

Search for a New Horse

As you may or may not know, after almost a year of trying to get Butch back to fitness, we finally called it a day in January and decided we had done everything that was feasible and retired him. This meant that a search began for a new horse to ride. Some may have looked forward to this with relish, sadly I did not. I had not been prepared for it as I thought Butch would have another 6 years in him at least and I didn't want another horse. We were just getting into our stride with rallies and having fun. I had plans!!! Well fate took over and I had to move forward.

After trawling the internet ads and chasing all over the south west, I thought I had found "the one" in Southampton. However, the owner decided for personal reasons that she didn't want to sell him. She did have another very nice section D that she was willing for me to have on a



trial period. This was agreed and we were getting on quite well until laminitis hit and the vet advised me against purchasing him. So after a week's box rest and a lot of cash he was returned.

The search continued. This time I asked all you lovely B&DRC members for your help and you were fantastic!! All sorts of horses were offered. People passed on my number to friends of friends and I was even offered loan horses to take to the FFRC camp. These people hardly knew me which was amazing.

I want to say a very big "thank you" to everyone who let me try horses out, who passed on details of horses for sale and who offered horses for loan. I really wasn't sure what I was looking for. Part of me wanted to clone Butch and the other part said go for something completely different. Confused or what?!!

A few weeks ago I got a text from the lady in Southampton. Was I still looking? She had to sell "The one" for financial reasons. It was hard for her and it showed great faith after our previous experience. Long story short, Archie arrived

mid-June and we are taking things slowly as he is only just 5 and very green. He is a stunning (I hate it when they put that in ads) chestnut section D and I hope he will be at intro rallies later in the year.

Again, thanks to everyone for their help and patience but particularly Claire, Amanda and Nicky for assistance in moving horses to and fro from Southampton and to Ann for offering Butch a lovely retirement home.

I never want to do this again!!!

Sue Micklewright

Four Legged Baby!

We've had so many lovely club babies in the last twelve months, I thought I'd let you know about some other baby news, this time with four legs and fur!



On the evening of the 6th June I was lucky enough to see my mare Molly give birth at home to a lovely coloured colt, I couldn't believe that we saw it and how quickly it all happened. Both Mum and foal are doing well, we called him Beau! Zoe Fowler.

Another New Mum is Nicki O Connor who gave birth to baby Oliva who arrived on the 29th July after on 2hr 15min in labour...Congratulations from everyone at B & D RC.

Senior Open Dressage Qualifier

On Sunday 11th July I had the great pleasure of looking after three open teams and one individual at the above qualifier at Leyland Court. Unlike last year, the weather was kind to us not too hot and not raining. The Yellow team, Nicky Walker, Joy Smart, Sue Exell and Claire Moreton were 2nd overall with Sue winning in her arena, Nicky 3rd and Joy 4th. The Green Team, Andrea Cox, Sarah Couzins, Rachel Kuczaj and Helen James came 4th with Helen 2nd and Rachel 3rd in their respective arenas. The Orange Team of Carol McDonogh, Claire Simpson, Sarah George and Debbie Hill also did well with Debbie doing her first elementary test and coming 3rd in her arena. Sarah had to change horses at the 11th hour and good old Ollie was asked to come to the rescue and was 10th.

Helen James then went on to do the medium test as an individual and came 2nd which was a fantastic result. These are some of the best results we have ever had for dressage and it was a joy to see everyone doing so well. Thank you all very much for taking part and giving me such a great day. Ann Marshall

Committee Members and Contact Details

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www.bdrc.org.uk

Emails - If you are on email, please can you make sure that you let bdrc@hotmail.co.uk have your most up to date email address as we often use email.

Newsletter Deadline

Please can you send your items/articles to Nicky Walker with any photos. The deadline for production of next newsletter is 1st November

Newsletter



Issue 25 - September 2010

... Stop Press... Stop Press... Stop Press...

Horse Trials - Area Qualifiers at Broadway & Rosettes at the Championships!

On a very hot day in June, the club sent two Novice Teams and one Open rider to the area qualifiers at Broadway. Our Open competitor Amy Benton won her class and qualified for the National Championships. Both Novice Teams did very well, all riders completing the course but our Gold Team of Lucy Hicks, Alison Odle, Karen Gobey and Kate Davies won and also qualified for the Championships.

