



Cambridge and District Riding Club

Articles of
special
interest:

- New website
- May Show
- Grassroots
winner
- Horse trials
teams
- Area 7
winter SJ
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winter
dressage
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Champs

Ramblings from the chair...

Since the last newsletter and New Year letter, we have been lucky to experience a glimpse of spring in the air, with some lovely sunshine!

We have seen the winter show jumping and dressage competitions produce fabulous team entries, spirit and results. A massive thank you to all those who competed and helped over the two days. The polework sessions with Fran have been increased to twice monthly, and seem to be growing in popularity! Remember if you have any new ideas for training, do let us know.

Over the coming months we have lots to look forward to such as our annual club show will be on the 4th May, at Cottenham Racecourse. We already have lots of fabulous sponsors and prizes for you all, get your entries in early. This year we will also be hosting a Grass Roots qualifier on 13th July, this will cover dressage, show jumping and combined training. We will also be looking to provide some training in advance of this competition so keep an eye out for further updates.

This summer we are also joining forces with Huntingdon & District Riding Club for a Give It a Go Series (GIGS). This will be a fortnightly series of training, and mini competitions (no plaiting, no formal wear and no fuss) to enable members and non-members from both areas to come and try out new things; either new disciplines or making the next step – just Give It a Go!

The horse trial teams are also looking for participants, with a training day being planned at Keysoe in advance of the day – if you are keen to give this a go, Mary G would love to hear from you.

We'll also be launching our new website soon, this will enable us to keep the information on the site more up to date and provide an on line payment facility. We are expecting the site to go live in the next week or so – it's a first go at updating, all feedback will be welcomed, we expect to be making improvements for some time to come.

I hope this letter finds you all well and that preparations for you and your horses/ponies for the spring and summer ahead are going well! I look forward to seeing you all out and about, hopefully enjoying the sunshine ☺

Jo

Inaugural Grassroots Winner!

By Rebecca Jarvis

Letter sent to Area 7 clubs from the Grassroots Individual Winner.

Hi. Firstly I would like to thank all the people who organized and helped set up the Grassroots competition and get it off the ground, especially to Celia, David & Rosemary. Being the first person to win the grass roots competition, I would like to explain why I entered the competition.

In October 2012 I received a serious head injury after which I was unable to ride for six months. When I got back in the saddle, a little apprehensive, I realized that I still wanted to compete, but was not sure where to start. That is when I heard about the new competition called Grassroots. This was just what I needed, something to aim for, but not too daunting. My mare, Bluebell, is not the easiest of horses to take to shows. She becomes quite excited and I was not sure how she would cope at her first competition after such a long break, but I need not have worried.

I took her to the combined training at C&DRC May show – just the 60cm class. I found that other competitors had their own worries, such as young horses, nervous horses, nervous riders and I found I could relate to a lot of the competitors. I was absolutely delighted to find out that I had come 2nd! This gave me enormous confidence.

Next I went to Wittering Grange for the dressage competition, when again, I was placed. After that I went to the Area 7 Qualifier where they had a Grassroots show jumping class and I had another successful day! My next challenge was to compete in JumpCross. This was completely new to me and I really wasn't sure how I would fair, but to my amazement, Bluebell took to it easily and again, was successful. With my confidence flying, I decided to take Bluebell to an eventer trial. Not one of my better days, but we both came home safe and sound. The last event I went to was indoor show jumping. This was quite a challenge, as Bluebell finds this quite spooky. Once we had settled down we had another successful day – albeit a long day!



I have to thank the organisers of all these competitions, but also to the other competitors. Through Grassroots, I have not only regained my confidence, but I have tried a new competition and most of all made many new friends, from different areas. I found everyone encouraging and positive and this really helped me.

I have really enjoyed competing in Grassroots this year. I am convinced that a competition that appeals to young, old and nervous horses and riders will only gain support and interest. I even feel that Grassroots could become a British Riding Club national event with a series of local and qualifying competitions. I look forward to competing again.

Merchandise update

By Polly Taylor

New Cambridge and District Riding Club merchandise is available to view and to order on the website - for your horse and for you!

New and original polos, jackets, body warmers, hats, ear muffs, saddle cloths, C&DRC badges, cross country hat silks and tops will all be there - beautifully modelled by members two- and four- legged.

