



West Surrey Riding Club

BHS affiliated Riding Club

March 2017 (5)

Dear Members,

Welcome to 2017, we hope you've had a good start to the year and we thank you for renewing your membership with us.

We are back to full speed with some exciting events planned, all of which are detailed in this newsletter – lots of instruction, social events and some team events!

There are two exciting developments from the Committee's point of view; Jo Stiles, who has recently returned from Australia, has kindly come forward to take on producing the WSRC newsletter. She has already got her teeth into what is a significant task, and is full of ideas for future newsletters. We welcome her both as a member and a Committee member. She is also keen to receive ideas/suggestions for future newsletters, so if you would like to contact her, please email Jo on jostiles7@gmail.com.

Samantha Petri, who some of you will know already, has taken on the task of running the website. She has done a fantastic job in bringing the website up-to-date, and we are very grateful to her for fitting this in around her busy work schedule.

A quick note about photographs; we are very lucky to have Chris Lee as our unofficial resident photographer, who has the great ability to capture the spirit of our events with his photographs. We would like to use more of his photographs in the newsletters, on our Facebook page and on the website. We will not attribute names to people in the photographs. We are going to assume that members do not object to this, but that if there is anyone would prefer **not** to be photographed, please make this clear either to Chris or to the relevant organiser/committee member.

We look forward to seeing you out and about in 2017.

Best wishes,

The WSRC Committee

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS

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

West Surrey Open Dressage Team Event - Merrist Wood Good Friday, 14 April, 2017

Four classes comprising: Intro A, Prelim 14, Prelim 18 and Novice 30.

This is our most important event of the year, in terms of raising funds for the Club. It usually proves to be highly popular with both individuals and Area 11 Riding Club teams. There are prizes in each class, sponsored by Liphook Equine Hospital, iconsports, and Nicola Elliot photography.

If you are able to assist with any of the following, please contact sarah@christopherstreet.org, your help in making this event every success will be greatly appreciated.

- as a **helper** (writing for judges, stewarding, collecting sheets, providing tea, poo pickers, just general support)
- as a **competitor**
- as a **team rider** (see below call for teams)
- to **spread the word** and generally encourage entries.

The schedule is now up on the West Surrey Riding Club website and entries are open via MRL, and there are also hard copies of the schedule available.

Dressage Series IV at Kilnhanger Farm (by kind permission of Lynn Roberts) Sunday, 19 March, 2017

Three classes comprising; Intro A, Prelim 18 and Novice 28.

1st, 2nd and 3rd places qualify for the championship to be held in May (see below).

Entry fee is £7 per class. Entries online (preferred) via westsurreyridingclub.co.uk (£1.50 booking fee), or sent through post to Julie Johnson. Please download entry form from the website. Cheques payable to West Surrey Riding Club. Entries close the Thursday prior to competition. Times available on website from 6 pm on the Friday before.

Dressage Series Championships 2017 at Kilnhanger Farm (tbc) Sunday, 21 May, 2017

Three classes comprising: Intro. B, Prelim. 12, Novice 34.

Sections: A, for those qualified from the four previous dressage events (November/December 2016 and February/March 2017). Those placed 1st to 3rd on any of the four days at each of the test levels are eligible to enter this section. If any of those have qualified already, qualification will pass down to the next highest. (Results from November, December and February are on the web-site, including places listings; results for the March show will be uploaded as soon as possible after that event).

Club trophies available (to be presented at the AGM) for the Champion at each level.

Section B – for those who wish to enter the classes but have not qualified.

Condition & Turnout – this class will be run alongside the dressage. All entries will be assessed – there is no extra entry fee for this.

A special rosette will be awarded to the winning horse/pony and rider combination.

