

A NOTE FROM OUR CHAIRMAN

Welcome to the second Newsletter of 2016. By now, I had hoped that we could all have been enjoying the lighter, warmer evenings to ride more often during the week after work. Nature obviously has other ideas and if, like me, you are not enthused by riding in the cold and blustery conditions, then it seems to need a herculean effort to motivate yourself to get out there. Perhaps Spring will put in an appearance before the late May holidays – let's hope so.

The swallows have been back at our yard for a couple of weeks' now, often swooping and squeaking at the cats. As the swallows sit in the rafters of our stable, chattering away, I often wonder what they are saying to each other. It sounds like they are having a conversation and I can just imagine at the moment that one is saying to the other "Whose idea was it to come to England so early, it's bloomin' freezing. Next year, I'm not leaving Africa until the end of May!"

Well despite the unusually cold weather, there is a lot to look forward to over the coming months. There's Badminton of course from 5 – 8 May and no doubt you have already made your bookings for Burghley in September. For those not yet at the elite level, there are plenty of Riding Club events coming up ranging from the horse trials qualifier at the end of May at Keysoe; the summer show jumping and dressage qualifiers, both in July; Dressage to Music, also in July at Houghton Hall; and looking further ahead, there is the Hunter Trial at Alconbury in October. As well as these events, there are always training sessions and open schooling days for you to enjoy.

So bring on those summer days, take advantage of your membership and get out there and enjoy your riding.

(Editors note – it seems every time Phil writes an intro mentioning weather, the weather immediately changes – but change for the good this time ☺)

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. Check in here for the latest <http://www.huntingdonrc.co.uk/online.html>

AREA 7 & CHAMPIONSHIP DATES

2016 Qualifiers

Event	Location	Organising Club	Date
Horse Trials Qualifier	Keysoe EC	Area 7	Monday 30th May 2016
Summer SJ	Keysoe EC	Keysoe	Sunday 10th July 2016
Summer Dressage	Potters Field, Earith	HHRC/CDRC	Sunday 3rd July 2016
Dressage to Music	Houghton Hall	HHRC	Sunday 24 th July 2016

2016 Championship Dates

Event	Location	Date
FOH	Aston-Le-Walls	4/5 June 2016 **Updated date
Horse Trials	Swalcliffe	5/7 August 2016
National Champs	Lincoln	10/11 September
Dressage to Music	Bury Farm EC	1/2 October 2016 - provisional
Quadrille Finals	TBC	TBC

Important News – Attendance at Training & Open Schooling

For your safety and in order to comply with Health and Safety rules, all riders attending Training or Open Schooling must wear a medical armband with emergency contact information or ensure that the trainer is provided with this information before commencing the session. It is the responsibility of the rider to comply with this rule. The Trainers will not have facilities for recording emergency contact information so please ensure that you have prepared this in advance. Medical armbands are readily available from various retailers and also on the Horse Society website <https://www.britishhorse.com/products/medical-armband---british-riding-clubs.html>

Thanks for your assistance.













Committee Vacancy – Social Coordinator

The committee would very much like to be able to offer more in the way of social events but to do this we really would like to appoint a Social Coordinator. If you have a flair for event organisation and would like to get more involved with the club then Phil would be very pleased to hear from you. Please contact him on chairman@huntingdonrc.co.uk



HUNTER TRIAL

The Hunter Trial 2016 will be held on 9th October 2016 at Home Farm, Alconbury. Planning is already well underway by the Hunter Trial Sub Committee – Katherine Short, Anne Palmer and Judith Marshall. We are hoping that once again members will actively support this event by advertising, competing or volunteering. Getting enough volunteers to man all the fences is always a stressful event so if you would like to help then please do let Judith know – comms@huntingdonrc.co.uk. If you have never fence judged before there will be a full briefing at the start of the event and we can pair you with an experienced person for your first class. It really is a fun way to spend a few hours and it's great to see the horse and rider partnerships going over the jumps close up. Here are some of the jumps you may come across at the event

			
Log Roll	Mushroom or Roll Top	Pheasant Feeder	Curving Log Pile
			
Palisade	Chair	Table	Corner
			
Tiger Trap	Dog Kennel	Arrow Head	Sharks Teeth

DRESSAGE

As ever we had a good turnout from both Juniors and Seniors for the Winter Dressage qualifiers with 3 Junior teams and 5 senior teams.

Juniors – there were 6 Junior Novice teams and our teams finished in 2nd, 5th and 6th. Well done to you all – all 3 teams ended up having to run just 3 riders in each which makes the results pretty impressive.

