

Horse Trials Championships

As I sit down to write this article I start to ponder on the eventing season that has just finished for me! Some of you know me from years at Pony Club together, but for those who don't my name is Amy Benton, I have 3 horses. Maisey who is my old event mare that is living her days up at Talland being a school mistress, Charlie, her 3 year old son who I am bringing on and finally Smarty my current event horse. Smarty if any of you have met me is a highly strung mare who loves her job, however she causes us a few problems! Obviously with the current weather we are trying to keep them out 24x 7 for as long as possible, she hates being stabled, it winds her up and I have to get down the stables earlier and earlier as it gets lighter towards the end of the winter or her bed gets destroyed! We also have to keep an eye on her weight, come February we cannot keep the weight on her and last year she dropped 200k in weight so I had to withdraw her from competition by vet recommendation as knowing smarts she would still have fired round the course and possibly collapsed through lack of energy. Silly mare! We had all tests done and the only one the vet thinks is that she cannot process the hard feed, she can absorb sugars and vitamins, so she basically events on grass!

Smarty is an 8year old warmblood x thoroughbred by Mars. I have owned her since a 5 month old foal. As a 4 YO she qualified for the young horse champs which she went on to storm round the XC, trying to take on the bigger fences round the XC course! We were the only amateur there! But it was an experience, and something I would like to do with Charlie.

I slowly took her up the levels to BE novice level where she is now, my plan was to take her intermediate at the end of this season, but I want to qualify her for the Gatcombe champs, so I may as well stay in novice and try and achieve this! She is an awesome XC horse, I don't think I quite realised this until the champs this year, when she flew round what was a big course, the second water was actually in the advanced the week before! She sees the fence and is going over whether I want to or not, although in future I will be making sure I do my noseband up!

The RC champs were the beginning of Aug and I then didn't do any events until September, where I went to Gatcombe, here I was sooo pleased with her dressage she got a 36 which is good for Smarts! We usually get in the 40s as she is wanting to get on with the XC, onto the SJ, where we had 2 fences down, I rode like a bit of an idiot, however we had a few disagreements one of these into the treble which was a bit annoying, but when we got onto the XC she made it feel like a pony club course, I don't think Gatcombe course is particularly big course or technical course, but there always seems to be a few problems! Not for Smarts! I was a bit annoyed with the poles, but I seemed to of been in a very competitive section and still wouldn't of been placed without the poles, so that made me feel a bit better!

After Gatcombe I think I had a bit of a realisation, a few days earlier I had been to a talk at Talland and after Lucinda Green had an open forum where you could ask her anything you liked, so it was really interesting to get her views on certain hot topics like studding and gadgets! However one thing that she made me realise is that we do this for fun... we don't make money out of our sport, and if we think we do we are misled, we do it for the love and enjoyment. It got me thinking as I was trudging round the course on Friday evening at Dauntsey

in the pouring rain, why am I doing this, the ground was awful, the course was lovely, but everywhere else was like a ploughed field, what am I risking my horse for?? All day Saturday whilst I was at the Ryder cup I was umming and ahhing and then I read on facebook that my friend had a rotational fall on the Saturday, this made my mind up that i wasn't running, however 9am on the Sunday Dauntsey cancelled! So at least I didn't have to sit there Sunday thinking, ohhh I wish I was doing it!

So with my season started and ended with a cancelled competition I now am trying to work out my winter plans...

We are currently trialling a product called 'Succeed' on Smarts to see if this helps with the weight, we are going to combine this with feeding the 'Readigrass'. We know that in the summer she puts on weight when out at grass, so we hope this helps! I am going to affiliate SJ and do some unaffiliated dressage with both Smarty and Charlie. So look out for us at rallies in the New Year, either on a hopefully fat skewbald, or a scruffy ginger 4YO! Either way come say hello!

Amy Benton



Area Indoor Show Jumping

On the 7th of November 2 teams went to represent B&D at the Area Novice indoor show jumping. The Yellow team was Kathleen Griffiths, Terri Sweet, Sarah Colwill, and Joy Smart. The green team was Sue Meredith, Rachael Kuczaj, Kate Nichols and Zoe Fowler. The competition consisted of two rounds we had mix of double clears, clears, a few poles and a couple of eliminations. Overall everyone did really well and should be pleased with what they achieved. Especially the yellow team who came 9th overall! - Many Congratulations. Thanks to those that came along on the day to help and support and particularly for the endless supply of bacon sarnies!

Grass Sickness

Following on from the article that Liz & Jenny Hill wrote for us on Grass sickness in the last newsletter we have some more info: There is a school of thought that if horses are fed hay on a daily basis, even a very small amount, it MAY help to reduce the risk of Grass Sickness as it gives the gut a rest from grazing and keeps it working.

