**Witheridge Riding Club**

**Newsletter**

**March 2015**

**President:** Vanessa Cheffings

**Committee**

**Chair**

Caroline Lowes 01884 860663 caroline@dlowes.com

**Treasurer**

Maggi Woodward 01398 341751 maggi.woodward@gmail.com

**Joint Secretaries**

Annie Bear 01769 540030 annebear@btinternet.com

**Membership Secretary**

Ros Fisher-Smith 01398 341799 wrc2014secretary@gmail.com

Mary Bailie 01884 881323 evanandmary@lowerthorne.fsnet.co.uk

Bridget Grieve 01884 253223 bridgetgrieve@talktalk.net

Tamsin O’Connor 07503 031486 tamsinandsteve@hotmail.co.uk

Cindy Somerville 07939 510085 somervillec@pbworld.co.uk

Suzanne Willcox 01884 881265 suzanne@scwillcox.freeserve.co.uk

Maggi Woodward 01398 341751 maggi.woodward@gmail.com

**Team Coordinators**

Novice Indoor SJ Tamsin O’Connor tamsinandsteve@hotmail.co.uk 01884 242972

Rising Stars Cindy Somerville somervillec@pbworld.com 07939 510085

Summer Dressage Nicola Moon nmoon00@aol.com 01398 361731

Senior Horse Trials Caroline Lowes caroline@dlowes.com 01884 860663

Summer Outdoor SJ Nicola Moon nmoon00@aol.com 01398 361731

Junior Teams Cheryl Mundy cheryl.mundy@hotmail.co.uk 01769 540155

**Spring is on the Way!**

At last it's stopped raining/hailing/snowing and the ground is drying out a bit.  Let's hope it lasts - won't be long before we're complaining it's too hard!  But hopefully not before we go cross country schooling with Mary Baillie later this month.  Then there is the Exeter & District ODE at Pontispool at the end of March to start off the season.  I'd like to organise (or persuade someone else to organise) a few social rides during the Spring and Summer - perhaps in the woods around Eggesford, or on Exmoor. Please call me on 01884 860663 if you have any ideas.

 As well as the great national 3rd prize the Quadrille team achieved before Christmas, some of us have been riding in Area competitions in other disciplines.  Because organising teams takes up so much time, we have asked Tamsin to be our Team Co-ordinator and she will be looking for team managers.  It is our policy to enter only one qualifying team in each competition, so that we can use the four most consistent combinations who are more likely to qualify for the national championships.  There is no limit to non-qualifying teams - you could still be Area champions!

 I am sorry to have to inform you that Sian Collins has resigned as Treasurer and from the Committee, due to family commitments and pressure of work, thanks to her recent promotion.  She has contributed a lot to the Club in the three and a half years she has been Treasurer, not only doing the accounts but also organising bingo evenings, evening talks, dressage competitions, hosting Jai Britton clinics and dressage judging.  We are very grateful for all the work she has done for us and congratulate her on her promotion at work.

We are also very grateful to Maggi Woodward who was unanimously elected as Treasurer at a committee meeting on Friday and will take over the accounts with immediate effect.

She is also Health and Safety Officer and organises Camp so we are keeping her busy!

 The Area 12 committee have had computer problems which is why we have not had many communications recently.  However, they have now set up a new system, so I hope we will all be better informed about Area activities.  If anyone hears of any other local  competitions, it would be helpful if you would send the details to Ros at wrc2014secretary@gmail.com for circulation around the Club.

 Lastly, just to reiterate what I said in the last newsletter, if you have any queries or grumbles about the way we new girls are running the WRC, please get in touch with me direct -

01884 860663 (leave a message and I'll call you back) or   caroline@dlowes.com   but talking things through on the phone is much better than emailing.

 *Caroline Lowes*

**MEMBERSHIP NEWS**

We would like to welcome new members: Rebecca Brown, Clare Mock, Saskia Partridge, Amanda Martin-Smith, Keeley Wells, Kerry Sleep, Sue Fallon and returning after a break Marianne Holton and Tanya Tregaskis.

**Forthcoming Events**

**Saturday March 21st: Riding a dressage test with Tyler Bradshaw**

**at Mill Lane Farm, EX16 8NF  (dismounted), 10am - approx 1pm** £10 (members only)

Tyler Bradshaw is a BD International Young Rider, BHS stage 4, trained with Pammy Hutton at Talland.

**Introduction - Preparation and riding the test**:

         Choosing what test to ride, including knowing when to go up a level

         Correct tack,  horse turnout, rider clothing

         Arriving at the competition - collecting number, checking timing, arena, working in area

         Working in, tack check, steward

         Riding the actual test, from entering to leaving the arena

         Things which might go wrong and how to correct them

         After the test

followed by questions and tips on how to call a test for a rider.

**Demonstration:**

Three different guinea pigs will ride Intro B, Prelim 4 and Novice 28 (the ones we'll have in our Easter Day competition) and will be filmed.  Tyler will "judge" these tests, hopefully out loud, but with a writer, judging the rider, not the horse.  Then Tyler will ride an Elementary test for us, showing that it's not too complicated and how easy it is to ride at that level.

**Coffee/tea break**

**Replay of tests on screen:**

Tyler will give a commentary, both critical and encouraging, and answer questions.