TALKS AND WORKSHOPS

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

£10 for members and WF liveries (unless otherwise specified)
£15 non-members

16 March 6-9pm Tack Sale

The Arbuthnot Hall, The Green, Guildford GU5 0UA

Members can sell for £6 (no entry fee)

18 March 10-12am Physio Massage Demo with Alice Walker

Westland Farm, Lordshill Common, Shamley Green GU50TL

Award Equine Physio was founded by Alice and aims to educate and help owners as well as assessing and treating horses to optimise horses well being and performance.

The physio education session will involve a brief outline of anatomy and equine biomechanics and simple hints and tips so that you can help maintain your horses well being and pick up when something is not quite right! There will also be a Q&A session so make sure you bring some good questions along.

24 March 8pm Social dinner for members Bricklayers, Shamley Green

If you would like to join us, please send a text message to Charlotte Williams on 078 1787 9190 with names and number of seats you require. RSVPs essential.

27 March 6-8pm 'Happy Horse' Talk/Demo with Suzanne Rogers Westland Farm, Lordshill Common, Shamley Green GU50TL

Suzanne will cover how to have a happy horse and explore equine behaviour, body language, different training methods, and problem solving.

A speaker who couldn't be more passionate about the management and training of horses. Suzanne is an equine behaviourist (IAABC registered) and has been consulting since 2007. She works in the UK and overseas training people and horses about how to get along better together!

1 April 10am-12pm
'Happy Feet' - Good hoof keeping with Shane Francis - Dipwcf Farrier
Westland Farm, Lordshill Common, Shamley Green GU50TL

Shane's talk will cover; shoeing the sports horse, hoof mapping types of shoes and their effects.

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6 April 6-8pm
'An Introduction to Equine Nutrition' with Fiona Watkins
The Arbuthnot Hall, The Green, Guildford GU5 0UA

Fiona's talk on equine nutrition will cover; The horse's digestive process, the equine digestive tract, feedstuffs and the main rules of feeding.

19 April 6-8pm
'The link between emotional and physical health in horse and owner' talk and demo with Catherine Edwards
The Arbuthnot Hall, The Green, Guildford GU5 0UA

Catherine Edwards is a Biologist, Equine Iridologist, Applied Zoopharmacognosist, Level 3 Red Light Therapy Practitioner, Animal Communicator and Holistic Life Style Coach for Animals and Humans. During this demo Catherine will explain and demonstrate how the combination of these therapies can give an owner the information and tools to ensure their horse is kept in optimum physical and emotional health.

24 April 6-8pm
'Abnormal behaviours in horses' talk and demo with Suzanne Rogers
Westland Farm, Lordshill Common, Shamley Green GU50TL

With the ever increasing presence of videos of horses doing funny things on social media it is easy to get caught up in the excitement, but what is normal behaviour for horses, what is abnormal behaviour and when are things really not very funny? In this talk Suzanne will explore some of the abnormal behaviours she comes across in her career as an equine behaviourist and cover how they can be addressed. This will be a fascinating evening exploring horse behaviour.

29 April 10am
Side Saddle 'Have a go' lessons with Jo Strange
Westland Farm, Lordshill Common, Shamley Green GU50TL

Sessions are in groups of three and will last for approx one hour to one and a quarter hours – please ensure your horse or pony is fit enough to do this amount of time mounted.

Saddle fitting and hire included up to three riders in one lesson - up to two lessons **£25 each**.

3 May 6-8pm
'Full animal wellness' talk and demo with Catherine Edwards
Westland Farm, Lordshill Common, Shamley Green GU50TL

The Link Between Physical and Emotional Health in horse and owner. Catherine will explain and demonstrate the science and intuition of how there is a unique link between the emotional and physical health of animals and their owners. Catherine will give great practical tools to help owners to recognise areas of their own health and wellbeing that could be improved and how that will impact their animals.

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18 May 7.30-10pm
'Horse and Rider Biomechanics' talk and demo with Sally Ede
The Arbuthnot Hall, The Green, Guildford GU5 0UA

3 June 10am
Side Saddle Lessons with Jo Strange
Westland Farm, Lordshill Common, Shamley Green GU50TL

Sessions are in groups of three and will last for approx one hour to one and a quarter hours – please ensure your horse or pony is fit enough to do this amount of time mounted.

