



WYE VALLEY RIDING CLUB

Established 1974. BHS Affiliated

Website: www.wyevalleyrc.co.uk

Volume 7 Issue 3

COMMITTEE FOR 2016/2017

Summer 2017

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Hi All, I'm sorry that I have taken so long to compile the Summer newsletter, I have given myself a very severe reprimand, so I hope you will forgive me.

The club has been busy over the summer with dressage and show jumping shows at Howick organised by Peter Buist, thank you Peter for your hard work. We have also taken part in various Area Qualifiers and have had a lot of success, qualifying for the Combined Training Championships and also qualified for the Regional Showjumping Championships in the 0.80m and comprised of Debbie Watson, Claire Corney, Maxine Edwards and Julian Holmes, and only on Sunday came second at the 70cm Show Jumping at Pencoed, the team comprised of Julian Holmes (Chef d'Equipe), Laura Jones-Griffiths, Maxine Edwards and last but not least Jaci Crocombe. Well done all of you.

Haven't we had some beautiful weather this summer (needless to say NOT this last few days which have been dreadful) the best we've had for sometime. Lets hope we have a good autumn.

Now down to business: I am still taking orders for our club jackets, they are showerproof and fleece lined and can be worn straight or there are cords at the bottom to make them into blousons they are in a lovely shade of green with logo on the front and "Wye Valley Riding Club" embroidered on the back. They cost £27.00 which is very reasonable. An order form is attached to the newsletter.

You will see from the details of committee members that Pam Davidson has moved and her new phone number is 01594 562958. Her mobile and e-mails are still the same.

Julian Holmes has changed his e.mail to:
julian.holmes.jh@gmail.com

MONTHLY MEETINGS

August 9th

Meet on **Wednesday 9th August** at 7.30pm for a treasure hunt, at Little Bottom, Penallt, NP25 4AR. Ann Wilson will kindly be organising this fun event, and invites friends, partners but not horses to her place. Café 83 will be catering a ploughman's supper and drink for all, so for catering purposes please let Ann know if you will be coming on

07734 265185, ann53wilson@gmail.com.

September

How To Improve Your Dressage Score - an evening with Shona Walker (List 4 British Dressage judge and trainer) at Usk College indoor arena on **Wednesday 6th September**, starting at 7.30pm. Working with a variety of horses and riders from preliminary to elementary levels Shona will show us common mistakes where riders lose marks and how to correct this.

Free to Wye Valley Riding Club members. £5 each for non-members. Café 83 will be in attendance with hot & cold drinks and bacon butties. Please bring a chair.

If anyone would like to be a guinea pig and bring their horse to this meeting please contact Kath Trigg at kathleentrigg@btinternet.com for further details.

October 4th

We are still trying to arrange this meeting and we will let you have details as soon as possible

November 1st

This will be our Annual General meeting, and details will be in the next newsletter in September.

December 6th

We are again hoping to arrange our usual Christmas Party, details in the next newsletter.

MONTHLY MEETING REPORT

Visit to Abbey Equine on how to administer first aid to your horse

The Wye Valley Riding Club was delighted to be able to attend the Abbey Equine practice in Abergavenny on 7th June. The weather was quite inclement for the time of year and meant that it was not a particularly pleasant evening for driving however this was more than made up for by firstly, the fascinating demonstration that was given by the practice on Equine First Aid and secondly, but by no means least, the abundant amounts of food and wine that Kath Trigg very kindly organised for those attending!

Those giving the talk and demonstration were Karen Williams, Head Equine Nurse and Bryony Lovell-Williams, Equine Nurse. Bryony brought along a lovely pony called Socks who is used for both riding and driving and was the live patient for the talk and who also displayed the most amazing patience and tolerance particularly when the group were shown several times how a horse's temperature should be taken! Just on this, the technique is to leave the thermometer in for 60 seconds and if there is a reading of 37 to 38 degrees centigrade, then that is fine however, if it is higher than this then there can be a number of reasons and one that is quite common is some kind of infection.