If you have any ideas for other items you might like buy, please email Polly at merchandise@canddrc.org.uk

Indoor Winter SJ Area Qualifier

By Jo Meningen

This year Cambridge & District Riding Club hosted the annual Area 7 Indoor Show Jumping Qualifier at Houghton Hall Equestrian Centre on Sunday, 23rd February. This event caters for junior and senior riders jumping two rounds of show jumps; one at 80cm and the second at 85cm, finishing with a jump off for those that jump two clear rounds. The prize being qualification to the Championships, held at the prestigious Hartpury College, Gloucestershire at the end of March. This event attracts a wide range of horses, ponies and riders from across across the Area 7 region; from North Mymms to Wisbech, from Wittering to Cambridge.

Each club can submit any number of teams, each team consisting of a minimum of three riders and a maximum of four. This year we had a fabulous turn out, with 7 junior teams and 15 senior teams contesting the few places to make it to the Championships, only the top two placed teams qualify.



C&DRC's Junior members excelled themselves with two teams taking both qualification spots. Cambridge Corpus Christi came first, made up of team members (from left to right in photo) Ella Rogers on Ruby Tuesday, Elizabeth

Stavroulakis on Spot on Zig Zag, Eloise Stringer on Havenstreet Sweet Sensation, and Hettie Rogers on High Flyer II.

Cambridge Kings came second, made up of team members Phoebe Plumb on JJ's Reclaimer, Clara Bailey on Out of the Blue, Isabella Fenton on Polarity Red and Nuala Hemington on By Jingo II (also left to right in photo).



For new members Eloise Stringer, Phoebe Plumb, Clara Bailey and Isabella Fenton this achievement was heightened by this being their first event competing for Cambridge & District Riding Club!

The Senior Competition was also hotly contested, with 15 teams each battling out the two qualification places. Everyone rode with determination to do their best for the team, whilst retaining a fantastic sense of fun and good competitive spirit.

The competition was very close, with first place going to the Hurricanes from Wittering Grange, who showed that the team performance is what counts producing the best collective score. Second place went to Cambridge's Trinity



Team (photo above) made up of Judi Shaw on Disney Magic, Rachel Dyke on Waterside Bay, Ella Crook on Mobile Phone and Alice Ellison with on Faith M.

It was a fantastic day, a real example of a fantastic Riding Club Competition. The event was organised by Judi Shaw of Cambridge & District Riding Club, with helpers supplied from all clubs. A massive thank you to the helpers and competitors that make these events a joy to be part of, and without whom the events would not happen.

The day was topped off by the presentation of the Area 7 Grassroots league. Grassroots is an Area 7 initiative, founded by Huntingdon & District Riding Club, which enables those new to riding or just getting back into riding to start competing with a bit less pressure to jump 80cm and over. The individual league was won this year by our very own Rebecca Jarvis (see above report). Rebecca started doing the Grassroots competitions to gain her confidence after a fall. This year the Grassroots competition will be held as qualifiers and culminating in a championship in September. Cambridge & District Riding Club will be hosting a qualifier at Meadow Lane Equestrian on 13th July – I would strongly recommend giving it a go!

Well done to all the competitors of the Novice Indoor Show Jumping Qualifier and best of luck to all those now looking forward to the Hartpury EquestrianClearance.com Championships in April.

Cottenham Show – Sunday 4th May

By Karen Froud

Cottenham show will be going ahead as usual on the weekend of the first May Bank Holiday at Cottenham Racecourse. There are classes for show jumping, dressage, showing (both ridden and in hand) plus Fancy Dress and gymkhana games. All levels are catered for, and it is a great first outing for novices and new combinations.

As ever, the show only runs with the help of lots of volunteers, both on the day and for set up and clearing away. However it is a great day out, and a good fundraiser for the club, so do please come along.

Setting up takes place from 2pm on the Saturday, all welcome, bring the family along!! Refreshments provided. We are also looking for dressage writers, showing stewards and assorted helpers on the day for a few hours or a half day. Plus we will need helpers with the important job of dismantling, loading and transporting the show jumps home at the end.

Do let us know if you are able to help in any way. You can contact the show committee by email to show2014@canddrc.org.uk

The schedule is now available on the website, (and will be in local tackshops soon) and for the first time this year, we are able to take online entries. Hope to see you there!

