



West Surrey Riding Club

BHS affiliated Riding Club

June 2016 (2)

Dear Members

We don't like to tempt fate with the weather but summer is officially here; as we write, Summer Camp is nearly upon us, with the show jumps being put up on grass, the team competition season is well under way (reports below), and the horses are getting fat, mostly!

A quick update on the website/booking system; the eagle-eyed among you will notice that our online booking system, MyRidingLife, is now up and running, and so far, it has been running smoothly. We would like to thank member Sarah Orchard for her help in integrating this system to our website.

The website itself is next in line; we will be reorganising the layout to make it a little more user-friendly. We could do with a "webmaster" – a bit of a grand name, but if there is any member who has an interest and/or experience in managing websites, and would be willing to maintain the WSRC website, please do come forward.

Now that MyRidingLife has "bedded in", we are asking members to make all bookings (for instruction and entries) via this system. BACs will no longer be available as a payment method. If you are not "digital", you can still pay by cheque/post. MyRidingLife requires payment with booking and gives you instant confirmation that your booking is made. We hope that this new system will reduce the work involved in organising instruction (remember, this is done entirely on a voluntary basis, and can be hugely time consuming) but also make it simpler for members. For full terms, see "Instruction" below.

We have had some good team results so far this season, and there are plenty more opportunities to take part on a WSRC team – show jumping at Bookham (9th July) and at Hickstead (31st July); dressage at Patchesham (9th July) and of course, Eventers' Challenge at Blenheim on 8th September. See below under "Team Reports and News" for more details.

Best wishes

The Committee

*Contents: Forthcoming Events/Team Competitions
Team Reports and News/News/Past Events

Bridleways Report
Instruction
Dates for your Diary*

Opposite: team members, helpers and supporters messing about at Coombelands one-day-event on 21st May. Picture courtesy of Chris Lee.



FORTHCOMING EVENTS

SUMMER DAY CAMP

Saturday, 18th June

At Westlands Farm, Lords Hill, Shamley Green GU5 0TL

There are still a few spaces available on this popular day camp. We have booked instructors Hinda Inglis, Lisa Hamilton Smith and Sally Ede to take you through your dressage, show jumping and xc paces. £45 for the day. In the first instance, and for further details, please contact Charlotte via westsurreyrc@gmail.com

2015/2016 DRESSAGE SERIES -CHAMPIONSHIPS

By kind permission of Lynn Roberts

Sunday, 24th July

The final, championship show of the series will take place at Kilnhanger Stables again, with thanks to Lynn Roberts. For those who haven't qualified during the series, there will be a section for you to ride in (section d).

If you have been placed 1st, 2nd or 3rd at one of the four shows in the series (1st Nov 2015, 13th Dec 2015, 20th March 2016 or 8th May 2016), you are eligible to compete for the Series Championship title on 24th July. We hope to post a list of qualified combinations on the website from mid June. Do check out the list as qualifying places are passed down, so you may have qualified on a lower placing.

Tests to be used; **Intro C, Prelim 18, Novice 27.**

We will run the following sections at **each** level (and you enter whichever section you qualified in);

- a) Restricted
- b) Open
- c) Junior (16 yrs or under at the time of qualification)
- Plus
- d) Non qualified combinations.

Rosettes awarded in each section, plus there will be Overall Champion and Reserve Champion rosettes at each level. We will also be awarding "Condition and Turnout" prize, so lots of rosettes! As this is a Championship show, please can all horses/ponies be plaited.

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 or see attached. Cheques made payable to West Surrey RC.

Please note, we need people to help with the following roles; writer, steward, refreshments and Condition and Turnout judge. If you can spare a morning, please email Cathy Hughes; westsurreyrc@gmail.com

CLEAR ROUND SJ EVENING

At Westlands Farm, Lords Hill, Shamley Green GU5 0TL

More details to follow by email/on the website, but we will be running an “open” clear round show jumping evening some time in August, starting at 6pm at “mini” height, and building up to whatever height brave pants would like.

FUTURE TEAM COMPETITIONS

LONDON & SOUTH EAST SHOW JUMPING QUALIFIER

Saturday, 9th July at Bookham RC field. Starts 1pm.

