



West Surrey Riding Club

BHS affiliated Riding Club

WSRC News & Events

Our monthly news and events update for July 2020

WELCOME TO SUMMER 2020

Hands up those that feel like we are in some sort of alien world right now?! It has definitely been a very odd few months. One minute I am sitting at my desk in Reading and the next I am setting up my home office in Woking and not being able to remember what day of the week it is! It has been a really tough time for our members and their families, whether that's experiencing the consequences of COVID-19 from health, wealth and wellbeing. For many of us though the simple things we take for granted like the freedom we enjoy from just seeing our horses, was taken or restricted. I am so proud that we, as a club, kept in contact during this time, both as a committee and with you all. Lockdown meant different things to different people and one of the really important aspects of WSRC is the social element – seeing each other at events and socially is what makes us tick and we needed to find new ways to fill that void. I want to thank the committee, particularly, Vicki Chuter, Sam Petri and Tanya Craeye-Griffen for running some brilliant events virtually and keeping our spirits up during this time. The loo roll challenge was a particular highlight of mine and one I will remember for a long time!

We also enjoyed huge success on both the BRC NAF virtual dressage – competing nationally against over 80 other riding clubs – it was like being at Lincoln, without leaving Surrey! E-riders is still also attracting many of us and we are firmly hanging on to our 5th place in the RC league table. Well done and thanks for taking part! We stepped up to the Covid challenge and adapted in order to still be able to take part and have some fun. As we now try and find our 'new normal' the next few months will test us as a club. Our membership numbers are down by 50%. Although the committee are understandably concerned we do take comfort that other area 11 clubs are experiencing the same pain – those that have their own club fields and rely on events to boost their funds and membership have suffered worse than us. We have been careful and have money to see us through the remainder of this year but we will be asking for your continued support again at membership renewal and have some

ideas to boost and regain membership for 2021. We have seriously considered how to handle the remainder of this year – the consensus is that we should embrace the new rules to our sport, continue to support each other and enjoy our ponies! Therefore, we are working on picking up instruction, we are planning to run a show in September (as long as nothing changes with Government guidelines), and we will continue to support teams for the Winter area competitions and arena eventing. We are also conducting a review of our members only dressage series – if you have any comments or thoughts please do let myself or Vicki Chuter know.

We hope you are all staying safe and we look forward to getting the best from the remainder of the year. See you all soon – even if it is at a 1m social distance!

Julie Johnson – WSRC Chairman 2020

BRC LATEST UPDATE ON COVID-19

With further announcements from the UK and devolved governments, BRC are now able to issue the following update with regards to BRC activities. The following updates are BRC's current interpretation of the most recent government guidance and are subject to change, as and when government advice is updated.

Dressage to Music

It is still our intention to proceed with the 2020 Dressage to Music Championships. As such, qualifiers for this event may take place, following our COVID-19 guidelines, from 1 July in England and Northern Ireland (see below for details)

We previously announced the cancellation of the 2020 Quadrille and the BRC Advisory Committee have taken the decision to also cancel the pairs classes. We must act within the current guidelines provided by the government and therefore it is not possible for competitors to currently ride a pairs floorplan without breaching the 2m social distancing advice. Whilst we are disappointed, we hope to still provide an excellent event with individual classes available. This will include the brand-new senior prelim class, as requested by many members and areas. It must be noted that should government restrictions change in the future, which would result in us having to cancel the championship, refunds will be given in line with the 2020 BRC Handbook.

In the latest government update (23 June), it was advised that social distancing can reduce to 1m plus from 4 July. However, BRC organisers should be aware that this is only where it is not possible to remain 2m apart, and where additional measures are in place i.e. PPE or screens.

Update for social gatherings: Groups of up to six people can meet in parks or private gardens, effective from Monday 1 June. The full government update can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-on-phased-return-of-sport-and-recreation/guidance-for-the-public-on-the-phased-return-of-outdoor-sport-and-recreation>

Information on groups of six can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/groups-of-up-to-six-from-different-households-can-exercise-outside-under-new-rules>

BRC Permitted Activities

IMPORTANT NOTE: Any permitted activity below must adhere to the current guidance on group numbers (max six) and the continued social distancing and public health, hygiene and biosecurity requirements. Riders and organisers should also consider the risk of their activity, and only partake in / organise activities where it is safe to do so, taking into account both the horse and riders' capabilities. Risk assessments must be carried out for each activity, to include the COVID-19 specific hazards and controls.

