



Cambridge and District Riding Club

Articles of
special
interest:

- Combined Training
- May Show
- Area 7 Grassroots
- Dressage to Music
- Area 7 SJ
- Points League
- C&DRC holidays

Ramblings from the chair...

Today as I write, hay is being cut around the area. Is it me or is it wrong to be still wearing my coat as this happens? The New Zealand rugs keep getting put away and then re emerging again ... But I am sure summer is on its way really!

Hopefully it will emerge in time for our show jumping qualifier on the 21st of July. This will be at Cottenham Racecourse and we are looking for helpers both on the day and to set up from 2pm on the Saturday, as well as competitors for the teams of course. Another leg of the Area 7 Grassroots league will take place at the same time. This is so far proving to be very popular, and is giving a new group of RC members the chance to represent their club on a team.

I attended the Horse Trials qualifier at Milton Keynes as a fence judge this year. As usual Cambridge helpers were there in force, and I would like to thank everyone who gave up their time to help at this event. All ran smoothly, and there was the now customary Cambridge win for the Senior 90 Team! Well done all.

This autumn I feel it is time for change on the RC committee. Due to work related time constraints I feel it is time for new ideas and new enthusiasms to lead Cambridge RC into the next few years, so I will be resigning from the position of Chair. I have thoroughly enjoyed my stint and wish my successor every good fortune. Volunteers on a postcard please ...

Enjoy the summer

Karen

Combined Training report

By Serena Allery

I agreed to be the Combined Training team manager for C&DRC for the first time this year, which means I can now quote some relevant page numbers in the Riding Club rule book! The Area 7 Qualifier was held at Wittering Grange on 7th April 2013.

250 emails later, 4 senior teams & 1 junior team went to the area qualifier, the most of any club in Area 7, Cambridge nearly made up half of all senior entries. Due to the inclement weather in the run up to the competition, it was held on the surfaces at Wittering, although the dressage warm up was on grass.

Prelim / 75cm SJ - Serena Allery's Time To Shine completed his customary solid dressage test, if with a little less sparkle than normal to take the lead on a score of 164. Claire Elbrow's own horse sadly went lame a few days before the competition, so she borrowed Domino from a kind friend, lying 3rd after the dressage with a score of 157. Onto the show-jumping and Verena Waddington gamely climbed back on board Tasheena's Foxy Lady after a tumble in the double. Time To Shine un-customarily got eliminated at fence 3, sadly ending his chances on the day. (He was lame the next day which explained his behaviour.) Domino went well with just 8 faults adding to his score, keeping a great 3rd place for this promising young horse. New member Claire Freer completed a lovely test with India and a good round SJ to finish 5th. Heather Mussett finished just outside of the rosettes in 7th place, but with one of only 4 clear rounds on the day from the Prelim / 75cm class.

Novice / 85cm SJ – Sue Peck's lovely grey Humphrey did his customary lovely test to take the lead on a score of 189, and despite two down in the SJ he came equal 2nd. Serena Allery's Moreno Utopia also did one of his best tests to score 187, but took some persuading that he could fit into the too-short 1-stride double, and the resulting faults dropped him off the leader board. Emma Pepperell's gorgeous bay Josey Wales also had a test score of 187, adding just 8 faults to take 4th place. Kerry Simson's Go With the Flo completed a beautiful test for a score of 183, and with just one unfortunate time fault to add to her score, Kerry won the class. With only 3 clear-rounds in this class this was the best of the Cambridge SJ scores.

In the Juniors Tara Jefferies with Pinocchio came into the lead of the with a score of 160, so far in front that they won the Prelim / 75cm class despite 14 faults in the SJ phase. Eleanor Grinstead with Loughan Donning Lad finished 5th with a dressage score of 134 and 11 added in the SJ ring. In the Novice / 85cm class Ella Rogers and Ruby Tuesday came 3rd with a test score of 171 and a rare clear SJ score. With these good scores the Junior team was unlucky to only achieve a 2nd place in the teams.

