



# MEON RIDING CLUB

1968 - 2008

## NEWSLETTER

Hon Sec: Mrs Brenda King  
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## NOVEMBER 2008

### INDOOR SHOW JUMPING RESULTS

The earlier date for the Open Indoor Show Jumping this year did not prove popular with competitors. Obviously entries fluctuate from year to year, but it is unusual for the turn-out to be so poor that we are unable to cover our costs. Everyone has a theory about why this happened on this occasion, but only time will tell whether this was simply a one-off bad day, or a warning of hard economic times ahead. Our loyal supporters enjoyed excellent courses designed by Alison Naylor, and the winners went home with vouchers to help out with their Christmas shopping, kindly supplied by our generous sponsors, Tom Day Saddlers, FeedThyme and Tack'N'Togs. The top placings were:-

#### **Class 1: 2'3" jumping**

- |                     |               |
|---------------------|---------------|
| 1. Zoe Griscti      | Ashley Grange |
| 2* Tom Naylor-Davis | Red Alert     |
| 3. Yvonne Lortal    | Mystic Rose   |

(\* denotes Best MRC member)

#### **Class 2: 2'6" jumping**

- |                     |                   |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Rachel Dodsworth | Irish Blue Lagoon |
| 2. Alex Kennedy     | On your Marx      |
| 3. Ellen McGibbon   | Samphire          |
| * Tom Naylor-Davis  | Red Alert         |

#### **Class 3: 2'9" jumping**

- |                   |                     |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Melissa Percy  | Holly Hot Chocolate |
| 2. Ellen McGibbon | Samphire            |
| 3. Michelle Brett | Hydon Fresco        |
| * Philippa Poore  | Snakemoor Carousel  |

#### **Class 4: 3'0" jumping**

- |                 |               |
|-----------------|---------------|
| 1* Thea Gibbins | Bo            |
| 2. Barbara Wood | Simply Seamus |
| 3. Alex Kennedy | on your Marx  |

#### **Class 5: 3'3" jumping**

- |                   |              |
|-------------------|--------------|
| 1. Beanie Allison | Linford      |
| 2. Rachael Baker  | Master Flynn |
| 3. Thea Gibbins   | Bo           |

Our thanks to our officials, who were Dick King (Secretary); Jant Irving (Judge) and Ewart Wood (Announcer), and to our many members and friends who helped with stewarding, both in and out of the arena, particularly those who stayed to put away the jumps at the end of the day. Sorry I have no record of your names, so cannot acknowledge you individually, but your assistance was much appreciated.

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

We were delighted to see so many of you at the Club AGM. We have had a very busy year, but as our activities had been fully reported in previous Newsletters it was not felt necessary to go over them in detail again, though I would like to thank all the people who have supplied reports for me. Everyone I'm sure was sorry to hear Barbara Wood's announcement that, after more than twenty years as Club Chairman, she has decided not to stand for re-election this year. Kate Barnes also decided to retire just prior to the meeting, though the remaining eight members of the Committee expressed a willingness to carry on. This meant we had three places to fill, and we were pleased to have three nominations, so they, together with the members who were standing again, were elected unopposed. The full Committee for 2008-9 is:- Carol Alford, Keri Barnjum, Andrea Bishop, Penny Briggs, Jan Desty, Fiona Emery, Sue Francis-Stukings, Janet Irving, Dick and Brenda King, and Helen Vernon. Barbara has expressed a wish to remain involved in the Club, so the first decision of the new Committee was to invite her to be our honorary life President, and we hope she will enjoy her new role. The new Committee does not take office until after the AGM, so Barbara remained in the Chair to award the Club trophies as follows:-

- Apollo trophy - Barbara Wood;
- Hawthorns Award - Helen Vernon;
- Merlin Trophy and Dressage Cup - Sarah Pook;
- Veterans trophy - Selina Garstin;
- Cross-Country Cup - Julia Batho;
- Show Jumping Cup - Andrea Kennedy.

All these people have represented the Club during the year, and have been a great credit to us. They are also regular supporters of Club activities.

Barbara then introduced our guest, Vittoria Pannizon, who was a member of the Italian Three Day Event team at the Beijing Olympics Equestrian games, which were actually held in Hong Kong. She entertained us for the rest of the evening with a complete account of her experiences, from being chosen for the team right up to the journey home. She had masses of pictures, and we are grateful to Dick King for supplying projection equipment.