The Championships were held in Aston-Le-Walls from 6th to 8th August, the Open running as a three day event and the Novice as a two day event. Owing to previous commitments, the Novice team consisted of two riders from the winning Gold team, Lucy Hicks and Karen Gobey, and two from the Green team, Claire Moreton and Helen James. They enjoyed a wonderful two days of riding (not to mention Lucy's long wait on the road and tracks caused by a lost combine harvester) and brought the winning trophy home for Berkeley and District Riding Club for the first time. Amy Benton also rode brilliantly on all three days and was in the rosettes coming 3rd in the Open Individual. The club is thrilled and the committee also send their thanks to all riders who took part in the area qualifiers who without their contribution, this winning wonderful achievement would not have happened.

Well done everyone!!!

Berkeley And District One Day Event

The club held another successful ODE which raised £1,300 of which £200 has been given to Grass Sickness charity.

187 competitors took to the field on another very hot day. The course which Sue had designed proved challenging in all classes. The new format of 70cms, 80cms and 90cms classes appeared to spread the competitors in each class more evenly. There were many successes from Berkeley members including Joy Smart and Blue (see photo) who won the 90cm class with a cracking performance from both. Thank you's go again to all members who helped including family and friends. Also a big thank you goes to the 194th Kingswood Scouts who organised the lorry field and picked up show jumping poles. And lastly thank you to Bill and Sue for allowing the event to take place at their farm.



Members Show Jumping Finale & B-B-Q

Don't forget the members' show jumping finale with B-B-Q is to be held at Furze Down Farm Tockington on the 7th September. Contact Jo Derham if you want to bring your horse along. Jumping to start at 6pm. All members and their families welcome.

Message from the Chair

Hello Everyone,

We are having a very successful year, the area qualifying rounds have gone really well resulting in us sending a team and an individual to the Horse Trials Championships at Aston-Le-Walls (fantastic results now in - see separate article) and a show jump team and a dressage individual to Lincoln for the Riding Club Championships. Well done and Thank you all for representing B&D.

Our One Day Event was also a great success, so many of you turned up to help, smiling and willing. Thank you all. We were able to put a good profit in the bank and donate to both The Grass Sickness Fund and Breast Cancer Campaign. It was lovely to see lots of Berkeley Members competing and doing very nicely - Well done to you too!

I don't want to wish away this lovely hot summer but as a committee we have been thinking about our AGM on the 27th of October. Again this year we would like you to nominate members who deserve a pat on the back, and there are many of them. We have members who train hard to ride for our teams at area competitions, members who do their best at rallies and members who work hard at "just being there". Please have a think and nominate someone who you feel deserves a mention (nomination forms enclosed or send me an e mail).

Please try to book rallies well in advance. It is very difficult for the Organisers to run them when no one books on to them and then at the very last moment members contact them asking to book on. By this time we have either reduced the sessions or cancelled the rally all together. We know it's difficult to plan too far in advance but the more notice you give us the better, and rallies will be cancelled if there are not enough bookings a week beforehand.

Finally we need to say a BIG THANK YOU to Helen Abraham. Helen has sadly decided to step down from our committee. She has been a stalwart of the B&D committee but needs some quieter time with her family. Best Wishes from all of us Helen. See you all at our Members show jumping and dressage finale 7th September or the AGM 27th October Regards Zillah

Book Early for Non Riding Events

VET DISSECTION AT BUSHY EQUINE - 16th September
PAUL NICHOLLS RACE YARD VISIT - 24th September
CHRISTMAS PARTY - 11th December (see flyer)
See forthcoming Events for contact info.

