



West Surrey Riding Club

BHS affiliated Riding Club

December 2016 (4)

Dear Members

It was lovely to see some of our members at the AGM, thank you to those who attended. As ever, many thanks to Christopher Lee, for allowing us to re-live the year in pictures, to Jenni Winter for her fascinating talk on confidence and to Sarah Orchard for organising the tack sale. The format seemed to work well.

Many of you have already renewed, but time is running out for those of you who haven't. The renewal form is available on the website, but we are also attaching a copy with this newsletter to make it even easier. Renewal is still £25, which we feel offers excellent value for money.

The end of the year sees some changes to the committee. As reported in our September newsletter, we are sad to see Carys Jones go, but we are delighted to welcome Pam Wilson to the committee. Pam has taken on the role of organising instruction, working with Susan Mackenzie. This is a significant task, and we are extremely grateful to Pam for volunteering, and to Susan for her continued support.

Samantha Petrie has also kindly offered to help run the website, which is being restructured as we write. Many of you will be familiar with Samantha's formidable artistic talent, so we are excited to have her on board, though she will carry this role out as non-committee member.

We are still looking for someone to take on the job of producing the Club newsletter. This role involves gathering (and sometimes chasing) for reports, dates and information, collating and editing the quarterly newsletter. This is our primary communication vehicle. Whoever takes this on can make it their "own", it does not need to follow the existing format. If you are willing to even consider this, please do contact Sarah Fisher at sarah@christopherstreet.org.

We would like to wish all members and their equines a happy and healthy Christmas and New Year.

The Committee

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS

2016/17 DRESSAGE SERIES

At Kilnhanger Farm, by kind permission of Lynn Roberts

Second show in series is Sunday, 11th December

Tests to be used on **11th December**;

Intro B

Prelim 7 (2002)

Novice 27 (2007)

We have also fixed the dates for the third and fourth show in the series; **Sundays 19th February** (Intro C, P2 and N30) and **March 19th 2017** (Intro A/P18 and N28).

Just to reiterate the scoring/qualifying system for this series; 1st, 2nd and 3rd places qualify for the Championship to be held (probably) in May. Places will be passed down if a combination has already qualified. Rosettes will be awarded on a colour/percentage system – ie, red for 70% plus, blue for 65% plus, etc etc. This system is on trial, to be reviewed at the end of the series. It does mean everyone gets a rosette, and you are competing against yourself. We are, of course, always interested in receiving (constructive!) feedback on this.

We would also remind you that this series counts towards the BRC Grassroots Points League; for more information on this, go to ;

<http://www.bhs.org.uk/enjoy-riding/british-riding-clubs/brc-assessments-and-training/brc-points-league>

Entry fee is £7 per class. Entries (preferred) online via the West Surrey RC website (£1.50 booking fee); <http://www.westsurreyridingclub.co.uk/dressage-series.html>

Entries can also be sent through the post to Julie Johnson. Please download entry form from the website. Cheques made payable to West Surrey RC. Entries close the Thursday prior to competition. Times available on website from 6pm on the Friday before.

ASSISTED CLEAR ROUND SJ – Venue TBC

Sunday, 26th February 2017

Following on from the success of last year, we are going to run another assisted SJ schooling session. The Club will hire a venue (possibly Parwood, but to be confirmed) from 11am to 1pm on Sunday 26th February. We are offering 'assisted' clear round SJ sessions. Groups of 2 riders will be given 30 minutes in the arena. This should be sufficient time to warm up and each jump a couple of rounds. Riders will be paired up according to the approximate height they wish to jump. There will be no instruction on site, but some regular team members will be there to 'assist' by putting jumps up and down etc.

Approx cost: £15 per rider. Heights will increase so book relevant session (though we can be flexible on this);

11 am – 50-60 cm; 11.30 am – 60-70 cm; 12 noon – 70-80 cm; 12.30 pm – 80-90 cm.