Give It A Go Series

By Jo Meningen

As mentioned in my "Ramblings from the Chair", this summer we are joining forces with H&DRC for a series of events which will run from Thursday 1st May fortnightly through to September. The table below shows the range of events that will be available:

All dates are Thursdays	Event	Categories
1 st May	Flatwork Clinic	Intro, Prelim, Novice
15 th May	Test & Feedback	Intro, Prelim, Novice
12 th June	Ride a Test	Intro, Prelim, Novice
26 th June	Simulated XC Clinic	60-75cm, 75-90cm, 90cm +
10 th July	Interclub Competition	Dressage & Show Jumping
24 th July	SJ Clinic	60-75cm, 75-90cm, 90cm +
7 th August	Jump & Feedback	60-75cm, 75-90cm, 90cm +
21 st August	Ride a Round	60-75cm, 75-90cm, 90cm +
4 th September	Interclub Competition	Dressage & Show Jumping
18 th September	Simulated XC Clinic	60-75cm, 75-90cm, 90cm +
25 th September	Grand Final Competition	Dressage & Show Jumping

The formal schedule will be available shortly and advance entries will be required as spaces will be limited – especially with both clubs attending. We hope that you will find these sessions of use, whether starting out, looking to compete or if you're looking to take your riding to a new level.

The focus of these events will be friendly and informal, there will be no requirements for plaiting, no formal attire, and no tack restrictions – wear whatever is comfortable and enables you and your horse/pony to continue to grow in whatever you do.

I hope to see many of you there! If you would like to register an interest in this early, please drop me an email – j.meningen@canddrc.org.uk.

Huntingdon RC Quiz

By Karen Froud

On January 24th, we accepted an invitation to the Huntingdon RC quiz at Alconbury. Unfortunately we were not able to field a complete Cambridge team, but Polly Taylor, Nettie Smith and myself joined a composite team with David Clarke and Anna Cook of Huntingdon, and Natalie Biggs of Wisbech.

We held our own amidst the competition, and did win one of the extra satellite rounds, so managed to uphold the good name of Cambridge!! It was a jolly evening, and a positive in promoting good interclub relations.

Winter Area Dressage Qualifier

By Serena Allery

C&DRC had a total of 5 senior teams at the area qualifier, and my comment to my mother after doing the entries: "Now do you reckon I can get 20 horses and 19 riders to it?" The plan was not for the problem to be one of my two horses! Sadly Skippy spooked when hacking the weekend before, shot forward, overreaching and pulling a shoe off. The shoe hit his back leg hard and the nail cut his leg! Cue vet visit ... Now every horse pulls shoes off sometimes, but that was quite impressive on his part. Thank you must go to Barry Meningen who stepped in at the last minute to bring a second horse to replace mine.

The day itself was lovely and sunny, but not without incident. Two horses got loose and started galloping around the field where the overflow lorry was, and I had to grab hold of my Charlie to stop him joining them. Poor Julie fell off in the collecting ring, but boldly got back on and rode her test. Then at the end of the day the results were put up, placing Cambridge Girton team 3rd, just outside of the qualifying places. However on closer inspection we found that they had added a 1 in front of Frances's placing, making her 10 results further down than she was! Once that was rectified, Girton came in 2nd out of 29 teams, thus qualifying for the Nationals. ☺ We also had to ask for team Robinson to be corrected, as Sue had been noted down as 7th rather than her fabulous 1st. Sadly the team was still just outside of the rosettes.

The Girton team was:

Serena Allery & Time To Shine, Heather Mussett & Commanche Finale, Barbara Heaton-Smith & Hokey Pokey, Frances Long & Temple Mist.

Good luck at the National Championships at the end of March.



Prelim results:

It was a good win for Serena Allery & Time To Shine (pictured left) with 72.75%, Cathy Barnes & Clonshire Sudoku came in 6th with 63%, and Barry Meningen & Lomark Lady just missed the rosettes with 62.25% for 7th.

C&DRC was also represented by Sass Pledger, Sharon Monksfield, Karen Tyrrell, Julie Horne, Hannah Stevenson, Emma Rickett and Heather Mussett.

Novice results:

It was a lovely win for Sue Peck & Humphrey with 68.85%, Andrea Hemington & Tiercel Mickey Mouse just missed the rosettes with 64.62% for 7th and the same for Frances Long & Temple Mist who were 8th with 64.23%.

In the other arena Barbara Heaton-Smith & Hokey Pokey came 4th with 68.08%, Barry Meningen & News For You were 6th with 67.5%. C&DRC were also represented by Rachel Casbon, Karen Froud, Rachel Allum, Claire Freer & Caryn Wilkinson.

