

NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2003



Bourne Valley Riding Club incorporating Woodhay District Riding Club

(Affiliated to the British Horse Society)

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Hello everyone,

Winter is upon us now, with dark evenings and plenty of rain which hopefully won't dampen our enthusiasm! At least we have plenty of fond memories of the past year to reflect upon.

Winter notwithstanding, there are plenty of opportunities to practice our skills or just to chill out. Try taking advantage of the tuition offered, or why not join the RA Hunt through the special rate offered to the BVRC. The Christmas Ride will give a chance to stroll across the Plain or, if you prefer, try the DIY cross-country ride at Firgo Farm. So much riding, so little time! Wrap up warm and enjoy the season.

Forthcoming Events



Christmas Ride – Saturday 6th December 2003 at 12pm.

This hugely popular bracing ride over the Plain will this year start from Rookery Farm, Orcheston. There will be two rides, a slow ride (slow meaning slow and consisting of mostly walk and trot work) and a faster ride, which will canter about a bit more. Start time of 12 noon. There will be mince pies and mulled wine at the end of the ride. Arctic clothing essential! The ride is FREE to members £3 to non-members (16 years or older), please let Roy Southey know (01980 621068 leave a message on the answer phone) if you intend to come. **Directions:** From the A303, turn towards Devizes at the Stonehenge ring. Proceed through Shrewton staying on the road to Devizes and, once out of the village by about 500m, at the top of the hill turn right signed to Orcheston. Follow the road down to the end, carrying on past the dead-end sign. Rookery Farm is at the end of the road.



Firgo Farm XC Ride Sunday 30th November 2003 at 10am.

There will be a relaxed DIY cross country session booked at Firgo Farm 29th November starting from 10am. Cost of the ride will be £8 per member, £10 for non-members (16 years or older). Back protectors are mandatory, and please ride with a companion. If you have not arranged to ride with someone prior to the day, you can be partnered on arrival. Firgo Farm can be found on the A34 immediately to the north (Newbury direction) of the A303/A34 junction. Please fill in and return the slip if you wish to go.

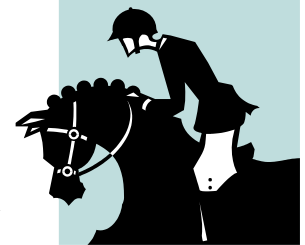
British Riding Clubs Area 17 Winter League

Sparsholt College, near Winchester, is hosting the Area 17 Winter Show Jumping and Dressage Series again this year. Show Jumping rounds are on Saturday 20th December 2003 and Sunday 15th February 2004, with Dressage booked in for Saturday 17th January 2004 and Sunday 28th March 2004. The competitions are open to members of affiliated Riding Clubs who have registered to take part (which the BVRC has). Flu certificates must accompany the horse to the event for spot checks. No entries taken on the day. Please read the rules carefully to avoid disappointment! Entry forms are available from the entries secretary Mr P Buist, Silverlea, New Road, Timsbury, Romsey, Hants SO51 0NL.

Instruction

Here's instruction to suit everyone's busy schedule – you can choose from:

- Weekday instruction with Diana Burgess at Castle Farm, Over Wallop;
- Weekend sessions with Elizabeth Peerless at Castle Farm;
- Evening sessions with Sorrel Warwick at Cholderton House EC.



All the General instruction sessions consist of some flatwork with some optional gridwork a small course of jumps at the end. Each session will last 1½ hours. Dates for General Instruction are:

Elizabeth Peerless(£14)
Castle Farm, Over Wallop
1.30pm Usually Saturdays
22nd November

Sorrel Warwick (£12)
Cholderton House EC
6.45pm Usually Tuesdays
Resuming in the New Year

Diana Burgess (£14)
Castle Farm, Over Wallop
10am and 11.30am Usually Thursdays
4th & 11th December

The instruction sessions are aimed at all levels of horse and rider - do come and have a go. If you wish to attend, please send the attached reply slip to Lindsay Hills **AT LEAST 3 DAYS BEFORE** the due date (separate cheques for each session with date marked on the back of the cheque please). If there is more than 1 group, please ring 2 days beforehand to find out to which group you have been allocated.

Please ring Lindsay asap if you wish to attend Elizabeth's Instruction on 22nd November.