Saddle fitting and hire included up to three riders in one lesson - up to two lessons **£25 each**.

FUTURE TEAM COMPETITIONS

West Surrey Open Dressage Team Event - Merrist Wood
Good Friday, 14 April, 2017
Area 11 Teams of 3

As mentioned above, we are hosting this 'friendly' team competition at Merrist Wood and usually enter at least three teams. It's a good time to make your team debut as it's pretty relaxed, so do have a go!

Each team comprises three members, one to ride Prelim 14, one to ride Prelim 18 and the third member to ride Novice 30.

Eligibility; prelim riders not to have gained any BD points, though points gained at Prelim level will not be counted. Novice riders not to have gained more than 124 points, though points gained at Prelim level will not be counted.

If you are interested in riding on a team (See team our call for teams) and contact Julie Johnson at julielisajohnson@aol.com by Friday, 17 March, 2017.

National and London and South East Horse Trials Qualifier - Coombelands
Saturday, 27 May 2017

Once again the annual Horse Trials Qualifier competition is being run at Coombelands. This is a fantastic venue with lovely facilities. The schedule for this event has not yet been published. However, the format is expected to be as per last year i.e. teams of four competing in dressage, SJ and XC. There will likely be opportunities to enter teams at 80cm, 90cm and 100cm. It would be great if we could get enough members together to send a team at each level this year.

We will circulate further details via email as soon as they become available. If you are interested in competing please contact Claire at claire.stratford@yahoo.co.uk specifying your previous experience and what height class you are interested in.

We will also need helpers for this event (to dressage write/pole pick/fence judge etc). If you are available to help please contact Claire at the email address above.

This is a really enjoyable, friendly event and usually hosts the best WSRC picnic of the year!

Blenheim Eventer 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, entries open on 1 March, and close six days later. **The event is usually over-subscribed, so we can't miss this date.**

REPORTS

SHOW JUMPING REPORT

by Tina Pendle



Team report from Sands Farm Novice Winter Qualifier - 12 February, 2017

The team did a great job to come fourth out of 13 teams. In the first round, we had three clears with a rolled pole for Samantha Petri who had been daydreaming and lost track of time so had hardly any warm up. What on earth she was doing daydreaming on a freezing cold day like today I have no idea!

The second round Elizabeth Schilling checked that the course builders were paying attention by accidentally demolishing a whole fence! Sam was saved once again by her pony when she almost missed her fence and her pony did an awesome turn and jumped the fence clear at an incredible angle. Ella Jarvis, unfortunately had a very unlucky rolled pole in what otherwise was a safe round. Mouse once again went clear. With the best three scores counting that gave us a second round total of four faults. No jump off for us but we came 4th I think calculated by the sum of the speeds of our fastest three 2nd rounds. But most importantly we had fun, laughed, and froze together. Being part of team does make show jumping more fun as it gives you someone to support between your rounds and someone to cheer you on when it's your turn.

Thank you once again to Christopher, who took time to come and take photographs and I forgive him for missing both my rounds.

DRESSAGE REPORT

by Cathy Hughes



Dressage Series 3 – 19 February 2017

There was a wonderful turn out of horses and WSRC members at our closed Dressage competition and another dry day for the third in our Club Dressage Series - we've been lucky with weather so far (so that's probably jinxed the March event now!). Along with a good number of entries, and an unprecedented number of helpers, everything made for another enjoyable day at Kilnhangar.

Times ran a little late, but the judge pointed out some of the Intro and Prelim tests ridden took longer than the time allowed as horses needed to be more forward-going. Not something you usually think about for dressage, but try timing your test when you're practicing it to see how you compare – might gain you a mark or two if your horse is more active. Her other piece of advice concerned the fact that almost every sheet had a comment about inaccuracy at markers somewhere on it, losing marks unnecessarily.

