

Cambridge and District Riding Club

Articles of
special
interest:

- 2009 Awards
- Quiz Night
- Indoor SJ
- Equine massage
- Elveden Report
- Website gallery page!

Ramblings from the chair...

Welcome to Cambridge & District Riding Club in the new decade!

It was good to see lots of people at the AGM in November. The new committee looks very similar to the old (and you should have received details) but we say goodbye, and thank you, to Rachel Keaveney, Debs Wade and Evelyn Little. Instead we welcome Suzanne Crocker, and Shirley Swanson steps into the Treasurer's shoes.

We presented a number of suggestions to gain a general opinion, and hope to be acting on them this year. Firstly you said there were issues with receiving club emails, so a hard copy of what should happen, and what to do if it doesn't, is on its way to you. Next we discussed a voucher system to reward helpers. After much helpful input, it was decided that the vouchers would be difficult to administer fairly, so instead we pledge to reward helpers with adequate food and drink on the day, and will have a helpers co-ordinator at each event to ensure everyone is welcomed and knows what to do and where to go. We will introduce welcome briefings at the start of each mission to ensure no one feels at a loss.

We are not hosting a summer qualifier this year, but instead we will be running a summer club show, in addition to the May Open Show. In order to be able to keep running our shows, we are planning to invest our profits from last year into some plastic (and therefore long lasting) show jumps. We will also need to purchase a trailer in order to transport them all. So if anyone can help us in the acquisition of an Ifor Williams flatbed, or similar, please do shout.

Lastly we asked you about the social events — the result is a Quiz Night at Rampton Village Hall on February 12th. The grand plans do need ongoing fund-raising, so do help us by joining in, and hopefully we will have a fun evening.

The next big event is the Indoor SJ qualifier at Manor Farm, Houghton, on February 21st. Please contact Judi or Sharron if you would like a place on the teams, or if you can help us set up on the Friday, or do a stint of pole putting up on the Saturday. All help is very gratefully received.

Meanwhile enjoy the other clinics, and Happy New Year.

Karen

2009 Awards and Trophies

Senior Achievement Cup – Shared by Jo Lawrence and Eleanor Taylor for winning the Pairs Dressage to Music class at the Championships at Hartpury.

Special Achievement awards to the winning Hickstead show jumping team of Niki Shaw, Eloise Porcari and Tabitha Love.

Junior Achievement Cup – Emily Dickson for an individual 4th at the horse trials championship.

Senior Appreciation Awards:

- Amanda Fairchild for dressage writing, entries secretary and help setting up at various events.
- Tony Smith for all the help setting up especially show jumps.

Overall Appreciation Award – Anna Cook for dressage writing, judging, setting up and in her support as Equine Touch Practitioner at Area events.

Junior Appreciation Award – Bethany Murfitt for all the help and support she has given to the club.

Senior versatility – Karen Froud for competing at area level in all disciplines and being placed second at Lincoln Championships.

Junior versatility – Rachel Dyke for competing in all six disciplines and being placed in three of them.

Most Improved Rider – Louise Horne

The Club All Rounder Award – Karen Tyrell for representing the club at several area qualifiers, letting other members ride her horse at qualifiers and regular attendance at all types of training and unmounted events.

Winter Dressage League – Julie Griffin

White Horse Cup for consistent performance at all shows through the year – Niki Shaw & Earl Grey, with Jo Lawrence & Clever Trevor as runner up.

Red Baron Cup for junior performance – Rachel Dyke & Biscuit.

Well Done to All.

Subscriptions were due on 1st October 2009, so please renew ASAP if you have not already done so!

Quiz Night!

The next social event will be a Quiz Night at Rampton Village Hall on Friday February 12th at 7:30 pm ready for 7:45 start. This was recently voted the most popular choice for a night out at the AGM.

So put your thinking caps on! Please come along to help raise funds for the club, it doesn't matter if you haven't got a team together, just come along for a good night out and some fun. Bring your friends!

Tickets cost £8 per person – teams of 6 or 8.