Bookings will be via My Riding Life when the venue is confirmed – watch this space for an e-mail with more details soon.

*West Surrey RC Open Dressage/RC Team Event
Merrist Wood, Good Friday, 14th April 2017*

This is our annual open dressage event, and an important fundraiser for the Club. The day incorporates a RC team event, as well as individual competition.

We will need lots of helpers for this day, but it is always good fun. Please help us by putting your name forward for a variety of jobs – writing for a judge (a great way to learn), stewarding, sheet collection, and more. If you can help, please email sarah@christopherstreet.org

Alternatively, save the date and make an entry!

FUTURE TEAM COMPETITIONS

**NOVICE WINTER INDOOR SHOW JUMP QUALIFIER
Sunday, 12th February at Sands Farm, Warnham**

Calling all winter jumping bunnies! We need volunteers to ride at this qualifier.

This competition comprises teams of four, with three scores to count; the first round a course of fences at 80 cm, then a second round at 85 cm.

Please contact jennytully2000@yahoo.co.uk by Friday, 13th January, if you wish to be considered. As usual, please only enter if you are prepared to travel to the Championships, possibly in April, at Keysoe (Beds).

BLenheim EVENTER'S CHALLENGE SEPTEMBER 2017

This was very popular this year so we are looking for someone to organise a team in 2017. Please contact jennytully2000@yahoo.co.uk as soon as possible, as entries open on 1st March, and close six days later. The event is usually over-subscribed, so we can't miss this date.

**HICKSTEAD TEAM OF THREE SHOW JUMPING
Sunday, 30th July**

Every year we think about doing this, and every year we are too late to enter. So we are looking for someone to organise a team. We need at least three riders to jump either 85 cm, 95 cm and 105 cm. We are not sure when entries open but assume it is early 2017. Please contact jennytully2000@yahoo.co.uk as soon as possible if you are interested.

REPORTS

Blenheim Eventer's Challenge 8th September 2016, by Jenny Tully

Following a rigorous team selection process, we managed to field a team of four to the Blenheim Eventers' Challenge held at the prestigious Blenheim Horse Trials.

The team comprised Lynn Roberts on Push the Button (Henry), Karen Stone on Carlos III (Bounty), Claire Stratford on Silver Mist (Silver), and Jenny Tully on Lazy Acres Hurricane (Gero). It was an early start for all of us (I didn't realise there are two 5 ams in one day) but we made it safely and on time. The weather was fabulous and the venue utterly amazing.

I think all of us stood outside the arena and thought "that looks ok", but once we did the course walk, the twisty turning nature of the course, coupled with the two random trees and various up hills, down dales, made us understand why it is called an Eventer's Challenge!

There were eight up to height show jumps, followed by eight cross country fences (the two skinny brushes on a curve were particularly fiendish), then one random upright to catch you out at the end. An optimum time of 114 seconds was the goal.

Jenny went first and was unlucky to catch one pole and get 0.8 time penalties to finish on 4.8. Lynn was next and just clipped fences one and two, but finished well in time on 106.83, to end on 8. Karen also knocked two poles but again did well on time at 111.03, to finish on 8. Finally, Claire had one pole down and acquired 1.2 time penalties, to finish on 5.2.

With best of three scores, this gave us a final team score of 18, which was very good but not enough to get us top six placing, and the team came 24th out of nearly 50 teams.

Position and style were also scored and, again, the team did very well on this – Jenny got 74, Lynn 71.5, Karen 73.5 and Claire 67.5.

It was lovely to see so many supporters and a huge thanks to everyone who came to help. Also massive thanks to Carys Jones and Pat Murphy, the two reserves. I am sure we will try again next year (see above, under Future Events) – entries open 1st March, and close six days later, so if anyone would like to organise a team next year, give me a shout. Jennytully2000@yahoo.co.uk

London & South East Horse Trials Championships At Rackham, 25th September 2016 By Claire Stratford

Back in May our 80cm Horse Trials team qualified for the London and South East Championships by finishing in the top six at Coombelands. The Championships were held in September at the beautiful venue of Rackham, West Sussex.

