



West Surrey Riding Club

BHS affiliated Riding Club

WSRC News & Events

Our monthly news and events update for December 2019

MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR!

So the weather has become considerably colder and the mud is back – it only means one thing – we are in the depths of Winter once again!. However, when I look back on 2019 it was certainly a busy year with a lot of ups and downs. From qualifying Arena Eventing championships at Aston in March to qualifying in July for Prelim dressage at London & South East as well at Hunter trials and dressage to music – you all had a go at the range of activities on offer in BRC and bought home numerous rosettes. We ran three very successful shows in 2019 reflecting in our membership figures which grew from 2018 and now near a highly respectable 100. This year we also upped our offering on social events including a summer BBQ, treasure hunt, Quiz and Xmas dinner!

Although all our events were very well attended we do still struggle in two areas throughout the year. Only 40% of our membership volunteer at events – which makes setting up and running events extremely challenging and extremely stressful to the committee members who are already overloaded. This year we also saw our instruction uptake slow down – team contributions went up but training attendance definitely dropped. Please do let any of the committee know if you have any ideas or suggestions to help with the running of the club for 2020.

This is our final communication of 2019, if you are renewing your membership please do so by either downloading the form on the website and sending it through to the WSRC gmail account or renew online via MRL. Membership, subs are due on 1st January and you will not be insured to attend any events or eligible for team events if you do not renew – we look forward to seeing you back with us in 2020!

Finally we are looking for a new Show jumping Team Manager for 2020 as after 11 years, Jenny Tully is stepping down from the committee – Jenny has been a major support to me as Chair these past few

years and we will all miss her incredibly – we will still see her in the club though as she is now using her time up to bring on her new horse – Cheddar!

Quick reminder that we have moved the AGM from November to 17 January - we hope to see as many as possible of you there – trophies and drinks all round! On behalf of the committee we hope you all have a lovely relaxing Christmas and we wish you all lots of success and horsey fun in 2020!

Julie Johnson - Chairman WSRC & Jenny, Ro, Katherine, Cathy, Liz, Vicki, Julie H, Louise and Sam.

BRC changes

Just a reminder that a number of things are changing in 2020!

- The new membership year runs from the 1st January so subs are due in now and can be made via BACS or MRL. The cost of membership from BRC HQ to the club has increased and for 2020 we will not be passing this cost down to you but absorbing it into the club – so rejoin now!
- WSRC have recently changed the rules on payment of entries so please check with the relevant Team Manager before committing to an event that you are happy with any associated cost
- WSRC have made some changes to its constitution – a copy of which has been sent to all members for review prior to the AGM in January 2020
- **Flu vaccination rules are changing:** from 1st January 2020 it is strongly recommended and from 1st March 2020 it is mandatory that a horse competing in an official BRC event (i.e. qualifier or championship) must have been vaccinated against equine influenza within 6 months and 21 days before the qualifier/championship.

Past events

BRC National Dressage to Music Championship, Bury Farm, 29 September

It was with no small amount of trepidation that we set off on Saturday afternoon for our first “away” show, a national championship no less with 2 dressage judges, spectator galleries (plural!!) and a forecast of high winds and torrential rain. The car was packed to the gunnels - my husband tries to

ensure every creature comfort is catered for when we go camping - and Merlin was more than happy to be travelling with four haynets.

We arrived safely and I was very relieved to find that Merlin had been allocated a permanent indoor stable rather than the temporary outdoor stabling. The only downside being that the permanent stabling is furthest from the lorry park and we hadn't come prepared with a wheelbarrow. Luckily the rain held off while we settled Merlin in, repositioned the trailer into the prevailing and rising wind and set up camp in the trailer. Merlin seemed to be quite happy so we decided to grab a bite to eat in the café onsite and enjoy the evening's entertainment. This was the Saddles Direct Quadrille Selection Trial – teams of four in fancy dress telling a story to music. The sheer ingenuity of the costumes, music and floorplans was amazing. The effort that the teams and helpers had put into it was quite phenomenal, from sparkly nail painted pony toes to rainbow died tails and intricate costumes.

After a final check on Merlin it was time for an earlyish night. I knew the trailer might have a few leaks but hadn't anticipated the rain sneaking in through the gap between the top of the trailer and the rear doors, hitting the ramp and spraying across the camp beds. Always prepared with boy scout handkerchief to hand, Mark stopped the spray and we tried to get back to sleep. No such luck. The gale hit full force in the middle of the night and I lay wishing the hours away very thankful that Merlin wasn't under canvass as the noise was incredible.

Sunday morning finally dawned and I rushed over to check on Merlin and muck out. He was absolutely fine, all dry and cosy. An "arena walk" was scheduled for 07.30 before the class started in the main indoor arena. I have never done one of these before but basically you are allowed to walk around the outside of the arena to familiarise your horse with the environment. I thought this was a very good idea knowing that Merlin can be spooky and it also meant I could stretch his legs after the journey and being stabled overnight. There were a lot of horses taking advantage of the arena walk and Merlin was very happy to plod along behind not batting a eyelid at the flowers and spectator galleries. My test wasn't until the end of the class so I had plenty of time to plait after the walk and watch a couple of tests to see how long it took for the music to play after the rider gave the signal. I counted a 6 second delay so factored this in to my plan.

