



WYE VALLEY RIDING CLUB

Established 1974. BHS Affiliated

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COMMITTEE FOR 2017/2018

Winter 2017/18

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Hi All, sorry I'm so late in sending out this newsletter, no excuses I just haven't had time what with Christmas and the new year.

Anyway may I and the committee wish you all a Happy Healthy and Prosperous 2018. There are lots of information and articles this time so no further ado lets get started.

MONTHLY MEETINGS

7th February At The Beaufort Hotel Chepstow

This is a new venue for us as The Anchor in Tintern is closed for refurbishments. The times are as usual talk starting at 8.00pm and if you wish to eat then I suggest you get there about 7.00pm. The actual meeting will take place in the Florence Room.

The subject of our February meeting will be the horses mouth with a presentation from Sarah Carr BVSc, MRCVS. Sarah graduated from Liverpool and spent time working in Morocco with SPANA before joining the team at Abbey Equine. She has a special interest in equine dentistry and believes all horses should receive regular, high quality, preventative dental treatment. Sarah's talk on caring for your horses teeth is sure to be of great interest.

March 21st

A talk from Eric Winter, leading eventing course designer at all levels, including for international classes at Blenheim, Burghley and Badminton.

This meeting will start at 8.00pm and will be held at a different venue from usual for us at the Beaufort Hotel in Chepstow. Again if anyone wishes to eat beforehand then I suggest

you arrive around 7.00pm. The meeting will be in the Florence room. Open to members (free) and non-members (£5 in advance and £7 on the door). Non-members should contact me Marilyn for tickets. Tel. 01291 627446, email marilyn.kirton1@gmail.com

MONTHLY MEETING REPORT

Dressage Demonstration, Usk College Wednesday 6th September 2017

On Wednesday 6th September 2017 The Wye Valley Riding Club was delighted to welcome Shona Walker, a list 4 dressage judge to provide a talk and demonstration at Usk College indoor arena on "a judge's view of how to ride a test".

We had 4 riders who kindly agreed to be guinea pigs for the evening and these were Charlie Matthews riding Kath Trigg's horse Demo, Janet Peters on her horse Fleur, Lindsey Gaunt on Cassidy and Clare Harden on her own Harry. During the first part of the demonstration the group watched Janet riding Fleur and Clare riding Harry both of whom were working at prelim level.

Shona referred to the scales of training and confirmed that the basis of everything is rhythm as this is the foundation of all moves and that it is possible to lose 50% of the marks on a faulty walk or trot. Shona also explained how the walk is a 4 time beat and that the medium walk needs to move into the bridle whereas the free walk needs to stretch. The judge will want to see the horse or pony over tracking with the tail swaying and it is very important therefore, to train for the walk as it is extremely influential.

Shona explained the importance of transitions and got both riders to turn up the centre line and explained that she was looking for straightness; Shona said "ride the centre line like an arrow and rev the engine and move forwards!" because the more forward they are then the straighter they will be.

Shona explained that "forward" means intention and reacting to the aids but does not mean speed; riders should look for an immediate reaction and stressed the importance of never allowing the horse to stop on a surface because otherwise it will stop during a test!

Shona also gave the audience a different perspective on how to ride transitions; she explained that it is really the same thing as riding a jump.

Shona said at prelim level she would rather see the horse's head up and into the bridle and also explained that when moving from the free walk to medium walk the horse's head should stretch down rather than be curled and it should swing through the back legs with plenty of energy so as not to hollow.

In the second part of the demonstration we had Lindsey Gaunt riding her own Cassidy who is working at Elementary level and Charlie Matthews riding Kath Trigg's Demo also working at Elementary level.

Shona said with more advanced horses she would look for greater uphill balance and increased engagement and one of the ways to achieve this is to extend forward then come back in order to get the balance.

Shona asked both riders to work on achieving a medium trot across the diagonal line and explained that at Novice level she would be looking for about four to five strides whereas at Elementary it would need to be marker to marker.

Shona also explained that too much neck bend tends to push the horse out through its shoulder and that the judge wants to see a "U" shape under the neck and not a "V" shape because the horse needs to take the contact. Shona said a better contact will not be achieved if the horse is allowed to slow down before the transition.

In relation to the give and retake of the reins, Shona explained that it needs to be over one stride

and that balance should be maintained. In the give and retake the contact needs to be broken slightly by moving the hands forward but not down to the bit; it should be just through the arms.

Shona also covered what a judge would look for when the horse is asked to stretch down in the trot where the poll lowers to show suppleness in the back.

The audience was completely fascinated throughout the evening and all of the riders were able to take away some very helpful ideas. We would like to thank Shona for providing what was a very interesting and engaging insight into the mind of a dressage judge and are very much looking forward to a return visit at some point in the near future.

1ST NOVEMBER

This was our Annual General Meeting held at the Anchor in Tintern. Pre the proceeding we indulged in a very nice buffet of chips and sandwiches which went down very well. The attendance was very good, around 30 members.

