



West Surrey Riding Club

BHS affiliated Riding Club



WSRC News & Events

Our news and events update for December 2020

MERRY CHRISTMAS

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

To say it's been an unusual year is an understatement. For any riding club it's been challenging but we have been more fortunate than most. In September we managed to run one show at Whitley Manor (with thanks to Will Elliot & Lisa Fahy), which bought in funds to pay for the teams for the remainder of the year. The show was a great success with over 130 entries with all classes socially distanced and some great prizes to boot. We volunteered to run the Arena Eventing Qualifier this year but it was cancelled at the last minute due to the weather. To say the organising committee of myself, Cathy, Louise, Sam, Ro and Tanya were devastated is an understatement – we put so much hard work into the event and it was gone (with the rain it turns out!). It was also the first time our little club have run an area qualifier so it was a big deal! We have rescheduled to 31 January – please everyone have their fingers crossed that we actually get to run!

As I write this message we have just come out of Lockdown 2 (blink and you missed it!) and we hope to start training and events again very soon. We are grateful to our instructors for being able to offer us clinics in the past few months and as ever to our venue owners for having us on site. We have booked our AGM to take place virtually on Wednesday 20 January and you will receive an invitation from us in the coming days (more details below in this newsletter). We hope as many of you as

possible can join us and share our anticipation that 2021 may hold much more hope, fun and optimism than we have experienced in 2020.

Finally, it's time to renew membership. We have reduced the renewal rate for those of you who have stuck with us in 2020 and we look forward to welcoming you back in 2021. On behalf of the entire committee can I please relay my thanks and appreciation to each one of you for joining us – it has been a tough year and with no guarantees on what 2021 will look like we are nervous about our membership levels and how we can continue to meet the needs of our members under these difficult circumstances. Your support to West Surrey is not taken for granted and we appreciate your ongoing help and commitment to seeing us through this pandemic.

I hope it's not too early to wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year – we hope to see you all in person and get back to some normality soon. In the meantime, in the words of Boris, 'Stay Safe'.

Julie

CURRENT COVID GUIDELINES FROM BRC HQ 3RD DECEMBER 20

From 2 December, BRC activities can resume across all Tiers.

You can find which Tier your area has been placed in here: <https://www.gov.uk/find-coronavirus-local-restrictions>. It should be noted that your individual Tier is taken from your home address, not where your horse is kept. Specific advice for horse owners, coaches, venues and riding schools can be found on the BHS website here: <https://www.bhs.org.uk/advice-and-information/coronavirus-covid-19>

Following our update on 27 November, we have received further information on the government advice regarding travel in and out of Tier 3 areas for the purpose of exercise and sport. The government advice states: For those residing in a Tier 3 area:

- You can continue to travel within your Tier 3 area for reasons such as traveling to venues that are open. Avoid travelling outside of your Tier 3 area other than where necessary such as: for work; for education; to access voluntary, charitable or youth services; because of caring responsibilities; for moving home; to visit your support bubble; for a medical appointment or treatment. Where necessary, you can travel through other areas as part of a longer journey.

- You can continue to travel within your Tier 1 or 2 area for reasons such as traveling to venues that are open. However, avoid travel to Tier 3 areas other than where necessary.
- If you live in a Tier 1 or 2 area, you must continue to follow your Tier rules, or the Tier you are travelling to rules, whichever is higher, whilst you are there. For general BRC Club activities, we would consider there to be enough local opportunities within your own Tier area, to avoid unnecessary travel into or out of a Tier 3 area. However, for BRC Area Qualifiers, it remains up to the individual to decide whether or not it is necessary to travel into or out of a Tier 3 area, based upon the government's advice as detailed above. This can be found in full here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/tier-3-very-high-alert> It will also remain at the organisers discretion whether or not to allow entries from competitors

Exercise outdoors is permitted and this includes horse riding. This can be undertaken with the people who you live with, your support bubble or one other person

- You are permitted to leave your home to care or exercise an animal or horse where they are not kept at home
- You can leave home to seek advice about the health or welfare of your horse including veterinary, farriery, dentistry and physiotherapy treatments (all of which can operate)
- When visiting a livery yard or stables you should avoid unnecessary social contact and gathering with people who you do not live with
- You should follow the Covid protocols which are in place and maintain social distancing
- You should not visit a livery yard if you have coronavirus symptoms, are awaiting a test result, if you live with anyone who is exhibiting symptoms or who has tested positive or if you have been notified to self isolate via Track and Trace

2019/2020 dressage series end of year review.