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 Noolie Gregory with any photos. The deadline for production of next newsletter is 20th January

Newsletter



Issue 26 - December 2010

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

Lincoln Lowdown

We were driving through Pembrokeshire on holiday when the call came from Zoe! Would Blue and I like to be part of the Intermediate show jumping team at the Riding Club National championships at Lincoln. A member of the team who qualified at Malvern could no longer go, so a stand-in was needed. I love Lincoln! I don't know what it is about it but I didn't need much encouragement. It was only when I put the phone down that I started to think about what I had let myself in for!!! With only two weeks to go after we got back from holiday, I booked a couple of training sessions, entered for Buckover Show for a practice run and put Blue on a diet. A week before, the nerves started kicking in but I upped the vitamin B intake (seems to help with my nerves) and started planning what to take. With only a little horsebox, a tent was going to be necessary as well as airbeds. How was I going to fit it all in along with the bales of shavings and haylage and everything else for my boy?

Eventually Nick and I crammed everything in, squeezed Blue in and set off on Friday lunchtime to compete on Saturday. Four hours later - half an hour stuck in road works - we arrived. The set up at Lincoln is huge - acres and acres of horseboxes and stabling and three jumping arenas in superb condition and six dressage arenas equally immaculate. It's a bit like Glastonbury but with horses! Settling Blue in wasn't too bad apart from lugging the shavings from box to stable; putting up the tent was not quite as easy as it was quite windy by then and we hadn't had time for a trial run. Helen and Vanessa arrived and eventually Ann, Zillah and Nicci. They had come the scenic route taking 7 hours! We all managed to be more or less in a group together. By the time we got to eat, it was dark and Zillah's beautifully arranged meal was difficult to see. They borrowed my wind up torch which worked well apart from having to stop eating every few mouthfuls to wind it up. We could hear them laughing from our tent! (Alcohol fuelled?) Nick and I had taken a cold chicken to eat intending to have the leftovers during Saturday but a wandering Jack Russell found it and scooped the lot. Zoe, Jerry and Vanessa left for the local Travel Lodge with the rest of us looking longingly after them. We were all exhausted so it was early to bed but not necessarily to sleep as it was rather noisy. On Saturday, people started moving around early so there was no time for a sleep in. Then it was all a rush to get the horses ready. Meanwhile, our illustrious Chair was seen wandering around the show ground in her pyjamas with blood shot eyes and black dye up her arm. Speak to her to find out why! Helen had two dressage tests to fit in around two jumping rounds. She was 9th and 12th in her tests, which was brilliant and just one down jumping. Vanessa jumped two great rounds with one down in the first round and two in the second. Blue was feeling great as we went into the arena but the track was all up to height 3'2" and wide with several parallels. We managed to get as far as the 7th fence and then he finally decided it was all a bit too much for him and we were eliminated. I was naturally disappointed but the support team were wonderful and made me feel better. Nicci was last to go with her dressage and she did really well to come 7th. Then suddenly it was all over with nothing to do but pack up and go home. We arrived home in the early evening absolutely shattered and spent Sunday recovering.

We all had a great weekend in spite of everything and I can only say, when you get the call, say "yes"! Heartfelt thanks to everybody concerned: you were all wonderful! Joy Smart

Message from the Chair

Hello Everyone,

Here we are at the end of another year and what a successful one it's been for our Club! Members have been achieving great things at all levels especially our Novice Horse Trials Team who won the BRC National Championships back in the summer. Well done to all of you!

Thank you to everyone who came to the AGM and welcome to all our members old and new. For my sins I'm still club chairperson (don't groan) and I would like to thank everyone who gives me the support and backing that it takes to do the job. Most of the time I really enjoy the things I do for B&D, just sometimes when I'm soaking wet, cold and tired do I wish someone else had the job. I went to the National Championships in Lincoln with our teams this year and our tent wasn't very waterproof! My tee shirt got soaking wet over night so I kept my pyjama top on all the next day, I then helped to get Nicci Phelps's horse Solo ready for her dressage test and accidentally had plait fixer sprayed in my eyes followed by special black hoof polish that doesn't wash off splashed all up my arms. Needless to say by the end of the day I looked absolutely awful (that's me hiding behind Solo in the picture)! It's not all glamour being the 'Chair'!

We have taken on two new committee members, Claire Miskelly and Noolie Gregory, so thank you to both of them. I do hope they enjoy working with the rest of us. Apart from that the committee is unchanged.

As the nights draw in we can think more about the social side of club life, don't forget our Christmas Party on the 11th of December and our fun show at Leyland Court on the 27th.