Anyone interested in volunteering for the L&SE SJ qualifier at Bookham on 9th July, please contact Jennytully2000@yahoo.co.uk by 27th June please. The format is teams of four, with three scores to count; the first round is 80 cm, the second 85 cm. Please only volunteer if you can make the L&SE Championships at Rackham on Sunday 25th September.

In addition, we need someone (preferably a Club member, but I wouldn't turn down Capt Mark Phillips!) who can be team manager on the day of the qualifier. The job description for this includes making lots of encouraging noises, running around like a sheep dog making sure everyone is in the right place at the right time, and being unfailingly cheerful! No admin required. Please contact Jenny as above.

LONDON & SOUTH EAST DRESSAGE QUALIFIERS

Saturday, 9th July at Pachesham EC

London & South East Qualifiers:

Teams:	LS&E Riding Test	BRC Prelim RT (2014)
	LS&E Dressage	Prelim 14 (2006)
Teams of 4 and include one junior		

BRC National Senior Qualifiers (teams and/or individuals):

Senior Prelim dressage team	Prelim 14 (2006)
Senior Riding Test	BRC Prelim RT (2014) and BRC Novice RT (2016) two ride prelim and two ride novice
Senior Open Dressage	N24 (2010), N27 (2007), N28 (2009) and E43 (2006)

The club will definitely enter LS&E teams – either at dressage or riding test level – if we have enough interest at both. If you have a strong preference to compete at the Nationals in Lincoln and are committed to making the journey to the nationals then please let me know and we will see what we can do about a team or individual entries.

The dressage is being held across the road (literally) from the 9th July Show Jumping qualifiers so please be aware that if you are committing to either a dressage or a show jumping team, both events are happening on the SAME day! Great news for our supporters who can run between events!

Please contact Julie Johnson by email on jjohnso5@its.jnj.com or via Facebook if you would like to take part in the dressage on 9th July by latest Tuesday 7 June. We hope to organise team training, as with other dressage team events, in the 10 days leading up to the competition.

HICKSTEAD BRITISH RIDING CLUB TEAM OF THREE SHOW JUMPING

Sunday, 31st July, at Hickstead – starts 8 am

Anyone interested in volunteering for the BRC Team Jumping Championship at the prestigious Hickstead event, please contact jennytully2000@yahoo.co.uk by 13th June please. The format is a team of three, where a novice horse (no BS points) jumps 0.85 cms, an intermediate horse (less than 500 BS points) jumps 0.95 cms, and an open horse (unlimited BS points) jumps 1.05 cms. All rider scores to count, one round against the clock, scores based on faults and speed, no jump off. For further info, please see Hickstead website.

RIDING CLUB TEAM EVENTER CHALLENGE

Thursday 8th September – Blenheim Palace

We have already put out a note about this (March newsletter) but you can still put your name forward to be considered.

This is to ride as part of a team of 4 in the Eventer Challenge held as part of Blenheim Palace International Horse Trials. This is a “Derby” style competition with a section of 8 – 10 show jumps, leading to 6- 8 efforts over portable and fixed cross country fences, finishing with a show jump. The max height of the show jumps and cross country fences will be 0.95m.

There are a variety of rules, but the key one is that horse and rider combinations must have completed competently at BE90/BRC HT90, as a bare minimum, and the rider must be a member of BE, BHS, PC or have their own 3rd party insurance.

This event is well up to height and the fences are challenging, so it is not for the faint hearted! But if you are interested please contact jennytully2000@yahoo.co.uk as soon as possible. More details can be found on <http://www.blenheimhorse.co.uk/RCPCEC>. Check eligibility at; <http://www.blenheimhorse.co.uk/sites/default/files/uploads/docs/RCPC%20Rules%202016.pdf>

SPECIAL OFFER ON ENTRY TICKETS TO BLENHEIM (SEE ABOVE)

We would love as many Club members as possible to come and support our team on the day, in the WSRC own notorious style (lashings of prosecco and picnics all round). There is a special offer for all supporters to buy half price tickets via www.blenheimhorse.co.uk using the promotion code **PCEC2016**. Tickets bought in advance using this code before Sunday 4th September will enjoy a discount of £6 per ticket off the ‘on the gate price’ (please note, accompanied under 12’s get free admission). More information on this event and an event timetable can also be found on the above website.