We had some really high scores, and it was great to see lots of new faces to the teams 😊

In the RWHS qualifier (final now to be held at Festival of the Horse) Serena Allery & Time To Shine just missed out on qualifying, coming 3rd in the arena with 69.8%. (Top 2 qualify). C&DRC was also represented in the RWHS qualifier by Sue Peck, Heather Mussett, Caryn Wilkinson, Sass Pledger & Barry Meningen.

The award for impressive craziness goes to Barbara Heaton-Smith. (Barbara you are getting good at getting this one!) She and Hokey Pokey were at Patchetts EC doing a BD regional finals for prelim level, riding their test at 8am. Patchetts is at Aldenham in Watford. Barbara then drove to Keysoe EC to do this area Novice area test just after lunch! Congratulations to Barbara for coming 6th at Patchetts.

Gold star awards of thanks go to the fabulous helpers, without whom the teams would not be allowed to compete:

Cindy Wells – Writing for a dressage judge.

Jo Meningen – Stewarding one slot then tack checking on a second slot.

Claire Freer, Rachel Allum & Andrea Hemington – Stewarding (or might have been tack checking?)

C&DRC Horse Trials teams

By Kerry Simson & Mary Groombridge

The Area 7 Horse Trials ODE team qualifier is to be held at Keysoe on Bank Holiday Monday 26th May 2014 and we will be looking for riders to represent the club in the 90cm Novice, 1m Intermediate and 1m + Open sections. There will also be an 80cm section for very novice combinations. This is a qualifier for the National Horse Trials Championships at Swalcliffe Park Oxon 1-3 August 2014.

If you are interested in representing your club on a team please check that your horses Flu Vaccinations are up to date and the eligibility of you and your horse for the height by checking the BRC rules on the BRC website and e.mail Mary Groombridge on m.groombridge@canddrc.org.uk or call 07803 618561 by 21st April 2014 confirming your name, your BRC number, the name of your horse on its passport and its passport number and the height at which you want to compete. Juniors should contact Hermione Stavroulakis on 07765 506682

You will then be required to send Mary or Hermione a copy of your Flu Vac certificate and a cheque for £50 payable to C&DRC by 25th April to confirm

your intention to ride. Mary will be sending the Prelim entries to BRC head office the following week and will need to have your payment before this time to confirm your entry. **No payment = No place on the team!** Once the team entries have been sent off to the area organisers you are committed to paying for your place on the team unless a replacement can be found.

XC TRAINING

We have booked the XC course at Keysoe on Sat 26th April from 9am to 1pm for XC training for the Senior Horse Trials teams and anybody wishing to ride on a team will be expected to attend this training. This will give Mary & Kerry and the Instructor (the selectors!) a chance to see you in action so they can decide who should ride on what team (and to check you are safe Ha Ha!). This date is far enough ahead of the qualifier to avoid any issues about practising over the course.

The cost will be £35 per person for a 1 hour group lesson with Instructor Fran Berry and includes a XC schooling pass for one horse (£25). If we have more than 15 people attend the training the cost may be reduced by £5 per person. We plan to have 4 groups of 5 riders:

9am Open 1m+
10am Intermediate 1m
11am Novice 90cm and
12noon Pre-Novice 80cm

Please confirm you wish to attend to Mary Groombridge via email asap and send your cheque for £35 payable to C&DRC along with your name and mobile contact number to Mary by 31st March to confirm your space. Spaces will be allocated on a first come first served basis and will be limited to a maximum of 20 riders.

Junior riders should contact Hermione if you want to attend the training and she will try to arrange a session 1-2pm for Juniors if there is enough interest. We will also be organising some team training sessions at Meadow Farm Equestrian, Earith on Friday 16th and Friday 23rd May 6-8pm, to practise the horse trials dressage test and showjumping courses. We hope to organise test riding practise with an instructor (ride the test, discuss judges comments and areas for improvement and re-ride test/work on issues etc) and have a course of showjumps available for clear round showjumping. Details will be circulated nearer the time but please let Mary know if you are interested in the test riding so we can book an instructor.

New C&DRC website!

By Jo Meningen

Don't faint everyone but we really do have a new website 😊
Online entries can now be taken, and more information will be added over the next few weeks.
Please let us know what you think.

