



West Surrey Riding Club

BHS affiliated Riding Club

June 2017 (6)

Dear Members,

We hope you have enjoyed the Club's events over the last few months and we are looking forward to seeing you at many more events over the coming summer.

We'd like to update you on the recent and sad loss of our long serving, loyal and much respected President on 7 May, 2017. Geoff Dorset died after a long illness, leaving behind his partner, Gillian Ellis, who lives in Farley Green and is another good friend of the Club.

Geoff was not only the ultimate gentleman, he was also a hugely respected horseman. He trained



police horses for 32 years at Imber Court, but also taught countless local riders from his Farley Green base. His special skill was in groundwork, and riders came from far and wide to learn how to lunge and work a horse from the ground. It is not often you come across horsemen like Geoff.

Before Geoff's illness, he and Gillian enjoyed many busy years producing and eventing their horses. He was always turned out impeccably, a dashing figure on a beautiful horse, hacking across the heath. And he would always raise a hat to any passer-by.

Geoff had been President of the Club for longer than most of us remember, and we are deeply grateful for his contribution. In remembrance, WSRC have made a donation to the Diamond Riding Centre, Carlshalton with which Geoff was associated.

Apologies for cancelled events

We have unfortunately had to cancel a few of our events due to lack of registrations. We apologise for any inconvenience this may have caused and if you are owed registration fees, please contact Ro Major at ro@jhaconsult.co.uk as soon as possible.

New WSRC riding jackets now available!

West Surrey Riding Club now has some gorgeous purple shell jackets to add to our merchandise of polo shirts and sweatshirts (available upon request). The jackets are £32.00 each and come in sizes 10 (small), 12 (medium) and 14 (large) and are windproof but not waterproof (more shower proof). Please visit our website to make an order.



Happy riding and best wishes,

The WSRC Committee

Newsletter contents:

Talks and Workshops

Future Team Competitions

Reports

Instruction

Dates for your diary

TALKS AND WORKSHOPS

To register for any of these talks or workshops, please visit westsurreyridingclub.co.uk or myridinglife.com

24 June 10:00am - approx 3:00pm

Summer Camp

Westland Farm, Lordshill Common, Shamley Green GU5 0TL



Summer is here and to celebrate, Westland Farm will be hosting their Summer Camp in Shamley Green later this month. It's a great chance to learn, have great fun and be sociable!

You'll be in a group with the same instructor for the day and experience three lessons; XC, dressage and jumping. The day is suitable for all levels and great for gaining some confidence. The yard has a lovely new rubber school and we hope to see many of our members there.

This years instructors are Sally Ede, Lisa Hamilton-Smith and Hinda Inglis. The cost is £50.00 each. For more details visit myridinglife.com

FUTURE TEAM COMPETITIONS

**London and South East Show Jumping Qualifier - Bookham Riding Club
17 June 2017**

We are looking for riders to form part of a show jumping team for the L&SE SJ qualifier on Saturday 17 June. It is teams of 4 with the best three scores to count. The first round is 80cms and the second is 85cms. Please contact jennytully2000@yahoo.co.uk by 11 June if you are interested.

Blenheim Eventer Challenge
17 September 2017

This was very popular last year so we are looking for someone to organise a team in 2017. Please contact jennytully2000@yahoo.co.uk as soon as possible, if you are interested. **The event is usually over-subscribed, so we can't miss this date.**

REPORTS

DRESSAGE REPORT

by Sarah Fisher

West Surrey Open Dressage Team Event at Merrist Wood - 14 April 2017



Our annual open dressage and area team friendly competition took place on Good Friday, **14 April** at Merrist Wood.

This was a learning experience for me as it was my first year as organiser, but Cass Lillington gave me a great handover, and Ro Major provided invaluable help and support throughout the build up, and on the day.

We were lucky with the weather, but even more blessed by the amazing team of helpers who all pitched up (without nagging) to write, steward, score, poo pick, and generally help the day run smoothly. You know who you are; I am so grateful to you for your help and support.



We had good entries in the two preliminary classes, but we could have taken more in the introductory test. There were eleven teams entered in the Area 11 team friendly, which Elstead won. Their team received some lovely base layers from Iconsportswear as prizes. Liphook Equine Hospital kindly sponsored the individual classes and Nicola Elliot Photography donated a free photo shoot for the highest percentage of the day.