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Rallies

Booking a Rally: For all rallies, please send your name, tel. no., list of rallies and post dated cheques (made payable to B&DRC with rally details on the reverse of each separate cheque) to the organisers. Places will not be guaranteed unless cheques have been received at least one week before the rally date. Insufficient cheques received one week before will result in the rally being cancelled. **Cancellations must be received one week prior to the rally; cheques will be cashed after this time unless places can be filled. Please book rallies in advance to make the rally organiser's job easier; don't forget insufficient cheques received one week before will result in the rally being cancelled.**

Rally Cheques to:

Ann Marshall - Furze Down Farm, Moor Lane, Tockington, Bristol. BS32 4LE
 Jayne Meehan - West End Grove, West End, Wickwar, South Glos. GL12 8LB
 Nicky Walker - Stone Croft, Main Road, Easter Compton, Bristol. BS35 5RE
 Zoe Fowler - Pool Farm, Breadstone Berkeley GL13 9HE
 Jackie Grose - 07502 129302 jackiegrose@aol.com

Intro / Intro Plus - Di Sealey

Date	Venue	Time
Wed 1st Sept	Westend Grove	10 - 12pm
Sat 11th Sept	Westend Grove	10am - 1pm
Wed 22nd Sept	Westend Grove	10 - 12pm
Sat 2nd Oct	Westend Grove	10am - 1pm
Wed 13th Oct	Westend Grove	10am - 12pm
Sat 23rd Oct	Westend Grove	10am - 1pm
Wed 3rd Nov	Westend Grove	10am - 12pm
Sat 13th Nov	Westend Grove	10am - 1pm
Wed 24th Nov	Westend Grove	10am - 12pm
Sat 4th Dec	Westend Grove	10am - 1pm
Wed 15th Dec	Westend Grove	10am - 12pm
Sat 8th Jan	Westend Grove	10am - 1pm
Wed 19th Jan	Westend Grove	10am - 12pm
Sat 29th Jan	Westend Grove	10am - 1pm

Westend Grove - location by kind invitation of Mr and Mrs P Meehan.

Contact: Jayne Meehan or Nancy Harding - Cost £13

Dressage - Kate Scott

Date	Venue	Time
Sun 12th Sept	Leyland Court	10am; 11am & 12pm
Sat 9th October	Leyland Court	10am; 11am & 12pm
Sat 20th November	Leyland Court	10am; 11am & 12pm
Sat 11th December	Leyland Court	10am; 11am & 12pm
Sat 15th January	Leyland Court	10am; 11am & 12pm

Contact: Ann Marshall - Cost £13

Dressage - Helen James

Date	Venue	Time
Thurs 16th Sept	David Meek's	6.30pm & 7.30pm
Thurs 30th Sept	David Meek's	6.30pm & 7.30pm
Thurs 14th Oct	David Meek's	6.30pm & 7.30pm
Thurs 28th Oct	David Meek's	6.30pm & 7.30pm
Thurs 11th Nov	David Meek's	6.30pm & 7.30pm
Thurs 25th Nov	David Meek's	6.30pm & 7.30pm
Thurs 9th Dec	David Meek's	6.30pm & 7.30pm
Thurs 13th Jan	David Meek's	6.30pm & 7.30pm
Thurs 27th Jan	David Meek's	6.30pm & 7.30pm

Location by kind invitation of Mr and Mrs D Meeks

Contact: Nicky Walker - Cost £13

SJ/Flatwork - Janet MacDonald BHSI

Date	Venue	Time
Tues 7th Sept	Tan House Farm, Berkeley	11am & 12pm
Tues 21st Sept	Tan House Farm, Berkeley	11am & 12pm
Tues 5th Oct	Tan House Farm, Berkeley	11am & 12pm
Tues 19th Oct	Tan House Farm, Berkeley	11am & 12pm
Tues 9th Nov	Tan House Farm, Berkeley	11am & 12pm
Tues 23rd Nov	Tan House Farm, Berkeley	11am & 12pm
Tues 7th Dec	Tan House Farm, Berkeley	11am & 12pm
Tues 18th Jan	Tan House Farm, Berkeley	11am & 12pm

Contact: Ann Marshall - Cost £13

Show Jumping - Rachel Sheldon

Date	Venue	Time
Wed 1st Sept	Buckover Derby	6pm & 7pm
Wed 15th Sept	Buckover - Derby	5.30pm & 6.30pm
Wed 29th Sept	Tumpy Green	6.30pm & 7.30pm
Wed 20th Oct	Home Farm, Tockington	6.30pm & 7.30pm
Wed 3rd Nov	Home Farm, Tockington	6.30pm & 7.30pm
Wed 17th Nov	Home Farm, Tockington	6.30pm & 7.30pm
Wed 15th Dec	Home Farm, Tockington	6.30pm & 7.30pm
Wed 19th Jan	Home Farm, Tockington	6.30pm & 7.30pm