The Team results are as follows:

Senior 1st placed team - Selwyn:

Jo Meningen	Molly McCreedy
Claire Freer	India
Sue Peck	Humphrey
Rachel Casbon	Joshuas Boy

Senior 3rd placed team - Churchill:

Heather Mussett	Commanche Finale
Serena Allery	Time To Shine
Kerry Simson	Go with the Flo
Olivia Mejias	Vulcano

Girton team:

Verena Waddington	Tasheena's Foxy Lady
Claire Elbrow	Domino
Charlotte Freeman	Willow The Wisp
Serena Allery	Moreno Utopia

Robinson team:

Barry Meningen	Lomark Lady
Karin Newell	McNab
Emma Pepperell	Josey Wales

Junior 2nd placed team - Emmanuel:

Tara Jefferies	Pinocchio
Eleanor Grinstead	Loughan Donning Lad
Ella Rogers	Ruby Tuesday 63
Lily Freeman	Vantage Ponga

Thank you to the following wonderful helpers who allowed the 5 teams to compete. A big Gold Star Thankyou to Rachel Rennie for still coming to help after having to pull out her lame horse the day before. Big Thank you's also to the other helpers: Cathy Jefferies, Claire Freer, Heather & Carey Mussett, Jo & Barry Meningen, Kerry Simson, Julian Freeman & Karon Rogers.

As individuals Kerry Simson, Tara Jefferies & Ella Rogers all qualified for the Championships. Kerry did not go, but Ella achieved a fantastic 5th place and Tara 8th in the Juniors. Congratulations to both of them.

The Selwyn winning team qualified for the Championships held at Aston le Walls, but unfortunately Claire Freer was on holiday in France, Jo Meningen's Molly McCreedy injured herself and Rachel Casbon's Joshua's Boy hurt his back. (Thankfully Joshy has since recovered and is competing again). Claire Elbrow with Domino & Serena Allery with Moreno Utopia took their places. With all 3 scores to count the pressure was on, all performed well, but the team finished just outside of the ribbons. Sue Peck with Humphrey got a fantastic 10th place despite 4 faults in the SJ. Sue came with me as Humphrey needs a lorry to

travel any distance, and poor Sue had a bit of a panic half-way there when she mentioned that she must remember not to do a serpentine in the wrong place, as she had also been practicing her Dressage To Music test. After a pause I pointed out that there was no serpentine in the test at all! It transpired that Sue had learnt Novice 28 in error rather than Novice 27, oops! Luckily she



was able to learn N27 on the way and her test was faultless. As you can see from the picture the panic of the wrong test and the excitement of the 10th place proved exhausting for Sue. Sorry Sue, couldn't resist this picture ☺

Another Gold Star Thank you goes to Jo Hall who came to be our Team Helper at the nationals and ended up being the steward for three dressage rings not just one, due to no-shows of helpers! Thank you also to Cathy Jefferies who took over from Jo so that she could watch me compete.

Inaugural Grass Roots report

By Serena Allery

Cambridge fielded two grassroots teams for the Combined Training held at C&DRC's May Show. It was lovely to see some new team riders and some baby horses at their first team competitions, and everyone had a fantastic time in lovely sunny weather which was especially ordered for the day. Rebecca Jarvis did especially well with Bluebell, a clear SJ allowing her to stay on her dressage score of 170 for second place.

Bluebell clearly enjoyed herself too – see photo on right. The photo is reproduced by kind permission of Frances Kay Photo Events.



Congratulations to the team-members:

Sandra Joyes	Toprock Matey
Rebecca Jarvis	Bluebell
Zoe Sylvester	Bertie Boy
Rebecca Thompson	Jacque Colores
Rachel Rennie	Bear Tobouggie
Joanne Harrison	Stonepark Terry

May Open Show

By Cindy Wells

Thank you to everyone who came to help in any way at all, and of course to all competitors. This year's show was well attended and had lovely weather. There were lots of dressage, show jumping and showing class entries, and the fancy dress and gymkhana games were great fun. We also held the first round of the Area 7 Grassroots league (see above) which had entries from seven teams.

Rather than take up a lot of space in the newsletter, all the results from the May Show can be found on our website on the Club Shows page.

The photographer on the day was Frances Kay – please see her website to order any photos from the show <http://www.franceskayphotoevents.co.uk/>

Poplar Park holiday

By Mary Owen

If you are a new member, in the last five years or so, you may not be aware that a large party of members, friends, horses, ponies and dogs used to descend on Poplar Park for the Bank holiday weekend.

This year we went to Poplar Park from 23rd to 26th May. The facilities are absolutely fantastic. We had the L shaped driving yard to ourselves which has fifteen good sized wooden stables. The arena had been enlarged and revamped and is rubber topped. The cross country course has four water



complexes and numerous fences of all types and the whole site is covered in sandy tracks. The terrain is hilly so is great for working horses that are used to only the Cambridgeshire fens.