- Licensed bar
- Buffet style supper included in the cost of ticket
- 6 rounds of questions (eg TV, Sport, Name That Tune, Celebrity pictures)
- Prize for winning team !!
- Raffle (please bring something if you can)

Novice indoor show jumping qualifier

Hi everyone, Judi here! We are again hosting the qualifier for this event at Manor Farm on Saturday 20th February. We thought we would try a Saturday as the parking is not that brilliant and we are going to leave quite a gap in between the juniors and the seniors, this is to make sure that most of the juniors will have cleared the parking area before the seniors need to arrive. We are intending to start the seniors at 2.30-3pm, so this will be a late start and finish for the seniors. At least you seniors can have a bit of a lie-in on Sunday morning and not have to get up early for work! Please don't be afraid of giving this a try even if you have a real 'baby horse' we do try and sort the babies from the more experienced and put them in teams accordingly, having fun is what we want you all to have, don't think you will be letting anyone down. This is a two round competition, 1st round 80cms 2nd round 85cms no BSJA other than notional prize money gained in 70cms and 80cms classes. No BE points, nor must they have been placed in the first six in any BE/EI Pre-novice competition. Horses may be downgraded, ring me for details or go to BHS RC website for full rules.

All members who would like to take part in this event please contact either Sharron or myself before 25th January, as preliminary entries need to be at Stoneleigh before 31st Jan, thanks very much.

Juniors - contact SHARRON DYKE on 01763 248957 or mobile 07902 517405
Seniors - contact JUDI SHAW on 01223 263606, 07702 891119, or email via C&DRC website

THE SCHEDULE SHOULD BE ON the C&DRC WEBSITE EARLY JANUARY 2010

C&DRC Ride at Elveden UK Chaser Course

Saturday 7th November 2009 — After an early start in the morning, I packed my car carefully ensuring that I had packed tack, change of clothes, refreshments, munchies for the journey and set off to the yard at about 7.30am. Having just left the village, I remembered that my bridle that I had cleaned the night before still hung on the kitchen door!! Turn around, collect bridle - take two for going to the yard.

Arrived at the yard to Josh's 'good morning' call from his stable, as he always does. Josh had breakfast, before I put his travel rug and boots on, and sorted out the trailer. After loading Josh, and setting off earlier than planned, I thought this is going to be a great day. Left on time, everything packed, just diesel to put in the car to ensure no further stops or delays necessary. Stopped at Tesco in Ely to fill up with diesel, and a final check though my mind of things to remember ... hmmm a body protector might be useful for cross country schooling!! Turn around, back to the yard to collect body protector. Take three!!

Finally we were on our way to Elveden. Sat nav was saying arrival time 09.25, perfect. The sun was shining and it looked like a great day was on its way. Arriving at Elveden, which was very easy to find I might add, Cindy & Fudge, Shirley & Harry and Rebecca & Bluebell were already there, and greeted me with such warm welcomes. Being a new member to the riding club, I was a little anxious of attending on my own (as a friend who was meant to be coming with me had to pull out

due to her horse having ringworm) but I had nothing to worry about. The four of us went over to the lovely tearoom & shop to book in and pay our reduced rate, and we returned to the horses to get ready to go. Judy & Niki with Rosco & Polly-Ann rolled up a few minutes later, who were also both very friendly.



When we were all ready to go, Shirley's partner Tony took a group photo with Diva the dog (see above) and we set off to the course, with Tony & Diva in tow. Josh was on his toes, being somewhere new and with new friends, and we chatted whilst walking to the course. Elveden is a gorgeous place, part of the course runs through a forest, and part on open ground and tracks. The ground was perfect, it is mostly sandy, so not hard and not muddy. The first jump we came across was a small log, and some of us jumped it and some went round. The nice thing about the course is that you don't have to jump. You can easily go around all the jumps if you want to.

