

WYE VALLEY RIDING CLUB

Website: www.wyevalleyrc.co.uk

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COMMITTEE FOR 2015/2016

Winter 2015/2016

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Established 1974. BHS Affiliated

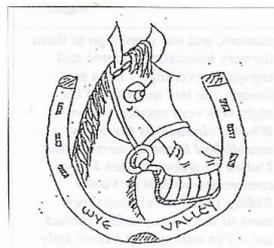
RIDE & STRIDE CHEPSTOW

10% Discount for all Paid Up Members on all Purchases EXCEPT Foods and Supplements on production of BRC Current Membership Card

Well here we are again, the start of another year of Wye Valley Riding Club. May, on behalf of the committee wish you all a Happy Christmas and a Happy, Prosperous and Healthy 2016, and the same to your equines and four legged friends.

As you can see from the list of committee members, we welcome to the team Laura Jones-Griffiths and Sallie Prewett, welcome both we hope you will enjoy being part of our gang!

I have to say the



weather recently has been absolutely diabolical with wind and rain all be it the temperature has been reasonably mild. I was coming back from Newport on Monday on the M48 and there was one large field which was completely under water, I feel so sorry for farmers and for all those people up north who have been flooded out especially at this time of year. Well must get on with the newsletter.

MEMBERSHIP

As you all know membership subs for the coming year were due on 1st October 2015. So if you haven't already paid I would be happy to receive them as soon as possible or at the latest by 31st January. If I haven't received them by then I shall assume you do not wish to rejoin which will be a great pity as you could miss out on some exciting shows and guest speakers as well as taking part in team qualifiers. So come on let's make my postman earn his money!!.

QUOTES FROM A FRIEND

I asked God for a bike, but I know God doesn't work that way. So I stole a bike and asked for forgiveness

Behind every successful man is his woman. Behind the fall of a successful man is usually another woman.

The voices in my head may not be real, but they have some good ideas!

MONTHLY MEETINGS

6TH JANUARY

As usual there will NOT be a meeting in January, to give you time to get over the festive season.

3RD FEBRUARY

This will be a talk by Frankie Reid-Warrilow, who has been a member of British Riding Clubs for many years, on her individual Gold Medal win and as part of the Silver Medal GBR team at the CIC** European Championships on her home bred horse Dolley Whisper.

This should be a very interesting talk so I urge to attend if you are able. Venue is the Anchor at Tintern and start time will be 8.00pm. If you wish to eat then please arrive around 7.00pm.

2ND MARCH

This will be a talk on Strangles by Emma Jones from Abbey Equine and will have relevance to that time of year. A good talk to come and listen to. The venue and times are as above.

SUGGESTIONS

We are looking for suggestions for other speakers or visits etc. for future meetings, so if you have any ideas then please let one of the committee know. We are open to any ideas. We are also looking for ideas for shows and training.

MONTHLY MEETING REPORTS

Let's see what my horse can do", Wednesday 7th October, Coleg Gwent

Joanna and Roger Day (authors of "The fearless Horse") lay out their props for a fascinating demo on how to training your horse to cope with the unexpected – spook busting. There were flags, umbrellas, a tarpaulin, a narrow passage between two jumps, things that squeaked, things that rattled, things that banged. And then there was the audience who were, at times, encouraged to walk around, jump up and down and clap. Three riding club members braved the cold and dark to bring out their lovely horses for the demo. Annalise brought the 'emotional' Jack, Helen brought Boo, who wasn't scared by much, and Kath brought –in Joanna's words - 'the ginger horse', although I know Kath prefers to think of him as golden. For me, Joanna had one thing to teach us – you reward your horse when he has coped with the situation, and not for reacting. Timing is everything and Joanna helped us to read the signs in our horses. When happy and relaxed the horses walked and trotted around with regular footfalls and regular breathing (some riders needed help with finding their calm too). Then the props came into play; one at a time, and just enough to get a reaction. Could we in the audience read the horses reactions? A change in rhythm; ear and eye turn to focus on the offending object; tail clamped; and stepping away. And as a rider/trainer, your job is now to tell your horse what to do – step out in rhythm past the offending object or noise. And the rider keeps looking for a sign that the horse has begun to accept the situation, and reward him immediately by taking away the pressure, and after a couple of tries then having a break on a loose rein. I think the real skill is seeing that sign; in the ear, the eye, the jaw, the breathing. Joanna also talked about the character and personality of our horses, how their type will cope with challenges, and the interplay with life experiences, age and illness. She clearly loves natives with all their instinct. The evening finished with all the horses walking past the clapping audience.

NOVEMBER MEETING CLUB AGM

Wye Valley Riding Club Annual General Meeting: Wednesday 4th November, 2015, Anchor Inn, Tintern
Apologies: Ann Wilson, Gill Chainey, Julia Zorab, Alison Jones-Griffiths,

1. Minutes of previous AGM Signed and agreed.

1. 2. Matters arising None.