TEAM REPORTS/NEWS/PAST EVENTS

Dressage Team News – by Julie Johnson

WINTER DRESSAGE FRIENDLY AT MERRIST WOOD

25th March 2016

Hosting an area friendly is always a big task – keeping other Area Riding Clubs happy, as well as being secretly competitive on home soil! After competing myself that morning, I came back to Merrist Wood to support our three teams; WSRC Rubies, Sapphires and Emeralds. The weather held for us (I have a habit of organising team days when there is a British monsoon) and all competitors, whether in a team or as an individual, had a great day out.

Special mentions go to Lauren Louise Spinks, who came 2nd in Prelim 14; Lisa Vanoli and Emma



Anscomb who came 5th and 6th respectively in Prelim 18. Our teams did a great job, with the Rubies (Louise Farrant, Judith Dunne and Lauren) who came 5th overall in tough competition.

Massive thanks to the following members who represented our Club on the day, and I hope to see many of you at our next outing on 9th July at Patchesham – Caitlin and Lisa Fahy, Victoria Chuter, Jenny Tully, Tina Pendle, Jacqui Peterson, Lauren Spinks, Judith Dunne and Lousie Farrant.

Finally a big thank you from the Club to Cass and Ro, for running the event and many congratulations for a very successful Area 11 day out!

(Pic above shows happy team members and office staff. Photo courtesy of Chris Lee)

BRC WINTER NOVICE CHAMPIONSHIPS

9th April 2016 at Keysoe EC, Beds

Lisa Fahy and her own Kings Court II travelled to Keysoe EC to represent WSRC as an individual in the Novice Dressage. Our own Cathy Hughes was stewarding at the event so was able to watch the pair's relaxed and obedient test. They finished fourth in a strong class of 19. Congratulations to Lisa and KC!

**BRC WINTER INTERMEDIATE
DRESSAGE CHAMPIONSHIPS
30TH April -1st May 2016 at Bury
Farm**



Lisa Fahy continued her run of success by securing qualification for the Intermediate Championships, as did daughter Caitlin, riding Moonshine Boy, so it was a mother and daughter outing.

Despite a long and difficult journey around the M25, and some unseasonably cold weather, the pair did very well. Lisa finished 12th, even though KC had a meltdown over the loud and crackly loud-speakers, while Caitlin excelled to finish 6th in the Juniors, with a whopping 69.6%.

Huge congratulations and thanks to both Lisa (above left) and Caitlin (above right) for representing WSRC!

Horse Trials Team News – by Claire Stratford

NATIONAL QUALIFIERS FOR THE BRC HORSLYX FESTIVAL OF THE HORSE Saturday, 14th May 2016 at Heath Farm, Munstead

WSRC fielded three teams at Munstead – one team in the Combined Training and two teams in the Eventer's Challenge.

The Eventer's Challenge consisted of a course of eight show jumps followed by a gallop straight out of the arena onto the cross country course. The two teams: WSRC 'purple' comprising Fabienne Macey, Lynn Roberts, Louise Hambleton and Hilary Smith; and WSRC 'white' comprising Karen Stone, Sarah Fisher and Pili Spiers both put in excellent performances. There were lots of double clears, and more importantly, big smiles during the XC phase. The course was timed and timings proved very influential in determining the placings. The WSRC 'white' team were placed 3rd – this was particularly impressive as this was a team of only 3 horses/riders and therefore the team had no discard score. Sarah Fisher timed her round perfectly, finishing exactly on the optimum time, to win the entire class!

The Combined Training team of Sarah Orchard, Helen French, Lynn Roberts and Karen Stone competed later in the afternoon. All put in good dressage tests and again there were some lovely SJ clear rounds. Overall the team was placed 3rd, with Helen finishing 5th in her arena and Karen winning her arena.

A great day out with some fantastic results overall. Both Sarah and Karen have qualified as individuals for the National Championships at Aston Le Walls in June. We celebrated with a lovely picnic (obviously!) and there was a lovely spirit of camaraderie throughout the day.

A huge thank you to our lovely helpers Tracy Bhalla, Jacqui Peterson, Nikki White, Colin Fisher and Jenny Tully for giving up your time to enable our teams to compete.