Amazingly we managed to hold 4 of our members dressage competitions in the last 12 months. We experienced rain, wind, snow and of course lockdown, despite this our members showed up and gave it their all.

2019 Christmas dressage took place at Mayor house farm with all competitors dressed in festive outfits, Karen and Rodger Stone provided mulled wine throughout the day which went down well with riders and the judge.

It was then a bit hit and miss from March onwards but in October we managed to pull together members dressage adhering to COVID guidelines with a brand new format! It was great to see our members out and about on their horses and we also had the weather on side which always helps.

I would like to thank all club members who have volunteered throughout the series, Lynn Roberts for the use of Kilnhanger, Karen and Roger Stone for the use of Mayor house farm last winter and of course Vicky Palmer our judge.

Our next members dressage will be held at Kilnhanger on the 27th December festive outfits are optional, we look forward to seeing you there.

Membership renewals

Membership renewals for the club are now due for the year January to December 2021.

BRC have informed us that insurance and membership costs will increase this coming year – COVID seems to have had a real knock on effect to insurance premiums. WSRC are not proposing to pass this cost onto our members but will instead absorb the increase from our reserves.

Therefore, costs remain the same as they were for 2020:

Ridden Membership remains at £30 AND Non rider member remains at £20 for Jan to Dec

HOWEVER, To say **THANK YOU** for your loyalty at renewing for another year we will offer a 2021 one off renewal at £25 instead of £30. (Renewing 2020 members only – you must have been on our spreadsheet sent to BRC HQ as at 30th November 2020)

****REFER A FRIEND****

If you are a current member (you have to have been a member in 2020) and you introduce a friend (who was not a member in 2020) then you will both receive either £5 off a clinic of your choice (e-voucher) or one entry to the dressage series (worth £8). Your voucher code will be given to you when you supply the name of the person you are referring so you can use this on MRL when booking your next clinic.

Therefore, renewing member renews at £25 plus voucher/dressage series entry AND new member renews at £30 and receives £5 voucher/dressage entry.

Everyone else (regardless of whether they were a member in previous years to 2020) renew at £30.

The offer for existing members for reduced renewal at £25 and refer a friend offer applies to renewals up to and including 30 March 2021. Renewing members do not need to complete a new membership form but please notify us immediately of any change in address, email, phone number etc on westsurreyrc@gmail.com addressed to 'Membership Secretary'.

To renew please use one of the following methods:

- Renew via MRL using this link (available on the website, covering email and on Facebook: [West Surrey RC Online Membership Form \(myridinglife.com\)](https://myridinglife.com))
- By transfer to the WSRC bank account and emailing westsurreyrc@gmail.com with your name and date of transfer (and updated form if required). **Sort code 40-22-26; Acc No: 81659340 – use your surname and membership as reference ie: JohnsonMembership**

Upcoming events

BRC Competitions:

Combined Training Qualifiers

Saturday 19 December 2020 at Felbridge (organiser Area 13) WSRC Contact – Samantha Petri

Novice Winter Dressage Qualifiers

Saturday 9 January 2021 at Sands Farm (organiser Newlands Corner) WSRC Contact – Julie Johnson

Arena Eventing Qualifiers

Sunday 31 January 2021 at Coombelands (organiser WSRC) WSRC Contact – Samantha Petri

Novice Winter Show Jumping (70 & 80) Qualifiers

Sunday 14 February 2021 at Sands Farm (organiser Abinger Forest) WSRC Contact – Samantha Petri

Intermediate Winter Show Jumping Qualifiers (90/100/110)

Saturday 27 February 2021 at BCA (organiser Area 6) WSRC Contact – Samantha Petri