Summer 2014 Grassroots League

By Karen Froud

The grassroots competitions have been modified for the 2014 season. Although the bigger events, such as the horse trials and JumpCross will be run, as before, in association with the regular Area7 qualifiers as one off events, the show jumping, dressage and combined training will be run as a series of qualifiers through the region, culminating in a championship at Earith in September. Competitors can ride in any or all of the qualifier rounds, and the top teams and individuals will be invited to the championships. The aim is to have a whole event for grassroots riders, where roles can be reversed so that the regular team riders are the helpers this time! The format of the competitions is as for the usual qualifiers, but at a lower level.

Our club qualifier will be held on Sunday July 13th at Meadow Lane Equestrian, Earith. Rachel Casbon will be the grassroots team co-ordinator. If you are interested, do join in the GIG sessions as these will provide excellent training towards the grassroots day.

A grassroots combination is essentially someone who has not competed at affiliated level, or in the regular RC teams. However cases can be considered on an individual basis, for example a dressage rider who does not normally compete at jumping, so do contact us if you are interested.

Summer 2013 Dressage Report

By Serena Allery

Area Dressage Report from the Summer of 2013. Sorry it was not written last year due to my broken hand ☹

Five teams contested the summer area dressage representing C&DRC, and every single horse and rider came home with a rosette. A fabulous result! Well done everyone ☺ There were also quite a number of C&DRC scores in the Seventy plus percentages, which is seriously impressive!

Congratulations must go to the Senior Prelim Team who won and were invited to the Nationals at Lincoln.

The Senior Prelim team was:

Cathy Jefferies, Leave The Cat Alone

Serena Allery, Time To Shine, also individual 1st with 71.3%

Heather Mussett, Commanche Finale, also individual 6th with 66.7%

Andrea Hemington, Tiercel Mickey Mouse, also individual 1st with 70.4%

Senior Novice team, 5th placed:

N27 Cathy Jefferies, Pinocchio, also individual 6th with 65.4%

N28 Charlotte Jacklin-Lee, Jaylan First Early, also individual 4th with 63.8%

N30 Serena Allery, Moreno Utopia, also individual 4th with 65.4%

E44 Rachel Rennie, The Only Way Is Higher

Selwyn Riding Test Team, 3rd placed and just missing qualifying:

Cathy Jefferies on Leave The Cat Alone

Andrea Hemington on By Jingo II, also individual 4th with 72.8%, also congratulations on the individual qualification for the Nationals.
Serena Allery on Moreno Utopia, also individual 2nd with 73.7%
Olivia Mejias, Vulcano

Churchill Riding Test Team, 4th placed:
Serena Allery, Time To Shine, also individual 5th with 72.2%
Charlotte Jacklin-Lee, Jaylan First Early, also individual 6th with 71.7%
Cathy Jefferies, Pinocchio
Andrea Hemington, Tiercel Mickey Mouse, also individual 5th with 69.5%

Grassroots Team, 2nd placed:
Sharon Monksfield, Bernstein Brochade
Claire Johnston, Vulcano
Rebecca Jarvis, Bluebell, also individual 3rd in Intro A with 68.3% & individual 4th in Prelim 4 with 67.7%
Sadly Rebecca Thompson had to withdraw a poorly baby Jack, as he took drastic action to avoid doing a bit of dressage and made a hole in his face the day before and acquired a rather large vet bill for poor Rebecca instead!

Pairs, placed 2nd with 67.1% - Serena Allery, Time To Shine & Barbara Heaton-Smith, Hokey Pokey.

The award for impressive craziness goes to both Serena Allery and Barbara Heaton-Smith. Serena for competing in five(!) different tests across 2 horses on a very warm day, and Barbara for flying home early from Aachen World Equestrian Festival, very early in the morning, to do the pairs dressage test with Serena.

Gold star awards of thanks go to the fabulous helpers, without whom the teams would not be allowed to compete, your help is really appreciated.
Stewarding: Carey Mussett, Serena Allery, Rachel Rennie & Alison Mackenzie (friend of Sharon Monksfield). Writing for a dressage judge: Martin Allery
PS. my Dad really isn't 'horsey' and had never written for a dressage judge before. He found it really very interesting and he now knows in part what I'm trying to achieve when I'm doing dressage. For anyone interested in trying dressage writing he says give it a go, it's very informative!