BRC AREA 11 HORSE TRIALS NATIONAL AND LONDON & SOUTH EAST QUALIFIERS

Saturday, 21st May 2016 at Coombelands

Coombelands Horse Trials is always a highlight on the competing calendar for our teams. This year we fielded two teams, one in the 80cm class and the other in the 90cm class.



Above:

Samantha Petrie flying the WSRC colours

Left: dressage debrief for Pili Spiers – photos courtesy of Chris Lee



The 80cm team of Sam Petri, Charlie Angus, Sarah Orchard and Helen French were up first and had the best of the weather. Sarah and Helen both did lovely dressage tests, piloting very large horses accurately around a very uneven grass arena. All four riders jumped love-

ly clear rounds show jumping, with Sam and Charlie's ponies jumping particularly enthusiastic rounds! All four members then jumped confident clear rounds cross country – a total of four double clears – a fantastic achievement!

Again the cross country timings proved very influential, with the team finishing 5th overall in the National Competition and Helen French coming 2nd overall as an individual.

The 90cm team of Pat Murphy, Pili Spiers and Carys Jones riding Sarah Fisher's Espionage were up next. By this time the weather had turned and there were intermittent heavy showers. Pat got the team off to a great start with a lovely dressage test. Pili also completed a calm and accurate test – testament to all her hard work with her extremely talented (but very hot!) horse. Pat and Pili unfortunately had a few poles between them in the show jumping but jumped lovely confident clears cross country. Carys, who hadn't ridden Espionage ('Roo') for over a year, managed a steady dressage followed by a fantastic double clear! Thank you very much Sarah for not only giving Carys the ride on Roo but for also acting as top groom throughout the day. Overall the team was placed 4th, with Pat being placed 6th as an individual.

Thank you to all our lovely helpers – Judith Dunne, Ro Major, Cathy Hughes, and to Chris Lee for braving the weather to take such fantastic photos of our teams (*Patrick, Cathy and Carys with the WSRC haul below*)



WEDDING BELLS!

On 9th April 2016, WSRC member Christina Davis married Stuart Easton at St. Mary's Church in Frensham.

Bramble, who Christina has had since his (unexpected) birth in 2005, came along to play the role of wedding car.

The bride, led by her new husband and followed by a long trail of guests in wellies, walked alongside Frensham Great Pond to the reception venue.



Those of you have been a member of the Club for some time will remember Bramble at shows as a youngster, spending most of his time standing on his back legs. Although he is now much better behaved, we were still all very impressed with his docility, even walking past some dreaded cows safely. Bramble had been training for the event by prancing around in the Chantry with Christina on board, wearing an old wedding dress (kindly donated by Sally Ede), and so was well-prepared for the long dress, but not for the crowds and the clapping and the endless photographing, which he all took in his stride.

The day was, as far as he could tell, all about him...

WSRC TEAM FRIENDLY DRESSAGE AT MERRIST WOOD

Good Friday, 25th March 2016

We held our annual and highly popular friendly team dressage show at Merrist Wood, kindly organised by Cass Lillington and Ro Major. Cass has run this event for some years now, and it has been a major fundraiser for the Club. We would like to thank her for all her hard work. This is her account of the day:

“The alarm went off at silly o’clock, and as I rolled out of bed, I peered out of the window. ‘Thank you God’.. the sun was shining. I did a last check that I had all the bits and bobs needed for the day, and set off for Merrist Wood. It was my last year of organising, so the pressure was on.

Well, we couldn’t have asked for a better day; the WSRC team of helpers were outstanding – stewards, writers, judges, scorers, sponsors, photographers, poo-pickers. I don’t think I heard one complaint all day. We had some lovely feedback from both teams and individual competitors, complimenting us on a well-run and, above all, friendly and welcoming show. IT was also really good to see more junior competitors this year, and even better that they did so well. Such a good omen for the future, and they showed some of us older riders how it should be done.

You will see from Julie’s team report (above), that West Surrey teams did well, and we had some individual successes, with a good overall Club entry this year. All in all, it was a great way for Ro and I to end our last show, and hand over a popular event to a new team for next year, headed by Sarah Fisher.”