Please don't forget, whether you are a new member or one of our old friends B&D are always here to help. I know it's early but Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Best Wishes Zillah



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Quote of the Quarter Zoe Fowlers husband Jerry at the Lincoln Championships looking at Ann and Zillah after a night in a tent: "Err unlikely you're gonna pull looking like that!"

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
Sat 4th Dec	Westend Grove	10am - 12pm
Wed 15th Dec	Westend Grove	10am - 12pm
Sat 8th Jan	Westend Grove	10am - 12pm
Wed 19th Jan	Westend Grove	10am - 12pm
Wed 9th Feb	Westend Grove	10am - 12pm
Sat 19th Feb	Westend Grove	10am - 12pm
Wed 2nd March	Westend Grove	10am - 12pm
Wed 23rd March	Westend Grove	10am - 12pm
Sat 26th March	Westend Grove	10am - 12pm
Sat 2nd April	Westend Grove	10am - 12pm
Wed 13th April	Westend Grove	10am - 12pm
Sat 23rd April	Westend Grove	10am - 12pm

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
Sat 11th December	Leyland Court	10am; 11am & 12pm
Sat 15th January	Leyland Court	10am; 11am & 12pm
Sat 12th February	Leyland Court	10am; 11am & 12pm
Sat 19th March	Leyland Court	10am; 11am & 12pm

Contact: Ann Marshall - Cost £13

Dressage - Helen James

Date	Venue	Time
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
Thurs 10th Feb	David Meek's	6.30pm & 7.30pm
Thurs 24th Feb	David Meek's	6.30pm & 7.30pm
Thurs 31st March	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 Dec	Tan House Farm, Berkeley	11am & 12pm
Tues 18th Jan	Tan House Farm, Berkeley	11am & 12pm
Tues 8th Feb	Tan House Farm, Berkeley	11am & 12pm
Tues 22nd Feb	Tan House Farm, Berkeley	11am & 12pm
Tues 15th Mar	Tan House Farm, Berkeley	11am & 12pm
Tues 29th Mar	Tan House Farm, Berkeley	11am & 12pm
Tues 12th April	Tan House Farm, Berkeley	11am & 12pm

Contact: Ann Marshall - Cost £13

Show Jumping (1.5hours)- Tom Buckland

Date	Venue	Time
Sun 12th Dec	Leyland Court	10am & 11.30am
Sat 22nd Jan	Leyland Court	10am & 11.30am
Sun 6th Feb	Leyland Court	10am & 11.30am
Sun 3rd April	Leyland Court	10am & 11.30am

Contact: Ann Marshall - Cost £18

Show Jumping - Rachel Sheldon

Date	Venue	Time
Wed 12th Jan	Home Farm, Tockington	6.30pm & 7.30pm
Wed 26th Jan	Home Farm, Tockington	6.30pm & 7.30pm
Wed 2nd Feb	Home Farm, Tockington	6.30pm & 7.30pm
Wed 16th Feb	Home Farm, Tockington	6.30pm & 7.30pm
Wed 2nd Mar	Home Farm, Tockington	6.30pm & 7.30pm
Wed 16th Mar	Home Farm, Tockington	6.30pm & 7.30pm
Wed 30th Mar	Home Farm, Tockington	6.30pm & 7.30pm

Contact: Nicky Walker - Cost £13

XC (1.5hours)- Rachel Sheldon - weather permitting

Date	Venue	Time
Sun 9th Jan	Manor Farm	10am - 1pm

Contact: Zoe Fowler - Cost £20

Simulated XC - William Mifflin

Date	Venue	Time
Sun 6th Feb	RDA Indoor School	12pm - 4pm
Sun 6th Mar	RDA Indoor School	12pm - 4pm

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

XC Portables (1.5hours)- Kate Scott

Date	Venue	Time
Sat 19th February	Leyland Court	1pm & 2.30pm

Contact: Nicky Walker - Cost £25 Photographer on site during rally

New Members join the Committee

Claire Miskelly,

I have been a member of the B&D riding club for 4 years and have been competing with Jasper in all areas until his recent illness we are now concentrating on dressage. I have recently taken over from Helen Abraham as Membership Secretary. Make sure you let me know when you have done your hours

Noolie Gregory

This is the first riding club I have ever been a part of and I LOVE it, I have made so many new friends! I bought my first horse Herbie (the Dunn!) about three years ago, it has been a slow start but with all the help, encouragement, support and fun I have had with B&D over the last year we are really going places now! I have joined the committee to look after the newsletter so any comments you have, ideas for future newsletters or if you'd like to share something with us all please get in touch

Check out the website to find out more about the other committee members and their horses.

