



Welcome to Cambridge & District Riding Club Newsletter

Ramblings from the Chair

Well, what a year! I don't know about you but I always find myself reflecting on the year's activities as Christmas and the New Year approaches. If it's been a year I'd rather forget, I'm enthusiastic about the year coming, and if it's been a good one, I hope that the theme continues. Either way, the New Year brings the opportunity to re-invigorate your motivation, and assess and set your goals and objectives for the coming year.

We've had a very successful year, marred only slightly by the theft of our jumps at the end of the summer. So as we move into next year, our focus is to try and continue to grow and expand the club's training, competitions and fun whilst replacing our jumps and increasing our facilities.

As ever, the support of our members is critical to this and I do hope to see many of you out at the club activities we have organised. The New Year brings with it the start of the winter competitions, so get your jumping boots and dressage shoes at the ready – Judi (showjumping) and Serena (dressage) are keen to hear from anyone who would like to take part in the qualifiers. The jumping starts at 80cm and the dressage at Prelim, so if you fancy giving it a go we'd love to see you on the teams. We will always enter as many teams as we can stand up so please don't hold back, give it a go and you might just enjoy yourself!

We are also running a fundraiser on Saturday, February 6: Vegas is coming to Cambridge and District! Our wonderful social committee (Sharon and Mary) have organised a fantastic evening of Vegas games, great food and much more – I hope we will see many of your support this evening as well as come along and have a great night.

Details on our training camps will also be revealed in the New Year so watch out for that. For now however, I would like to say a massive thank you for all your support throughout 2015, I wish you a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and look forward to a fantastic 2016!

All the best,

Jo





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Well done winners!

THE club congratulated a host of deserving winners at its annual general meeting in the autumn.

Trophies, rosettes and prizes were given to a range of members for their hard work, achievements and kindness over the year.

Jo Meningen, Club Chair, said: "It is lovely to recognise so many fantastic achievements of our members. Not many people realise we run a point scheme or that they could be eligible for some of the awards, like most improved and best all-rounder so just remember, it could be you next year!"



Full list of the awards below:

Appreciation awards:

Nicola Shaw for helping at every showjumping event and championship, and supporting Judi as Team Manager

Robert Wright for transporting the showjumps for the club show

Rob Compton for the loan of the radios for all our events and particularly for his fantastic efforts in setting up the radio comms for the Longstowe Pleasure Ride



Bethany Callus for helping at our show and showjumping competitions

Jane Allen for her help at the dressage.

Karen Tyrell for helping at all our club shows and showjumping competitions

Charlotte Freeman for her help at the horse trials.

Lizzie Stavroulakis for her help and enthusiasm at the showjumping events, setting up and packing away and for supporting the horse trial teams.





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Hermione Stavroulakis for her help at the showjumping events, setting up and packing away and for supporting the horse trial teams

Club awards:

Most Improved Senior: Jo Hall

Most Improved Junior: Alice Fenton



Best All Rounder: Hannah Stevenson and Jay

Best ROR: Polly Taylor and Lyric

Points League

Senior: 1st Polly Taylor, 2nd Hannah Stevenson, 3rd Serena Allery

Junior: 1st Ella Chamberlain, 2nd Ella Rodgers, 3rd Phoebe Plumb.

Get jumping in January!

Novice and Intermediate showjumping qualifiers are taking place on January 31.

Cambridge is hosting the qualifiers, which are running this year at Houghton Hall EC, Huntingdonshire.

Novice teams start at 80cm and Intermediate at 95cm, with juniors and seniors competing separately. A link to the full schedule can be found here:

<http://cambridgeridingclub.weebly.com/whats-on.html>

Entry costs £20 and is payable via the CDRC website, cash, BACS or cheque.

To compete, email Judi for seniors on j.shaw@canddrc.org.uk or James for juniors j.fenton@canddrc.org.uk before **January 5**.



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Calling all dressage divas! Area qualifier

DRESSAGE partnerships are being asked to step forward to take part in the winter dressage area qualifiers.

The club would like to put forward a number of teams and all levels, from Prelim to Medium, are needed.

The area qualifier will take place on Saturday, February 20, at The College EC, Keysoe, Bedfordshire.