Our own teams did well too, in particular, the Diamond Bunnies (Rebecca Attridge on Arlechinno's Tiger Lily, Caitlin Fahy and Moonshine Boy, and Jenny Tully and Lazy Acres Hurricane) finished a very respectable fourth. There were lots of smiley faces, including some very young ones, which always makes it feel worthwhile doing!

Dressage Series IV at Kilnhanger Farm - 19 March, 2017

By Sarah Fisher

The weather held up well on the **19 March** for our fourth closed dressage series competition, the last opportunity to qualify for the championships on 21 May (although non qualified combinations can compete in the Championships too).



I was drafted in as the last hope judge (nobody else available!) but I always enjoy judging, and it was lovely to see some new faces (people and equine), as well as the usual suspects.

As ever, we saw a huge range of shapes, sizes, types, ages and colours. The beauty of dressage is that it is a fairly level playing field, where good training can compete with big moving horses.

If dressage is your thing and you want to progress, I urge you to offer to do some writing for a judge. You will soon see that marks are all too often thrown away through a lack of accuracy.

We saw many square shaped circles and centre lines that were way off centre. We saw some lovely work that morning, but we also saw some careless riding, in terms of accuracy. Believe it or not, judges (mostly) want to give good marks but we cannot award a 7 for a square shaped circle, however good the horse looks!

Congratulations to all competitors – you are all winners! I know how much time, effort and possibly stress is involved in preparing for a five minute dressage test. There were plenty of scores in the high 60s, and I hope we will see some equally good scores at the Championships.

Dressage Series Championships 2017 at Kiln hanger Farm - 21 May, 2017

by Cathy Hughes



Congratulations to all who competed in the championships on the 21 May, but especially to [Jacquie Fabb](#) and Harry for winning the Intro series championship, and Sophie and Tommy for taking the Prelim. champion position. Hopefully, we'll see you both at the Club AGM in November to collect your trophies. [Vikki Chuter](#)'s Beauty lived up to her name by winning the Condition and Turnout, kindly judged for us this time by Caroline Moorey. Full results from the day are available on the Club website.

As this series ends, I'd like to thank all the people who make these events possible; Ro for making

sure we have all the necessities, Chris for bringing them all every time; Julie for doing the entries and times; Sarah Bowler for making our rosettes; and all of you who've helped out in any way (we really can't do these sessions without you!). A special thanks goes to [Lynn Roberts](#) for letting us use the school at Kilnhanger time after time (even when the weather threatened to get the better of us this week!), & of course also to Chris, who took time to come and take photographs at all these events - your talents are much appreciated!

We're hoping to restart the next dressage series in the Autumn, to run through the Winter as before - watch this space for more details soon.



BRIDLEWAYS REPORT

by Katherine Manson

Bridleway 330 connecting the DownsLink to Long Common Lane

I checked this path on the 27 May and am pleased to report that the bridge has been repaired and the path is open. However on the day of my inspection the contractors had not removed all the waste and metal barriers from the area. These items were lying in a heap to one side of the path on the Downs Link side of the bridge. This may spook some horses.

The problem of ruts in the path surface and the slope in one place close to a culvert is I am afraid still un-resolved.

Blackheath Common

There is some new finger posts on Blackheath Common on the public bridleways but it would also seem that some of the old blue marker posts are missing from the permissive paths. I have been asked to investigate this so am presently making a record of all the marker posts on the common.

Waverley Borough Council (WBC) run volunteer groups every fourth Thursday of the month. Details are on the WBC website but the next dates are 22 June (bracken clearance), 27 July (litter), 24 August (Bracken clearance) and 28th September (pine and birch clearance). I am hoping to make one of these dates myself.

St. Marthas Bridleway between Tyting Farm, Halfpenny Lane and Keepers Cottage, White Lane

On this bridleway the barbed wire fencing on one side of the bridleway is in a poor state and has been reported to Surrey County Council.

INSTRUCTION

by Pam Wilson

We've had action packed few months and some great feedback on the instruction. A number of instruction sessions for July to September have now been organised and it is hoped the a cross country clinic will also be arranged this quarter. This date and other details will be **sent by email**, posted on the website and on Facebook as they become available.