2011 calendars now on sale - 100s of fab photos of members, their horses, their partners and their dogs! If you've been to a B&D event this year you are probably in it! Get yours before they run out! Contact Sam at : atlanticopernicus@hotmail.co.uk



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

Loosing Your Horse

My little black mare was probably not known to many BD members as she had been unwell for 3 yrs & only came back into work this spring & competing again in April at the hunter trials.

She came into my life in 2002; I went to look at a col 15.2, who was a slug & not what I wanted. The owner rode her out & we swapped & I just felt I had to own her. She was very thin, mane hogged off & only 14.1hh & for the next two weeks before I could arrange transport I kept saying she's too small for me, but BRON didn't think she was small & once I'd fed & fittered her up she wanted to do all the things a big horse does. I recall the occasions we went to Badminton or fun rides, friends on their horses would say we will try to hold ours back so you don't get left behind, but as soon as we took off she was determined to keep up, her little legs eating the ground up!

She was only 5 when I got her (sold as a 7yr old), very strong willed, used to take me 1hr plus to load her at times, not because she was scared, but just to prove she didn't have to go in the silly metal box, but she didn't have a bad bone in her body. She loved to jump & one of my high lights was joint winning a triple bar competition finishing at a height of 4ft 3ins, the other horse was 16.2hh! So the striding was very different. She loved XC & sj, but not dressage, usually bucking up the centre line.

She became ill at just 10yrs old, with Equine metabolic syndrome, which I successfully managed, but she wasn't back to her usual bubbly self & on a second opinion & lots of tests she was found to have a neurological problem affecting the C6&7 in her vertebrae. Steroid injections sorted that out but she also had a touch of ring bone.

We did quite a few competitions this year & always came home with a ribbon, but I said she was only in a window & in August she decided to jump the field gate while I was out on my youngster, she was then lame & started to show symptoms as before with EMS. She got to a point where she didn't want to get up & for a cob to miss her feeds it was unheard of. I was advised to stable her, possibly for 3 months, she hated the stable & had jumped over the top with blocks on her feet previously. She could not even stand on 3 legs to have the shoes off. I had an agonising few days but made the decision to do what was best for her. I've not lost a horse before as I haven't owned my own since I was a child.

I know I don't have to explain my grief; she was my friend, listening to all my woes when out hacking!



She was spirited & fun & I miss her so much. I lost her on 13/09/10 At least I have her to view in May on the lovely B&DRC 2011 calendar, I hope it won't be long until I smile remembering all the things we did together.
 Kate Lingwood-White

Area 18 Training Day

Everyone who knows my horse, knows how many ups and downs we have had over the years. So when the Area 18 Training Day was advertised, I decided to put my name forward as a guinea pig rider for the jumping session. The instructor was going to be Rosie Thompson. The jumping would be aimed at horses that rushed their fences and therefore unable to maintain a rhythm.



The session started at 1030am at Hartpury College, there were 4 riders: myself, a lady from Cheltenham RC, and two ladies from South Oxfordshire RC. We had all been asked to come in competition wear. The first part of the session started with poles, these were randomly placed out in the arena, and there was also a line of poles. Once all the horses were happily going over in all paces, we moved on jumping a grid. After going through it a few time we then had to stop as soon as we could after the last fence. There were a few of us that found this task harder than others!! We then moved on to stringing a few fences together. First we had to ride down the grid, then use the corner to get the horses listening before going over an upright, then down to a large spread. The next combination of fences had some very bright spooky fences and included various dog-legs, we had to do plenty of halts to try and get the horses all to wait and not rush. I really enjoyed the session. I was grateful for being given the opportunity to ride, as this was a free lesson plus I stayed to see the other demos. I never thought I would be chosen, so next year when Area 18 hold their training day again, put your name down. You never know, you could be chosen to ride!!
 Kate and Ben

Forthcoming Events - 2010 and 2011

Date	Details	Location	Contact
11th December	Christmas Party	Easter Compton Village Hall	Nicky Walker
27th December	Christmas Show	Leyland Court	Nicky Walker
9th-12th March 2011	Residential Camp	Pontispool, Taunton	Nicky Walker
11th June 2011	ODE	West Littleton	Zillah Savage - helpers needed
8th & 9th July 2011	Non Residential Camp	Leyland Court	Zillah Savage

Members Competitions

Date	Details	Location	Cost	Time	Contact
16th Jan	Members SJ	Milbury Heath, GL12 8QN	£2.00 per round	10am - 12pm	Jo 07973201722 or Kate 07703114238
13th Feb	Members SJ	Milbury Heath, GL12 8QN	£2.00 per round	10am - 12pm	Jo 07973 201722 or Kate 07703114238
20th Mar	Members SJ	Milbury Heath, GL12 8QN	£2.00 per round	10am - 12pm	Jo 07973 201722 or Kate 07703114238

Members Dressage to start again next March

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.