BRC National Medium Dressage Championships at Lincoln on 13th September

We were all rather surprised that I had qualified for Lincoln as I was only second in my medium class at the area qualifier. So I said yes I'd go thinking it about four hours in the lorry. It wasn't it was six hours and SO MUCH TRAFFIC. So it was lovely to get there. I had arranged with Hampshire Rural Riding Club to be next to them in the stables so if I wasn't around someone would keep an eye on Milly. They are after all our arch rivals so their kindness was much appreciated and I was able to go out to supper with some very old friends, my daughter's godmother who lives about five miles from the showground.

Distances on the showground seem huge and I walked for ever to check in and then came back to ride the pony in for one and three quarter hours. He was very tense but just managed to control himself even when a riderless horse galloped up to him. It took an hour before I dared canter and I did every distracting and loosening exercise I could think of. The shoulder-in on both reins was very forward and engaged!

But then I decided to return to the stables, clean the tack, plait him, put in 8 studs and tidy and change myself. Then Lindsay arrived. That was marvellous. two people to work out where I had to go, which was by no means obvious. I was again working him in and he seemed more sensible.

Medium75 is a very nice test I think, but it is quite difficult and needs all one's concentration. I hoped he would settle in the arena. I had to wear spurs - a riding club rule not a B.D.rule.

I was first to go at 1.30 and we were sent through to the arena which was rather out on its own and surrounded by empty space, rather like a vast airfield. Milly whinnied looking for a friend. anyway all the tension came back. The going was fantastic. They hadn't prepared or watered the ground and there was no mown line on the grass down the centre which would have helped. But the surface was as good as any artificial one. So no excuses. but his tension made for several costly and uncharacteristic mistakes. What me do a walk pirouette? Go away from your leg? I'd rather stand on my hindlegs. But he didn't buck. I didn't fall off, and he did a stunning extended trot. Lindsay hadn't seen him perform since he was doing novice classes and was very appreciative of his progress.

The results came out hours later and we were 10th.....just in the ribbons.

I stayed a second night, which was as well because the presentation was quite late. Milly stayed with a friendly farmer who undid his plaits. He was surrounded by horses and wild ducks, quacking to their ducklings and walking one behind the other. I went rather late to ANNIE at Lincoln Theatre and then returned home the next day only 5 hours.

I am endlessly grateful to Lindsay for all the support she gave me and somewhat amazed that one goes so far for about 7 minutes in the arena. but then the Aussies came to Hickstead for 9 minutes of Grand Prix dressage!

Elizabeth Potter.

From the horses mouth

By Chris Linssner.

Its funny how differently the seasons can affect horses hooves.

This Autumn time of year I get many telephone calls from desperate equine parents who are in a bit of a stew because their horses feet seem to be falling apart. The frog is falling off or the sole has big holes in it.

I always ask the same question, is there any blood to see anywhere, and if there is not then there is probably nothing to worry about and is the fresh growth pushing old hoof off the foot.

The sole of the foot exfoliates (flakes off) as it grows and is continually being replaced by fresh horn. The Frog grows at the same rate and tends to need cutting off when shod and you can see this, as it becomes quite raggedy towards shoeing time.

The problem occurs during the summer months, which are dry for the hoof. The sole loses its ability to flake off, sticks to the fresh growth building up layer after layer, and develops into quite a thick wedge of hoof. The natural concave shape a normal sole has actually holds this wedge in place.

This does have an added advantage for the hoof as the thicker sole will protect against impacts from the harder summer ground.

When the climate changes to a liquid type, the hoof will suck up moisture like a sponge. The sole seems to develop into a marble effect and great lumps of hoof will fall out which has the further effect of terrifying you horse owners. Although it looks awful it is quite healthy and is a most natural thing to happen to the sole. There is something quite satisfying as a farrier being able to carve great chunks from the hoof and turn it into a clean, smooth sole again.

The frog is a little bit different. The moisture content of a healthy frog is about 25%, which is why it is quite pliable. When Hampshire turns into the Serengeti Plain, the frog is baked hard from the outside in.

As it grows from the inside, the new growth has a higher moisture content that is not compatible with the already hard exterior and as the hoof flexes during the horses normal day there is "interdigitation" between the incompatible interior and exterior which can cause separation.

The frog will also receive moisture in the form of condensation from within the hoof as it forms an upturned cup.

