



Cambridge and District Riding Club

Articles of
special
interest:

- New
Chairman!
- Awards
- Grassroots
- Polework
clinics
- Area 7 SJ
- Points
League
results
- Horse Trials
champs
- Ringstead
holiday

Ramblings from the chair...

End of an Era?

C&DRC moves forward into the next decade...

It does not seem possible that I have held the position of Chairman of Cambridge & District Riding Club for 9 years! I was quite surprised when I looked up when I started, prior to this year's AGM.

I have thoroughly enjoyed the role, and am grateful to all the hardworking committee members who have shared this period with me. It is with regret that I loosen my hold on the reins, but new work commitments have meant that I do not currently have time to do the position justice. However, after this length of time, I feel it will be good for the club to have a breath of fresh air, fresh thinking and new visions from a new person at the helm.

I am delighted that Jo Meningen from New Farm, Earith, has agreed to take on the role. She has lots of ideas and enthusiasm, especially for the grass roots level riders, plus rideable land at her disposal, and the back up of husband Barry. I think she will do a great job, and I hope everyone will give her their full support to push C&DRC ever onwards.

Karen

Let me introduce myself ...

Hello everyone, I am sure you would all like to join me in thanking Karen for the excellent work she has done for the club over the past 9 years! I am glad she is sticking on the committee so I can lean on her for advice and guidance... sorry Karen! So, it's only right that I introduce myself as I am quite a new face to the club and also relatively new (3yrs) to Cambridgeshire itself. My name is Jo, or some of you may know me as 'Barry's wife'. I'm afraid my husband is pretty terrible at introducing me to people, mainly because he has a terrible memory for names! However, I answer to most things.

As Karen says, I come to you with lots of ideas of how we can take the club forward, I can't promise they are all good ideas but I hope that some will be of interest. I have a strong passion for the grass roots events as I believe that riding clubs are for those that are new to riding, looking to get back into riding and should be a stepping stone for the affiliated disciplines – I think grassroots helps with this. As someone who is coming back into competing after more than 15 years out, my desire to jump big fences is small, and I'm more looking to build my confidence and ride at a level where I can attack what I do. I'm sure I am not the only one out there that is in this situation so I think it's important to push this within our club as well as continuing to strive for success throughout our team outings at all levels.

I am also keen we modernise as much as we can, I would like to invest some time in the website ensuring we make it easier for our committee members to advertise the club's activities as well as making it as easy as possible for our members to get involved in these activities. As things develop we will be looking for testers/reviewers to give us their thoughts and feedback – volunteers welcome!

Lastly, as some of you will know we are lucky to have some land available to us here at Earith, and we'd like it to be well utilised, so if there are events or training you would have ideas for, please get in touch. Obviously the more funds we can raise for the club with low overheads, the better to build on the financial success of last year.

I am looking forward to meeting, working and having fun with you all.

Jo



Horse Trials Championships

By Charlotte Freeman

Having kept up with tradition and won the 90cm Horse Trials Area Qualifier at Milton Keynes, myself with Willow and Ella Crook with Mable from the original team, Polly Taylor with Pi and Kerry Simson with Coco joined us, and all set off for Swalcliffe Park in Oxfordshire for the National Horse Trials Championships. It was the first time the champs had been held at this venue having previously taken place at Aston Le Walls. The first day of competition went very well, we all scored well in the dressage. The show jumping was a very good championship course and we all jumped excellent clear rounds, I had to go last so not much pressure when three of your team mates had gone clear!

After settling the horses we all walked the cross country course, this was a challenging championship course with lots of steep hills in the rolling



Oxfordshire countryside and was going to be a real test of fitness as we also had a phase of roads and tracks and steeplechase to complete. We checked the leaderboard on our return and found that we were in second place! Scores were really tight with not more than 10 penalties separating the top 10 teams so not much room for error.

After supper we set about working out our times for the first phase of roads and tracks including the steeplechase. I found this part the most daunting having never used a stop watch or worked out times for each phase. We all had very good runs cross country all going clear only myself picking up a small amount of time penalties on the cross country.

We remained in 2nd position which was an outstanding result and we also won the "all to count" prize. Feeling very pleased with ourselves we all vowed to take up the challenge of the 100HT qualifier next year!