Intermediate Winter Dressage Qualifiers

Saturday 6 March 2021 at Sands Farm (organiser Newlands Corner) WSRC Contact – Julie Johnson

Area 11 Dressage Team Friendly (Prelim and Novice)

Friday 2 April 2021 at Merrist Wood Arena (organiser WSRC) WSRC contact – Julie Johnson

WSRC Training & Events

- Members only Dressage friendly at Kilnhanger Sunday 27 December
- Catriona Moorwood flatwork clinic at Casis Farm Cranleigh RDA– Sunday 13 December
- Ali Cookson clinics at East Whitley Farm– Wednesday 6 Jan and Wednesday 3rd February 2021
- Hinda Inglis SAS Clinic at Whitley Manor Farm 16 January 2021
- New Year Treasure Hunt – Roman Temple Sunday 17 January 2021

Depending on Covid restrictions we hope to have “drinks and nibbles” after the Treasure Hunt. Even if you cannot take part in the “hunt” please come along and meet other members. Further details to follow.

Please book using the following link or on the WSRC website under ‘clinics’

[Clinics & Training - West Surrey Riding Club](#)

Members dressage proposal 2021

The club dressage series has been running for a number of years and has gone through a number of changes during this time including format, venue and organisers.

This has always been a popular event aimed at those that can hack to the venue as they don't have transport to get to external events, those that want to get experience in a friendly relaxed, environment and those that have young horses who want to gain experience.

Current challenges are:

- It requires a number of roles and responsibilities to make it happen:
advertising/entries/allocating times/organizing judges & helpers
(judge/scorer/reader/writer/general-on-the ground helper).
- Requires hackable venue (with nearby parking)
- Weather: the weather has not been kind to us – the winter is a particular challenge here. The rain and frost has caused us to cancel some of the series at the last minute.

Proposed future state

We used to have a summer and a winter dressage series. We would propose to have one annual series which runs as below:

- February/March, April, May, June, September and October.

This suggestion means we have less bad weather risks avoiding real winter months and the summer school holidays. We propose to have a more simplistic approach with those placed 1-6th in each class picking up 'points' which go towards an annual overall winner and runner up. We also propose to mix up venues – some of which will continue to be hackable but some of which are at new venues. We will also include our Good Friday show in the 'points' league – allowing members to pick up points by attending the big show in April.

Vicki Chuter is pulling together more details and the schedule for the year and we will set up this event in January using Facebook, email and MRL as our communications method. We will trial this new approach for 2021 and hope that more members will be able to take part and enjoy the friendliness and social element of this club favourite.

AGM & Trophies

Our AGM meeting will be **Wednesday 20 January 2021** and will be held virtually using Zoom.

All members are invited. The format will be slightly different due to the circumstances and the agenda will cover:

- Chairman's review of 2020
- Financials
- Re-election of Committee
- Matters arising
- Announcements on Trophy winners

If you have a 2019 trophy please contact Cass Lillington who will liase around its return. Please make sure that all trophies are fully cleaned and engraved on return – we do not clean them for you so please think of the next person receiving them!!

Committee & Contacts

Name	Post	Contact details
Julie Johnson	Chair & Dressage Teams	julielisajohnson@gmail.com
Cathy Hughes	Secretary	cathy.hughes@apha.gov.uk
Ro Major	Treasurer	ro@jhaconsult.co.uk
Liz Crossan	Membership Secretary	westsurreyrc@gmail.com
Louise Hollington	Instruction/Training	lhollington@hotmail.co.uk
Samantha Petri	Jumping Teams & Website	samanthajpetri@gmail.com
Tanya Creaye-Griffin	Jumping Teams	tanyacreaye-griffin@hotmail.co.uk
Vikki Chuter	Dressage Series & Events	vikkichuter@aol.com
Julie Clifford	Newsletter & Social Events	jmc4hp@yahoo.co.uk
Katherine Manson	Bridleways	katherine.manson@environment-agency.gov.uk

Website:

[West Surrey Riding Club - About Us](#)

Clinic & Training entries:

[Clinics & Training - West Surrey Riding Club](#)

