



MEON RIDING CLUB

1968 - 2007

NEWSLETTER

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MEON WIN CHAMPIONSHIP!

The British Riding Clubs Horse Trials Championships were only saved by heroic efforts by the organisers, who worked night and day and did an incredible job. The exceptionally wet weather in June and July caused the river Leam to burst its banks, flooding most of the course to a depth of two feet, and washing away several jumps. Photos of the site showed just how bad it had been! Fortunately the flood waters receded just in time, and the event was able to proceed with some modifications. We had our own problems at home too, when Rebecca Sporne had to withdraw from the Intermediate team at the last moment, due to a family bereavement. This meant we only had a team of three, who were:-

Jenny Naylor-Davis riding Harmony Fox
Helen Vernon riding ex-racehorse Kreischim
Julia Batho riding Just Hippy

Only THREE team members against 19 other teams of FOUR and Individual competitors. In Dressage Julia trounced them with a score of 31.5, and the other two also had good scores. In the Show Jumping Jenny and Harmony showed them how with a clear round, and the shortened Endurance section, or roads and tracks, went well for everyone, with Jenny completing with a minute in hand.

The Cross Country was a challenge for all, with difficult technical fences, but everyone flew round with no penalties, except for Helen who was attacked by terriers, lost her stirrup, stopped and used rude words!!! However, the fence judges did, unsurprisingly, remember the colourful incident and agreed any time penalties should be removed.

Helen was placed 6th in her arena, with 42.8 penalties, Jenny and Julia both picked up 3rd. places, with 38.1 and 40.5 respectively. This gave us a total of 121.4, 3 points ahead of our nearest rival! The first team win at the Championships for Meon Riding Club, despite qualifying and being placed several times and achieving Arena places in the past. Well done everyone! We hope to have the video of the team's show jumping and cross-country rounds to show at the AGM.

The Meon Riding Club Novice Team was 8th. It consisted of the new horse and rider combinations: Jenny Naylor-Davis and her inexperienced horse Red Alert; Christine Hughes with Harry; Anne Evans and her recently acquired Irish horse Kilcotty Jim and Ony Rogers riding Madison, as a last minute replacement (Monday!!!).

All did super dressage, but Ony achieved an incredible 29. All went clear at show jumping, except for an inexperienced 17 hh Kilcotty Jim. Roads and Tracks went well for everyone, despite the temperature rising to 27 °C. All went clear but a little slow cross country, though Ony had the misfortune to be held on the course while going well. After what seemed ages, Ony reappeared, we thought within the time, which would have placed her third, but the judges gave her time faults which put her down to ninth. We appealed but the Official Steward upheld the judge's decision. However, we all know how well she did as the last minute reserve. Chrissy Hughes and Harry went well to finish in sixth place, and we're sure everyone learnt from this promising outing

We can't wait until next year, when our Novice Team should shine as brightly as the Intermediate stars did this year. Thank you to the Meon Riding Club for their financial support and to the competitors' helpers - we could not have done this without them.

(Thanks to team manager, Rena Luton for her Report)

MEON'S NEW CHALLENGE

Blenheim Horse Trials run a Riding Club Team showjumping competition alongside the famous horse trials. This year the Meon entered a team consisting of Becky Sporne on Moonshine V, Julia Batho on Just Hippy, Grace Baker on Master Flynn and Barbara Wood on Simply Seamus. (This was the first time that Grand-daughter(Grace) and Granny(Barbara) competed in the same team, which added a little bit of interest for the commentator!) It was a lovely event set in a beautiful estate and was extremely well organised. The course was well constructed and the going perfect. The scores were on the scoreboard within seconds of each competitor leaving the arena! It proved quite exciting initially for some of the horses as there was quite a lot to look at with marquees, advertising banners and lots of people milling around. Our team finished 7th out of 23 teams entered, just missing being in the ribbons. We are all looking forward to going back next year – and of course there were all those shops to explore!

Blenheim must be one of the most attractive horse trials venues in the country; if you have never been there, do try to visit next year (or maybe you could be part of a competing Meon team!)