Contact: Nicky Walker - Cost £13

XC (1.5hours)- Rachel Sheldon - weather permitting

Date	Venue	Time
Sun 10th Oct	Manor Farm	10am - 1pm
Sun 21st Nov	Manor Farm	10am - 1pm
Sun 5th Dec	Manor Farm	10am - 1pm
Sun 9th Jan	Manor Farm	10am - 1pm

Contact: Zoe Fowler - Cost £20

Show Jumping (1.5hours)- Tom Buckland

Date	Venue	Time
Sun 5th Sept	Billow Farm	10am & 11.30am
Sun 26th Sept	Billow Farm	10am & 11.30am
Sun 24th Oct	Leyland Court	10am & 11.30am
Sun 14th Nov	Leyland Court	10am & 11.30am
Sun 28th Nov	Leyland Court	10am & 11.30am
Sun 12th Dec	Leyland Court	10am & 11.30am

Contact: Ann Marshall - Cost £18

Simulated XC/SJ Grids - William Mifflin

Date	Venue	Time
Sun 17th Oct	Cirencester Kennels	10am & 11am

Contact: Zoe Fowler - Cost £20 (1.5 hours), Max groups of 4

Cross Country - Ros Jones

Date	Venue	Time
Thurs 9th Sept	West Littleton	4pm & 5.30pm
Thurs 23rd Sept	Leyland Court	4pm & 5.30pm

Contact: Zoe Fowler - Cost £20 (1.5 hours)

Simulated XC/Gymnastic Jumping -

Gaye Nicholas

Date	Venue	Time
Sun 19th Sept	Buckover	10am & 11am

Contact: Ann Marshall - Cost £15

SJ - Debbie Hill

Date	Venue	Time
Fri 10th Sept	Summerhouse Equestrian	10am, 11am & 12pm
Fri 15th Oct	Summerhouse Equestrian	10am, 11am & 12pm
Fri 19th Nov	Summerhouse Equestrian	10am; 11am & 12pm
Fri 3rd Dec	Summerhouse Equestrian	10am; 11am & 12pm

Contact: Jackie Grose - Cost £14.50

... Members News... Members News... Members News... Members News...

Grass Sickness

As many members are well aware, Jennie and I lost our beloved horses, Raz and Sam on 22nd and 23rd April from the horrendous disease, Equine Grass Sickness (EGS). Luckily this disease is still rare in our area, but we have been asked to pass on what we have found out following our tragic loss.

Equine Grass Sickness was first identified in eastern Scotland in 1907 and can affect horse of all types and breeds. EGS is classified into three categories, acute, sub-acute and chronic. The fatality rate is 100% in acute and sub-acute cases and 70% in chronic, with the remaining 30% suffering a horrendous illness resulting in drastic loss of condition and musculature, loss of coat and requiring intensive 24 hour nursing for many weeks. EGS always occurs in clusters within a 10 km radius. The definitive cause of EGS is still unknown but recent research believes that the soil bacterium is to blame. The bacterium appears to be digested by horses as they graze but if certain dietary triggers are present the bacterium causes nerve toxins in the gut to multiply. These toxins then paralyse the nerves operating the gut thereby stopping all digestion. The triggers are thought to be:-

1. Harrowing the field
2. Increasing the nitrogen content of the soil by fertilising the ground
3. Not picking up droppings or picking them up with a mechanical device which disturbs the soil.
4. Recent use of ivermectin wormers
5. Changes to feed types or quantity in the previous 2 weeks. This includes moving horses from one field to another.
6. Horses are usually aged between 4 - 7 years old and in good to fat condition.
7. A period of 10 days or more of dry weather with the temperature between 7-11 degrees C with frost at night. Although cases of EGS occur throughout the year, this is why the incidence of EGS rises in April, reaches a peak in May and then reduces in the summer months.
8. A recent addition to the above has been that moles may bring the bacterium to the surface and therefore increase the risk of the disease.