I was over the moon to be able to take my young horse this year. The first day we arrived I took her out in the evening for a hack. She was extremely spooky as we hacked across the cross

country course passing different fences to the bluebell wood which was absolutely magnificent. We then left the Park and went out into the woodland and saw plenty of deer. Poppy tried to flee when they moved at speed in front of us, but was too inquisitive and turned around to watch them.

The following day it was raining pretty heavily all morning. In the afternoon I took Poppy and worked her in the huge sloping sand arena to calm her down prior to hacking out with Judi and Niki. We went for miles along the sandy tracks, opening easy gates along the way.

On the third day, I took Poppy in the sandy sloping arena again, which was marvellous for improving her balance especially in canter. Judi and Niki then helped adjust some practice jumps for us, prior to going in the show jumping ring to see how she reacted to coloured fences. We then all went hacking together in the afternoon. We started off going across the cross country course. We went into one water jump and then another and followed that by jumping up out of the water. I then wanted to jump down a step, so we found one of those and also a ditch and then anything we came across that was small and inviting. We then finally made it



out of the park for a long hack, which only involved crossing one road twice. We saw Exmoor ponies and Samoa sheep, both used for conservation purposes, pigs and deer.

The last day, I worked her in the school again prior to hacking her alone, jumping some small logs in the forest. It was then time to pack up and go home. We had both gained in confidence over the time away and achieved far more than I had hoped for. My thanks go to Niki for

organising the holiday and also to Judi for the company and help. I hope to see **lots more people** there next year as Niki was making a booking when she paid.

BRC Area 7 SJ Summer Qualifier

By Judi Shaw

C&DRC are holding the Area 7 Show Jumping and Style Jumping Qualifier at Cottenham Racecourse on Sunday, 21st July 2013. If you are able to spare some time, please come along on Saturday 20th from 2pm to help set up the SJ courses and arenas, and do let us know if you can help on the day itself.

The wooden show jumps will have their second outing since all the Friday painting sessions, thank you very much to those members who came along to help with the painting.

Don't forget the diary is updated at the start of each month on the C&DRC website:

Dressage to Music

Have a Go! By Barbara Heaton Smith

Putting together the music for a Freestyle to Music test was ambitious enough however try riding pairs: Serena Allery on Charlie and Barbara Heaton Smith on Kerry Simson's Toby. The task of practicing riding the test was not only time consuming, but additional time was involved listening to pieces of music before finding the right beat to compliment the horses paces.

We were required to ride all of the movements described in the British Dressage test sheet for the Prelim, however we were able to put the movements together in any order. The required movements at Prelim level included the following:

20m of medium walk
5 strides of free walk
Some lengthened strides in trot
20m circles in trot on both reins
Halts at the start and the end of the test which must be on the centre line



Outside of the compulsory movements we were able to use any movements that can be found currently in use in other tests at Novice level however we kept to Prelim movements.

Serena put together an interesting floor plan which the horses got to know quickly, however this allowed the horses to get to know each other's rhythm which paid off. A score of 74% at Houghton Hall EC propelled the pair into first place and secured a place in the championships later this year.

The main points that the judge was looking for as far as the music went included:

- The beat of the music corresponded with the rhythm of the two horse's paces.
- The character of the music suited the pace/movement of the horses so that the 'jump' of the canter and the marching of the walk was captured.

Surprisingly, the type of music suited both of the horse's characters and their way of going. Not necessarily an easy task when both horses were not the same size and had different paces to accommodate!

The music also needed to bring out highlights and quieter moments of the test so that there were examples of crescendos for the free walk and the final salute. There was a common theme of Sci-Fi to the music including canter music from Lord of the Rings, walk from Star Wars and trot was complimented by music taken from Dr Who and Star Trek.

It was great fun for both the horses and riders with both pairs enjoying the discipline of the practice needed with the occasional exuberant moment!

Serena did a fantastic job in organising the music, drawing up the floor plan and getting our paces to flow naturally. Serena's mother Rona was also a rock and supported us both through all of the many training and practice sessions.

If you have not done this before you should definitely have a go as it was tremendous fun and really rewarding when it was right!