JumpCross Grass Roots report

By Rebecca Jarvis

Grassroots 24th September - it was a very wet morning and VERY COLD , when we arrived at Wittering Grange for our 1st JumpCross competition , The ground was very slippery but it did ride very well, due to the bark which was placed in front of some of the fences, and it really was needed.

The course included an upright fence riding downhill so good brakes are needed, and also a horse that loves water. 4 times we had to go through the water jumping in or out, and also 2 ditches with running water in them. There are joker fences on the course, if you jump these fences they are worth 40 sec off your time if jump clear, but if knock down then 40sec are added. These fences are skinnies, and as this competition is against the clock, if you can jump them clear it can make a big difference, as I learnt. My horse had a problem with a new bridge and fence judges in the trees, she took some time to go through but because she jumped the jokers, she had a good time. But what a great competition it is, this was my first JumpCross and hopefully will not be my last.

It turned out that our team did very well as we won our team competition, much to our surprise! Jenna Auger took 3rd place, and Rebecca Jarvis 5th. Also on the team was Andrea Hemington (who just missed out on the placing) and Megan Thorpe-Mansfield who was unlucky to be eliminated.

Equine car boot sale

By Rachel Casbon

C&DRC held an equine car boot sale at Isle Vets, Ely on 14 August 2013. The venue was great, loads of space in the car park and paddocks. We had several



sellers attend to sell their wares, but the buyers were a little thin on the ground. Pitches were only £5 and buyers were free so we were hoping that a few more people would come along. We raised £70.00 for the club, so not all was lost.

We are hoping to run another one when the weather gets a bit better, possibly on a weekend morning were people can just pop in to buy some bargains!!

C&DRC Awards presented at the AGM

The following awards were presented at the recent AGM:

Senior Achievement – Novice Eventing Team of:

Kerry Simson, Polly Taylor, Ella Crook and Charlotte Freeman

Junior Achievement

- Ella Rogers (5th in Combined Training championship at FoH)

Senior Appreciation

- Tony Smith and Dave Tyrrell for behind the scenes and endless moving of showjumps
- Jo and Barry Meningen for assisting with and putting up with constant jump painting parties!

Versatility – Rebecca Jarvis for doing well in all grassroots disciplines

Best Newcomer – Barbara Heaton Smith with Toby (winning her arena at Hartpury winter dressage champs, and 2nd at Lincoln Championships)

Most Improved Junior – Kathryn Clements (new member finishing in top 20 in the points league)

Junior Points League for the Red Baron Cup

1 st	Ella Rogers	71 points	Ruby Tuesday
2 nd	Lizzie Stavroulakis	57 points	Spot on Zig Zag
3 rd	Hettie Rogers	35 points	Rhydyar Hollihock
4 th	Lily Freeman	20 points	Vantage Ponga
5 th	Emma Butler	18 points in 2 events	Ben
6 th	Hettie Rogers	18 points in 3 events	High Flyer VII

Senior Points League for the White Horse Cup

1 st	Serena Allery	67 points	Time to Shine
2 nd	Sue Peck	57 points	Humphrey
3 rd	Serena Allery	48 points	Moreno Utopia
4 th	Barbara Heaton-Smith	44 points	Hokey Pokey
5 th	Rebecca Jarvis	37 points	Bluebell
6 th	Andrea Hemington	31 points	Tiercel Mickey Mouse

Ringstead Holiday – 30th Sept to 6th Oct 2013

By Mary Owen



We were really quite lucky with the weather as the forecast had not been very good. We never actually got wet, although one day I could see it raining in the distance over the farm but I managed to miss it.

Margaret and her husband Andrew arrived early on the Monday and very kindly divided the first field with electric fencing so that Rebecca and Mary could turn their horses out when they arrived. We then all hacked out together in the afternoon. Doris arrived later with Franziska and Patrick and put their horses in the triangular field near the stables. Doris had only just started working Fuchsia again after an injury, so did not ride until Tuesday, accompanied by Fran on Phil.

