



Berkeley & District
RIDING CLUB



BDRC NEWS BULLETIN DECEMBER 2018

Hi All,

I cannot believe that we are fast approaching the end of another year!! The nights have been drawing in and it's getting noticeably colder of late.

Looking back on the year, we are sending more teams/individuals to the area competitions, offering more variety of instructors/venues and eating more cake!!

We have just started the winter season of various Area Competitions, so this feels like the right time to remind everyone that when you compete, you are not only competing for yourself, you are also representing BDRC. We appreciate that when you compete and something happens, it can be very frustrating (getting eliminated for taking wrong course etc). However, before venting at organisers, please take 5mins; speak to your team manager/team mates; then when calm and composed allow the team manager to speak to the area rep for you. This will prevent any unnecessary conflict that could ultimately end up with the whole team being eliminated. The team managers are there for your support as well as encouragement and organisation.

BRC are also looking in to horse welfare at competitions and are investigating various topics: over tight nosebands, excessive abuse of the horse(whips/spurs), rider/horse weight ratio, to name a few. As soon as we have more information regarding how these areas are going to be monitored, we will let you know. An example of a consequence would be if a rider excessively hits a horse for rearing/bucking, it wouldn't just be the rider being suspended from competition but potentially the whole club – no club would ever want this to happen!!

On to a much lighter note – Christmas is just around the corner, which to me also means that the nights are also starting to draw out again and summer :) a not so distant prospect; not that I want to wish the time away, but cold, dark days are not great. I wake up in the dark, go to work in the dark, ride in the dark, and go home in the dark. This will be the same for many of you. Stay safe hacking and ensure you are wearing hi-viz; it really does improve the visibility and amount of time it gives a driver to see us.

I would like to wish all of our members a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!

Kate x

P.S.

Don't forget the AGM on Monday 14th January, Falfield Village Hall – everyone welcome!!

BDRC DAY CAMP - 22ND SEPTEMBER 2018

Well what can I say; my first BDRC Day Camp and a cracking one at that. I think I can safely say that all of us had a fabulous time, despite getting soaked through to our pants from the relentless rain that tried its hardest to ruin the day! For me personally, it was great to be back in the saddle doing what I love after such a long break. I was originally meant to be photographing camp (apologies) but a space came up and I thought I would take the opportunity to spend the day riding and getting some tuition onboard instead.

XC was first for our group. I always have nerves before any event, competition or not, and didn't imagine myself jumping half the obstacles that I ended up doing! Rachel Sheldon was fab, giving us all the encouragement we needed and sometimes the kick up the backside I definitely needed. My confidence grew out on the course and I found myself opting to jump some of the bigger fences and some skinnies too.

My favourites were the trakehner and the jump in the middle of the water, which jumped surprisingly well. Talking of water.....I very nearly fell off in the stinky stuff! Rachel asked if any of us wanted to jump in off the big step. I wasn't going to do it until my group mates encouraged me. I had visions of falling into this awful smelly water and stinking all day! But I thought....'well I'm already soaked from the rain'. So off we went. Archie took a 10ft leap off the step, I had lent back (a little too far) and given him a bit too much rein which resulted in me being catapulted onto his side, hanging on for dear life saying 'no no no!' I tried my hardest to climb back in the saddle! I was determined not to be dunked in the fowl water which was only a foot away from my face!! After a quick spin by Archie, gravity pushed me back into the saddle....pew! This created much entertainment for everyone else, who were all shouting 'sit up sit up' (while laughing) - I was trying my hardest to sit up!! I did find it hilarious.....after!

A lovely lunch next. We all sat together eating, drinking and chatting about our first sessions. I ate a bit too much so come SJ I felt a bit sick, but it went very well. SJ is by far our favourite discipline; its always been my thing for as long as I can remember.

Later in the afternoon we had a flat work session to finish the day. Apart from suffering cramp and shooting pains in my back, making me have to stop every now and then (and realising I probably need to book the physio!), I was extremely pleased with this session. Our canter work needs a lot more work but our trot work, at times, felt amazing. This has prompted me to have a go at some Dressage (those who know me will know my hatred of it). Will I learn to love it.....possibly but I doubt it!

The day ended for me with a soggy drive home, tack all cleaned and finally a nice hot bath with a bottle of wine and a big smile :) I am really looking forward to doing it again in the future, and i recommend everyone, regardless of experience, to do it too. Its great fun and no better way to learn and socialise at the same time :)

I would like to say a few big thanks, firstly to Jill McFarland for organising a great camp, to my group buddies Sophie Woolf, Sally Thorne, Linda Eadie and Hazel Jones for the encouragement and laughter and most of all to Rachel Sheldon, for standing out in the pouring rain to give us all the tuition.



Charlotte Brain and Archie at Camp

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DRESSDOWN DRESSAGE - BURROWS COURT OCTOBER 2018

Well another Dressdown Dressage went down a storm! A great turn out with a fantastic atmosphere. These competitions continue to provide an opportunity for everyone to compete in a relaxed and supportive environment. Remember these are open to BDRC members and non members so please encourage your friends to come. Big thanks to Lucy Baggs for organising them. We hope to see a record number of entries at the next Christmas Dressdown Dressage on 15 December 2018 at Leyland Court. Tinsel and baubles are optional. Entries via Equo.



