



Berkeley & District

RIDING CLUB



News Bulletin

July 2021

From the Chair.....

After much thought I have decided to step down as B&DRC Chair, with my children getting older and my oldest starting secondary school I feel I will be unable to commit to the role as much as I would like. Although I have loved my time as Chair I have dealt with my fair share of drama (equine flu and covid) but the time has come for another to step into the role. Jill McFarland has kindly agreed to become the new Chair and I hope you're as excited as I am. I have agreed to stay on the committee to run the Dress Down Dressage competitions and the Newsletter so if you have anything to add please do email me (lucy.baggs@btinternet.com).

Holly Winterton will become Secretary, taking over from Jill and I would like to welcome Claire Friend and Gill Lawry to the committee. Both will be great assets to the club. Claire has taken over as Membership Secretary from Shanice so please now contact Claire for hours/membership. Gill has agreed to be the main contact for all Team Managers; with her vast knowledge she will be amazing. Shanice will still be running residential camps and will be taking over day camps from Jill after the upcoming one, so be on the look-out for dates.

We have had some great successes at the Area competitions recently with lots of placings and our dressage & show jumping teams qualifying for the finals including wins for Sarah Raymond in the show jumping and Annie Cox in the Dressage to music.

I would like to thank each and every one of you for how accommodating you have all been and I wish Jill every success in her new role.

Lucy Baggs, Chair

Dressage

Annie Cox & Sarah Couzens



On 19th of June the area 9 Dressage to Music (DTM) was taking place at Burrows Court. This was well organised by Kingsleaze Riding Club and had a very relaxed atmosphere.

We had 3 members competing for the club. This was Denise McGurk first time to ever do dressage to music and her first time doing a novice test on her lovely coloured mare Sophie. She rode a lovely test with music that complemented each other beautifully and came away with a fantastic 3rd place with 69%.

Kate Nichols competed at elementary level riding her horse Cedric to some very smart music. They gained a great score of 72%.

Myself, Andrea Cox and my horse Dav also competed in the elementary. I had rearranged my usual routine the week before as it never really felt quite right and hadn't given me great results in the past. I am absolutely over the moon to say we won with a fantastic score of over 73% . Fingers crossed we are going to the championships .

I say with " fingers crossed" as a few days before the test I didn't quiet feel Dav was 100%, so I had him booked in to be scoped for ulcers on the Monday after the comp .

Monday came and my stomach turned when the vet came across a very nasty cluster pedunculated mass in his stomach. After some further investigation at the vets they said it was treatable and it has now thankfully been dealt with. I am now waiting for his next scope to say it's all going well and no further treatment will be needed 🙏 .

I am so proud of this boy as he did all this when not feeling 100% and I am pleased I went with my gut feelings and had him looked at.

On the 3rd of July we sent a team to Rabson Manor to compete in the area 9 Prelim Dressage qualifier. Sian Barke, Sally Thorne, Claire Rudge and Denise McGurk made up a team and came a fantastic team 5th which has qualified them for the Regional Championships at Hartpury

Annie Cox



Residential Camp at Pontispool

Jane Carver

And we're off to a long-awaited camp! A quick phone call to Louise to make sure Mathew's loaded and we're ready to hit the road in convoy, as we always have done. The journey was smooth just one stop for Louise to secure her electrics, we arrived in good time, horses and their humans very relaxed, horses settled in, and unpacking done. Time for a cheeky alcoholic beverage to celebrate, Happy days!! 🍷



Ashleigh and myself have been on many riding club camps before! This was our first camp with B&DRC, the whole experience was fab! The weather was good, the food was absolutely amazing, brilliant instructors. We arrived only knowing a few people, but we were made very welcome by everyone and made new friends. Apologies to "My roomie" Louise for my 4.30 am early starts, closely followed by Ashleigh. We are definitely early birds!!

The first night auction was hilarious! Sue Palfrey was an amazing auctioneer. Shanice's quiz night was brilliant fun. Lovely lazy evenings with the whole camp socialising together but I have to say that Lucky the Dolly absolutely stole the show! Weirdly on the journey home Ash and myself were concerned that she may not have made it home tied to the front of Andrews lorry, we were elated when we read that she was home safe 🙌

Absolutely fabulous camp and to top it off a good journey home. Thank you, Shanice, for making it possible, looking forward to October camp, hopefully the sun will shine ☀️

Jane Carver

Area Horse Trials

Sian Barke



Packed and ready for the Horse trials at West Wilts, but this time with my new horse Bowman! A big gangly baby, it was to be his first event, so I was super excited albeit apprehensive! I absolutely love being part of the teams and representing the club. My nerves were soon settled when I arrived and was welcomed by our team manager Jill! She was super supportive and helped me clamber on my 17.2hh giant! First was the dressage! Bowman's first test on grass and although it was tricky to manoeuvre his big frame around the arena, I was happy with a 38. Next was our fun bit, which was the 80cm show jumping. Jumping is in Bow's blood and he gave me a beautiful clear round ending in an absolute flyer over the last in true Bowman style! I was absolutely thrilled to bits and put everything I had learnt at Pontispool camp in place.



Lastly, was the cross country. Now this is still new to us as a partnership so I was a bit nervous. Yet again I was reassured by the B&D team and we set off to warm up. Bowman felt great and flew the warm up jumps with confidence. The weather was getting worse and it became clear I needed to ditch my glasses and hope for the best! We walked over to the start box, waited for the count down and we were off! Bowman was a bit 'looky' but he gained more and more confidence as the course went on. We went clear with a few times penalties. Chuffed to bits with a double clear for our first one and landed 13th place in our section!