The full results are now on FaceBook and on our new-look website, with some photos from the day, along with placings for each test – as ever, the top three in each test qualify for the Championship in May. Thank you Christopher Lee for as usual taking some wonderful photos on the day.

On the subject of scores and places, do remember the Introductory and Preliminary tests at these events will qualify for points being awarded in the new BRC grass-roots points league. Look for details in the next *Rider* magazine or on the BRC web-site, get your card and start collecting!

Thank you as ever to Lynn for letting us take over her school for a morning, and especially to Lisa, Samantha and Jackie for their calm and effective help all morning – we can't run these events without you helping us out. And well done to all competitors too – see you at the next of the series on 19 March (your last chance to qualify for the Championship).

BRIDLEWAYS REPORT

by Katherine Manson

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

The draft orders for the above have been put on Surrey County Councils (SCC) website and will by the time you receive this newsletter have gone through a period of public consultation. As yet I do not know when they will come into force, this will presumably depend on whether any objections are received and the nature of those objections.

Bridlepath 330 connecting the DownsLink to Long Common Lane

Two problems have been reported to SCC rights of way department 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 report in the last newsletter stated that the bridge has been repaired but I have found this **not** to be correct. I walked the path on the 21 February and found that the bridge has been blocked off at both ends with metal fencing. An official notice from SCC on the fence states that the closure could last as long as early May 2017.

I will ask SCC for their timetable of repairs for this bridge. It would also be very helpful if any members who use this path also contact SCC separately about this bridge closure. Then Surrey will know that it is a valued route and (hopefully) prioritise its repair.

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

As reported in the last newsletter the horse warning triangle on the approach from Chilworth is badly damaged and virtually invisible. It looks to have been a victim of hedge trimming. Late last year I contacted the local highways officer and was told it was on the list of jobs to be done. As nothing has been done I am chasing this up.

INSTRUCTION

by Pam Wilson

A number of instruction sessions for April to June have now been organised. It has not been possible to tie up everything that is being planned in time for this Newsletter however, further dates will be further dates 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 in the Albury/Farley Green/Blackheath area visit our website and search for 'Venue map' for a guide.

Show Jumping clinic with Sebastien Poirier

Dates: Saturday, 1 April & Saturday, 10 June
Venue: West Weylands Farm, Esher, KT12 4LJ
Times: 10:00 70 cm
11:00 80cm
12:00 90com+
Cost: £30 per person. Max 3 per group

Two clinics with professional show jumper and UK BSJA accredited coach (Level 2) Seb Poirer at his fabulous jumping arena. Aimed at slightly more established or ambitious members, with a positive and confidence building style. **Please ensure that you sign up for the session best matched to your requirements!**

Ample parking on site.

Group Show Jumping with Fiona Breach

Date: Sunday, 16 April
Venue: Mayor House Farm Livery Stables, Farley Heath Road, Albury, GU5 0SR
Times: 1100 50 cm for first timers/new horse/nervous
1200 65 cm for those wanting a little more
1300 75+ cm for those wanting a little more still
Cost: £15 per person. Max 3 per group

In response to requests, and to positive feedback from Fiona's clinic in January, 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. But there have also been requests for something a little more challenging, so this is incorporated, and all are welcome. **Please ensure that you sign up for the session best matched to your requirements!**

"I really enjoyed my lesson with Fiona. She took the time to understand my and Jasper's challenges and gave me methods to work on after our lesson. She was encouraging and positive – looking forward to more lessons with her soon!"

Testimonial by Sally Penson from Fiona Breach's Training Session in January

Instructional Dressage with Catriona Moorwood

Date: Sunday, 14 May
Venue: Heath Cottage, August Lane, Farley Green, Surrey, GU5 9DP
Times: 11:00 Incorporating Intro B
12:00 Incorporating Prelim 12
13:00 Incorporating Prelim 12
Cost: £20 per person. Only 2 per session

An additional session may be added if there is sufficient demand – please watch Facebook and My Riding Life.