Dressage Team Manager Serena Allery said: "You do not need to be a seasoned dressage rider to take part. This is a great opportunity for anyone to give dressage a go in a supportive environment, with the possibility of even making it to a national championship."

The qualifier event is for both Novice and Intermediate levels, with the Novice Championship being held at The College EC, Keysoe, on April 9, and the Intermediate Championship at Bury Farm Equestrian Village, Slapton, Bucks, on April 30.

Novice area qualifier: Two ride BRC's Prelim test (BRC D2 2014), two ride BRC's Novice test (BRC D10 2014) (all tests can be downloaded from the rulebook on BRC's website).

Intermediate area qualifier: One rides BRC's Prelim test (BRC D3 2014), one rides BRC's Novice test (BRC D10 2014), one rides Novice 30 (2006); one rides Elementary 44 (2002).

Medium individual qualifier - Medium 63 (2002).

Members can do one test in any team, prelim tests for both teams, novice tests in both teams, or novice and elementary tests in relevant teams, or medium individual

To take part:

Email serenaallery@gmail.com by **January 15** with your name and CDRC membership number, which classes you would like to enter, along with horse's name as registered on passport, horse's passport number and DOB on passport. Any questions, email or call 07736 665615.



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Viva Las Vegas!

GET dolled up and splash out for a big night in Vegas – or Bluntisham!

The Club is hosting a fundraising night on Saturday, February 6, from 7.45pm, at Bluntisham Village Hall, to raise funds to replace show jumps that were stolen in the summer.

Full details below:

Cambridge & District Riding Club

BIG FUNDRAISER

To help replace our stolen Show jumps

VEGAS NIGHT

***Gangsters & Molls
Style!***

Sat 6th February

The Village Hall Bluntisham

7.45 - 11.15pm

Live Band!

Roulette Wheel - Black Jack - Poker Dice

£20.00 Per Ticket

includes betting chips to get you started

Posh Ploughman's Included

Licensed Bar - Real Ale & Cocktails

Prize - For the person with the most winnings!

For Tickets: Please call or text 07947118221

Or Contact any Committee Member

Fancy dress optional -Tables can be booked



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New Year, new clobber!

SHOW your pride for your riding club and kit yourself out in an array of branded clothing in 2016.

From headbands to jackets, base layers to hat silks, the club has created a range of goodies for you to get your hands on.



Log on to the website to see the full range:

http://cambridgeridingclub.weebly.com/store/c9/Club_Merchandise.html

New hat rules

NEW hat rules come into force next month and members are being urged to check they have appropriate hats.

You must have a compliant hat to take part in any riding club activity, including competitions. EN1384 & BSEN1384 on their own are no longer allowed and as of January your hat needs to have either:

PAS015 1998 or 2011 & BSI Kitemark

ASTM F1163 2004a or 04a & SEI Kitemark

SNELL E2001 & label & number

AS/N2S 3838 (2006) & SAI Global Kitemark

Winter edition 2015/16



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Lecture demo: Prepare your horse for the season ahead

LEARN about how to best prepare your horse for the season ahead – whatever the discipline – at a lecture demonstration hosted by CDRC.

Event rider Anthony Clark will give attendees an insight into his training and techniques and demonstrate exercises for everyone to take home and try.

The event takes place on Friday, **February 12**, from 7pm until 9.30pm at Houghton Hall EC, and tickets cost £5 for CDRC and £10 for non-members available on the door.

Refreshments will be available in the café, a charity stall raising funds for The Brooke and a table top sale of equestrian goodies will also be running.



Train with team mates

A VARIETY of training opportunities are available with the club – please access and utilise these.

The most up to date list of clinics and events is available on the club website: <http://cambridgeridingclub.weebly.com/whats-on.html> Also look out for updates on Facebook.

Dates for 2016 include showjumping course training with Barry Meningen at Houghton Hall EC on January 15, running 5-7pm, and at the same venue, Fran Berry polework sessions on Thursday, January 28, and Thursday, March 3, with sessions 6-7pm and 7-8pm running on both nights. Book via the website.

Winter edition 2015/16



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Feature: Having a go at riding club endurance

By Kerry Simson

As I was unable to do much eventing or showjumping this season (due to an ankle injury) I decided to join the riding club endurance team and have a go at a couple of rides to see if it was going to float my boat.