General riding – Permitted providing you are alone, with members of your own household, or with no more than 5 other people from different households.

Riding includes the following details:

➤ Travelling – Travelling both with and without your horse, is allowed for exercising, training or facility hire. The government do not specify any limits on distance travelled at this time. ➤ Many facility centres are now able to open for facility hire, which you can now use.

➤ Locations – All permitted activities detailed here apply to outdoors. Indoor riding arenas and covered arenas are permitted for use from 4 July.

➤ Lessons and Training – Lessons and training may now take place in groups of no more than six. This number of six must include the instructor or any additional organiser. BRC clubs and areas may now organise training activities in-line with this maximum number. The type of activity is not limited, as long as it is appropriately risk assessed. All activities must be for training, social, educational or 'have a go' purposes, and may not be competitive before 1 July.

➤ Hacking – This may be done alone, with members of your own household, or with no more than 5 other people from different households. Organised hacks are permitted under the BRC banner.

➤ Fun rides – These are now permitted under the BRC banner. Risk assessments must be carried out for each activity being run, to include the COVID-19 specific hazards and controls.

➤ Camps – These are now permitted as long as the activities fall under the 'lessons and training' category above. Camp activities must adhere to the max six people rule, and social distancing etc must apply. Overnight stays will be permitted from 4 July 2020 providing suitable facilities and management are in place. This would be for individuals or household groups only.

➤ Outdoor competitive riding events are permitted from 1 July 2020. There is no restriction on the type of activity. All competitions must be run in accordance with the current government guidance on group numbers, social distancing, and hygiene measures.

Online Competitions – BRC organised online ridden competitions can resume. BRC have restarted their leagues with Interdressage. Both flatwork and jumping classes are now included. There are no restrictions on the type of on-line competition activity permitted.

Social and un-mounted events – Permitted under the BRC banner. These should only be held outdoors and should be for no more than six people.

Other BRC activities – Activities where current social distancing cannot be adhered to, such as the quadrille, pairs, or teams of four / six classes, are not permitted. This will only be reviewed when social distancing guidance is changed.

All other BRC activities that can comply with the above guidelines are now permitted.

Covid-19 and your Riding Club

The following regulations include BRC's current interpretation of the most recent government guidance and are subject to change, as and when government advice is updated. Government guidelines must be maintained at all time at any RC activity or event, especially in respect to maintaining a 2-metre distance from others and regularly hand washing.

In the latest government update (23 June), it was advised that social distancing can reduce to 1m plus from 4 July. However, BRC organisers should be aware that this is only where it is not possible to remain 2m apart, and where additional measures are in place i.e. PPE or screens.

Riders and organisers should also consider the risk of their activity, and only partake in / organise activities where it is safe to do so, taking into account both the horse and riders' capabilities.

Risk assessments will be carried out for each activity, to include the COVID-19 specific hazards and controls.

WSRC Clinic regulations

- Anyone displaying COVID-19 symptoms, however mild, should stay at home. Anyone who has been in contact with someone that is showing symptoms should stay at home. Anyone considered vulnerable should stay at home.
- Anyone attending a clinic are reminded to check their own temperature before leaving home.
- Travelling both with and without your horse, is allowed for exercising, training or facility hire. The government do not specify any limits on distance travelled at this time.
- Groups will consist of a maximum of 3 riders only and one instructor and helper
- Please attend on your own if possible. If this is not possible, please advise us in advance to ensure we do not go over the number of people permitted and please restrict yourself to only bringing one person with you. Dogs should also remain in the lorry unless given specific permission in advance by the venue owner.
- We will be increasing the turn times between lessons. We kindly ask members to arrive and leave promptly to reduce contact with others.

Please ensure you wash your hand regularly or use anti-bacterial hand gel. This is especially important after opening gates etc. We will endeavor ensure our venues are equipped with hand gel where possible, but we strongly advise that you have your own supply of sanitiser, masks and gloves with you at all times.

We recommend all riders wear gloves to ride in and are permitted to wear soft face masks that cover the mouth and nose, but no face shields are permitted. Nothing is to be attached to the riding hat

Instruction & Events

Clinics are now live to book onto via website.