Our team of Niki Cauwe, Sarah Orchard, Charlie Angus and Tina Pendle were up bright and early for the dressage, all performing solid consistent tests. The show jumping was tricky with a couple of very spooky fillers, but the team negotiated it well, with two clear rounds and a couple of unlucky poles.

The XC course was lovely, but incredibly windy, with lots of unexpected turn backs. Unfortunately the navigation (rather than the jumps themselves) proved tricky – with a few team members needing to stop to check the map half way round! So no team placing on this occasion but great fun was had by all.

Obviously in true WSRC style, the day was rounded off by a fantastic picnic in the summer sunshine.

Festival of the Horse Qualifier
At Munstead Heath Farm, 16th October 2016
By Claire Stratford

We entered an 80cm team and a 90cm team in the team challenge at the FOTH qualifier, held at Munstead.

Despite horrendous rain the night before, the ground at Munstead was very good. The challenge comprises a round of show jumps before galloping straight out of the arena to complete a cross country course.

The 80cm team of Niki Cauwe, Helen French, Tina Pendle and Lauren Louise Spinks were up first. The team put in a great performance, with all four riders going clear cross country, with just a few poles falling in the SJ. The cross country element was timed, which proved very influential in the final placings. All team members were close to the optimum time, resulting in a fantastic result of second place. A special mention must go to Niki Cauwe and Inka who jumped double clear within the optimum time to win the class.

The 90cm team of Pat Murphy, Hilary Smith and Louise Hambleton were up next. Unfortunately, on this occasion, things didn't go in their favour, with the horses reminding us of why riding can be so challenging! However, as usual, the team camaraderie and kindness shone through. The 90cm team will be back out fighting again next Spring.

A huge thank you to Hilary Smith for all her hard work and enthusiasm while acting as team manager for this event.

Clear Round SJ
At Westlands Farm, September and October
By Ro Major

During August and September we were able to hold clear round jumping sessions at Westlands Farm, Shamley Green. It is a lovely venue for such an event, with lots of space enabling us to use a good number and variety of our jumps. Cathy and I put up or lowered the jumps according to the heights the riders wished to try, and Jenny was on hand to help with the technical questions.

There were many smiling faces. Some members surprised themselves with the hidden talents their ponies/horses displayed. As we were able to raise or lower the course accordingly, the more experienced riders were also able to try their skills on a grass arena.

It is planned to run some more of these sessions in the coming new season once the winter gives way to sunshine. Sarah (Bowler) has provided us with lovely rosettes so come and see if you can add one to your collection. Hopefully we will see you there to try your skills – there really is something for everyone.

*Trec and Agility Event
At Westlands Farm, 2nd October
by Judith Dunne*

I took Monty along to Westlands Farm, for a morning of Trec and Agility, where we enjoyed a varied selection of obstacles, ranging from bending poles, crossing a bridge, passing under low branches, an “s” bend, a figure of eight round bollards, neck reining, walking over plastic and through scary narrow gaps, and plenty more interesting challenges.

Ro and Cass directed the proceedings. It was a clever way of helping horse and rider face things that they might face while out and about, also building up a rapport between them whilst working out the best way to tackle each one.

Thanks to Charlotte for the lovely venue, Ro and Cass for the instruction and Chris for recording so many smiles! This was yet another fun yet educational event run by WSRC – please try to attend these events as either a participant or helper, to keep the Club offering them. And don’t be afraid of venturing beyond your favoured discipline or comfort zone. Monty and I did!

*Dressage Series 2016/17 1st Show
First show, 30th October 2016 at Kilnhanger
by Cathy Hughes*

Thankfully, the fog lifted just in time for the judge to be able to see the whole arena in what then became a lovely sunny morning at Kilnhanger for this first in the series of our popular social / competition event. (The day was further improved by Jacqui managing to make coffee for the judge without over-taxing the Kilnhanger electrics – never a popular way to start a day!).

