

A NOTE FROM OUR CHAIR

This is my first ever newsletter for our Riding club, so if you don't know me already, I have been a freelance trainer for about 18 years, worked a lot with Fitzwilliam Pony Club and been their Dressage Team Trainer for a number of years, as well as being ADC for them. I have been training for our club for a few years and love the support, friendships and camaraderie. I was put forward by a friend to join the committee last year, after my first meeting, Phil Short made the sad decision to resign, after a long silence at the next meeting and no volunteers for the Chair, my head just nodded itself (I seem to have no control of this little problem) and the rest is history!!

I would firstly like to thank Phil and his family for doing a wonderful job – without out these guys and the support of the committee – we would have no club –many many thanks to you all. For the committee remaining, thank you also for being so enthusiastic, working so hard for Riding Club and your belief that I can actually do this job!!!

As you may gather, I am pretty new to Riding Club rules and etiquette so please bear with me. I took the position, as I strongly believe horses, ponies and riding should be fun and sociable as well as competitive, we should offer the chance to meet new crazy horsey friends, learn from them and their experiences, encourage, support and train together. I am open to any new ideas you may have, any things you would like to try or share and any views of the way we run or could improve.

So far we have had an amazing year of competitions, with several teams qualifying for the nationals in dressage, combined training and show jumping. This is a great achievement from team members, trainers and team managers (many thanks Becca, Sam and Sarah). It is great to see so many take part in competitions, for some of you it was a first time, new partnership or something you just love – whatever made you choose to represent our club – thank you. Remember **“todays challenge is tomorrow comfort zone”** so if you're sitting thinking you'd like to give it a go but not quite brave enough – every one of our team members felt like that once and will be there to help, share and guide you through this.

On this note, why not try our Give it a Go competitions (GIG), it is very low key and will help you settle those nerves and realise that you can enjoy taking your horse out and no-one is judging you (well except the judge of course!!!), it give you a really good guide of where you and your four legged partner are in your training and relationship, and maybe give you an idea of how to progress.

We are now back to regular training at Houghton Hall on Mondays and Fridays, our plan is to do a flat and jumping session 10 – 11 am and 7 – 8 pm once a month. These sessions are done by various trainers (let us know if there is someone else you would like to try). We are having a ball in November, I do remember that us horsey people scrub up pretty well and sure know how to party!!!! Please keep in touch with us and let us know how you would like our club to progress. We are desperately seeing someone to do Health and Safety – can anyone help. Look forward to seeing you all soon. Have a great summer and good luck to our teams.

Anna x

EVENTS & TRAINING CALENDAR

Keep an eye on the website, Facebook and club emails for details of up-coming training. If there is anything in particular you would like to see on the training programme or any particular trainers you would like us to use then please do let us know – huntingdondrc@gmail.com. We have training arranged at Houghton Hall, Long Drove and Home Farm. This year we are also going to be using a new venue, College Farm, Fen Drayton. Check in here for the latest <http://www.huntingdonrc.co.uk/online.html>

AREA 7 & CHAMPIONSHIP DATES

2017 Championship Dates

Event	Location	Date
KBIS BRC Novice Winter Champs (Show Jumping & Dressage)	Keysoe EC	1 st & 2 nd April 2017
EquiTheme Intermediate Winter Champs (Show Jumping & Dressage)	Bury Farm EC	28 th to 30 th April 2017
Horslyx FOH Champs	Aston Le Wells	20 th to 21 st May 2017
BRC NAF 5Star Horse Trials Champs	Swalcliffe	4 th to 6 th August 2017
National Champs	Lincoln	2 nd % 3 rd September 2017
Dressage to Music & Quadrille Selection	Bury Farm EC	29 th Sept to 1 st October 2017

2017 Qualifiers

Event	Location	Organising Club	Date
Horse Trials Qualifier	Little Downham	Area 7	10 th June 2017
Summer SJ	Earith	CDRC	25 th June 2017
Summer Dressage	Earith	CDRC & HHRC	15 th July 2017
Dressage to Music	Houghton Hall	Houghton & Huntingdon	22 nd July 2017

GIVE IT A GO

New for 2017 – Give It a Go. These are low key dressage competitions running on a Thursday evening at Home Farm. The schedules have been mailed out and can be downloaded from the website. It's a great opportunity to maybe try a dressage test that you would not usually attempt. There is no need to plait or wear competition gear. At each GIG we will also be running some form of jumping – training or clear round.

2017 GIG Dates

Give it a Go Dressage & Style Jumping	Home Farm, Alconbury	25th May 2017
Give it a Go Dressage & Clear Round Jumping	Home Farm, Alconbury	8th June 2017
Give it a Go Dressage & Show Jump Training	Home Farm, Alconbury	29th June 2017
Give it a Go Dressage & Show Jump Training	Home Farm, Alconbury	13th July 2017

HUNTER TRIAL



Well what a fantastic time we had at the Hunter Trial, the weather was kind, all volunteers showed up, competitors were smiling and the horses were all bouncing with excitement. The paramedics were very pleased to have not been needed at all. We had some super combinations go round and standing at the bottom of the field it was great to see the slightly nervous faces set off and then the beaming faces cross the finishing line. Phil Short did a great job with the commentary and Jules made sure everyone was accounted for out on course



We had some fantastic prizes for our winners this year all provided by the wonderful team at Rollins Farm. We also had a great turnout for the Clear Round jumping.