Lincoln National Championships 2013

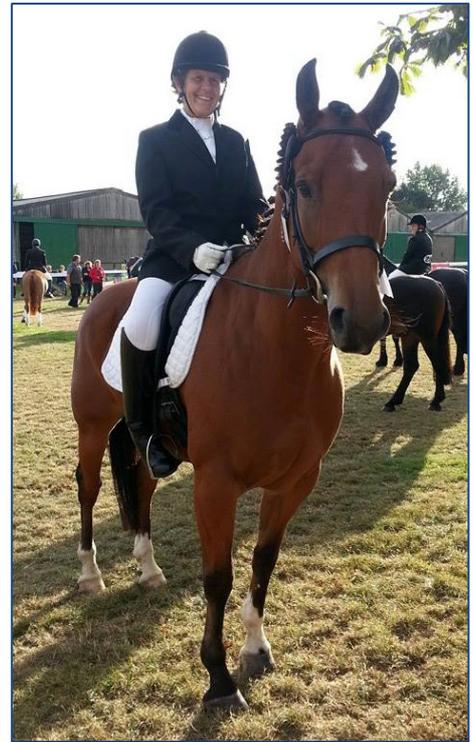
The team went to a rather rock-hard Lincoln Showground last September on a lovely sunny day.

Leave The Cat Alone unfortunately played up in the big atmosphere for Cathy Jefferies, but still scored a good 60%. Time To Shine had unfortunately needed a few weeks off just prior to the competition, and was not on top form for Serena Allery, scoring 66.25% for 11th. Heather Mussett & Commanche Finale were unable to make the championship dates. They were replaced by Barbara Heaton-Smith and Hokey Pokey, who scored an amazing 71.25% for 2nd (pictured below).

Andrea Hemington & Tiercel Mickey Mouse did a good solid test for 10th with 66.25% in their arena. Overall the team came 9th, so all received a beautiful championship rosette.

Andrea Hemington also had By Jingo II at the nationals, scoring a brilliant 67.78% for 7th in the riding test. Congratulations to everyone 😊

The Gold Star award of thanks for the Nationals goes to my good friend Jo Hall, who came up and was a dressage arena steward for the afternoon for the team helper role. Jo also was the team helper for the combined training team at the championships at the Festival of the Horse. There she was dressage arena steward for three rings, so is getting very good at this game. Thank you Jo from all the team members.



HOLIDAY Courtyard Farm, Ringstead

Wednesday 17th September – Tuesday 23rd September 2014

Courtyard Farm is about three miles from Holme beach by the shortest route. The farm has numerous tracks and a lot of the field margins can be ridden on, which gives tremendous scope for really good hacking, without road work, and also joins up with the Peddars Way. It is also hilly so great for fitness work. It is also easy to go across country cutting out most of the roads to get to the beach. It is ideal for young horses as they can be hacked around the farm without going on the roads at all. Last year a lot of young horses attended and enjoyed the hacking. I am always much more confident about hacking out, by the time I come home. Most of the verges are wide and the drivers seem to be much better at slowing down for horses than in Cambridgeshire. Burnham Market cross country course is nearby, if people want a schooling session or lesson.

There are eight stables and three fields available to us and a bunk barn with two dormitories that hold twelve people, as well as having a kitchen, communal room, showers and loos. We normally divide the fields with electric fencing so turnout is available for all horses. The price is £15.00 per night per person for the bunk barn and £10 per night for a field and stable per horse. The total for six nights will be £150. Dogs are free. If you sleep in your lorry, but use the barn facilities the charge is still £15. If oversubscribed, priority will be given to people staying for the full 6 nights. If you would like a shorter break let me know, as we may still be able to accommodate you. Some people usually sleep in their lorries and some horses stay out at night, so we can have quite a large party.

Dogs are welcome on the farm, but have to be kept on a lead/under control because of the game. They are allowed to run freely in the camping field but are not allowed in the barn. There are two kennels with runs near the stables or they can sleep in your tent or lorry.

It may be possible to organise cross country training with Emily Lochore over Burnham Market cross country course if people are interested.

If you would like to come please send a **DEPOSIT OF £20.00 ASAP** to Mary Owen, Blue Roan Farm, Parkhall Road, Somersham, Huntingdon PE28 3HG

Name	e-mail address
Telephone Number	
I enclose my deposit for £20.00 for 17 th - 23 rd September 2014	
I require a stable for my horse	
I require a field for my horse	
I would like to sleep in the barn	
I will be sleeping in my horse box/tent	Using barn facilities Yes/ No
I will be bringing a dog/ or dogs	Number
I would like to go to Burnham Market cross country schooling if possible.	
I will read the Bunk Barn Health and Safety Conditions and abide by them.	
I have the following Medical condition you should be aware of.	