By Serena Allery

Having decided to do the dressage to music qualifiers with both of my horses, I then asked Barbara Heaton-Smith if she would like to do pairs with Toby (Hokey Pokey) who she has on loan from Kerry Simson. She agreed that it sounded like fun, and I set about finding some music to suit the horses. I chose some light bouncy music for Skippy (Moreno Utopia) to do the individual Novice. I chose stronger music for Charlie (Time To Shine) and Toby, as Charlie in particular is a big boy (part Irish Draught). I chose lighter music for their canter as canter is a heavier pace. I did have to do a splice on one piece of music as Charlie particularly didn't like a couple of notes in the music, and would flatten his ears to them, thus I cut that bit out.



With 4 weeks to practice Barbara started to bring Toby over 3 times a week to practice, I suspect my poor mother probably started hearing the music when it wasn't playing given how many times she played it for us to practice! To start with both horses kept becoming upset with each other, worried that they might get kicked. Every tail swish resulted in the other horse dodging side-wards. After the first two sessions both horses realised that the other was not a kicker, and they were not going to be harmed, and they have since become best of friends. Charlie had the odd panic that Toby would crash into him, resulting in a launch 90 degree turn with all 4 legs off the ground. There was not any chance that we would crash, and given that Charlie is a hand bigger and nearly 100kg heavier than Toby I'm not sure why he was the one worrying! Charlie also found it more exciting than Toby, and we had circles where Toby was cantering and Charlie was bucking in some of our practice



sessions, however repetition persuaded Charlie that life was not quite so exciting and he settled down and stopped trying to race Toby.

All the practicing paid off on the day, with the only fault coming from Charlie, who stepped back in the first halt. We will be working on the lengthened trot strides and our transitions as these were our lower marks. Barbara and I were

both exceedingly pleased with a 9 for the free walk & a 9 for harmony between the horses.

To win with 74% was the icing on the cake. Dressage to music is certainly fantastic fun, and horses seem to enjoy it too.

C&DRC Points League

By Cindy Wells

Our website now includes a page with details of the C&DRC points league. The top 20 placed seniors and juniors can be seen (pdf files to download) along with full details of how points are awarded. The current league standings are updated every few weeks or so whenever a few more competitions have taken place.

The year's league is already looking exciting, with lots of new horse and rider combinations appearing thanks to the Area 7 Grass Roots competition series. Final results and rosettes will be given out at this year's AGM as usual. We expect this to be in early/mid October, keep watching the diary!

Membership Admin Note

When you become a new member, or renew your membership of C&DRC, your membership cards are sent to you direct from BRC head office. We have heard from one or two people who have not received their membership cards. If this is the case, please can you let Nettie know, thank you.

BHS Cambridgeshire

The BHS now has a separate page on the Area 7 website (please see <http://britishridingclubsarea7.com>) which is regularly updated. Please watch out for further details about "It's all about your horse" to be held on Sunday 22nd September 2013, at Houghton Hall Equestrian Centre from 10am to 4pm. Posters and information will be out shortly.

BHS Sara Bailey Memorial Fund Training Bursary

In the early 1980's Sara was tragically killed while competing in a three day event. She had been a keen member of the Cambridgeshire Hunt Branch of the Pony Club, and a valued instructor.

The Cambridgeshire Branch of the British Horse Society set up a memorial fund. The award from this fund is used to provide an annual bursary for a keen rider on further training with an instructor approved by the BHS Cambridgeshire committee. To apply for this grant you must reside within Cambridgeshire and Peterborough and be a member of either the Cambridgeshire Hunt Pony Club or the British Horse Society or a riding club affiliated to the BHS.

Applicants should submit a written equestrian CV and provide information outlining how the award will help with their future training.

Applications should be sent to:

Mrs Claire Dodson
Moats Way Equestrian
Moats Way
Hemingford Abbots
Huntingdon
Cambridge
PE28 9HH

Deadline for Applications is the 30th August 2013 and your application will be discussed by the Cambridgeshire Committee at the next meeting in September.

The award will be presented to the winner at the Annual Meeting on the 21st October 2013.

HOLIDAY Courtyard Farm, Ringstead

Monday 30th September – Sunday 6th October 2013

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 within half an hour 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 holds 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. I have been lucky to have negotiated to hold the prices at last year's rates. The price is £17.00 per night or £102 for six nights for one person with one horse. Dogs are charged as an extra at £1 per head per night. There is a small reduction if you sleep in your lorry or tent and do not use any of the barn facilities. 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 £45.00 BY 1st August 2013** to Mary Owen, Blue Roan Farm, Parkhall Road, Somersham, Huntingdon PE28 3HG

Name	e-mail address
Telephone Number	
I enclose my deposit for £45.00 for 30 th Sept- 6 th October 2013	
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.	