Unfortunately some of the tracks we have previously used have now been put back into cultivation, so it took a few days to sort out where we could ride. The first day we did more roadwork than I could remember doing in a whole week previously. We

were able to ride in the wild flower meadow, which was a bonus. We have not been able to use it for several years as it has been used for cattle grazing. It was very good for uphill and downhill canters and also eliminated some road work. Lorraine arrived on Wednesday and Karen on Thursday, so their horses were turned out in the back field. The weather was kind enough for all the horses to stay out all the time.

Doris increased the daily work with Fuchsia and managed nearly two hours by the last day, so was very pleased with the progress. The photo above is of Mary Owen, and the one on the right is of Rebecca Seymour.

Currently the barn has vacancies for most of July and part of June and August if we want to change the date of the holiday from October. If you are interested please let me know what month you would prefer.



Area 7 Show Jumping Qualifier

By Judi Shaw

C&DRC hosted the Area 7 qualifiers in July at the Cottenham Racecourse by kind permission of Mr Michael Gingell.

Entries were good and we had a full day of good competitive jumping. This year we also involved our new Grassroots class, this started us off in ring one. Rebecca Jarvis riding Bluebell jumped a double clear and finished second as an individual. The grassroots team consisted of:

Andrea Hemington	Tiercel Mickey Mouse
Rebecca Jarvis	Bluebell
Rebecca Thompson	Jacques Colore

In the style jumping our team came a creditable third place.

The team was:

Serena Allery	Morena Utopia
Polly Taylor	Cassiopeia
Kerry Simson	I Should Coco
Sue Peck	Humphrey

The Intermediate class - our team was placed second with Kerry coming fourth as an individual.

Kerry Simson	I Should Coco
Sarah Logan	Barnum Charlie Brown
Rachel Dyke	Skylarking
Polly Taylor	Cassiopeia

The last class of the day and by far the most popular for competitors and spectators alike, was the senior novice This attracted ten teams, three of which were from C&DRC. After two rounds, two teams were on a zero score, our Trinity team being one of them, Rockingham Oak the other. In the final jump off, the heat seemed to have taken its toll on the nine horses, as only three managed to jump clear. Sadly for us, Rockingham just beat our Trinity team by one fence. However we did have an overall individual winner, this was Rachel Dyke riding her mum Sharron's Waterside Bay. This qualified Rachel for the Nationals at Lincoln where they were placed ninth as an individual.

Churchill:	Serena Allery	Morena Utopia
	Sue Peck	Humphrey
	Rachel Casbon	Joshua's Boy

Girton:	Rebecca Thompson	Steel Diamond
	Serena Allery	Time to Shine
	Sarah Logan	Russian Girl

Trinity:	David Smith	Private Eye
	Polly Taylor	Wulfstan Jazz Singer
	Judi Shaw	Disney Magic
	Rachel Dyke	Waterside Bay

I would just like to thank all our competitors, judges, helpers and of course Colin Ellison for building some super courses in the two rings. Also, to David Clarke our Area 7 steward and to my young friend Bethany Callus who, without her I could not have coped with the frantic start of the day! Without all of you we wouldn't have been able to put this event on and raise lots of funds for the club. So "Thank you All"

One last thing, a special well done goes to Rachel Casbon for jumping her first ever clear round on the teams. Wheeeeeeee!!!

Polework Clinics with Fran Berry

By Rachel Casbon

C&DRC hold regular monthly polework clinics with local instructor Fran Berry BHSAI. Clinics range from using poles to assist with straightness, balance and rhythm to assisting with collection and extension.

Clinics are held at both Houghton Hall Equestrian Centre in St Ives and the College of West Anglia in Milton. Both venues have ample parking and lights on the darker nights.

Keep an eye on our Facebook page 'CambridgeandDistrict RidingClub' and the website for future clinics, or contact r.casbon@canddrc.org.uk for further details and bookings.

Clinic costs are a bargain at £17.50 per horse for groups of 5.

Here are some testimonials from clinic participants:

[Sarah Wright](#)

I always look forward to the polework sessions, no two are ever the same, Fran is extremely talented in ensuring everyone achieves results regardless of the level the combination is training at. I have a young horse who is now able to work as part of a group without a reaction, and an older horse who benefits from the exercises that focus on shortening and lengthening strides within a pace. I would recommend anyone participate regardless of experience.