2. 3. Chairperson's report. Kath Trigg delivered the chairperson's report. Welcome to the 41st AGM of the Wye Valley Riding Club and thank you for coming. I hope you enjoyed the Buffet. I believe we are the only club in the area to organise monthly meetings and in the last year we have held a party to celebrate our 40th anniversary; a talk on Cushings disease; rider fitness by physio Vanesa Coates; fire safety at home and stables; Protexin supplements; showing demo with judge Hilary Lindsay; a night at Chepstow Races; a fun ride; spook busting demo with Joanna & Roger Day and a table top sale. Our December meeting is a Christmas meal. We are starting to plan next year and hope to get Franky Reid-Warrilow to talk about her gold medal win at the CIC** European Championships and a vet to talk about stranglers. Any suggestions from members are always welcome. We again organised the summer dressage area qualifier, which was a great success despite the weather, and thanks to the sub-committee of Marilyn, Pam & Ann as it is a huge undertaking. Thanks also to the members, friends and family who helped set up and on the day. Our club has volunteered to run it again in 2016 on 24th July. Monthly training has been held with Lizzel Winter and is continuing, together with various sessions with Gaye Nichols at Cledd-y-Tan. We held a training course for emergency first aid geared to equestrians. We also organised some evening training on grass at Howick for show jumping and dressage, but this was poorly attended. We are looking into finding an affordable indoor venue to run training during winter evenings – if you know of anywhere please let me know. Following discussion at last year's AGM we have a new website and an open facebook page and we hope you use these. We ran an open dressage show in conjunction with Usk College in May and are hoping to do another show at the college. We also had a show-jumping show and dressage show at Howick on summer evenings. Peter Buist collated points for members competing at these shows and trophies are to be awarded tonight. The show-jumping trophy goes to Bronwyn Daniel with Cocoa, and the dressage trophy to Kath Trigg with Haddon Colourfast. Our members represented the club in all disciplines at area qualifiers, with Helen Brown and Laura Jones-Griffiths qualifying for the championships. We have awards for the members who represented the club this year and they are: Lindsey Gaunt, Tiri Budd, Laura Jones-Griffiths, Claire White, Julian Holmes, Janet Peters, Tim Peters, Julia Zorab, Debbie Watson, Chris Brooks, Maddie Mouldsley, Helen Brown, Kath Trigg and Clive Andrews. Sadly Clive Andrews who many of you will have known, collapsed and died when representing our club at the show jumping qualifier at Pencoed in August. Clive was one of the most genuinely kind people I knew. He was always cheerful and enthusiastic, keen to be involved with the riding club and a regular supporter of our teams and meetings for many years. As a committee we feel it would be appropriate to do something in Clive's memory. We have been talking for a long time about purchasing a filler and/or planks to supplement our show jumps, so are getting prices with a view to making such a purchase in Clive's memory as he loved his show jumping, and we hope you all support this idea. Any ideas or suggestions you have please raise in AOB or let a committee member know. Thanks to all the speakers, instructors, landowners and finally a big thank you to the committee for all their hard work during the year.

4. Treasurer's report

The accounts were circulated to members prior to the meeting. Marilyn Kirton presented highlights of the accounts. The club made a small profit of £336.65 in the year to 30 Sept 2015. Membership was at 66, up one member over the previous year. The club are keen to welcome new members. Paul Webb, our auditor of many years has resigned, and a new auditor is sought. The auditor should be a chartered accountant. No questions arising from the accounts. A discussion followed on membership. As the club do more events, we expect membership to increase and current members are asked to encourage friends to join.

5. Election of committee

The existing committee are willing to stay on. Nominations for new members have been received from Laura Jones Griffiths and Sallie Prewett. These nominations were proposed and seconded, and the new members were welcomed to the committee.

6. Election of auditor

We are unable to elect an auditor as there are no candidates. The question was raised as to whether a chartered accountant is required. Marilyn was actioned to check whether the constitution states that a chartered accountant is required, and whether a qualified accountant could be acceptable.

7. AOB

Pam Davidson raised the recent communication from the British Horse Society (BHS) to all British Riding (BRC) members about the change to the relationship between BHS and BRC, which notified BRC members of a change to the governance structure of riding clubs. As Area 15 representative and vice chair of BRCs, Pam attended the National Executive Committee (NEC) on 23 October, along with 23 other area reps. At this meeting they were informed by the BHS Chief Exec that the NEC has been disbanded by BHS. There had been no notice or consultation. The NEC and will be replaced by a smaller Advisory Committee, comprised of six advisors selected from the area reps, plus representatives of British Dressage, British Show Jumping and British Eventing. Through the NEC, area reps had the final say in competitions, club governance and other activities run under BRC. Club members are not likely to see any immediate difference, but the two way communication channel will not exist in the same way. There are also concerns about further changes that might be imposed by BHS.