AREA DRESSAGE - SUMMERHOUSE NOVEMBER 2018

A big thank you goes out to: David Merritt, Vickie MacDonald, Tracey Merritt, Emma Smith, Sally Thorne, Shanice Walton, Susan Meredith, Laura Nelmes and Andrew Winterton; who braved a very cold Sunday at Summerhouse to represent BDRC at the Area Dressage. Special credits to Sue and David who had one of the earliest tests at 8:46am!

Some of the placings included - Shanice Walton with a fantastic 2nd place; Tracy Merritt a 9th and Sally Thorne a 12th. It looks like Shanice may be off to the Champs too!! It wasn't the day for teams, but everyone tried their best which is all you can do. It was great to see some new faces. Thank you also to Kate Lingwood-White for braving the weather and coming to support everyone. These competitions are open to you all and we welcome the opportunity to enter those who show willing and want to give it a go. The next area dressage competition will be the Senior Intermediate Dressage on 24 February 2019 at Leyland Court. Details will be posted when the schedule comes out in the new year. Justine Jackman



Just few shots of those who braved the cold and for some, early start, to represent BDRC at the Area Dressage. (Sue Meredith, Tracy and David Merritt, Emma Smith)

ARENA EVENTING - WEST WILTS NOVEMBER 2018

This was a great outing for the Berkeley and District Riding Club 100 Arena Eventing team. Our team of Andrew Winterton, Claire A Moreton, Toni Elley Young and Joanna Dyer won and qualified for the championships. Claire and Tiddles were 2nd individually, Jo and Rosie were 4th individually.

Jill McFarland also competed individually in the 80, but on this occasion was outside the rosettes. Our 90 team, Andrew Winterton, Ashley George and Shanice Walton had a few hick ups this time but showed lots of potential for the future. Well done to everybody who competed yesterday and all their helpers and supporters and thank you to everyone who came to support the teams.

Yet again very proud team manager, looking forward to another trip to the championships !

Sarah George



Toni on her flying ginger pony!

CEDRIC - THE NEW BOY ON THE BLOCK

I have owned Ben for 12 years and last year he sustained a hind suspensory injury. Although this had healed, I knew it was time to start my search for my new horse, in the hope I could still be riding Ben whilst bringing on my new one. Unfortunately this was not to be as I was unable to keep Ben sound in front over the summer, so the decision was made to retire him.

The search for my new horse stepped up a gear. Before finding my new horse Cedric, I had one failed vetting already and travelled the length and breadth of the UK! I saw a range of horses, some better than others, but nothing really ticked all of those boxes for me. Then I met Cedric - he was with the breeder in Cardiff. She was hoping he may have grown but unfortunately for her he didn't - he stands at 15.2/3hh which is perfect for me - box ticked! He however had only recently been backed so was the least established horse I had tried. He had only been sat on a handful of times (only 7 times!) when I viewed him but the owner/breeder was happy to allow me to have a sit on. He didn't put a hoof wrong! So driving home

I knew he was a strong contender. I had arranged to view another horse the following day that was much more established and I wanted to use this as a gauge - as it happened this other horse promptly reared vertically, spun round and bucked several times on concrete with the rider on before getting in the arena. Needless to say I didn't even bother sitting on this one and came home! Decision made - Cedric was the one! I think I had viewed over 10 horses before deciding on Cedric. He is a British warmblood with Hanoverian lines - De Niro and Donnerhall in his family tree.

Next challenge was the vetting, but I needn't have worried as he sailed through including all X-rays. As the vetting was done at Breadstone the breeder kindly dropped him off at mine. He had the weekend at mine so I could start to get to know him and then I moved him on to a yard where I would have plenty of support. They would introduce him to life and he could join in various rallies organised by the yard owner. I have owned Cedric now for 4 weeks and he is fantastic - taking everything in and learning. So in the new year we will be hoping to join in some rallies and progressing up the dressage ladder. Ben has set a very high bar for Cedric to reach but I am looking forward to the challenge and the next chapter in my riding.

Kate Nichols



Cedric and Ben

BDRC SURVEY - FEEDBACK

It is about 3 years since the club sent out a survey to its members. Due to a number of cancelled events & reduced attendance on some rallies, the decision was made to email out another survey to find out what our current members would like the committee to organise. Out of 170 members, only 62 responded to the survey. While this is a little disappointing, I want to thank those of you who took the time to complete it.

It is difficult to determine how accurate these findings are based on such a small number of responses, however I feel we can get some useful information from the survey results.

The results did highlight the value of maintaining varied rallies, with the desire that most of these occur during the weekend.

Other events & activities that showed a positive response were camps (day camps in particular), dress down dressage, educational evenings & some form of informal/relaxed show jumping competition or combined training.

Your committee will look into these further, so roll on 2019 & all that it may bring!

ANY OTHER NEWS

- Please don't forget you are always welcome to send in your horsey news and photos for us to share with all the BDRC members via the E Bulletin. Just drop an email with attachments to Justine Jackman on jjackman70@gmail.com.
- Keep attending rallies and putting your names forward for teams!
- Make every effort to complete your hours

Don't forget that you can purchase BDRC clothing and accessories from Linela. If you wish to order clothing you can do so by completing the clothing order form which can be found on the [website](#) and emailing directly to Graham at Linela .

If you wish to discuss a potential order you can also contact Graham directly via telephone on 01454 615300.

Happy Shopping!

Details on all current rallies can be found on the riding club website www.bdrc.org.uk and on Equo.

SAVE THE DATE: 15 December Christmas Dressdown Dressage at
Leyland Court
AGM: Falfield Village Hall, January 14th 2019

BDRC Committee

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