The judge commented at the end how the overall standard of riding had improved since she last judged for us. She also noted how several riders’ tests improved towards the end, as the rider relaxed (a useful heads-up for the next event).

The full results are on the Club web-site, along with placings for each test – as ever, the top three in each test qualify for the Championship next Spring. We’re trialing a new system for awarding rosettes this series, based on percentage bands. A couple of riders have commented they weren’t too sure about this system but it does mean we don’t have to run sections, which have been found to be almost impossible to administer in the past. Also, it does mean a rider can have their sheet & rosette as soon as their score is added up and get away without having to hang about for final places (something we may be grateful for on a less pleasant day!). Do keep us posted on how this system works for you as the series goes on.

On the subject of scores and places, do remember the Introductory & Preliminary tests at these events will qualify for points being awarded in the new BRC grass-roots points league to start in January. Look for details in the next “Rider” magazine or on the BRC web-site, get your card, and start collecting (see above page 2 for link to BRC page).

Thank you as ever to Lynn for letting us take over her school for a morning, and to Liz and Jacqui for their calm and effective help all morning – we can’t run these mornings without you helping us out. And well done to all competitors too – see you at the next of the series on 11 December.

Area 11 Friendly Show Jump competition

6th November 2016 at Elstead RC

by Jenny Tully

The format for this was teams of three; one team member jumps 75cms, one jumps 85cms and the third team member jumps 95cms.

We had two teams entered for this but unfortunately overnight calamities meant we had to cobble together one team from those who could make it. Judith Dunne on Monty rode the 75cm class but was a little unlucky and got eliminated. Tina Pendle on Dangermouse did the 85cm class but just caught two poles and made full use of her sticky pants to stay on and upright. Pili Spiers on My Boy Sonny just clipped a pole. This meant the team was not in the running for rozzies this time around.

We also had a couple of people entered as individuals. New member Niki Cauwe went clear in the 85cm to go through to the jump off and came 6th. Both Niki and Tina also jumped the 95cm as individuals and both had four faults. Well done to everybody and thanks for sparing your valuable time. A huge thanks to Chris for the photos and all the family members who came to support on a bitterly cold day.

Area Quiz 14th November 2016

by Cathy Hughes

I wasn't sure we were going to get a team together this year – Veronica Keywood and I were poised to go for ages, but stuck for a third person – until Helen Kendall kindly organised herself a night off from husband-sitting in order to join us.

On the night, we all arrived at The Water-Mill and got the important details sorted for the evening – where to sit, and what to have for dinner!

Teams were able to play a Joker this year, to double their score on their nominated round. We chose dressage, possibly not wisely as the questions turned out to be more about horses & their riders than the sport itself. However, we did better on the veterinary round, and, amazingly enough, the history, art and literature session. Anyway, after all the rounds, we ended up fifth – but we all had a fun evening, which is the important thing.

I'd like to say a huge thank-you to our team members for coming out to represent our Club at this sociable occasion – and, of course, to Chipstead Riding Club for running the Quiz once again (they even managed to persuade a new Quiz-master to officiate this year!).

National Novice Winter Dressage Qualifier

19th November at Merrist Wood

by Jenny Tully

This year we were able to enter two teams and one junior individual into this competition.

The team competition format is for four riders, with two members riding Preliminary 2, and two members riding Novice 27.

Albury Angels comprised Tina Pendle, Judith Dunne, Louise Dendle and Lauren Louise Spinks. Farley Fillies comprised Pili Spiers, Helen French, Lynn Roberts and Lisa Fahy. Unfortunately, Helen had a small accident on the Friday before, so had to withdraw, but thankfully the team wasn't totally scuppered as riders could also ride as individuals.