Novice Seniors – there were 26 Senior Novice teams and our teams came 6th, 9th, 19th, 24th & 25th – the scores were all extremely close with just a couple of points separating a large number of teams.

Intermediate Seniors – there were 21 Senior Intermediate teams and our teams came 16th and 20th.

There were some great results from the club with Phoebe Crawford coming 3rd in Jnr D10, Sarah Anderson coming 8th in D2 (*and I mention this as she was riding my horse Toby – well there has to be some perks to being Editor*). Sarah also qualified as an individual for Medium riding Lorenzo II.

Katherine and Sarah would like to thank all the volunteers that came along to help who stood around in the freezing cold all day. We cannot run these events without you.



Phoebe with Tallulah



Sarah Anderson with Lorenzo coming 5th in Medium at the Championships at Bury Farm.
Super test – well done



Summer Dressage

Watch out for the email for team members for the Summer Dressage Qualifier which takes place on 3rd July at Potters Field, Earith. We are jointly hosting this with Cambridge Riding club so will be looking out for volunteers to help set up the arenas on Saturday 2nd July as well as helping with the event on 3rd and with clearing away after the event. Qualifying Classes are below – see full schedule for eligibility:-

Junior Dressage	Entries from teams or individuals. Three team members to ride Prelim 7 (2002), Prelim 12 (2005), Prelim 14 (2006), the fourth team member to ride Novice 24 (2010)
Junior Elementary	Entries from individuals only who will ride Elementary 43 (2006)
Junior Riding Test	Entries from teams or individuals. All members of the team to ride the BRC Prelim Riding Test (2014).
Senior Prelim Dressage	Entries from teams only. All members of the team to ride Prelim 14 (2006).
Senior Open Dressage	Entries from teams or individuals. Three members of the team to ride Novice 24 (2010), Novice 27 (2007) and Novice 28 (2008) respectively. The fourth member of the team to ride Elementary 43 (2006).
Senior Medium Dressage	Entries from individuals only, riding Medium 69 (2005) OR Advanced Medium 91 (2016)
Senior Riding Test	Entries from teams or individuals. Two members of the team to ride the BRC Prelim Riding Test (2014). Two members of the team to ride BRC Novice Riding Test (2014),
Senior & Junior Pairs	Entries from pairs only, which may be made up of either two senior or two junior riders. Horses may have up to 124 BD total points. BRC Pairs 5 (2014) Points gained at prelim level will not be counted.

Don't forget we are running the Dressage to Music qualifier at Houghton Hall on 24th July. Get your music and floor plans ready to roll. We also have open dressage which we hope to see lots of members competing in too – there will be rosettes for the highest placed members. As ever we cannot run these events without your help so if you can help with arena stewarding, writing , scoring or score sheet collecting then that would be hugely appreciated.



We had lots of senior and junior members taking part in the Winter Show Jumping at Houghton Hall. It was a long day with the first junior riding taking to the arena at 8am and the seniors finishing just before 6pm. There were some fantastic show jumping rounds and some very excited horses and ponies.

Senior Intermediate Team – 4th

Rozzy Goodjohn
Caroline Cherry
Lauren Dolby
Scott Carter

Senior Novice – teams not placed but some good rounds from our members – unfortunately 2 of the teams had to compete with 3 members due to late drop outs which left them with lots to do.

Lauren Dolby
Sarah Anderson
Sam Morgan
Michelle Cottee
Scott Carter
Kerrie Aschettino
Sarah Grout
Katy Grout
Heidi Grice



Junior Intermediate Team – 3rd

Ellie Sayer
Phoebe Crawford
Pip King
Chloe Wesley

Junior Novice Team – 2nd *(although unfortunately later eliminated on a technicality)*

Phoebe Crawford
Ellie Sayer
Sarah Marshall
Will Nelson

Hermione Crawford
Laura Racey
Bethan Blackman
Johnathan Nelson

**Well done to everyone that took part and thank you
to all our helpers**

SHOW JUMPING

COMBINED TRAINING

Several of our members went off to Wittering Grange for the Combined Training qualifiers – they all had a lovely day and it was great to see some of our new members competing. Well done to all that took part and thank you so much to Katie Larman for being our Chef for the event and to our team volunteers without whom we could not take part. Riders were Sam Morgan, Daisy Grice, Alison Jones, Jessica Murray, Michelle Cottee, Katie Larman

Images from Hoofprints <http://www.hoofprintimages.co.uk/gallery/combined-team-area-7-qualifier---wittering-26138>