This year marked the last year for Katherine Short as our lead organiser. Katherine has been involved with the Hunter Trial for about 8 years and has done a fantastic job over that time. Katherine is going back to being a Student and doing her PHD so has had to take a step back from the club. She will still be on hand to offer the new organising team help and advice. Talking of the new organising team, we are looking for keen members to join us to help organise this event. If you would like to get stuck into organising a major event in the Riding Club calendar then we are really keen to hear from you. Get in touch with Judith on

comms@huntingdonrc.co.uk



H&HRC
Highest Placed
Pairs - Team
Sarah



The 2017 Hunter Trial will take place on **15th October**. We will be looking for lots of entries and lots of fence judges. We will once again be operating as a qualifier for the Horseware Ireland National Hunter Trial Championships that take place at Eland Lodge and will also be eligible for ROR.

WINTER DRESSAGE QUALIFERS

The Winter Dressage Qualifiers were held at Keysoe EC on 26th February. It was a superb day and very well organised.

H&HRC were out in force with a number of teams and individual riders - around 45 tests ridden by HH riders. Some fantastic tests were ridden and both Juniors and Senior teams came second with the Senior team qualifying for the Intermediate Championships. We also had some great "freestyling" from Mystic Gem (Sarah Anderson) and Hartys Quay (Kerrie Aschettino) - when "Airs" make an entry into the requirements for a Novice test you guys will be right up there.

Thank you to Rebecca Robinson, Sarah Anderson and Sam Morgan for organising our teams and special thanks to Rebecca for keeping everyone in the right place at the right time during the day. And a massive thank you to our helpers too.



SHOW JUMPING

Show Jumping Winter Qualifiers were held at Houghton Hall. It was a very cold day and a very early start for the Novice Senior team. All our team members looked very smart which was no mean feat given the inclement weather. Our Senior Novice team consisting of Phoebe Crawford, Sarah Anderson, Lauren Dolby and Katherine Marshall came 2nd with the Senior Intermediate team consisting of Sarah Anderson, Phoebe Crawford and Bryony Jackson coming 3rd. Phoebe came 2nd individually and will be off to the Champs (well done Phoebe and Tallulah).

Our Juniors did well do although they all found their jumping mojo in the second round. The junior novice team consisting of Chloe Cade, Alice Stancome, Ellie Sayer and Emily Bye came 2nd, Ellie Sayer also came 3rd Individually in the Intermediate.

Our Chef Team did a great job of keeping everyone in the right place at the right time but as ever we could not compete at these events if it wasn't for our willing squad of helpers.

Winter Novice Championships

Our Intermediate team came 3rd at the Championships! So fantastic to our club doing so well this year. Huge congratulations to Kat Marshall, Phoebe Crawford, Sarah Anderson and Lauren Dolby



MEMBER SPECIAL MENTION

This edition our Special Mention goes to all our wonderful members (and families / friends) that regularly help out at our events. I know we say it all the time but we really cannot compete at these events without you.

Special shout outs to the following:-

**Karen Neal
Victoria Morgan
Lizzie Bannister
Julia Rutherford
Alison Jones
Louise Ayres
Nancy Packham
Lucy Smith**

Who can all regularly be seen sporting the fluorescent jackets and waving clipboards around.

We will be supporting the dressage phase of the horse trails qualifiers on 10th June at Ely. Thanks to those members that have already offered to help – **we need more** – please do support us so that we can carry on supporting you.

If you have someone that you would like to nominate for our Special Mention then please get in touch. comms@huntingdonrc.co.uk

Thank You All



RACE & AWARDS NIGHT

This year our awards ceremony took place with a Race Night. We hope that everyone that attended had a great night. The Committee certainly all enjoyed the evening. We enjoyed backing some winning and losing horses, a beer or two and some great fish and chips. Thank you to everyone that attended. We raised a few pounds for club funds that helps towards subsidising training and also to pay the prelim fees for our teams



2016 Award Winners

Trophy	Achievment	2016 Nomination
FLASHMAN TROPHY	To a Senior or Junior who has gone above and beyond in supporting the Club	Rebecca Robinson
POLLY MEMORIAL TROPHY	Veteran horse/pony still actively taking part in Club events or training	Sarah Anderson with Snug
SENIOR CONTRIBUTION	Allround senior contribution to club - competitive or non- competitive	Katherine Short
JUNIOR CONTRIBUTION TROPHY	Allround junior contribution to club - competitive or non- competitive	Chloe Wesley
BORIS-BETTER-HAD CUP	To a really good partnership - not necessarily competitive	Lil Glover and Will
BRIDGETS AMBITION TROPHY	Junior who did the best in Area/National competitions	Phoebe Crawford & Pip King
DEBONAIR JAKE MEMORIAL TROPHY	Senior who did the best in Area/National competitions	Sam Morgan
TRAINING TROPHY	For someone who has really made an effort at training & made progress through the year	Claire Smith

SOCKS & OTHER CLOTHING



You may have seen several members sporting our very fine club socks. These are available to purchase via Becca Robinson or by contacting the club – drop us a mail and a BACS payment and we will dispatch you a pair. They cost just £10 and come in Medium (2 – 6) or Large (7- 11). They are really comfortable to wear and wash really well. It would be great to see you all out and about in them. We are working on other clothing ranges too. Sorry it has taken so long to get this sorted but we will get there soon.