Whilst everyone tried their best, it was not WSRC's day for team rosettes (Farley Fillies finished equal 7th, and Albury Angels 9th), however massive congratulations must go to Lisa and Caitlin Fahy, who both came 1st, and therefore qualified for the National Novice Championships, to be held early next year.

As always, thank you to everyone and their poor long suffering families, friends and helpers for volunteering.

Stand-in managers Ro and Cathy would also like to acknowledge everyone who took the time to offer either replacement horses or to come along and ride someone else's horse when poor Helen had to withdraw at the last minute. They were overcome by your generosity, thank you!

Dressage divas should be aware that the National Intermediate Winter Dressage Qualifier will be held on 4th March 2017 at Merrist Wood (run by Newlands Corner RC).

Area Dressage Friendly at Priory EC

26th November 2016

by Julie Johnson

Two teams of WSRC dressage competitors made their way to the Priory where the day got off to a hectic start! Vikki Chuter went out for the Club first, whilst the Team Manager also started her warm up as active team reserve! Beauty thought the day was terribly exciting but Vikki kept very calm and smiled throughout her test! Judith and Monty did a very solid test, a really promising combination with so much more to come, I can see these two doing Novice within 12 months! Caitlin Fahy and I both braved Prelim 2 outdoors, I was first up in the class – never a great place to be as I always feel the judge needs some warming up! We just missed out on a place but Caitlin won the entire class – Shaun showed his 'connie' moves and it was lovely to see Caitlin smiling her way round. Lisa and Tina represented the teams in Novice 30 – good tests from both with Lisa coming 5th in the class. We had some entertainment in the warm up with Caitlin and Tina surviving some chaotic moments (caused by others and not WSRC I may add!!)

Our Sapphires team finished 4th and the Diamonds team 10th. We even beat an Elstead team on the day! Congratulations to our nearby club Newlands Corner on winning the team event. It was a lovely day....bit challenging for the Team Manager who rode, took horse home and then came back to support the team and carry out 'reading' duties, but so worth it – we may not have picnics in dressage but we do have a great sense of 'team ship' and support for one another and we always smile and

laugh our way through a challenging day. The teams on this occasion also had to put up with their incompetent Team Manager who mucked up the Prelim entries and we all ended up riding the wrong tests with 2 days notice – you are all very tolerant of me and I am forever grateful to you all for bailing me out!

Thanks to: Caitlin Fahy, Lisa Fahy, Vikki Chuter, Judith Dunne and Tina Pendle.

Onwards to 2017 – I'm looking forward to more practice!

CHRISTMAS CHARITY RAFFLE!!!

One of our younger members, and regular dressage team rider, Caitlin Fahy, is running a charity Christmas raffle for The Brooke Action for Working Horses & Donkeys and Camps International.

The raffle will be held on Sunday, 18th December at Whitley Manor Animal Feeds, Bramley GU5 0LL. Tickets are £1.00 each and there are some AMAZING prizes which have been very generously provided by lots of national and local companies and individuals. Please see the advert on our website for further details;

<http://www.westsurreyridingclub.co.uk/adverts.html>

Bridleways Report

Much of the following was reported at the AGM but there is the odd update.

Proposed Traffic Regulation Orders (TRO) for Byways Open to all Traffic (BOAT) numbered 507 (Ride aka Smugglers Lane) 508 (part Mayor House Lane) and 509 and 517 (Pithouse Lane nr Madgehole Lane)

I reported at the AGM that Surrey County Council (SCC) wants to make a year-round TRO for the above paths to prevent access to all vehicles over 1500mm wide. This will include most cars, trucks and vans and some wider horse drawn vehicles. Any existing private rights will still be accommodated. The primary reason for the restrictions are to prevent additional damage to the BOATS which in the case of Ride Lane is narrow, rutted, gullied and prone to wash out of sand at the northern end into ditches leading to problems with flooding to adjacent property and interference with the highways. It is also considered that the narrow sunken nature of Ride Lane means that there are few opportunities for users to pass safely. The TRO is proposed to extend to joining paths where they will become dead ends with no space for turning around.

