



WYE VALLEY RIDING CLUB

Established 1974. BHS Affiliated

Website: www.wyevalleyrc.co.uk

Volume 8 Issue 2

COMMITTEE FOR 2017/2018

Spring !!!! 2018

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Hi All, Do I dare mention the weather again at the moment the sun is trying to peep through but every where is so wet and muddy, I'm beginning to think that Spring has given up on us. At least the nights are a bit lighter but that's about it.

I hope you all had a good Easter and managed to get out a bit with dobbins.

Firstly I must apologise that we are unable to have the carriage driving demonstration at Wellhope Farm Earlswood with Tony and Vivien Clarke tomorrow night 11th April. As you are probably aware the ground is much too wet at the moment. We hope to rearrange the demonstration in the Summer.

MONTHLY MEETINGS

9th May

This will be a talk by Martin Morgan from the Black Rock Lave Net Fishery.

The talk will be about the Black rock lave net fishery which is the last of its type in Wales. A traditional salmon fishery which is recorded as being present on the severn estuary in the 17th century. The organised group was founded by Martin's great grandfather in the 1920s and every year since men from the local villages have fished for salmon with their hand held lave nets .

The fishery is now promoted as a tourism /heritage site and people are invited to watch the fishing from the safety of the picnic site at Black Rock , Portskewett. where the fishermen have their base . Martin will be bringing with some of the nets they use and show how they are made etc.

The venue will be the Beaufort in Chepstow and will start at 8.00pm. It is open to members free and Non members at a small fee of £5

Anyone wishing to eat before hand needs to be there by 7.00pm

www.blackrocklavenets.co.uk & facebook



MONTHLY MEETING Cont:

6th June

This will be a talk by the Rural Crimes Watch given by Ruth James and her associate. She will be talking about rural crime and what can be done to stop it.

The venue has still to be decided and we will let you know as soon as possible.

MONTHLY MEETING REPORTS

7th February (Reporter: Maddy Mouldsley)

For our February meeting we were lucky enough to have Sarah Carr BVSc MRCVS (ably assisted by vet nurse Cat Griffiths) from Abbey Equine join us to talk about equine dentistry. Sarah stressed her belief that every horse should receive regular, high quality dentistry as part of their routine health care. She pointed out that the horse's mouth is a vital point of communication between horse and rider and if the health of the mouth and teeth is not maintained it can affect not only the ability to eat efficiently but can also influence the horse's behaviour and performance. She advised that horses are very good at disguising pain; many will adapt coping mechanisms and live with a problem without showing any outward signs that there is anything wrong.

Modern equine dentistry is very much focussed on preventing dental disease, not just treating it, and this can only really be done with a thorough examination of each individual tooth, as well as the mouth as a whole, in order to identify small abnormalities at an early stage. Sarah told us that this can only be fully effective if the horse is sedated, not only does this make the whole experience much less stressful for both horse and vet(!) but it also relaxes the tongue. The tongue apparently is massive in proportion to the mouth and unless this is relaxed it is impossible to see all of the back teeth.

Sarah discussed some of the problems which can occur if the teeth are not regularly attended to; for example "wave mouth" which happens when uneven growth of a tooth on either the upper or lower jawbone wears away at the teeth on the opposite plane, or "periodontal disease" which happens when food becomes compacted between the teeth and subsequently creates holes in the gums which will be liable to infection. She also advised of how these conditions could be treated, including some interesting new techniques.

All of Sarah's information was backed up with useful pictures, anatomical diagrams and photos of previous cases, some of which were not for the faint hearted! There was the opportunity at the end to ask questions and have a closer look at some of the equipment they would use so all in all it was a very interesting and informative evening – I think we all learned something new.

The new venue of The Beaufort Hotel was a great success and if anyone is planning on eating there before the next meeting I can recommend the fish and chips!

21st March

Eric Winter Course Designer for the Badminton Horse Trials, Wednesday 21st March 2018

The Riding Club were delighted to welcome Eric Winter who, as well as running Severnvale Equestrian Centre, near Chepstow, has had a long career initially as a top level show jumper and then as a three day eventer; Eric has ridden around Badminton and Burghley and has represented England at international level. Latterly, Eric has become a

leading cross country course designer at all levels regularly travelling abroad and notably, is the current cross country course designer at the Badminton Horse Trials.