Report by Barbara Wood

STOCKTON LOVELL CAMP DISAPPOINTMENT

The Stockton Lovell Camp was another innovation on our programme this year, and proved very popular with 15 members booking places. They were virtually on the road when the terrible news of the re-emergence of foot-and-mouth outbreak was announced, and Stockton Lovell promptly cancelled our visit. Practically all outdoor riding events are held 'with the permission of the owner', and if this permission is withdrawn then we cannot go! Several other events have been cancelled, and it seems likely that the equine calendar will face disruptions until all restrictions have been lifted. We are outside the control zone and hope to be able to go ahead with the events on below, but this could change at short notice, so please keep an eye on the Club website.

Rights-of-Way can only be closed by legal orders, and these are only in force within the control zone. Nevertheless it would be wise to avoid susceptible livestock if you can.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

JOINT HUNTER TRIALS, LOWER PEAKE,

30 SEPT

Schedules for this were sent out last month; the first edition contained a small error, though only one person spotted it! The entry fees for members and non-members were the wrong way round. The corrected version can be downloaded a copy from the Club website, so please get your entries in. If we are not able to go ahead with this event, entry fees will be returned/destroyed, so please don't hesitate to send your entry in; you have nothing to lose. Volunteers have been a bit slow coming forward. This will be a fairly short day, as numbers will be limited; judge briefing about 9.15a.m. and finish by 4.00p.m. If you have benefitted from the Club's support by competing in our teams this year, helping out here is a fairly painless way of showing your appreciation, and it will be noted when teams are being selected next year. No experience is necessary. Names please to rking@fsbdial.co.uk

CLUB AGM, WARNFORD VILLAGE HALL,

19 OCT. 7.15P.M

We have moved this meeting to a Friday, at the request of some members. We are also starting a little earlier so we have more time for socialising when the business part of the meeting has been dealt with. An agenda will be sent out before the meeting. If you have any matters you would like to be included in the agenda please let the Secretary know by 30 Sept. We shall also be looking for new people to join the Committee next year, so please consider if you can spare some time to help us continue to improve,

INDOOR SHOW JUMPING, CROFTON, 11 Nov

Christmas is starting early this year! Probably something to do with climate change, though we hope it won't be snowing!. Your schedule is enclosed; please make sure all your friends know about it.

TRAINING

The training sheet for the Autumn season is on the web. Sorry that we are unable to continue the show jumping sessions as late in the evening as previously for those of you who have to train after work, but the instructor declined to work any later.

Helen Vernon and Fiona Emery are looking at the possibility of doing some indoor cross-country training sessions. Anyone interested?

ACCESS

The order has now been confirmed for Rowhay Lane, Upham to be recorded as a restricted byway. This completes a nice off-road riding route more-or-less where we used to hold our Roads and Tracks ride. Rowhay Lane was closed to riders as long ago as 1971, and was one of the first bridleway cases which members asked the Riding Club to work on. Sorry it has taken over 35 years, but it was opened to riders a few years ago, and this order completes the legal process which means it cannot be closed again.

There are probably many other ancient highways like Rowhay Lane in our area on which byway rights have not been recorded. We now have until 2026 to claim our rights to ride on these, and ensure they stay open in the future. This may sound a long time, but we would like to know about them as soon as possible. Please send details, with a map if possible, or grid references, to Mrs. B. King, Wheelers Farm, Froxfield, Petersfield, GU32 1DR. Names of adjacent landowners, and details of parish council involved are also useful if known.

OBITUARY

We were sorry to learn of the sudden death of Richard Schofield from The White House, Wickham Common. Richard was an influential figure in the early years of the Meon Riding Club. He was elected to the steering committee responsible for setting-up the Club at its inaugural meeting at Portsmouth College of Technology on 7 November 1968. The Club officially started in March 1969, and Richard continued to serve on the Committee for the next four years. He was Chairman in 1971-2, two years which laid the foundation of many of our present activities. In those days there were only three Area qualifying competitions, and 1971 was the first year we entered teams for all of them. We then went on to organise the Dressage Qualifier in 1972, I think at the Naval Riding Centre, though again that was a much smaller affair than it is now. The Annual Show also started that year, though initially simply as an in-hand show. We owe much of our present success to his enthusiasm and support in our early years. Our sincere sympathy to his widow, Angela, and their family.

