



MEON RIDING CLUB

1968 - 2009

NEWSLETTER

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MARCH 2009

MEON SUCCESS IN NOVICE TEAMS INDOOR

SHOW JUMPING QUALIFIER

The cold snap moved away just in time to give us a lovely day for the Area 17 Novice Teams Indoor Show Jumping Qualifier at Crofton on 15 February. Alison Naylor's courses proved a good test, with nearly all competitors getting round, but few leaving all the poles up! At the end of the first round only three of the fourteen Senior teams had clear score sheets, including Meon Silver and Meon Bronze. Even more poles fell in the second round, and only Meon Silver retained their faultless record, which made them outright winners! Meon Bronze and Meon Gold both finished on 12 faults, but the Gold team were slightly faster which put them in eighth place, with the Bronze team ninth. Congratulations to all our riders for a fantastic performance. They were:-

Meon Silver: Chrissie Hughes Harry
Tom Naylor-Davis Dougal
Sarah Pook Samphire
Jenny Naylor-Davis Red Alert

They go forward to the British Riding Clubs' Championship at Hartpury on 28 March.

Meon Gold: Thea Gibbons Bureau Bo
Claire Lewis Perriland
Leonardo
Jackie Rixon Colour me
Danny
Barbara Wood Travellers
Smartie

Meon Bronze: Sue Bridgewater Apple Jack
Diane Miles Molly
Catherine Row Turbo
Emma Bowley Killaga
Thomas Ashe

There were only two teams forward in the Junior section, but they were very evenly matched. After three rounds they were still equal on faults, but finally victory went to the Isle of Wight by a margin of less than one second.

Our thanks to the organising team of Barbara Wood, Janet Irving and Sue Francis-Stukings and their many helpers for an excellent day's sport.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

PRE-SEASON PARTY, 'TWO FOR ONE'

WEST MEON, FRIDAY 20 MARCH

A final reminder to return your booking form/menu if you haven't already done so. If you are one of those members who thinks we don't have enough social activities then the only way to get more is to support the ones we do put on! If we all want to sit down and eat together then we do need to get your order to the restaurant by the beginning of next week so please get it in the post, or you can pass it on through your nearest Committee member.

ROYAL WINDSOR HORSE SHOW QUALIFIERS

New Forest Pony Enthusiasts are including the Top Score qualifier in their Indoor Show Jumping day at Sparsholt on 4 April. The Riding Test qualifiers will be on 10 April; schedules for both are on the Area 17 website: www.area17-brc.fsnet.co.uk. The final rounds will be at the Royal Windsor Horse Show, 13-15 May

FESTIVAL OF THE HUNTER CHALLENGE, ROCKBOURNE 19 APRIL

Previously known as the cross-country qualifier, the new format which now includes a show jumping phase now has a new title to match! Your schedule for the Area Qualifier is enclosed. There are non-qualifying sections for individuals in each class, so if you are not a team person, or you are not available for the Festival of the Hunter Championships at Aston-le-Walls on 30 May then you can enter these for a bit of fun. The new format obviously means more stewards, fence judges etc. will be required, and we have to provide our share. If you can help please contact Dick King, 01730 264178; email: wheelers.farm@btinternet.com before 7 April.

CLUB OPEN DRESSAGE DAY CROFTON, 26 APRIL

The schedule for this can be downloaded from the Club website so please tell all your friends about it as we need lots of entries.

SUMMER CAMP, LOWER PEAKE, 2-4 JUNE

Details of this popular activity are enclosed on a separate sheet. June may seem a long way ahead, but please take a few minutes to read this, and if interested, get your booking in.

OTHER EVENTS

SPARSHOLT COUNTRYSIDE DAY, 16 MAY

As part of the attractions on this day, Hampshire Fire and Rescue are doing a demonstration on rescuing large animals. They have made a special study of rescuing horses, not just from fires and traffic accidents, but also from all sorts of situations in which they have become trapped. They are recognised as the leading experts in large animal rescue in the country, and this demonstration is well worth watching. For details of this day visit www.sparsholt.ac.uk

TRAINING

In his basic training sessions Alec Miles has been concentrating on exercises to improve strength and suppleness, and encourage better acceptance of the bit. The horses are a pretty mixed bunch, but all have problems of tension and resistance, and they have all responded well! These problems are very common, and anyone who needs help with them is welcome to join this group. The next session will be at Lower Peake on Thurs. 1 April at about 1.00p.m., and thereafter on alternate Wednesdays.

Individual dressage lessons with Elaine Wilson are continuing at Ashlands on Wednesday afternoon, 3.30p. m onwards, fortnightly from 11 March. More riders welcome! To join either of these sessions please contact Jan Desty, tel: 01489 877209; email:

A new 'Training with Meon' sheet is on the web giving details of show jumping training sessions from April onwards. Due to injury we now have vacancies in the 3' classes at Crofton on 23 March at 5.00pm, and at Quob on 13 March at 6.00p.m in the 2'6" class and on 27 March at 7.00pm in the 3'0" class. £20 per session. If you would like to fill one of these please contact Penny Briggs, tel:01730 892297, email: woolmerlodge@yahoo.co.uk

The next cross-country training session will be at Rockbourne on 28 March - a must for anyone planning to enter the Festival of the Hunter Qualifier.

Enquiries to Helen Vernon, tel:07801 425625; email:hv@commodity.eu.com

SUBSCRIPTION RENEWALS

Your renewal form was sent out last month. Many thanks to those who have sent them back already. If you are not one of them please remember to do so before the end of the month. This is particularly important if you are hoping to compete in one of the 2009 Area Qualifiers, as you will not be eligible if your subscription has not been paid.

ACCESS

Day-length in March increases rapidly, providing more opportunity to get out in the countryside and enjoy the Spring flowers, and, if we're lucky, some Spring sunshine. For many riders access to the countryside is constricted because of the fragmented nature of the bridleways network. We are always trying to improve this, and now have the newly published Countryside Access Plans to assist us. Around 1300 riders in Hampshire contributed to these, including many in our area, which is split between the Forest of Bere, South Downs and Solent. The challenge now is to put these plans into action, and we need the support of all of you to do this.

In the Forest of Bere area, Rookesbury Estate at Wickham has kindly offered to make footpaths 6 and 32, which run from Hundred Acres road across the A32 to the Meon Valley Trail into permissive bridleways, and the link to the disused railway line has been improved. Riders generally prefer circular routes, so I'd be interested to know if anyone has found a good way of incorporating this into a circuit?

A group is also working on a proposal to create a new bridleway on the old Botley-Bishops Waltham railway line. We have received a lot of support, but Bishops Waltham Parish Council is opposed to horses using this route. This is surprising as it was a petition by riders in this area which put this into the CAP originally. If you live in Bishops Waltham, please let them know what you think of their attitude. The Clerk to the Council is Mrs. Lindsey Edge, Parish Council Office, The Jubilee Hall, Little Shore Lane, Bishops Waltham SO32 1ED, email:parishclerk.bwpc@btconnect.com

I regret that last month I gave the wrong contact details for Sarah Bray, who is looking for user-evidence for a claim at Hazelholt. I understand some of you managed to contact her anyway, but if you didn't please try again-tel.01489 891917; mobile 07900 276700
email:sarah4horses@lineone.net