Eric began by talking about how he got started in eventing and explained that even though he had ridden Grade A show jumpers professionally, as an eventer he originally saw himself as more of a “hobby rider” and almost by chance acquired a likely horse (and one that seemed to inflict injuries on almost everyone who came into contact!). Eric explained that it can be a very fine line between the temperament of the kind of horse that can excel at top level and one that can be practically delinquent in its behaviour!

Eric spoke about the commercial challenges that occur for many riders and that while he had ridden round Badminton and Burghley, he had qualified a further ten horses for Badminton which he then sold after consideration had been given to the financial benefits.

It was fascinating to hear from Eric about how he came to be the cross country course designer at the Badminton Horse Trials and how, after a number of misfortunes, what he believed was going to be one of the worst days of his life, suddenly turned out to be one of the best days when he was offered the position at Badminton. Eric explained the nature of the culture behind the Badminton Horse Trials and amazingly, despite being one of the most prestigious three day events in the world, it does in fact have a family atmosphere with many of the key workers being locals who have been involved for forty years or so.

Eric described that even at top level, not every horse is a super star and his objective as a course designer is to enable the large proportion of competitors to have a chance at getting round the course albeit with the inevitable questions and challenges that can be posed. Eric made the point that priorities can alter from country to country with safety having more emphasis in some than others and that in the UK, he believed the cross country course should be sufficiently testing so that it has a greater influence on the final result.

Eric explained how it takes a number of years to get to know any course and how moving the markers and some of the fences by a small amount can achieve the optimum competition and experience for both spectators and riders.

It was very endearing to hear Eric’s frank acceptance and understanding that there is a natural evolution for people involved in the sport; Eric mentioned that he had established a reputation as a rider for sorting out problems for owners before proceeding to get good results out of their horses however, he noticed that there was an inevitable progression where the call for his skill and experience as a course designer started to increase.

At the end of his relaxed and amusing talk, Eric opened up the floor to questions from the large, very attentive audience and there were many who took advantage of the opportunity to ask all manner of questions ranging from “what do you do when the weather changes during the day?” to “do you have to consider which fences will have the greatest appeal for television coverage?”

Entertaining and informative as always, it was captivating to hear the views and thought processes of someone right at the sharp end, and the Wye Valley Riding Club are very grateful to Eric for coming to share his knowledge and experiences and look forward to a return visit from him in the near future.

TRAINING

We have some great training organised for our members.

13/5/18 flat Carole Broad - PLEASE NOTE DATE CHANGE HERE

10/6/18 jumping ? Hopefully with Sarah Spencer-Williams, yet to be agreed

15/7/18 flat Carole Broad

19/8/18 jumping ? Hopefully with Sarah Spencer-Williams, yet to be agreed

9/9/18 flat Carole Broad

All sessions are for no more than 4 riders and are open to riders and horses of all abilities.

And are open to members at £20.00 per session and non-members at £25.00 per session

The venue for all these training session is Usk College , Usk.

To book your place please contact:

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

Lizzel Winter Training Dates at Severnvale Equestrian Centre.

8 May, flatwork with Lizzel Winters at Severnvale EC. £22.50 to WVRC members. This training is fully booked, but please contact Lindsey to be added to the waiting list

25 June, flatwork with Lizzel Winters at Severnvale EC. £22.50 to WVRC members. Book with Lindsey Gaunt

4 July, flatwork with Lizzel Winters at Severnvale EC. £22.50 to WVRC members.

Book with Lindsey Gaunt on Lindsey.gaunt@googlemail.com or 01291 680065

Wye Valley Riding Club Volunteer of the Year Award 2018

In the light of Ann's well deserved award reported on in our last newsletter 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.

The first aide training went very well and thank you to Sandra Fisher for taking the time to train our three volunteers

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.

BRC Grassroots Training

British Riding Clubs have teamed up with world class instructors to offer you tuition in dressage during 2018. This is aimed at grassroots riders who have not competed in a BRC qualifier or with British Dressage (level 1) or who have not competed above prelim level (level 2). The nearest sessions to us are 12th May at Pencoed with William Blane, or 23rd June at Abbey Dressage, Tewkesbury with Jo Winfield, or 14th July at Trojan Stud, Carmarthen with Islay Auty. For full details please see the [BRC website](#).

Team Competitions

Summer qualifiers are coming up. If you are interested in riding as an individual or team member in horse trials, dressage, style and show jumping, please contact Julian Holmes on Julian.holmes.jh@gmail.com 07873 346852