Hot off the press – take a look at BeeWear – HHRC clothing is available to purchase

<http://beewear.co.uk/product-category/british-riding-clubs/houghton-and-huntingdon-rc/>

AND ALMOST FINALLY



Winter Ball

11th November 2017, The Dolphin Hotel, St Ives

More information to follow soon



Membership renewal was due at the start of October 2016. This will be the last newsletter sent to members that have not renewed. Get your renewals in quickly ☺



Good luck and congratulations to Victoria Morgan who will be getting married at the start of July. Have a fantastic day. We look forward to seeing the pictures.



Belated Happy Birthday to one of our club founder members, **Anne Palmer**. We hope you had a fantastic day and we are struggling to believe that you really are 70? Looking good Anne ☺



The 2017 BHS Rule book can be downloaded from here
<http://www.bhs.org.uk/enjoy-riding/british-riding-clubs/brc-handbook>



https://www.facebook.com/Riding-Clubs-Area-7-230687537015098/?ref=aymt_homepage_panel

As well as following HHRC on Facebook, click on and like the Area 7 link too



We will be hosting the Dressage to Music qualifiers again this year – 22nd July 2017. Unaffiliated dressage will be running alongside it. All helpers and competitors appreciated.



Retraining of Racehorses – our GIG, Open Dressage and Hunter Trial will all be eligible for the ROR league. If you are riding an ex racehorse make sure you register at <http://www.ror.org.uk/>

OUR CHEFS TEAM – THANK YOU BECCA, SARAH & SAM



CONTRIBUTIONS

We are trying to keep the website up to date with events, results and news so do keep checking in <http://www.huntingdonrc.co.uk/> If you have any news or achievements you would like to share with the club or any classified adverts you would like placed then do contact Judith on comms@huntingdonrc.co.uk. If you would like to appear on the website or in the newsletter then please send in your pictures (ensure you have the rights to them please). If you have any photos from club events we would love to see them too.

This month we have a contribution from one of our members – **Lizzie Bannister**. Lizzie has written about the training she went through with her super cob Patrick. I hope you enjoy reading it.

Lizzie & Patrick – the Little Brown Cob



This Patrick at an outing a year after I first got him. He is 9 years old, and we are in a mini hunter trial/cross country ring. He surprised all of us – jumped everything including up the wooden wall in the hill! It was amazing. He wasn't jumping at all, even didn't understand how normal cantering is under saddle when I first got him.

He was a driving pony, selected out of a line of ponies just like him in stalls at a driving yard. I tried him in an ancient flat saddle, and he bucked when I asked for canter. I was confused, but we still got him. At the first naughty thing he did, I told him off. This is to lie the boundary down and ensure I get respect from him as his boss. At everything else, I was gentle and kind and respectful to him, and talked to him lots. I was 15 and always loved him very much. We got him a rubber straight bar bit to soften his driving mouth. Every time I rode him, it was gentle training, where I praised him a lot, focus on achieving tiny things, and stick at the level we are at before moving on, and sometimes coming back. He bucked every time I asked for canter, and I didn't care which leg he was on as it was early days. I remember his first jump! It was a tiny thing, and I was so pleased.

I finished, and kept just doing one jump before moving on – onto bigger or different jumps and multiple jumps. Out on the road, his driving brain tended to veer him to the middle of the road, rather than the left so I had to keep correcting him. I started to tell him off when he bucked in the canter, a "No!". It shouldn't be so fun and unique anymore! I moved onto schooling him, doing circles and shapes in the school, even, God forbids, cantering the circles – once then more over sessions. We took him to a couple of local showjumping events, and he did ok, and got rather confused and disorientated with the warm up ring that always has lots of other horses. He is getting the hang of it now!

I had a break in riding then the show events, and stuck him at the level he was at when I went to University and then lost interest for a year during my first job. I came back to riding and it was the same gentle, unambitious riding for a few years before Sarah Anderson came on the scene. I really bucked up the level of work, asking him to go on the right leg in the canter and to do more fully jumping exercises. I reintroduced him to show jumping and cross country via clinics, practice runs and shows. The first few were ok again but I didn't take it all too seriously – he is still always learning, and so am I. Then he became brilliant, and even got a fourth in his second ever ODE last year, at the age of 21.



Now, he is teaching me the world of driving! Or I faff around and try and learn while he just lets me get on with it and remembers to respond to voice commands and be completely ok in blinkers! He is a fabulous pony with an impressive CV, I must say! Training and learning with my pony is the best project in the world.

Lizzie Bannister