DRESSAGE SERIES IV

Sunday, 8th May at Kilnhanger Stables

Report by Cathy Hughes – Dressage, weather, and a creeping assassin...

After two dates cancelled due to unreliable weather, it was a pleasant surprise to be able to spend a morning in the sun at Kilnhanger for the last qualifying event in the current series – in fact, it was almost too hot for those dutifully wearing jackets to ride. We reminisced fondly of the day during this series when the judge could hardly see the end of the arena for fog... who would have thought three days after this the Wednesday of Royal Windsor show would be cancelled because of flooded ground.

A good standard of competition was set – marred only slightly by some horses' resistance to going into the side of the arena by the trees. We thought nothing of that, assuming it was simply the (unaccustomed) sunlight on the few jumps there. However, the reaction of Penny's Callum, normally a very obedient and biddable ride, revealed the real problem – a pheasant, scratching about in the undergrowth on that side of the arena – obviously a very dangerous customer with pony-eating potential, judging by Callum's reaction. Carys just smiled resignedly as he leapt forward into what should have been his free walk...

Lisa also deserves a mention for her ability to sit the "airs above the ground" demonstrated by Galaxy, possibly brought on by the same potential assassin who threatened Callum. We hope your neck & back are feeling better now, Lisa.

Otherwise most tests were uneventful & seemed generally of a good standard. There were lots of happy faces and relaxed horses enjoying the sun on their backs for once. Our thanks must go to Lynn for once again allowing us to use her facilities, to provide such an enjoyable day for Club members.



Oh, and of course to all those who have helped with any aspect of this series so far. Don't give up on us just yet, we've got the Championship show to come later in the summer. (Details above).

Hope to see you all there!

(Above, pictures of concentration. Pics courtesy of Chris Lee)

Bridleways Report

From Katherine Manson – Bridleways Officer

Downs Links Bridleway : recent repair of boggy patch at Lockner Holt.

This has now been repaired and I have written to Surrey County Council (SCC) to express a big thank you on behalf of the West Surrey Riding Club for the repaired surface. I am hearing that everyone who uses the path is very happy with the new surface. Only one downside and that is cyclists going too fast now the track is smooth and has been widened. There has been a incident where two cyclists were asked to slow down , refused to do so and caused three riders problems. As a result I asked SCC if they used any signage where cyclists are speeding and being inconsiderate.

I had a response from SCC saying the following *"We don't have a sign of that type available at present, but have no objection to a few carefully/politely worded signs being put up, requesting people cycle with care and be aware of other path users"*.

I have not had any further complaints of inconsiderate cyclists but please keep me posted if you have any problems.

Downs Link Crossing Wonersh Road nr Chinthurst Hill

Cathy Hughes and I met a lady concerned about the signage on the Wonersh Road where the Downs link bridleway crosses. She showed us a letter she was about to send to Surrey County Council to accompany her petition about making that signage more noticeable to drivers. I said we would be happy to write a letter of support from the club.

For members that do not know this crossing the signage already in place is warning triangles either side with the horse motif but they could do with being made more noticeable. A possible suggestion for greater effect is putting the name of the bridleway above the triangle and the distance to the crossing below the triangle so that motorists have a better idea where horses will be waiting to cross.

Downs link Crossing near Lockner on Chilworth/Albury Road

The above meeting reminded me to check the signage on this other Downslink crossing on the Dorking Road at Lockner. Whilst there is a warning triangle on the road coming from Albury there was no sign visible coming from the Chilworth direction. It is either missing or buried in the hedge. I have taken this up with Surrey County Council.

Newlands Corner Development Proposals

Surrey County Council in conjunction with Surrey Wildlife Trust is proposing to develop Newlands Corner and the proposals for new play areas and car parking charges has caused a considerable furore. I understand the proposals are on hold until at least the end of the year because of the opposition but it has made me think about whether there are any implications for the public bridleways or permissive paths at Newlands Corner. At the moment I do not have anything to report but will keep members updated in future newsletters. If any members have any information on this subject I would be very grateful.