SCC has been consulting with landowners and affected parties since September and the update since the AGM is that there is a site meeting planned in early December for affected parties and landowners. This was proposed for the 8th December but I do not know if it was confirmed.

Bridlepath 330 connecting the DownsLink to Long Common Lane.

Two problems have been reported to SCC on this path. The first is general rutting and one place where the surface slopes into a small culvert where a horse could easily slip and put a leg down. The second is rotten timbers on the bridge over the stream.

My understanding is that the bridge was closed shortly after the problem was reported and that it has been repaired. However I am not sure what has happened to the rutting/culvert problem so will walk the path as soon as I can and chase SCC for some repairs if nothing has been done.

Footpath from Trunley Heath Road to Foxborough Hill road.

At last year's AGM (2015) I was approached about whether this footpath could have been used as a bridle path but not get recorded as such when the Definitive Rights of Way map was developed in 1947. Recently I spent some time in the Surrey History Centre looking at old maps but I found that this path has been marked as a footpath since 1897. Unless the landowner dedicates this as bridleway the only way of getting it upgraded is if there is evidence of enough use by horses over a period of time without the landowner preventing that use. If anyone knows anything, I would be pleased to hear from them.

Road Crossing DownsLink at Lockner on the A246 Chilworth to Albury Road.

On the approach from Chilworth the horse warning triangle is badly damaged and virtually invisible. It looks to have been a victim of hedge trimming. I am in contact with the local highways officer and have been assured that a replacement sign is on the list of tasks but they were not able to give me a firm date for its replacement.

*Katherine Manson
Bridleways Representative*

Instruction

Hello members.

I have just taken over the role of organising instructions from Carys - and would like to thank her for all her hard work and perseverance in offering us a great programme and making it happen.

I have not yet completed my handover, so I'm sorry but I am not yet in a position to inform you of instructors and dates for the next quarter. The aim is to keep the programme quite light, given the time of year. Details will follow by email as soon as possible.

Going forward, I plan to offer a programme of instruction at venues to suit, and with instructors to inspire - using those which have been tried and tested along with some new options. I will work closely with Susan McKenzie to co-ordinate your access to instruction and to respond to your feedback about what works best.

Pam Wilson

Dates For Your Diary

Sun 11th Dec

Dressage Series II

2017

Sun 12th Feb

Novice Winter SJ Qualifer at Sands Farm

Sun 19th Feb

Dressage Series III

Sun 26th Feb

Assisted SJ schooling – Venue TBC

4th Mar

National Intermediate Dressage Qualifier at Merrist Wood

Sun 19th Mar

Dressage Series IV

14th April Good Fri

Open and Team dressage at Merrist Wood (run by WSRC)

24th Sept

L&SE Championships at Munstead (run by Area)

Trophies Presented at AGM 09 November 2016

Open Dressage Show

Intro A	Julie Johnson
Prelim 14	Lauren Spinks
Prelim 18	Lisa Vanoli
Novice 30	Lisa Fahy

Dressage Series

Walk + Trot Champion	Jacqui Peterson
Prelim Champion	Lisa Vanoli
Novice Champion	Helen Kendall
Walk + Trot Reserve Champion	Emma Cory Wright
Prelim Reserve Champion	Carys Jones
Novice Reserve Champion	Rachel Mapp

Achievement Awards

Contribution Member	Kirsten Davis
Most Improved	Fabienne Macey
Committee Member	Carys Jones

Team awards

Show Jumping Senior	Pili Spears
Horse Trials	Lynn Roberts
Best Junior Dressage	Caitlin Fahy
Dressage Senior	Vikki Chuter
Overall Points Champion	Karen Stone
Overall Point Reserve	Imogen Tack