We had to say goodbye to our Chairperson, Kathy Trigg, who for personal reasons felt she needed to stand down. We thanked her for all her work and hoped she would still come to our monthly meetings and shows when she was able. We made a presentation to her of riding gloves. We also had to say goodbye to Laura Jones-Griffiths, we are grateful for all the hard work she has put into her time on the committee, but luckily for us she has agreed to keep arranging the training sessions at Usk College.

Peter Buist presented the annual awards for the highest placed Dressage and Showjumping riders in the summer shows. The results were:

Showjumping: 1st place Claire Corney with Dan, 2nd place Laura Jones-Griffiths with Luna, 3rd Maxine Edwards and Rosie.

Dressage: 1st place Chris Brooks with Old Forge Boy, 2nd place Lesley Dunn with Natalia Bint Chatang, 3rd Place Julian Holmes and Alexander.

Congratulations to you all, we look forward to the 2018 series.

A full account of the AGM is attached.

6TH DECEMBER

This was our annual Christmas Party at the Anchor in Tintern and was very well attended with 31 of us enjoying the start of the festive season. We welcomed Colin and Margaret Jenkins from Howick Farm as our guests. Diana provided her usual quiz which went down very well. We all enjoyed the food and the company was very good.

TRAINING

We have some great training organised for our members. All sessions will be groups of no more than 4 riders and are open to riders and horses of all abilities.

28 January 2018, flatwork indoors at Usk College with Carole Broad. First group at 10am. £20 to WVRC members. Book with Laura Jones-Griffiths

25 February, jumping indoors at Usk College, with Sarah Spencer-Williams. First group at 10am. £20 to WVRC members. Book with Laura Jones-Griffiths

25 March, flatwork indoors at Usk College with Carole Broad. First group at 10am. £20 to WVRC members. Book with Laura Jones-Griffiths

Laura Jones-Griffiths on ljonesgriffiths@gmail.com, 07557 646191 or 01633 400072

Volunteer of the Year Award 2017 BRC

Ann Wilson

Imagine my surprise when a letter arrived from BRC telling me I had been chosen as BRC Volunteer of the year. I had to read it twice to take it in. The to find out that I was not only going to London to receive the award but it was being presented by Martin Clunes. To receive an award like this for doing something you really get a lot of pleasure from is overwhelming. Not to mention all the friends I have made from all over the country. The day of the award ceremony came and really had no idea what to expect. We arrived at the venue Worshipful Master Saddlers Hall to a very warm welcome. This building is amazing and full of equine history. Coffee tea and cake yummy in abundance. Martin Clunes arrived and was so lovely, think he managed to speak to nearly everyone. He is so tall. We all then went into the presentation hall. I think we were all nervous as each person went up to receive their award individually, after photos shown of each person and master of ceremonies gave a run down of why you had got this award. Must say meeting and receiving my award from Martin Clunes was emotional. Silly really but so pleased. Ceremony was followed by a wonderful lunch opportunity to speak to all the others who had received awards.

Will never forget this day. ANN

Well done Ann you deserve the honour.



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Wye Valley Riding Club Volunteer of the Year Award 2018

In the light of Ann's well deserved award we are going to award an annual riding club volunteer award which will be presented at the end of the year, can't hope to get Martin Clunes to present it but will do our best to find some one. We have lots of shows coming up so if you can spare the time please come and help us.

Show Dates

Wednesday 23rd May - Evening Dressage show at Howick Farm.

Wednesday 13th June - Evening Show jumping show at Howick Farm.

Wednesday 11th July - Evening Dressage show at Howick Farm.

Wednesday 15th August - Evening Show jumping show at Howick Farm.

Saturday 22nd September - All Day Show jumping, dressage, combined training at Howick Farm.

The shows will be open to Wye Valley RC members and non-members.

The schedules will be out nearer the time so put the dates in you diaries. We will be needing volunteers to help set up and on the day and will go towards the Volunteer Award for 2018

Emergency First Aid Training.

We are arranging an training course for Emergency First Aid at Work. It is a 1 day course costing £32 per person and is geared towards equestrianism. It's practical based and also fun. The course is with Sandra Fisher. If any one is interested please contact Marilyn on e.mail: Marilyn.kirton1@gmail.com

Wye Valley Riding Club Jackets

As you all know we have riding club jackets with our logo and name embroidered on them. They are made to order by Eurologo in Bridgend. They have contacted me to say that unfortunately they have had to put up their prices and now the jackets will cost £30 each including VAT. They have also said that they will post them out to individuals at a postage cost of £6.00

I thought I had better explain as I was asked if the riding club received any profit from the sale of the jackets and the answer is no, the price you pay is what is charged by the company.

There is an order form attached to this newsletter giving sizes and colours.

Changes to Hat and Body Protector Standards

As you know there have been changes to the hat and body protector standards which took effect from 1.1.2018. There is also a new AQUA tag for hats. The Pony Club, British Eventing and British Riding Clubs have agreed to the AQUA colour tag and if you have had your hat tagged with this colour you are covered for the three disciplines, but if not you must take your hat to be tagged which will at the moment be most of you. I have attached the BRC Guideline to this newsletter, so make sure you read them and that you comply with the rules.