After a few more jumps we came to the water complex. Josh has a few troubles jumping into water; he doesn't mind going through it though. After a few helpful leads from Niki & Polly-Ann, Shirley & Harry and Rebecca & Bluebell, and some very helpful riding advice, Josh launched himself in the water with rounds of cheers and applause from the girls. After a few more times jumping in, we moved on to the next jumps. The step complex was the next challenge we came across, and again Josh & I needed some leads, but we managed to accomplish the small & large drop. The girls again gave me the encouragement and confidence I needed, which was gratefully received. The rest of the course was great, and we jumped logs, pheasant feeders, palisades, tree stumps, and a variety of other cross country style jumps.

The course is approx 4 miles long, and when we reached the end, Shirley, Niki and I decided that we would go round again at a steady pace, and Cindy, Rebecca and Judy went round at a slower pace. On return to the lorry park, we un-tacked and waited for Judy, Cindy and Rebecca who were not far behind us. I discovered I'd lost my phone somewhere on the course, so Shirley very kindly offered to walk round with me, ringing it to



see if we could find it! Needle in a haystack comes to mind ... Anyway, phone lost, but still a great day had. When we returned, Judy and Niki had cooked pizza and made tea in their lorry, and Cindy had bought a lovely carrot cake from the tearoom & shop. We all sat and chatted for a while in Niki and Judy's lorry, drinking tea and eating pizza and cake. We all said our goodbye's and departed about 2.30pm.

Elveden has a wide variety of jumps, of varying sizes, suitable for all levels. It was lovely to ride through some wonderful countryside, with a great bunch of people. Everyone made me feel so welcome, and by the end of the day, I felt that I had made some very good friends. Thank you to Cindy, Shirley, Judy, Niki and Rebecca for making us feel so welcome. Josh & I had a great day, and we are looking forward to the next one.

Rachel Casbon

Stop Press: We've just been back again, this time in the snow! We rode round carefully, and jumped a few fences which had sun on them, but the rest were too snowy or the ground too frozen. Another lovely ride, thanks all — Cindy

We are hoping to organise another trip as it's such a great place to ride – keep a look out in the diary every month!

AmTrust Equine RWHS BRC Championships 2010

Following the successful inaugural AmTrust Equine RWHS unaffiliated championship in 2009 (when member Cindy Wells, riding Cornelius Fudge, came 3rd in the Senior Riding Test Championship), qualifiers are already scheduled for this year's championship which will follow the same format as last year.

In 2010 there will be six competitions:

2 Dressage classes (Junior and Senior, BRC Riding Test 6 (2005))

4 Jumping classes (Junior and Senior Novice, and Junior and Senior

Intermediate, BRC Rule book 2008, Appendix 2)

Each will have 4 phases:

Round 1 - Club Qualifiers (Local Round)

Round 2 - Regional Area Qualifier

Round 3 - RWHS Finals

Round 4 - RWHS Championships

Rounds 3 and 4 take place at the Royal Windsor Horse Show in May 2010.

The show jumping classes follow a Top Score format, and both Riding Test and Jumping classes have restrictions on eligibility of horses and riders. For more details about any of the competitions, see www.amtrustequine.co.uk and the BRC website competitions pages.

As though the chance of competing at Windsor wasn't enough of an incentive to get involved, this year's lucky winners are guaranteed a real 'once in a lifetime' experience – a trip to Lexington, Kentucky to see the

Don't forget the diary is updated every month on the CDRC website:

www.CandDRC.org.uk

Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games 2010, during which they'll take centre stage when presented with their Champions' trophies at the Lexington Civic Centre. The 5 day trip includes flights, transport, hotel accommodation and meals for each champion, as well as tickets to the games. Junior Champions (under 16 years of age) will be able to take a parent or guardian with them on their trip at no extra charge.

C&DRC are holding a class for Round 1 for Riding Test 6 at Milton as part of the Winter Dressage Series. This will be held on Sunday 21st February, see diary and club shows page on the website for all the details and entry forms.

Equine Massage event – 23rd January

C&DRC has booked Carolyn Alsop to talk about and demonstrate equine massage. You can watch and learn about it, and she will show you how to do some basic massage for your own horse.