Katherine Manson Rights of Way Committee Member katherine.manson@environment-agency.gov.uk

Elaine Mathews

Earlier this year we passed on the sad news that local yard proprietor Elaine Mathews had passed away after a short illness. In her memory and as thanks for all her support to the Club over the years, we made a donation to a charity of Elaine's choice - the National Rheumatoid Arthritis Society. If you would like to make a personal donation you can do through [MuchLoved.com](http://elaine.mathews.muchloved.com/) - please follow this link for details <http://elaine.mathews.muchloved.com/>

Instruction

How to book instruction; bookings to be made online via MyRidingLife on our [website](#) (preferred system) or by cheque/post. Payment is required at time of booking. We regret we cannot issue refunds unless a doctors or vet's certificate/letter is provided. If you are unable to attend your booked instruction, you are free to find a replacement (as long as it's a WSRC member and at an appropriate level for the instruction!) and organise reimbursement between yourselves. We recommend using the WSRC Facebook page for this.

For cheque/postal bookings, please download a booking form from the website and send to Susan Mackenzie – please contact Susan by email for her address (susanchodgkiss@hotmail.com).

Future Instruction; as many people are away or competing over the next few months, we have kept our summer instruction programme light. In the autumn, we will be putting on a more varied programme. If you have ideas you would like us to consider, please email carys1@btinternet.com or susanchodgkiss@hotmail.com.

If you are unsure of venue locations in the Albury/Farley Green/Blackheath area visit our website and search for 'Venue map' for a guide.

Groups of Three Dressage with Catriona Moorwood;

Dates: Sunday, 17th July and Saturday 6th August

Location: Heath Cottage, August Lane, Farley Green, Surrey, GU5 9DP

Times: 11 am – for those working at walk/trot & starting prelim
12 noon – for those established at prelim & working towards novice

Cost: £15 per person. Max 3 per group. Book for the level you feel comfortable at.

Another chance to take part in our popular 'groups of three' dressage sessions; Catriona will make sure your weekend gets off to a great start with these group flatwork sessions. The first session on 17th July will be the perfect warm-up for the Dressage Series championships on 24th July.

Designed to encourage both those starting out and the more established horse and rider, these sessions will provide you with exercises and structure for your schooling at home. They are also great opportunities to meet other Club members and observe yourself in the large school's lovely mirrors!

Half-hour private lessons with Catriona

If you prefer a one-to-one approach, a limited number of half-hour private lessons will be available with Catriona on both dates as follows:

Dates: Sunday, 17th July and Saturday, 6th August

Times: 1 pm and 1.30pm

Cost: £20 per person

No parking at venue but it's only a five-minute hack from the Roman Temple car park.

If you would like to organise a lesson direct with Catriona, but don't have her contact details, we can provide these to you.

Group Show Jumping with Charlie Swanson

- Dates:** Sunday, 3rd July and Saturday, 20th August
- Location:** Shamley Wood Estate, Woodhill Lane, Shamley Green,
Guildford, Surrey GU5 0SP
- Times:** 2 pm – 70-80 cm
3 pm – 80-85 cm
4 pm – 1 m+
- Cost:** £20 per person. Max 3 per group.

Back by popular demand, Charlie will be running two show jumping clinics for WSRC this summer. Please note, we have changed the jump sizes for each group slightly, to better meet demand. Lessons take place in Charlie's outdoor school on a lovely surface.

Sorry no parking at venue for participants or spectators. Nearest parking at the Roman Temple car park.

If you can't wait for these clinics, do you know you can book Charlie direct at a time that suits you? Charlie can offer private, semi-private and groups of 3 or more, showjumping or grid work lessons in the evenings, and at some weekends, depending on her show schedule.

For more information about Charlie, and to contact her direct, visit www.monksstud.co.uk

Dates For Your Diary

Sat 18th June	Summer Day Camp, Westlands Farm
Sun 3rd July	Charlie Swanson sj clinic
Sat 9th July	London & South East SJ qualifier at Bookham RC
Sat 9th July	London & South East Dressage qualifiers at Patchesham
Sun 17th July	Catriona Moorwood flatwork clinic
Sun 24th July	Dressage Series Championships at Kilnhanger
Sun 31st July	Hickstead Teams of 3 Show Jumping
Sat 6th August	Catriona Moorwood flatwork clinic
Sat 20th August	Charlie Swanson sj clinic
Thurs 8th Sept	Team Eventers Challenge, Blenheim Palace