Flatwork with Ali Cookson

Thursday 16th July from 09:30

East Whitley Farm , Shamley Green , Guildford , Surrey GU5 0TE

Back by popular demand, the return of individual flatwork sessions with Ali Cookson. The flatwork session will be tailored to you and your horse's level and will provide a series of useful exercises for you to practice at home.

Plenty of space and parking at venue.

30 minutes individual session £35.

Sessions will be adjusted to run currently if gaps in time slots.

Entries close 9 July 09:30

Only one helper/groom to accompany riders. The galleries and toilet facilities are currently closed.

Franklin balls clinic with Kimberley Smith

Sunday 19th July 10:00

Waggoner Farm. RH6 0EL

Demonstration followed by 45 minute paired lesson.

£25 for 45 minutes paired lesson (individuals will be paired)

Entries close 16/7/20

Kimberley Smith is a Qualified BHS Stage 3 and Accredited professional coach. She is also one of the first and only trainers trained using the Franklin method. Kimberley is currently out competing her own horses that she has schooled and rehabilitated herself at BE 90/100 level and BD prelim/novice. She is a grassroots trainer, loves to help riders achieve their goals, whatever they maybe - From getting the confidence to just get back on their horse after a nasty fall, learning something new or aiming high and going Badminton grass roots

Upcoming events for 2020

Camp has moved dates but not location! We are working with our instructors to see if we can get day camp up and running on 15 August at Munstead. Numbers per session will be limited and all social distancing guidelines followed

We will have a summer show – albeit later in the year then planned – we are working on a schedule and date for showing and show jumping courtesy of our kind friends at Whiplely Manor near Bramley for Mid September.

Cross country training and 'mini jumping' in planning stages – all at local venues throughout the summer.

Julie J and Vicki are also putting their heads together to 'revamp' the members only dressage series for 2020/21. We have taken on board your feedback and realise that the changing dynamic of our club means that this popular event in our annual calendar needs to change with the times as well. We hope to be able to come up with a great new offering that meets everyone's requirements and personal circumstances. We will feedback to you soon!

Virtual events

Results of 'Chase me Charlie !'

Thanks to everyone who got involved having fun with this competition! Massive congratulations to our winners !

Class 1 - Millie Grace and Beau

Class 2 - Vicki Chuter and Macey

Class 3 - Nicola Dolby and Little Joey

Class 4 - Caitlin Fahy

Next Event: Get your entries in soon!!

Fun photo Show

Closing date : Sunday 12 July at 23:00

Welcome to West Surrey open photo show

Classes are :

Class 1 - Muddiest/dirtiest horse

Class 2 - Kindest eye

Class 3 - Proudest moment/achievement

Class 4 - Best/worst spook/rear/buck/naughty moment

Class 5 - Best mane and tail

Class 6 - Best odd couple (tall & small, dogs & horses, all pets welcome)

Class 7 - Best coat change from winter fluffs to summer sleek

PHOTOS NEED TO BE SENT TO THIS EVENT ONLY, entry is FREE & rosette and certificate to first West Surrey member in each class.

Judging will be determined by the most likes 👍 on the picture. Please state your name and class on the photo. Entries close on 12 July.

Good luck and don't forget to support other members and vote for their photos.

Your committee

Just a quick reminder of who serves on the West Surrey Riding Club Committee and their contact details

Office	Name	Email
Chair & Dressage Teams	Julie Johnson	julielisajohnson@gmail.com
Secretary and Area Liaison Officer	Cathy Hughes	cathy.hughes@apha.gsi.gov.uk
Treasurer	Ro Major	ro@jhaconsult.co.uk
Membership Secretary	Lizzie Crossan	westsurreyrc@gmail.com
Instruction and Bookings	Louise Hollington	lhollington@hotmail.co.uk
Bridleways	Katherine Manson	katherine.manson@environment-agency.gov.uk
Showjumping Team Manager	Tanya Griffin	tanyacreaye-griffin@hotmail.co.uk
Website, comms and HT Team Manager	Samantha Petri	samanthajpetri@gmail.com
Members Dressage and dressage Events	Vikki Chuter	vikkichuter@aol.com
Newsletter	Julie Hazlewood	jmc4hp@yahoo.co.uk

All committee members details and other information please visit www.westsurreyridingclub.co.uk