almost new Albion saddle (XC/Drs Pads), Stubben bridle, rugs, boots, etc. Tel: Kate Armstrong 01954
719745 or email for pictures and full details on : katearmstrong@ukonline.co.uk.