OPEN SCHOOLING

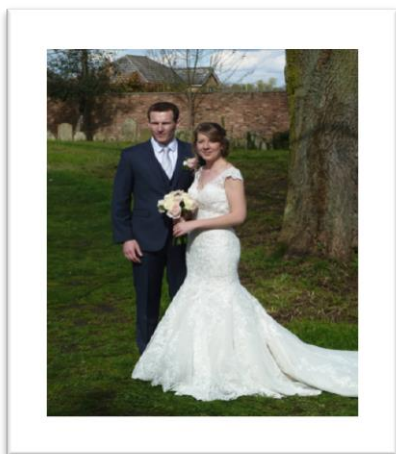


This year has seen the return of Open Schooling sessions at Houghton Hall. These are an opportunity to use the fantastic arena at Houghton Hall and just do your own thing but alongside fellow riding club members. I have attended both of these and they have been fantastic for me. I am not one for doing much in the way of competing partly because my riding skills are not quite there yet but also because I find the warm up arenas very intimidating and that makes me nervous and as we all know if the rider is nervous that transmits to the horse. Just riding together with other members has been fantastic for both of us and the support from other members has been really super. Other members have come along to be able to practice those moves that are easier to do in a large arena or to bring a new horse out to experience working in an indoor arena. Next mission for me is to manage more than 3 strides of canter at one of these sessions. Watch out for more dates coming soon.

If you look really closely at the picture you will notice Sarah is riding bareback ... well that's just what you do when you forget your girth

MEMBER SPECIAL MENTION

This quarter our Special Mention goes to our new Treasurer – Hazel Beecroft following her wedding. We would like to thank her sister (and fellow RC member) Lizzie for this article.



The weather itself was a story – it was forecasted to be continuously raining throughout the day, and it looked like this will be the case in the morning. But as soon as Hazel arrived at Chatteris Church in her Dad's car that was adorned in ribbons, bright sunshine and blue skies appeared! It must've been a blessed wedding and day! Hazel was very beautiful in her dress, and her hair was pinned up lovely with decorations and a grip. Alan Beecroft was very handsomely awaiting his bride. The music that Hazel walked down the aisle, which

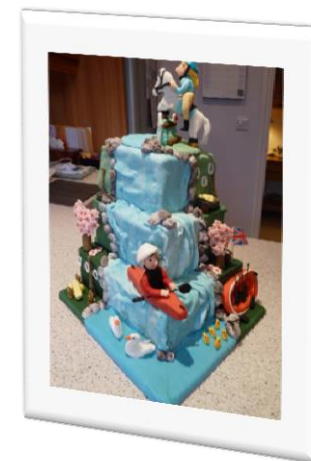
was the one used in the Lloyd's Bank horse advert - "Wings", was beautifully accompanied by my cousin's singing voice. The 45-minutes church service was really lovely and included speeches from Hazel's Mum and Dad and the fate-sealing signing of the register that I witnessed. It was followed by a small reception of Prosecco, which allowed the guests to mingle as great photographs were taken, and Dad gave a fun speech as fathers of the bride do.

Then we all peeled off towards the Anchor pub at Sutton Gault, a lovely authentic and rustic setting

Congratulations

At the Anchor, it was a P-A-R-T-Y!! Well, before it all got very merry, we all milled about to continue chatting and to admire Mr and Mrs Beecroft. There was also this fantastic wedding cake home-made by the groom's Mum, which has a white horse jumping with its blonde rider (guess who they represent!) and a lad in his kayak with brown hair plus other things like a small bucket of Patrick's poo (apparently so...). Hazel was given a wedding present from Jester – silver-painted and ribboned set of his horseshoes! We had a nice posh three course meal amongst favours (homemade horse-, saddle- and paddle-shaped cookies), home-grown flowers and bottles of wine. Then the four dark suited men turned up to play their band equipment, which cooked up a great party scene in a small venue that worked really well. The wine flowed, the people revelled and smiles and chatter filled the atmosphere as the music carried us up to midnight.

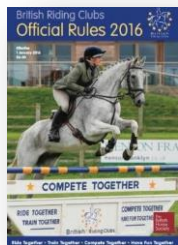
In total, it was a great wedding and a special day! Now our Hazel is a Mrs Hazel Beecroft, and Jester is a Jester Beecroft – for a blessed future, I am sure!



Kindly reported by the Maid of Honour, Lizzie Bannister (Patrick's owner). The photographs are kindly supplied by Richard Beecroft.

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

AND FINALLY



The 2016 BHS Rule book can be downloaded from here
<http://www.bhs.org.uk/enjoy-riding/british-riding-clubs/brc-rulebook>



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 HOPE YOU LIKE THE NEW LOGO

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.