As with the sole, when natural moisture is readily available to the hoof, the hardened exterior cannot receive this as quickly as the softer interior, which will already have some moisture content. This causes separation in the form of the frog removing itself, sometimes in one single piece from the hoof and can cause white faces, panic and shock from even the most contentious of hoof cleaners.

The next port of call is me who will very kindly come round and trim all the excess growth from your nedly's feet.

I always think this looks great as the old tatty frog makes way for a delightful, brand new frog.

If you are ever in doubt about your frogs, simply scrub with warm salted water which will have the affect of cleansing, disinfecting and will harden a soft frog.

Subscriptions

Subscriptions were due for renewal on 1st November.

Subscriptions have been set at £20 for Riding Members and £12 for Non-Riding Members. We are offering a discount of £4 for Riding Members if the subs are paid before 31st December 2003. The reduced rate of £16 will apply for second and subsequent members of the same household. Return renewal forms to Sandra Groves. Let Sandra know if you haven't received or have lost you from. There are lots of good things happening so do rejoin soon. You will need a new membership card to take advantage of the RA Hunt subscription.

Newsletter and Email addresses.

If you have an E-mail address and would like information E-mailed to you, or change your existing E-mail address, please let Sandra know. Make sure the address given is accurate in terms of upper and lower case, dots, dashes and hyphens etc. If your E-mail address is a work one, make sure this is okay with your employers.

If you have any gossip you wish to share with us all through the Newsletter you can send information to Lindsay Devine 01980 863166 Lindsaydevine56@aol.com or Email news@bvrc.co.uk, fax: 01264 353853 or ring or write to Lindsay or Sandra (details above).

Hunting

A club subscription to the RA Hunt has been taken out again this year. This will enable club members to hunt up to 6 times during the season (from the end October to April) for a reduced cap (£15 or £20 (check on arrival) per day [this is £50 for non-subscribers]). Ring Nick Hornby (01380) 848117 for details of meets, times, parking, dress, protocol etc etc. Don't forget to take your membership card + £1 for the box watcher.

Hunt Treasurer: Nick Hornby, Paddocks, The Cartway, Wedhampton, Nr Devizes, Wilts. Tel: 01380 848117.

Braishfield Manor Fri 28 Nov 03

Please see details of this interesting event on the separate sheet.

ILPH Appeal

You may have seen details of this worthy cause from other contacts. The BVRC supports the sentiments expressed:

'The ILPH are petitioning the European Parliament asking them to use their powers to exclude UK horses and ponies from the live slaughter trade. They believe no horse should face a long, traumatic journey before its end. It only takes a moment to sign up - you too can sign the petition by visiting www.ilph.org/petitions.asp If this does not appear as a link please copy and paste it into your web browser. Please take a minute to visit the link and add your name to the petition. If you also have time write to Margaret Becket and express your concerns.'

Wanted, experienced rider to help exercise my horse.

Tidworth. Fantastic riding with no roads. No bills, no work, just ride. Must ride very well. Please call Helen Nash-Steer 01980 847407

FOR SALE. RICE TRAILER, OXFORD BLUE

two large horses**front and rear unload**refurbished.** new tyres,** new braking system,
total re-spray,**sound floor, **new upholstery really nice trailer £1200 ono
please call 01980 847026

OFFERED ON LOAN

KALI - 15.2HH Thoroughbred Mare 12 years - Done all Pony Club events / Goes clear X-Country Larkhill 3ft course. Is happy just as a fun hack also. 100% traffic, box, shoe, catch, clip etc. Must stay on farm home where she has been since a 4 year old.
Contact Dawn Elderfield: 01264 400287 or 07721 084903

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FOR SALE Champion Pro Plus jockey crash skull. Size 1½ (6¾ - 6 7/8) PAS 015
Brand new, never worn. Cost £46, will accept £30.
Mountain Horse "Sportive" long riding boots. Black Size 4 (37). Brand new, never worn. Still boxed.
Cost £140 will accept £100
Tel: 01980 843463 or 07753 613686.