He warmed up nicely and being the last competitor in the class I had the warm up to myself by the end. In we went and promptly spooked at the judge sitting at E who hadn't been there during the arena walk. I obviously looked rather serious or terrified or both as Jenny had turned up to support me and pulled her best "smiley" face from the gallery to remind me to smile and breath. The bell went, I raised my hand, counted to 6 and moved off. No music played. We stopped. 4 seconds later the music started so a bit flustered I started again. We were both a little tense, I think I forgot to breath,

but we completed the test, not our best but we had given it a go. We were very lucky dodging the rain showers to reload horse and equipment. A couple of torrential downpours on the motorway on the way home, but we arrived safely, exhausted but happy!

The Championships were brilliant, really well organised and everyone was very friendly and helpful. No placing this time but a wonderful experience and I would encourage others to give it a go. Many thanks to my long-suffering husband Mark for continuing to support our equestrian endeavours and to Jenny Tully for encouraging me to have a go at DTM this year and for driving all the way to Bury Farm on the Sunday morning to cheer us on. Thank you WSRC for giving me the opportunity to compete at a National Championship.



Sara and Merlin

Member Dressage - Mayor House Farm , 17 November

On 17th November we ran a members dressage event at Mayor House Farm . We had great feedback from all members about the beautiful surroundings and of course the weather. Results can be found on the website and on Facebook – Congratulations to those that have already qualified for the 2020 Championship! I can't guarantee sunshine for the next members dressage but I can promise some festive cheer !

Treasure Hunt – Farley Green , 24 November

We held our first treasure hunt on Farley Heath leaving from the Roman Temple which was open to members and non members . Riders followed a marked trail looking for 'treasure' hidden in trees including gold and silver (sprayed fir cones) and rubies (red tree baubles) along with carrots for the horses and the final piece of treasure – a slice of cake !

Everyone really enjoyed the event and the weather stayed fine ! We plan to hold another in the Spring so details to follow.

Novice Dressage - Sands Farm , November

Well done to our Novice dressage team of Judith Dunne, Amy Newton, Charlotte Willis and Karen Stone for coming 6th at the recent novice qualifier held at Sands Farm back in November – it's a great result with some personal bests from Charlotte and Amy. Thank you for taking part and getting us a place!!

Upcoming Events & Training

Dressage - @ Kilnhanger 22 December

Dressage will be held at Kilnhanger on 22 December. Entries are now open. Dress code is optional but would be great to see everyone in Christmas fancy dress. Don't forget to come along to the Christmas social after you have ridden your test (see below)

Christmas social - Roman Temple 22 December

We are holding our Christmas social on the same day at the Roman Temple Car Park between 11am and 1.00. Mulled wine and mince pies will be served, so do come along and join us and decorate yourselves and ponies in a Christmas theme.

Flatwork clinics - Heath Cottage 12 January , 16 February and 15 March

Catriona will be doing a flatwork clinic on the 12 January at Heath Cottage , and also at the same venue , Instructional Dressage a week prior to Dressage series on 16 February and 15 March.

AGM – Manor Inn (Beefeater) Godalming 17 Jan

Showjumping Clinic – Mayor House 2 February

Sally Thurloway will be doing a showjumping clinic at Mayor House on Sunday 2 February. Only just arranged so not on MRL yet.

Good Friday Area 11 Dressage Team Friendly – Friday 10 April

As usual West Surrey will be hosting the 2nd dressage friendly of the year on Good Friday at Merrist Wood (the first being hosted by Elstead at the Priory on Sunday 15 December 2019).

The schedule will be ready in January – in the meantime we are still looking for sponsors for all five classes (please contact Samantha Petri by 30 December if you/your company are interested in sponsoring us – or if you can recommend anyone to us that may be....) We also need helpers for the day including scorers, writers, stewards, car park supervisors and runners. Please contact Julie Johnson if you can help on jobs on the day!

Upcoming Team events/qualifiers

We have a number of team events coming up. We are always looking for new team members who want to represent the club. Please refer to our recent correspondence on the changes on payment of entries (entries paid for friendlies but contribution required by team members for national qualifiers). Please contact Julie Johnson or Samantha Petri in the first instance if you are interested in these teams.

British Horse Society Area 11 events

Area Team Friendly (1) Dressage

Sunday 15 December 2019

Priory Equestrian, Frensham (organiser Elstead RC)

Intermediate Winter Dressage Qualifiers

Saturday 8 February 2020

Sands Farm, Warnham (organiser: Newlands Corner RC)

Novice Winter 70 & 80 Show Jumping Qualifiers

Sunday 9 February 2020

Sands Farm, Warnham (organiser: Abinger Forest RC)

Intermediate Winter 90, 100 & 110 Show Jumping Qualifiers

Saturday 7 March 2020

Berkshire College of Agriculture (organiser: Area 6)

FOTH Challenge Qualifiers (Areas 10, 11 & 13)

Sunday 29 March 2020

Heath Farm, Munstead (organiser: Area 11)

Area Team Friendly (2) Dressage

Friday 10 April 2020

Merrist Wood, Guildford (organiser: WSRC Area 11)

FOTH Combined Training Qualifier

Saturday 11 April 2020

Felbridge show ground (organiser: Area 10)