[Suzanne Compton](#)

Since I started having lessons with Fran, I've been able to build my confidence which was at a very low level following a number of bad experiences on one of my horses. I feel that my ability has increased in leaps and bounds, and I look forward to each flatwork/polework session with Fran as I know I'll come out of it better than I went in.

[Karen Ann Tyrrell](#)

Fran lessons are excellent, all the years I have had lessons, clinics and training have had a different exercise every time. I felt I have learnt a lot over the years and my riding has improved. It doesn't matter if you are on a younger horse or more experienced one Fran can get you to work to what ability or level needed, you come out of the lesson with confidence and that you have achieved the most out of the lesson.

Subscriptions were due on 1st October 2012, so please renew ASAP if you have not already done so!

Tracy Davidson

I have found my sessions with Fran extremely rewarding at both Milton and Houghton. It doesn't matter at what level you are working, the lesson is tailored to suit everyone's individual needs. She is very knowledgeable and has certainly got the best out of myself and Alfie and helped us both grow in confidence.

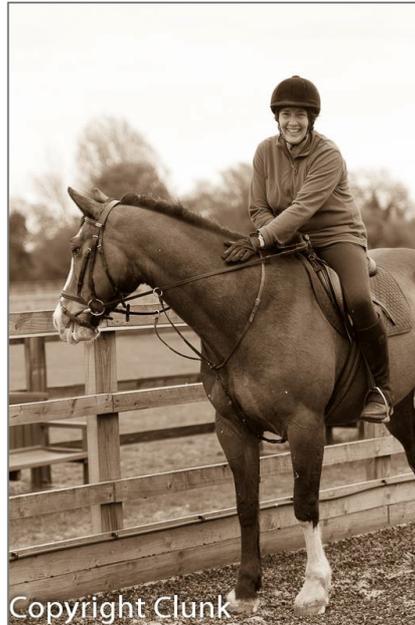
Here are some photos of a recent polework clinic at CoWA at Milton, photo's courtesy of Sally Foreman/Clunk View (available for photo shoots sallyforeman.com)

Polework to encourage elevation
(Sara Murfitt & Charlie):



Working long and low to encourage engagement
(Rachel Rennie & Miss B)

Happy Riders © It's all about having FUN!!!
Claire Hopkins, Julie Horne, Rachel Rennie



Future events/notices etc:

Xmas get together at Houghton Hall. The indoor arena is booked for Mon 30th Dec 12-2pm for clear round jumping (70cm -90cm) Approx £10 per person or share hire cost between us all. Please arrive early to help build course. Mince pies and mulled wine for helpers. Please let Kerry Simson know if you are coming on ksimson@cambsfarrier.co.uk or text 07833 690812

Quiz Night Friday 31st January 2014 at Rampton Village Hall – put it in your diary now! Details for ticket sales will be along soon.

Area 7 Indoor SJ qualifier – This will be held on February 23rd 2014 at Houghton Hall, organised and run by C&DRC.

Area 7 Winter dressage qualifier – in case any of you were expecting this to be quite soon, it appears this will now take place on 1st March 2014 at Keysoe.

Details of all area 7 competitions and qualifiers can be found on <http://britishridingclubsarea7.com> on the Competitions link.

Grassroots – There is one more event to go in the Area 7 grassroots league, which is the winter indoor SJ on Sunday November 3rd. As the newsletter went to press (or should I say pdf) C&DRC were in 3rd place in the grassroots team placings (only one point behind Keysoe!), and Rebecca Jarvis was in the lead individually.

Membership note – Please remember to renew your subscription ASAP if you have not already done so – they became due on 1st October. You will not be able to take part in club activities such as training clinics if you are not a current member. Also please remember to send Nettie any changes of address/phone number, email address and so on so that our records are accurate and you receive information. There still appear to be delays on receiving membership cards – these are sent directly from BRC head office, not by us.

Points League note – Please bear in mind that the annual points league is based on rider/horse combination, so if you enter the same horse in competitions under different names (such as passport name and stable name) they will be counted as two different points league entries, unless you let us know that they are the same. Thank you!

And finally ... it would be lovely to hear from some Juniors about the events they have taken part in. This year the junior show jumpers did well at the area qualifier, and a team went to the championships at Lincoln – it's not too late, we can include a report in the next newsletter – hint, hint!

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