In our case, we had not harrowed our field for 2 years or fertilised it for 15 years. I had wormed our horses on Mothering Sunday (14th March) which was a good 6 weeks before they became ill. Sam was in the age range most likely to be affected as she was just 6 years old but Raz was 16 and yes they both were looking a picture of health. The only 2 triggers that I can admit to was the weather conditions over and after Easter were ideal and I had moved the horses 6 feet from one side of a footpath to the other 9 days before Raz became ill. Both our horses contracted acute EGS which in Razzie's case started with very bad diarrhoea the previous weekend (which I had put down to the new grass). On the Tuesday morning I found him flat out in the field and called

the vet came who treated him and we thought all would be well. On the Wednesday morning he was up on his feet but not eating and looking unwell so the vet came out again. As we tried to stomach him this time to give him some more electrolytes his stomach refluxed and we got a large amount of foul liquid out. Amazingly, he never showed any signs of colic or pain. He was admitted to the equine hospital where he was put on a drip and was stomach tubed 3 or 4 more times and each time more foul fluid was refluxed and a scan showed that his whole gut has simply stopped working. On the other hand, Sam's symptoms were almost the opposite to Razzie's. In addition, sadly she suffered an extremely severe case of colic but again her whole gut had simply stopped working. The University of Edinburgh and the Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies have recently made a breakthrough in their work towards finding a vaccine to prevent this disease and Grass Sickness Trust hopes that field trials will start in 18-24 months time should the funding be available.

Liz & Jenny Hill

Badminton Dressage Championship

Berkeley put forward a team at the Inter Riding Club competition at the Badminton Dressage Championships on Saturday 10th July. The team consisted of Sarah George, Aimee Conlon and Alex Mason. All performed well and the team was placed 5th overall. Aimee got the highest score individually from the team and went forward to contest the individual competition where she won the Riding Club individual championships, so huge congratulations to her and her horse Tricky Business, who is taking a break from eventing and turning his hoof to dressage - maybe she should now consider a discipline change? Congratulations to all concerned and thanks for taking the time to participate for the club, it is much appreciated.

Outdoor Area Show Jumping

Once again we were able to take teams to the outdoor area show jumping, this year we had a lot of dedicated people try out for the teams which made picking teams a lot harder. In the end we took a novice team of Carrie Peak, Karen Gobey, Sue Meredith and Zoe Daniels, all rode well despite some severe knee trembling! We also took two intermediate teams; one team consisted of Joy Smart, Kate Davies and Kara Benham. Kate and Kara both had difficult days, but well done for trying, but Joy and Blue jumped superbly over really quite a decent track, and ended up with just one fence down in each round, so well done to them. Our other intermediate team of Sue Exell, Claire Moreton, Helen James and Vanessa Fox all jumped lovely rounds and it became apparent quite early on in the second round that we couldn't be caught! Berkeley won and had qualified for the national championships at Lincoln! Well done to all who competed, you all did a fab job and I was very proud of you all, and a big thank you to all who came to help, the level of support we had was fantastic. Zoe Fowler

Forthcoming Events - 2010

Date	Details	Location	Contact
16th September	Vets Dissection	Bushy Equine, Breadstone	Zoe Fowler
24th September	Visit to Paul Nicholls Racing Yard	Ditcheat, Somerset	Nancy Harding (Nancy.Harding@sky.com)
27th October	AGM	Berkeley Sport Pavillion	
11th December	Christmas Party	Easter Compton Village Hall	Nicky Walker
27th December	Christmas Show	Leyland Court	Nicky Walker

Members Competitions

Date	Details	Location	Cost	Time	Contact
8th Sept	Members Dressage Clinic	Whitehall Farm, Breadstone	£7.00 in advance	From 11.30	Nancy Harding
6th Oct	Members Dressage Clinic	Whitehall Farm, Breadstone	£7.00 in advance	From 11.30	Nancy Harding
10th Nov	Members Dressage Clinic	Whitehall Farm, Breadstone	£7.00 in advance	From 11.30	Nancy Harding

Safety Measure - Could all members ensure that when you attend rallies or other events that you either have on you or leave with the organiser/instructor a contact numbers or any relevant medical information, so that in an event of an accident, we can contact family or friends. This will save a lot of time should we need to call someone.

Body Protectors - Riders will be required to wear a body protector at ALL Cross Country Rallies.