



# MEON RIDING CLUB

1968 - 2007

**NEWSLETTER**

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**NOVEMBER 2007**

## DRESSAGE TO MUSIC CHAMPIONSHIPS, ADDINGTON

Sam Seagrave was invited to compete in the Elementary class at this prestigious competition. Her time was rather late in the day, and she felt she could have performed better at a more congenial hour! Although she was unplaced, we were really pleased to have a representative here - I think this is only our second time we have competed at these Championships. We were unrepresented at the Area 'friendly', as only one member came forward, and we needed a team of three. Dressage to Music does require a lot of preparation, but, once you've got your act together its really good fun, so why not work on it over the Winter so we have some competitors ready for next year's qualifiers. There is now a section in the Novice class for horses with zero BD points, so you don't need a special Dressage horse to get started.

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

It was lovely to see so many members and guests at our AGM. They brought so much food along, I'm sure we did not need to eat again for the whole weekend!

Chairman, Barbara Wood, reviewed the year, which had been one of the most chaotic we have ever experienced. All started well, with Club riders winning the Area 17 Winter League, and continued with one of our most successful shows ever in May. The next few months became a nightmare, with exceptional prolonged rainfall, which led to many events being cancelled, and others being hastily rearranged. We did not suffer the dreadful flooding seen in other parts of the country, and the floodwater receded from Offchurch Bury just in time for the Horse Trials Championships to go ahead. This was a great event, with our Intermediate team scooping our first championship win, even though it only had three members! An improvement in the weather was accompanied by news of a dreaded outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease, which crept alarming close to our area, and led to even more cancellations. Again, we were lucky, and at the eleventh hour received the news that our Hunter Trial could go ahead. We are now enjoying a mild dry Autumn, and FMD restrictions have all been lifted, so lets enjoy it while it lasts! As often happens, sharing these difficulties has actually brought members closer together, and improved team spirit, so our morale is good for the coming year.

Rena Luton and Yvonne Lortal decided not to stand for

re-election to the Committee next year. Rena has done a great job as Team manager for the Horse Trials teams, and Yvonne worked very hard as Secretary of our Annual Show. Our thanks to both of them for their outstanding contributions to the Club. We are pleased that Penny Briggs was elected to the Committee at the AGM, and we hope to fill the remaining vacancy by co-option soon. More details on who does what later.

The Treasurer reported a slight loss of £95 for the year ended 31 March 2007. Events for the current year are just about breaking even. BRC affiliation fees will rise to £8-50 a head for 2008, so we shall have to raise subscriptions next year. This year we offered a small reduction to members who agreed to receive their Newsletter by email, and this has worked very well, with about 50% of members participating. The meeting agreed that subscription rates for email members would stay at £25 for 2008, but the rate for postal members would be increased to £28. This will take effect immediately for new members, and a new application form will be on the website soon. Please do not use 2007 application forms. Existing members will receive a renewal form in March.

The Chairman presented the Club trophies as follows:-

Apollo Challenge shield	Barbara Wood
Hawthorns Trophy	Jenny Naylor-Davis
Cross-Country Cup	Helen Vernon
Show Jumping cup	Carol Alford
Dressage Cup	Sam Seagrave
Veteran Cup	Selina Garstin.

Andrea Bishop kept detailed records of all open Club and Area competitions this year (excluding qualifiers), which have been very useful for showing how people are doing. A total of 46 rider/horse combination were placed in the 9 classes included, but only 8 scored in both Dressage and jumping, which was a condition for the performance points trophies. Our thanks to Andrea for collating this data, which will be very useful when it comes to selecting teams.

The evening concluded with a quiz devised by Ewart Wood. Standards rise every year it seems, and there was fierce competition between teams. Congratulations to the winners:- Sue and Phillip Austen, and Rena and Chris Luton, and thanks to Ewart for entertaining us.

**FORTHCOMING EVENTS**  
**INDOOR SHOW JUMPING, CROFTON**  
**11 NOVEMBER**

The weather is set fair, and entries have been coming in well, so this should be a good day. If you haven't sent your entry in, you can enter on the day, up to 30 minutes before the class is due to start. Late entry fee is £2 extra per class. Estimated times for classes are:-

C.1 10a.m.; C..2 11 a.m. (after 2 min. silence)

C.3 12.30p.m.; C.4. 2.30p.m; C.5. 4p.m

Many thanks to all the people who have offered to help on the day. As Crofton has its own show the previous day, we cannot build the course until 7a.m. on the morning of the Show. If you are an early bird, and not far from Crofton please pop in and lend a hand. We also have to put everything away at the end of the day, so if you are around then please help; its not all heavy stuff!

**WINTER LEAGUE**  
**SHOW JUMPING, SPARSHOLT, 17 NOVEMBER**

Entries made before the ballot date are now on the Area 17 website. Classes are not full, so entries will still be taken, and non-members may enter. The surface of the indoor school was repaired over the Summer, and it is not causing any problems to jumpers. The entry form for the Dressage will be sent out next month. Peter Buist has asked me to reiterate that entries will not be accepted before the opening date, so please don't try to jump the gun!

**PLEASURE RIDE, FORESTSIDE, 24 NOVEMBER**

A request was made at the AGM for more pleasure rides to be organised during the Winter months. Always happy to oblige, we are pleased to have received an offer from a rider to lead a ride from Forestside (between Dean Lane End and Rowlands Castle), on Sat. 24 Nov. starting at 10a.m. These will be for about two hours, at a moderate hacking pace. Numbers will be limited to a maximum of 10, but there will be no minimum! If you would like to go please contact Fiona Emery, 01489 561489 (eve); mobile 07810 834398; email [fiona.emery@uk.zurich.com](mailto:fiona.emery@uk.zurich.com) If anyone else would like to lead a ride in another area, please let us know. You will need parking for about half-a-dozen boxes/trailers.

**INDOOR DRESSAGE QUALIFIER,**  
**SPARSHOLT COLLEGE, 20 JANUARY**

This is a new competition for teams of four members, two riding a Prelim. test, and two a Novice. We are planning to enter two teams. A number of members have already expressed an interest, but if you have not already done so, but would like to be considered please contact Team Manager, Jan Desty, as soon as possible, 01489 877209, mobile 07876 031128; email [jandesty@btinternet.com](mailto:jandesty@btinternet.com)

Please give brief details of your horse and its level of experience.

**TRAINING**

All jumping courses are now full, though it may be possible to squeeze individuals into Dressage sessions, either at Fort Widley on Mondays, or Ashlands on Saturday mornings. Please contact Barbara Wood 01489 877398.

A new training sheet for after Christmas will be on the Club website soon