This will be an opportunity to prepare for the Dressage Series Championship competition on Sunday 21 May. The flatwork session will provide a series of useful exercises, and incorporate the opportunity to ride your test, receive feedback, ride it again and ‘fine tune’ any dodgy bits. Hence the groups for this will be kept to just two.

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

“Catriona has been so very helpful to many of us over the last year with her group lessons and pre dressage sessions. The group lesson helped me to learn to focus on my horse whilst riding with others. It taught him that we do different movements whilst other horses are practising in other parts of the school and we must concentrate on each other.

The pre dressage sessions helped with riding new and old tests illustrating where marks are thrown away with inaccuracy. Interesting for Catriona as I find 20 metre circles challenging at the best of times and the last session when it was snowing was a special experience. WSRC riders are not daunted by the weather it was Catriona who suffered the most with cold feet while we were purple faced due to the energy used .

Catriona helps me relax and find different ways of achieving my goals and I would recommend others take advantage and come along and enjoy these sessions.”

Testimonial by Ro Major from Catriona Moorwood’s Training Session in February

Group Show Jumping with Charlie Swanson

Date: Sunday, 4 June
Venue: Monks Stud, Shamley Wood Estate, Woodhill Lane, Shamley Green, GU5 0SP
Times: 1200 Up to 50 cm for the new, novice or nervous
1300 Up to 60 cm for those wanting a little more
1400 Up to 75/80 cm for those wanting a little more still
Cost: £20 per person. Max 3 per session

This will be a session aimed at developing control and accuracy, primarily for those just starting out, or with a new mount, or wanting to get back into jumping for 2017. But all are welcome. **Please ensure that you book into the session best matched to your requirements**

No parking at this venue. Nearest parking at the Roman Temple car park.

We have arranged group lessons with Fiona, Charlie, Catriona and Seb, but you can book private lessons with these instructors direct, at times to suit you. We can provide contact details for those instructors without websites.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

MARCH

Sat 4th	National Intermediate Dressage Qualifier at Merrist Wood
Sun 12th	Catriona Moorwood dressage clinic
Sun 16th	Tack Sale 6–9pm
Set 18th	Alice Walker physio/massage demo 10-12 noon
Sun 19th	Dressage Series IV
Fri 24th	Social Dinner at Bricklayers Arms
Sun 26th	Charlie Swanson SJ clinic
Mon 27th	Suzanne Rogers ‘Happy Horse’ talk/demo 6–8pm

APRIL

Sat 1st	Seb Poirier SJ clinic
Sat 1st	Shane Frances ‘Happy Feet Good Hoof Keeping’ talk 10–12 noon
Thurs 6th	Fiona Watkins Equine Nutrition talk
Good Fri 14th	Open and Team dressage at Merrist Wood
Sun 16th	Fiona Breach SJ clinic
Wed 19th	Catherine Edwards talk/demo 6–8pm
Mon 24th	Suzanne Rogers talk/demo 6–8pm
Sat 29th	Jo Strange Side Saddle ‘have a go clinic’ 10am

MAY

Wed 3rd	Catherine Edwards talk/demo 6–8pm
Sun 14th	Catriona Moorwood dressage clinic
Thurs 18th	Sally Ede Biomechanics talk/demo 7.30–10pm
Sun 21st	Dressage Series Championship
Sat 27th	National and L&SE Horse Trials Qualifier Coombelands

JUNE

Sat 3rd	Jo Strange Side Saddle lessons 10am
Sun 4th	Charlie Swanson SJ clinic
Sat 10th	Seb Poirier SJ clinic

SEPTEMBER

Date TBC	Blenheim Eventers Challenge
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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.

For more information visit our website westsurreyridingclub.co.uk