## TRAINING

Barbara Wood will continue with the current series of training courses at Quob and Crofton, and will then hand over to Penny Briggs. Her new training sheet is enclosed. We are trying out some new trainers and venues, but can only put on courses which members support. Please let Penny know if you would like to take part. If times and dates do not suit you, please let Penny know what you can manage as we may be able to make changes. These may not fit with Newsletter dates, so please make sure Penny has your contact details, preferably email, or 'phone. If you can't do a whole course then let her know what you can do, as spaces often become available through illness, lameness etc., and if we know of possible substitutes we may be able to avoid cancellation.

Carol Alford is holding two indoor cross-country clinics at Woodhams, near Winchester, SO23 7LB, on 28 December and 3 January, and has kindly invited members to take part. Instruction will be in small groups, starting from completely inexperienced. Cost is £25 for a 1.5hour session. First group at 12 noon. If you would like to take part please contact Carol direct; email:calford@hotmail.co.uk; tel: 07867 973602.

Carol and Jan Desty also hope to get some Dressage classes going after Christmas, and would like to know what you would like. Our more advanced Dressage riders often prefer to arrange individual tuition with their favoured trainers, but this is both demanding and expensive! If you would support sessions in small groups of similar ability then please contact them with your preferred times/venues/instructors/level of experience (Jan's contact details are below)

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

### AREA 17 INDOOR DRESSAGE QUALIFIER

#### SPARSHOLT, 24 JANUARY 2009

Your schedule for this is either enclosed (for postal members) or is on the Area 17 website (for emembers), [www.area17-brc.fsnet.co.uk](http://www.area17-brc.fsnet.co.uk). If you would like to be in a Club team please contact Jan Desty, email [jandesty@btinternet.com](mailto:jandesty@btinternet.com); tel:01489 877209. Preliminary entries will have to be made during the Christmas period, so if you want to be in a team you must act by **the end of November**, before everyone is submerged in the seasonal festivities.

### AREA 17 NOVICE TEAMS INDOOR

#### SHOW JUMPING QUALIFIER, 15 FEBRUARY

#### CROFTON EQUESTRIAN CENTRE

We are hosting this qualifier this year, which gives more members the chance to take part than if long travelling distances were involved. This is a two round competition at heights of 2'6" and 2'9", with a jump-off in the event of a tie for the qualifying place. If your horse is jumping well at these heights, and you would like to represent us please contact Keri Barnjum. email: [keribarnjum1@btinternet.com](mailto:keribarnjum1@btinternet.com).

com; tel:01489 612120. Horses must not have any BSJA points, and must not have jumped in a qualifier at a greater height during the year beginning 1 April 2008. A schedule will be available next month.

## OTHER PROVISIONAL DATES FOR 2009

We hope to publish a full Events Calendar for 2009 early in the New Year, so there will probably a lot to add to this, but thought you would like to know the dates provisionally booked so far:-

20 March	Pre-Season Party
28 March	BRC Novice Indoor Show Jumping and Winter Dressage Championship
19 April	Area 17 Cross-Country Qualifier
26 April	Club Dressage
25 May	Area 17 Dressage to Music Qualifier
30 May	BRC Cross-Country Championships
28 June	One Day Event, Fair Oak
7-9 August	BRC Horse Trials Championships
6 September	Cross-Country, Iping
12 September	BRC National Championships.
3 October	Dressage to Music Championships

## COASTAL ACCESS

The Marine Bill which will be considered by Parliament during the next session proposes to create a national coastal access trail 4m. or more wide, but it will only be open to walkers and cyclists!. The British Horse Society is petitioning for riders to be given the right to use this trail as well. You should receive a postcard with the next edition of Rider magazine to return to your local MP asking him to support this petition. Postcards can also be downloaded from <http://www.bhs.org.uk/DocFrame/DocView.asp?id=2543>, so please get any friends who are not BRC or BHS members to add their voices as well. If you do not know who your MP is go to [www.writetothem.com](http://www.writetothem.com). Even if you do not live within riding distance of the coast at the moment you may well do so in the future, or visit it on holiday, so its important to assert your right while you have the chance. Creating this trail will be expensive, and will take money out of the already overstretched rights-of-way budget, so we should demand our fair share of the benefit.

Riders often complain that the Ramblers Association and Sustrans are much more effective at gaining improved access for walkers and cyclists respectively than equestrian organisations are for riders. We have the disadvantage of being smaller in numbers, but that just means we need to be more vociferous in promoting our interests! In this case it will only take a few minutes to support this claim, so please stand up and be counted.