A discussion followed. Pam Davidson and Peter Buist were able to answer many members' questions about BRC governance and the past relationship between BRC and BHS. The club pay £11.50 of each individual membership fee to BHS, for which the club receives its insurance and members receive a magazine. The legal position for BHS to disband the NEC was discussed, and concerns raised. Whilst this may be within the letter of the law, the feeling was that it was not in the spirit of relationship.

The Area AGM minutes have been circulated to club members. These show that other club reps are similarly angry. It was suggested Area 15 clubs act together to contact other areas and BHS to express this feeling. A meeting of 23 Area reps will be organised to discuss the options. This was strongly supported by the members present. BHS has also stated that it will take the role of organising the CIC** European Championships competition from BRC and give it to BE to organise. Liz Pitcher suggested the club write a letter to BHS to say how unhappy the club member are with the development, and this was widely supported. We should ask the BHS Trustees why the change has been made, and what is the justification? What further developments are proposed or planned? What was the justification for making changes without consultation with the members? Club members are concerned that the proposed change does not provide the elected area representatives with an adequate communication channel and ability to influence, and that further change could be imposed without representation or consultation. All present agreed the club should write to the BHS Trustees to raise these concerns, and to Area 15 to support their participating in a meeting of the area reps to discuss what can be done.

Janet Peters thanked the committee for all they have done in the past year.

8. Close - Meeting closed 9.40pm.

DECEMBER MEETING

This was our annual Christmas Meal which was held at the Star in Llansoy. 23 members attended and a great time was had by all. The food was excellent and so was the company. Diana did one of her famous quizzes which this year was a horsey Christmas Story with anagrams and we all had great fun working them out I must admit one or two of had to collaborate but we all got there in the end. We also raised £34 with the raffle. For those who were unable to attend, I have copied the quiz into the newsletter. The answers are on the last page, but try and do it without peeking if you can.

QUIZ SPREADING CHRISTMAS

Sue thought she had really got Christmas sorted this year with everything ordered on line. December the 22nd, the men were outside putting the finishing touches to her horse Alex's new stable. Everything she needed for him was to arrive Christmas Eve. Unfortunately nothing went to plan.

So on Christmas Day, Sue found a [wrabeworhle]..... on the doorstep.

On Boxing Day, two [grubsmoco]..... arrived

On the third day of Christmas, a box labelled 'contents three items' turned out to be [hoforvbadsmoornkle].....

On the fourth day a knock at the door produced four [studfeger]

On the fifth day a plastic bag with five [the nays]..... arrived.

On the sixth day a large red van brought six [brabmuster]
Thankfully the delivery man put them in the stable for Sue.

On the seventh day [trackbeetuws]..... arrived, all different colours.

On the eighth day Sue was greeted by a selection of eight [begginsmoorhrus]

On the ninth day Sue returned from her morning ride to find nine [goffabafhcs]

On the tenth day a green van turned up with ten [fabbosscueg]

On the eleventh day Sue returned in the afternoon to find eleven [bevinsfogsalash]

On the twelfth day as Sue was putting the decorations away she heard a vehicle arrive with twelve [hofbelasay], the delivery driver wished Sue a happy new year and asked if she had had a good Christmas, with everything she wanted.

2016 BRC Championship Dates

Competition	Date	Venue
Novice Winter Championships	9 - 10 April	The College Equestrian Centre, Church Road, Keysoe, Bedford, MK44 2JP
Intermediate Winter Championships	30 April – 1 May	Bury Farm Equestrian Village; New Bury Farm, Mill Road, Slapton, Bucks. LU7 9BT
Festival of the Horse	4 – 5 June	Washbrook Farm, Aston-le-Walls, Daventry, Northamptonshire. NN11 6RT
Horse Trials	5 - 7 August	Swalcliffe Park Equestrian, Grange Farm, Swalcliffe, Banbury, Oxon. OX15 5EX
National Championships	10 - 11 September	Lincolnshire Showground, Grange-de-Lings, Lincoln, Lincolnshire. LN2 2NA
Dressage to Music & Quadrille Selection Trial	30 Sept - 2 October TBC	Bury Farm Equestrian Village; New Bury Farm, Mill Road, Slapton, Bucks. LU7 9BT
Quadrille Final	TBC	TBC

TRAINING

Lizzel Winter training Sessions. Lindsey is arranging dates for the coming year with Lizzel and we will let you know them as soon as possible.

At Severnvalle Equestrian Centre. Sessions are £22.50. To secure a place contact Lindsey Gaunt on 07855097292 or e.mail: lindsey.gaunt@googlemail.com

Answers:-

- 1 Wheelbarrow
- 2 Combo Rugs
- 3 fork shovel and broom
- 4 feed buckets
- 5 hay nets
- 6 Rubber Mats
- 7 water buckets
- 8 grooming brushes
- 9 bags of chaff
- 10 bags of cubes
- 11 bales of shavings
- 12 bales of hay



Christmas