LOAN HOME SOUGHT:

16.1hh middleweight chestnut mare (ex whips horse). Hunted regularly with the RA last season. Kind and easy ride. Has sidebone (now settled) sound but needs quieter life (hacking/half day hunting).
Apply Pippa Grob 01264 781645 or bmgrob@aol.com

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- LARGE WHITE WOODFLAKES PRODUCED FROM FRESHLY FELLED SOFTWOOD
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01980 65 45 45

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Lurcher Puppies (Collie cross)

Dogs & Bitches, black or tricoloured
Ready to go to good homes
07776308581 (Stockbridge)

British Riding Clubs Membership Discounts

5% discount from Rugwash – 01926 651286
20% off UK Chasers joining fee – 01865 351688
10% at BHS Bookshop – 01926 707762
5% discount at Crewe Gardens Animal Feeds – 01926 852939

BE discounts Day tickets £12.50 No joining fee,
Horse registration £10

Indoor School at Braishfield Manor Opens with Lecture-Demo

"TRAINING FOR THE WORKING RIDER"

Local international event rider **Robert Lemieux** will give a rare lecture demonstration to mark the official opening of the impressive new indoor training facilities at **Braishfield Manor** on **Friday 28th November 2003 at 7.30pm**

The event is being held in aid of Braishfield All Saints Church & Community Appeal and is sponsored by Horse Health Wessex, who will donate Prizes during the evening.

Robert, a former British National Champion who now riders for Canada and is short-listed for the Olympic Games in Athens next year, will use several local horses and riders as guinea pigs with the theme of the evening being "**Training for the Working Rider**".

This theme has been particularly chosen to appeal to all those hard pressed riders who have limited time to ride and train their horses. Robert himself is now involved in a large sports marketing company and fits in his riding around the commitments of his job, so has first hand experience of this situation.

Robert commented: "People have to be realistic about their approach and learn to make the best use of time available. Not everyone rides for two hours every day and has access to the best facilities and help from the ground – training from the text book can be very demanding!". He added: "We're not looking for short cuts just learning to prioritise what riders do".

The evening will also feature a short **Western Riding** demonstration by **Alison James**.

Refreshments and hot food will be available from **Ampfield Catering** throughout the evening.

Tickets - £10 for adults, £5 for under 16's and are available in advance from: Braishfield Manor, Braishfield, Nr Romsey, Hampshire, SO51 OPS. Cheques payable to Braishfield Manor Estate. For further information please call 01794 368 420

.....
Please send me _____ Tickets at £ _____ each. Total £ _____
Name _____
Address _____
Postcode _____
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Diary Dates Winter 2003

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NOVEMBER

22nd General Instruction with Elizabeth Peerless, Over Wallop

30th Dressage Series, Sparsholt EC

30th **BVRC Relaxed XC Ride** Firgo Farm

*Schedule from Mrs S Knight-Jones, The Beeches,
Duke Street, Micheldever, Winchester SO21 3DF
Organiser Lindsay Hills 01264 772388*

DECEMBER

6th **BVRC Christmas Ride** from Orcheston 12 noon

Organiser Roy Southey 01980 621068

4th General Instruction with Diana Burgess, Castle Farm, Over Wallop

11th General Instruction with Diana Burgess, Castle Farm, Over Wallop

14th Christmas Show Jumping Show, Sparshot EC

Schedules from Mrs T Attwood, 20 Templecombe Road, Bishopstoke, Eastleigh, SO50 8QL

20th BRC Area 17 Winter League Show Jumping, Sparsholt EC

Schedules from Mr P Buist, Silverlea, New Road, Timsbury, Romsey, Hants SO51 0NL

Instruction Reply Slips

FOR INSTRUCTION PLEASE RETURN ATTACHED REPLY SLIP TO Lindsay Hills, The Ridings, Dauntsey Lane, Weyhill, Andover, Hants SP11 8EB. (Please circle preferred times where appropriate).

Please make cheques payable to Bourne Valley Riding Club. (Separate cheques for each session.)

I enclose £14 for General Instruction with Diana Burgess at 10am or 11.30am (*please delete*) on Thursday 11th December 2003 at Castle Farm, Over Wallop.

Name Tel No

I enclose £14 for General Instruction with Diana Burgess at 10am or 11.30am (*please delete*) on Thursday 4th December 2003 at Castle Farm, Over Wallop.

Name Tel No

I enclose £8 / £10 for the Firgo Farm XC ride on 30th November starting at 10 a.m.

Name Tel No

I enclose £14 for General Instruction with Elizabeth Peerless at 1.30pm on Saturday 22nd November 2003 at Castle Farm, Over Wallop.

Name Tel No