I made sure my horse Coco was fairly fit by doing lots trotting and cantering out hacking and the first ride I tackled was the Kings Forest ride near Thetford at the end of May. We all presented to the farrier for inspection then trotted up for the vet. It's a good job they don't vet the riders as I would have failed, but at least my limp took the attention away from horse and we had a good laugh!

The ride was 30km and had some fantastic long sandy canter tracks through the woods. This blew Coco's brain as she just wanted to gallop everywhere, thinking the starter really meant "Go" when she counted down 3-2-1. I kicked myself for not using a stronger bit but she eventually dropped the bridle on the last loop when we were nearly home.

Unfortunately, this meant her heart rate was still high when

she vetted out 30 minutes later and this was not helped by the pigs in the field behind the box park. The ride went quicker than I thought and I wasn't too exhausted. Riding with your mates takes your mind off a sore backside!



I think Coco would have settled down on future rides if we had avoided the ready steady go bit, but as she qualified for the Riding Club Horse Trials championships in August I decided not to chance blowing her brain further as there was a dreaded dressage test to do. Instead, I turned my attentions to Hokey Pokey (Toby) my fab little hunting pony who is so level headed and takes it all in his stride. He will go first, last, does gates, hills, pigs (been there, done that, got the T-shirt) and he took to endurance riding like a duck to water. He is very nosey and loves exploring new places.

The Endurance finals this year were at Melton Mowbray in September: The Lions Tale and the final is a 40km ride. We pitched up the day before and our horses corralled in electric fence pens.

Winter edition 2015/16



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We rode as a team with Wendy at the front (on the lively Buddy) who has to have a whisker in front, me in the middle and Karen and Lorraine at the back. The horses settled and we ate up the route. The crew points were very welcome every 10km with drinks for us and water for the horses and I only got off once for a bathroom stop! We had a paddle in river at the ford to cool the horse legs and I was amazed that Toby didn't feel massively tired at the end and was pleased when he vetted out with a low heart rate achieving Grade 1 along with Lorraine's horse. I had done my job and prepared my horse well.

In summary, I enjoyed the challenge of covering a set distance in a set time and it was great for teaching Coco to drop the bridle and find her own balance. It helps young horses learn to go forwards, develop confidence and find balance and rhythm. Riding in a team is fun and encourages the steadier ones along but I feel it takes more skill than I appreciated to ride in balance at speed over long distances.

As for did it float my boat? I would like to ride some more challenging routes before giving a verdict. I have an urge to do some of the Pennine Bridleway next summer (if my lorry will make it to Derbyshire) and have a plan to ride from home to the Norfolk coast visiting friends along the way. We have talked about doing the Peddars Way again and it has also made me want to explore the area where I live further. So be warned, I may just turn up on your doorstep in the New Year looking for a stable as I tour Cambridgeshire riding from CDRC friend to friend!



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Newsletter

Dates for the Diary 2016

Cambridge and District Riding Club:

January 31 - Area winter Novice/Intermediate Indoor showjumping, Houghton Hall

February 20 - Area Dressage teams/individuals, Keysoe EC

April

April 17 - Combined training qualifier, Wittering Grange

May 30 – Area horse trials teams, Keysoe

July 3 – Summer dressage qualifier, Earith, Cambs

July 10 – Summer showjumping qualifier, Keysoe

BRC 2016 Championship dates

KBIS Novice Winter Championships - 9-10 April

The College Equestrian Centre, Church Road, Keysoe, Bedford

Treehouse Sporting Colours Intermediate Winter Championships - 30 April to 1

May

Bury Farm Equestrian Village, Slapton, Bucks

Horslyx Festival of the Horse Championships - 4-5 June

Washbrook Farm, Aston-le-Walls, Northants

Animalife National Horse Trials Championships - 5-7 August

Swalcliffe Park Equestrian, Swalcliffe, Oxon

NAF National Championships - 10-11 September

Lincolnshire Showground, Lincs

Verdo Horse Bedding DTM and SEIB Quadrille Selection Trial - 30 September to 2 October

Bury Farm Equestrian Village, Slapton, Bucks

SEIB Quadrille Final - Date and Venue TBC