How to book instruction; bookings to be made online via MyRidingLife on our [website](#) (preferred method) or by cheque/post. Payment is required at time of booking. We regret we cannot issue refunds unless a doctor's 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 our website and send to Susan Mackenzie – please contact Susan by email for her address (susanchodgkiss@hotmail.com).

If you are unsure of venue locations visit our website and search for 'Venue map' for a guide.

Group Show Jumping with Fiona Breach

Date: Saturday, 15 July 2017

Venue: Mayor House Farm Livery Stables, Farley Heath Road, Albury, GU5 0SR

Times: 11:00am - 50 cm for first timers/new horse/nervous
12:00pm - 65 cm for those wanting a little more
13:00pm - 75+ cm for those wanting a little more still

Cost: £15 per person. Max 3 per group

We've yet again received some wonderful feedback from Fiona's clinic in April. This clinic is primarily aimed at confidence building for those starting out jumping, or with a new mount, and for those wanting to get back into jumping for 2017. **Please ensure that you sign up for the session best matched to your requirements.**

Lateral Work with Sarah Jane Hornsby

Date: Saturday, 22 July 2017

Location: Lockner Livery Stables, Dorking Road, Chilworth, GU4 8RH
No parking at the venue but it's only a short hack from the Roman Temple car park.

Times: 10:30am – for those just starting out
11:30am – for those who have previously done a little lateral work
12:30am – for those more established in lateral work

Cost: £15 per person. Max 4 per group

A flatwork session with the highly experienced Sarah Jane Hornsby, aimed at providing encouragement and building confidence in understanding and using the many benefits of lateral work with your horse. The sessions aim to work with different levels of prior experience.

"This was my first ever lesson with Sarah-Jane so I didn't know quite what to expect. The lateral work clinic was superb - she has a great teaching style - friendly, informative and fun. She is able to breakdown the lateral work techniques into bite size junks and explain what you need to do, what you are trying to achieve and benefits to the horse's training. She gives really clear feedback on your 'attempts'! She helped us refine what we have been doing and why some movements were proving tricky. We crammed a lot into our lesson and she pushed us to have a go at new movements. Great session, can't wait for the next one!"

Testimonial from a lateral work lesson with Sarah-Jane

Groups of Three Dressage with Catriona Moorwood

Date: Sunday, 20 August 2017

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

Times: 11:00am - for those working at walk/trot and starting prelim
12:00pm - for those established at prelim and working towards novice
13:00pm - also for those established at prelim and working towards novice

Cost: £15 per person. Max 3 per group.

Please book for the level you feel most comfortable at.

The return of the popular groups of three dressage sessions. Catriona will ensure that you have a great weekend if you come to one of these group flatwork sessions. Designed to encourage both those starting out and the more established horse and rider combination, these sessions will provide you with exercises and structure for your schooling at home. There are also great opportunities to meet other Club members and to observe yourself in the large school's lovely mirrors!

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

JUNE

Sat 3	National and L&SE HT qualifier at Coombelands
Sat 17	L&SE SJ at Bookham RC field
Sat 24	Summer Camp at Westlands Farm

JULY

Sat 8	National & L&SE Dressage & Riding Test Qualifiers at Patchesham
Sat 15	Group Show Jumping with Fiona Breach
Sun 16	National & L&SE Dressage to Music Qualifiers - Plumpton
Sat 22	Lateral Work with Sarah Jane Hornsby

AUGUST

Sun 20	Groups of Three Dressage with Catriona Moorwood
--------	---

SEPTEMBER

Sun 17	Blenheim Eventers Challenge
Sun 24	L&SE Horse Trials, Show Jumping, Dressage & Riding Test Championships at Munstead

OCTOBER

Sun 8	L&SE Dressage to Music Championship at Sands Farm, Warnham
-------	--

About West Surrey Riding Club

West Surrey Riding Club (affiliated to the British Riding Club) is a small friendly club based in Area 11 in the Surrey Hills conservation area between Guildford and Cranleigh.

Our primary objective as a club is to help and encourage our members in all aspects of horsey life – from the increasingly popular Trec to interactive lecture demonstrations, instruction and team competitions. The emphasis we try to maintain in the club is to make owning and training your horse as enjoyable and sociable as possible while still being informative and safe. We know that the majority of our riders are keen to improve their skills and do the very best for their horses, so all the events we organise are aimed to promote these things.