The attendees also learnt about how to take a horse's pulse and respiration; younger horses tend to have a faster pulse rate but with a normal mature horse you could expect the pulse rate to be 30 to 42 beats per minute and possibly as high as 46 beats per minute if the horse is anxious. To test the pulse you should use a stethoscope and these can be acquired for as little as £30 or you can pay as much as £200 although Karen did make the point that there comes a stage when it becomes quite an expensive item to get broken! A point that was reinforced was that you should always use fingers to feel for the pulse and not your thumb otherwise it is likely you will be

checking your own pulse!

On the subject of respiration we learnt that at a state of rest in the stable, this can be as few as 6 breaths a minute!

We then moved to the subject of wounds and Karen gave a very practical insight on the kind of things to look for to assess the seriousness of a wound. The first message was "if you see blood, don't panic but assess the situation", it is very important to explain to the vet over the phone the depth of the wound and also where it is. If it continues to bleed then keep putting swabs on it to apply pressure – it became apparent that if your horse becomes injured when out riding then it is very possible to become creative with items of clothing – a hunting stock is very good as a make shift tourniquet. If for example the hoof becomes impaled with say, a nail, then the best advice is not to remove it unless absolutely necessary as this makes it much harder for the vet to understand how deep the wound is. Also be aware of purple spray, it doesn't actually have any healing properties and is purely to indicate where a problem is and apparently it is a common situation for a vet to attend a horse with an injury and spend time cleaning off vast amounts of purple spray!

We then looked at different types of dressings and bandages. When applying a bandage to the leg, do so with a 50% overlap. It is very important that the first layer is not too tight and it is best to use a non adherent dressing such as melolin so as to alleviate the pressure of the bandage on the leg – white hairs on an area where there has been a dressing on a wound is an indication that there has been a tight bandage in contact with the leg. The last bit of the dressing should be sticky to keep it in place e.g. duck tape can be used. Karen made the point that joints such as the hock are more difficult to heal because this involves movement and therefore using packs of 500g cotton wool are ideal because they provide warmth (temperature is important for the healing process), support and help reduce movement. With a knee dressing, this is the same principle however, never bandage directly onto the back of the knee.

In terms of things to be aware of with wounds: an offensive smell means a bacterial infection because the smell is caused by the white blood cells; a clear fluid on a joint is likely to be synovial fluid and; very bright red blood is likely to be an artery.

One of the best treatments is saline solution as this irrigates and cleans the wound, you can buy saline solution or the best thing is to make it with a teaspoon full of salt dissolved in litre of previously boiled water that has been allowed to cool.

Zinc ointment is also very good for the skin and moisture is also very important for the healing process; the wound should not be allowed to become dry.

On the subject of applying poultices, put it in hot water, allow it to cool down and apply the non-shiny surface to the wound and the group were also shown how to keep it in place by effective bandaging.

There were several horses being kept in the stable area of the practice where the demonstration took place and they were there for a number reasons ranging from wound recovery to artificial insemination.

The demonstration was very thorough however the time flew by because it was so interesting and at the end, there were a copious amount of freebies such as pens, key rings and also a measuring tape so that you can work out the weight of your horse; the practice also sells ready made first aid kits which has everything that you would need in an emergency.

We would like to thank Karen and Bryony for providing such an informative and interesting talk and all the attendees left feeling they had taken away some very useful tips for the future.

Reporter : Julian Holmes

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Wye Valley Riding Club visits the Black Mountain Falconry Centre, Abergavenny

On 12th July Roger and June James who own the Black Mountain Falconry, near Abergavenny gave a very interesting talk and demonstration on the art of Falconry which has traditionally been the "Sport of Kings".

Located in a very picturesque setting at the base of the Black Mountains, the Riding Club were very privileged to be able to observe a spectacular display of two of the birds of prey in action.

June gave a commentary over a PA system while handling the birds of prey and Roger participated in the demonstration mounted on Senador, who is the couple's beautiful *Pura Raza Española (PRE)*, which translates as "Pure Spanish Horse," (formerly known as an Andalusian).