This will be held on Saturday 23rd January 2010 at Hill Top, 88B Hill Row, Haddenham, courtesy of Rebecca Jarvis. It starts at 10.30am and will last approximately one and a half hours. The cost is £3 per person, tea/coffee and biscuits will be available! Numbers are limited, so please ring Rebecca Jarvis on 01353 741110 to book your place.

About Equine Massage – Equine massage enhances the performance and quality of life for any horse and pony: improving flexibility, back and joint mobility, reducing stiffness, improving attitude and shortening recovery time from injury. It is widely used to prevent and relieve stress and to assist in recovery from injury.

Massage will relax your horse to help dispel toxins and waste products increasing oxygenation for a better metabolism improving circulation, coat and muscle tone.

It also contributes to damage prevention from ill fitting saddle, teeth and rider problems can all show up in the muscles.

Novice SJ practice - Thursday 11th February

Evening SJ practice 6-8pm at Manor Farm, Houghton, St Ives

We've arranged another clear round SJ practice in readiness for the Novice Indoor SJ qualifier on 20th February. We will need to build the course of jumps (as Manor Farm have a dressage competition on the day before) so lots help needed, please arrive by 5pm.

The more helpers we have to build course the more time we get to jump! 5-6pm course building; 6-7pm height approx. 2'6; 7-8pm 2'9 & above (if time allows) cost £3 per round.

If you want some extra practice for the Novice SJ teams why not come along & meet your team mates and have a go in the indoor arena. All welcome - very low key and friendly! Please text Kerry to let her know you will be coming, on 07833 690812.

Spaces still available for C&DRC pre-season training camp

26-28th Feb 2010 (Fri pm-Sun pm) at Waresley Park, Waresley, Cambs
ALL WELCOME – For full details see previous newsletter.

There are still spaces left in the Novice/young horse/BE 80 ish group with Phoebe Buckley and 1 space in the advanced group (BE Nov/Int) with Owen Moore. Why not come along to camp and have the time of your life! It should be a great way to set you and your horse up for the season ahead, whatever your aims. Young horses and novice riders can be catered for in Phoebe's group and all welcome (whatever you or your horse's shape, size, experience or hairyness!)

Brief Itinerary:

Friday - Arrive 1pm

Ride 2-4pm

5-6pm Talk/discussion re: XC safety/fitness etc

Then dinner & socialising.

Saturday - Ride 10am-12 noon

Lunch 12.30-2pm

Ride again 2-4pm

Sunday - Ride 11am-1pm

Lunch 1-2pm

Depart 3pm

There will be 4 ridden sessions over the weekend which will include flatwork, Show-jumping, arena XC techniques and weather permitting, the opportunity to use the XC course and gallops. Each group will stay with their own instructor for the 3 days to enable them to assess you and your horse, and work out the best way to help you improve over the weekend.

If you would like to come or have any queries, please contact Kerry Simson ASAP on 07833 690812 or email kerrysimson@btinternet.com

Website gallery page!

The C&DRC website now has an exciting new page featuring photographs from recent riding club events — see www.CandDRC.org.uk and click on the 'Picture Gallery' link from the list in the blue section down the left hand side of the page.

Please send any photos you have from riding club events, you can email them as an attachment to 'newsletter@canddrc.org.uk' we can't guarantee to publish them all, but we would love to put a few more on the gallery page on the website.

Of course as always we'd love to hear from you with articles for the newsletter and you can now include photos too!

Riding for the disabled group need helpers

The Woodhurst Group RDA meet at Northbrook Equestrian Centre in Offord Cluny on Monday mornings 10-12am during term time. Up to 8 children with varying disabilities from Spring Common School in Huntingdon come along and learn to ride each week. It takes 3 helpers per child to lead the pony and assist the children, and we are short of regular helpers who can side walk & lead. It's a friendly group and you don't need any previous experience as full training will be given. It's lovely to see the children enjoying themselves on the ponies.

If you can spare any time to come along and help (even if you can't make it every Monday) please give Kerry Simson a ring on 07833 690812 or ring (chairman) Andria Wilkinson on 07840273990.