West Wilts has a lovely inviting course and I encourage anyone to have a go at the Area Horse trials. Despite the weather, the ground was great and well maintained. Jill and the team were as always so friendly and supportive. Looking forward to the next one already!

Sian Barke

Flat Camp Demo

With Maria Griffin & Bary Hayes

Those attending the Flat Camp in July at Burrows Court were treated to a fabulous demonstration with Bary Hayes riding his lovely, expressive 10 year old Dutch horse Tig and Maria Griffin, International Dressage Rider & Trainer teaching. Bary has only had Tig 7 weeks and so is just getting to know him.



At the start of the session Maria pointed out that Tig was tense in his neck and top line and needed to lengthen his frame. To many of us watching he looked fabulous but we could see that he was in quite a tense outline drawing back from the contact and not relaxed or soft.

Maria asked Bary to do some leg yield at first leading on to shoulder fore, shoulder in, halfpass and travers all in trot. I was seriously impressed that Bary could switch from one move to another so quickly and fluently ! Maria encouraged Bary to have control of Tig's neck and take it out more by using his ankles to nudge him forward (not calves or thighs or pony club kicks!). She could be heard saying "No more trot" and "Neck, Neck, Neck" on several occasions as Tig seemed to want to power upwards rather than draw forwards.



Shoulder fore is not a movement in any dressage tests but Maria uses it to practice ride ability and control of the angle of the shoulder. She also does steep shoulder in on 4 track to practice control of angle.

They moved onto canter work where they again did shoulder fore, shoulder in, leg yield and half pass . Maria noticed how much better Tig was on the left rein.

One of the issues they had was that Tig was almost too enthusiastic in his work and didn't always listen to Bary so Maria encouraged him to mix things up a lot.



A question was asked about the angle of shoulder in required in a test. So Bary demonstrated this. Maria said a clever rider can adjust the angle depending on where the judge/judges are sitting to make it look better but it must be on 3 tracks and the quarters must never lead.

Bary was then asked to demonstrate walk pirouettes which Maria described as a walk half pass around a small circle. Maria stood in the middle of the school and Tig pirouetted around her. Maria described Tig as being rude in his right shoulder and that to deal with this Bary should if spiral the other way and keep Tig upright from his right leg ensuring Bary is in charge with Tig's shoulder leading as Tig uses right flexion as an evasion.



The next question was about good use of corners and centreline. Maria guessed Tig would be bent right up the centreline which he was the first time but the second time was better. Maria said you should always come off your better rein before the centreline even if you are turning the other way at C.

Bary then demonstrated some flying changes, which Tig enjoys. At first Tig was late to change behind so Maria encouraged Bary to activate his hind legs more

By the end of the session it was obvious how much less tense Tig was and his way of going was much softer and Bary had more horse in front of him rather than him drawing back and being tight in his neck



Instructor Profile- Rachel Sheldon

An Interview with Jill McFarland

Rachel Sheldon has been teaching B&D members for around 15 years so is well known to many of our members both new and old. But how much do you know about her equestrian background and future plans?

Rachel started riding at the age of 7. Alongside her sister she was a keen member of Berkeley Hunt Pony Club doing all the usual PC activities and representing them in many of the Area competitions. She was keen on eventing and luckily when she went away to Moreton Morrell college to do her BHS exams her sister kept her horse fit for her and she came home at weekends to compete.

At the age of 19 she sold her horse and got a job in Australia as a Working Pupil for an Australian eventer. He qualified for the World Games in Rome in 1998 and Rachel was lucky enough to groom for him. She spent 4 years grooming & eventing in Australia and eventually returned home to set up a yard at her Mum and Dad's farm. She got the opportunity to have her own yard when she moved to her current location at Tumpy 15 years ago.

Rachel currently enjoys a mixture of competing, teaching and running her livery yard. As well as the youngsters she competes for their owners she competes 2 horses at Novice level who will be moving up to 2* next month. Hopefully one will progress on to Intermediate.



Rachel really enjoys her teaching which she does for Riding Club, Pony Club and many private clients. She is equally happy to teach young and old, happy hackers and more ambitious competitive riders. She is always a popular instructor with Riding Club because of her endless enthusiasm and positivity and her ability to be heard even in a force 10 gale!

Rachel loves doing what she does now so much so that her husband has to remind her that the rest of the family would like a holiday now and then! In future she is looking forward to doing more with her daughter, Olivia, who is following in her mum's footsteps as a budding equestrian and she quite fancies doing some equestrian lecturing should the opportunity arise. Meanwhile she looks forward to helping more B&D members improve and most importantly enjoy their riding.



Any other news

Bacs. Paying for rallies, camps etc is our preferred method as it saves us being charged. Our bacs details are : Sort code 09-01-51 Acc. No.84275504

Pinkers offer all B&DRC Members a 10% discount- be sure to take your membership card with you when you shop

EvoEquine offer a 10% discount to all B&DRC Members. Visit their website www.evoequine.co.uk

Make every effort to complete your hours (friends and family can do these on your behalf) And let Claire Friend know what you have done. Claire.friend@hotmail.co.uk

Please don't forget you are welcome to send in your horsey news and photos for us to share with members via the E Bulletin. Just drop an email with attachments to Lucy Baggs. lucy.baggs@btinternet.com

B&DRC Committee (new)

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