The first demonstration was with Bramble, a Harris Hawk who chased a lure disguised as a rabbit; Roger galloped away with a head start on Senador while Bramble pursued, swooped and caught the "rabbit".

The next demonstration was with Bashir, a falcon that has been trained to fly at a lure that Roger was moving around while mounted on Senador. We learned that Falcons can fly at speeds of up to 180 mph which means that everyone involved needs to have nerves of steel. The birds themselves are absolutely mesmerising, however the people who attended were equally spellbound by Senador who was totally fearless, never flinched once and clearly loved his owners.

The evening was completed with coffee and cakes in the hospitality area of the falconry centre and rounded off what was a very fascinating and enjoyable experience and the Club would like to thank Roger and June for being so welcoming and friendly.

Reporter: Julian Holmes . Photos: Kathy Trigg



CLUB COMPETITIONS RESULTS**Wednesday 21st June: Show Jumping**

Class 1 0.70m

1st: Jane Smith on Bee. 2nd: Jaci Crocombe on Rocky. 3rd: Bruce Scholfield on Margo
4th: Maxine Edwards on Rosie. 5th: Lois Thornber on Rosie. 6th: Laura Jones-Griffiths
on Lunar. Jane Smith was the highest placed Wye Valley member.

Class 2 0.80m

1st: Kat Burton on Troy. 2nd: Caroline Baldwin on Merlin. 3rd: Maxine Edwards on
Rosie. 4th: Jane Smith on Bee. 5th: Debbie Watson on Diamond. 6th: Claire Corney on
Dan. Maxine Edwards was the highest placed Wye Valley Member

Class 3 0.90m

1st: Maxine Edwards on Rosie. 2nd: Claire Corney on Dan. 3rd: Caroline Baldwin on
Merlin. 4th: Bruce Scholfield on Margo. 5th: Kat Burton on Troy. Maxine Edwards was
the highest placed Wye Valley Member.

Wednesday 5th July: Dressage

Class 1

- 1st Chris Brooks & Paddy
- 2nd Tiri Budd & Topper
- 3rd Ann Wilson & Cassie
- 4th Christine Sullivan & Artorious
- 5th Jenny Williams & Oscar

Class 2

- 1st Claire Corney & Dunmore Dan
- 2nd Chris Brooks & Paddy
- 3rd Tiri Budd & Declan
- 4th Lily Williams & Noble Gold Digger
- 5th Emma Cassidy & Beach Boy
- 6th Kirsty Sullivan & Artorious

Class 3

- 1st Tiri Budd & Declan
- 2nd Charles Matthews & Demo
- 3rd Anna Saunders & Curious Lady
- 4th Maddy Mouldsley & Vision Statement
- 5th Lesley Dunn & Nahtalia Bint Chatanz

Class 4

- 1st Charles Matthews & Demo
- 2nd Anna Saunders & Curious Lady

Howick Show Date

WVRC Super Saturday Show Jumping - Saturday 16th September. Open to members and non-members and classes will contribute towards the club points accumulator . Schedule and entry form will be sent out shortly. We are very pleased that Cafe 83 will be attending this shows, offering fresh brewed tea, coffees, soft drinks, cakes, muffins and bacon butties. This will be a great fun day and we look forward to lots of members and friends joining us

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.

8 September 2017, 2pm flatwork with Lizzel Winters at Severnvale Equestrian Centre.
£22.50. Book with Lindsey

20 October 2017, 2pm flatwork with Lizzel Winters at Severnvale Equestrian Centre.
£22.50. Book with Lindsey

17 November 2017, 2pm flatwork with Lizzel Winters at Severnvale Equestrian Centre.
£22.50. Book with Lindsey

15 December 2017, 2pm flatwork with Lizzel Winters at Severnvale Equestrian Centre.
£22.50. Book with Lindsey

Contact Lindsey Gaunt on Lindsey.gaunt@googlemail.com or 01291 680065

