



# MEON RIDING CLUB

1968 - 2008

**NEWSLETTER**

Hon Sec: Mrs Brenda King  
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**APRIL 2008**

## **40TH. ANNIVERSARY PARTY**

The pre-season dinner has become one of our most popular social events in recent years, but this year was an extra-special occasion, as 2008 is our 40th. anniversary. About 60 members and guests gathered in Soberton Village Hall. tastefully decorated in the Club colours of gold and black, to celebrate. They enjoyed an excellent hot buffet, provided by The White Lion, Soberton, followed by a slice of celebration cake. A toast to the Meon Riding Club was proposed by past Chairman, John Claisse. Current Chairman, Barbara Wood, then presented long-serving Secretary and founder member Brenda King with a delightful painting of her two horses by local artist Patricia Luke. The tables were then pushed back to make room for dancing to the live music of James Taylor. Our carriages arrived all too soon, as the evening simply sped by - just like the last 40 years!

## **WINTER LEAGUE RESULTS**

Where have all our competitors gone? Only four actually made it into the arena for the last leg of the Winter League, which was Dressage, and we had nobody at all in Class 2. Sarah Pook was the star of our small squad, finishing 7th. in Class 3 (N.25) and second in Class 4 (N) with Balfours Bay. She was supported by Brenda King on Jocasta, eighth in Class 5 (E.48), Anne Evans on Kilcotty Jim, and Jane McGibbon on Samphire, who were both a little unlucky to finish just out of the rosettes. Between them they added 18 points to the Club score, but this was not enough to prevent us slipping below Chilworth into third place overall. This is obviously disappointing after our fantastic start to the series, but these things happen with horses! Our thanks to all of you who have represented the Club in the Winter League, and the people who helped in providing our quota of helpers too. Our thanks also to Peter Buist for his hard work in organising this series.

## **REPORT ON AREA 17 CROSS-COUNTRY QUALIFIER, ROCKBOURNE, 19 APRIL**

Despite really awful weather two Novice teams and two individuals in the Open took part.

The first team Meon Gold had four members:-

Sarah Pook	Kilmiston Kiwi;
Helen Vernon	Monaco Finale
Anne Evans	Kilcotty Jim
Fiona Rogers	Madison

Unfortunatley Sarah was eliminated at the Coffin.Helen went clear with four time penalties for being too slow and finished individually 9th overall, Anne Evans went clear with 1.8 time penalties and finished 3rd individually. Fiona went clear but went the wrong side of a flag, and was eliminated. for an error of course, which meant the whole team was eliminated. They would otherwise have won the Senior Novice Qualifier!

The second team Meon Black started with only three members:-

Chris Luton	Boo
Sue Bridgewater	Applejack
Keri Barnjum.	Over U Go

They all found the course quite difficult, and accumulated too many faults to get on the scoreboard. Still, its all good experience!

In the Senior Open Individual Qualifier Helen Vernon went clear with Kreischim, but with 4 time penalties, which put her in seventh place. Selina Garstin with Tipperary Tess was eliminated at the water.

Our thanks to all our representatives, and congratulations to Anne and Helen on their rosettes. It was really bad luck for the Gold team to be eliminated on a technicality, but anyone can make a mistake. Thanks also to our fence judges who did a sterling job in unpleasant conditions, and to Dick King who did the scoring most efficiently.

The winning teams, who were Isle of Wight in the Novice and Purbeck in the Open, go forward to the Festival of the Hunter at Aston-le-Walls on 31 May. We wish them well, and better weather!

**FORTHCOMING EVENTS**  
**MRC OPEN DRESSAGE DAY, CROFTON,**  
**27 APRIL**

Classes for this are now almost full, so if you haven't yet sent in your entry, then get it in the post right away. If you are not able to compete, more helpers are always welcome to help with scoring or stewarding. Volunteers please to Dick King, 01730 264178, email:wheelers.farm@btinternet.com

**ANNUAL SHOW, THORNEY ISLAND, 18 MAY**

The schedule for this is on the Club website. We need lots of entries, so please print off extra copies if you can, and give them to your friends. Thorney Island has excellent facilities, and is easily accessible from the A27, but it is a military base, and there will be security checks at the main entrance, so please leave a little extra time for this. If you enter in advance we can give the guards your vehicle registration number to keep delays to a minimum. If you haven't made up your mind exactly what you want to do, you can always make extra entries on the day.

**NON-RESIDENTIAL CAMP, LOWER PEAKE,**  
**20-22 MAY**

As you may know, Barbara Wood has been on a family visit to Australia, so if you have put your name down for this camp but haven't heard from her don't worry, she'll be back shortly and will be in contact. This also applies to people who have booked for the next show jumping sessions, or for Dressage with Rose Seagrave.

**AREA 17 DRESSAGE TO MUSIC QUALIFIER, SPARSHOLT 26 MAY**

We have not yet received details of this, but hope they will be on the Area 17 website soon. The schedule usually includes non-qualifying classes, so if you have been inspired to put a test together, but don't want the pressure of representing the Club in a qualifier, you can go along and try it out on your own.

**AREA 17 SHOW JUMPING QUALIFIER,**  
**HAMPSHIRE SHOWGROUND 22 JUNE**

We are looking for show jumping talent to make up our teams for this event. Our jumpers have not been in good form so far this year, so if you have been waiting your chance to become a team member this could be it! Make sure you have registered your interest with Kate Barnes (023 9226 6790) or Barbara Wood (01489 877398, and show them what you can do by entering the Club annual show.

**NEW MEMBERS**

Mr. Michael Stone, Downlands, SheepPond Lane, Droxford  
Miss Laura Arnold, Springfield House, Swanmore Rd., Swanmore  
Mrs. Janet White, 39, Nicholas Cres. Fareham

*Final reminder:- if you have not yet returned your subscription renewal for 2008, please dig it out and put it in the post before the end of the month.*