Please book with Caroline Lowes  caroline@dlowes.com or 01884 860663

**Directions to Mill Lane Farm, Cruwys Morchard EX16 8NF**

From Page's Cross (half way between Withleigh and Nomansland on B3137)  go south to Cruwys Morchard.  Just before the church, take first left for 1/2 mile until you give way at Highgate X where you turn left (signed Cadeleigh).  Take first fork left at Lytheland X and first left again at Robin's X (signed Templeton).  Mill Lane Livery is about 1/2 mile on RHS, the first after Vulscombe Farm (steel gates).

**Cross Country Training at Southcott Farm, Winkleigh with Mary Baillie**

**Sundays: 22nd March, 29th March & 19th April, from 10am.  WEATHER PERMITTING!!!**

There are a variety of jumps from 1'9" - 3'7" so all levels catered for.

Body protectors must be worn.

Riding hats must not have a fixed peak and be of current safety standard.
Hat / head cams are not permitted.

Medical armbands are strongly recommended.

Groups of 4 max. 1.5 - 2 hours.

 Depending upon group size and how many members book, the estimated cost is £33 each - this includes course hire and instruction.

 Please contact Tamsin O’Connor at tamsinandsteve@hotmail.co.uk or on 07503 031486 by the Wednesday before each date and let her know the level at which you and your horse are working.

 **West Somerset and Devon Dressage Championships 2015**

 **2015 qualifier dates:**

 15th March: Witheridge RC @ Wellbeck

29th March: Blackdown Hills RC @ The Paddocks

3rd April, 27th May, 20th June: West Somerset RC @ Roborough Gate

All of the above are open to all members of the participating clubs.

NB. North Devon RC and Witheridge RC are also running qualifiers at their members only competitions end March / early April.

Exeter RC has already run two qualifiers so are well ahead of the game!

**Information for qualifying competitors:**

Congratulations if you have qualified for the championships.

To ensure we have a successful event we would like to be sure that the maximum number of eligible qualifiers do compete at the championships so please read the information below and email helen@bovey2.eclipse.co.uk if you have no intention of attending or are ineligible.  Your place will then be offered to the next highest eligible member so please do email within 2 weeks of receipt of your qualifier.

All info will be circulated by email but if you have any questions please contact Helen on the above email address.

**Eligibility:**
Members of Witheridge, North Devon, West Somerset, Exeter, Quantock, Sid & Otter Valley and Blackdown Hills are eligible to enter providing they meet the eligibility criteria.

Preliminary - Horse to have no BD points, at time of qualification.

Novice - Horse to have a maximum of 49 BD points, at the time of qualification.

Elementary - Horse to have a maximum of 100 BD points on the day of the Championship, no pre-qualification required.

Also, horses are ineligible to compete at the same level or below if they have been WSD Champion or Reserve Champion, or placed 1st – 6th individually at any BRC National Dressage Championship at the time of qualification.

Top eligible combinations from each qualifier will be invited to the Championships, plus the highest placed eiligible Junior in Prelim.

Riders who have qualified more than one horse/pony in either the Prelim or Novice may only ride one in each championship class due to the high number of qualifiers.  The choice of the horse/pony is up to the rider.  No horse/pony may be substituted unless its replacement has previously qualified.  You may ride in both championship classes on the same horse/pony if you have qualified to do so.  If you wish to enter the Elementary you may also enter one other championship class (if qualified to do so) and/or the Novice warm up class.

**The Championship:**
To be held at Kings Sedgemoor Saturday 10th October 2015.

Training grants will be awarded to the overall Champions and Reserve Champions and there will be many other prizes.  Warm up classes will be included.

We are hoping to include a section for ROR registered horses if there is enough interest at club level to register for the series which ROR runs and for top combinations to come forward to the chamos from club qualifiers.  If not, we will include a prize / rosettes for any ROR registered horses who have qualified through the normal criteria above.

Hope you will support the day which, this year, is totally in aid of very worthwhile charities and which gives members of the local clubs the chance to compete against each other in a friendly championship event.

If you are successful on the day and win a training grant, Helen will contact you for details of your chosen trainer after the event.  The grant will be paid directly to your trainer.

**CAMP AT STOCKLAND LOVELL**

There’s still time to get your form completed and sent off to Stockland Lovell for this year’s camp. The dates are 21st to 24th April, inclusive. If you are considering going, but are not too sure what’s involved, you are welcome to contact Maggi, details on the first page, who will be happy to have a chat with you. We are organising a get together at the Mitre Inn, Witheridge, for Wednesday 25th March at 7.30 pm. More details will follow by email. Good luck to everyone who is going, lets hope the weather is kind to us!

**SUMMER ACCUMULATOR SERIES**

You will all be pleased to know that we are running the summer series of dressage and showjumping again, at the Club field in Witheridge. We have tried to spread the dates over different days, and tried not to clash with other events, and hope that everyone can make at least one. These competitions are very friendly and a good opportunity to compete in a supportive environment! We are always glad to have help at these competitions and will be asking for volunteers nearer the time.

The dates are

**Dressage:**

May 23rd (Saturday)

June 7th (Sunday)

July 24th (Friday evening)

**Show Jumping:**

May 16th (Saturday)

June 21st (Sunday)

July 17th (Friday evening)

**TRAINING UPDATE**

We are working on a summer training programme, and details will be sent out separately. Please contact members of the training group if you have any ideas or requests.

Witheridge Riding Club Training Group

Julia Beggs juliabeggs@operamail.com01398 351472

Ros Fisher-Smith fishersmith@eclipse.co.uk 01398 341799

Caroline Lowes caroline@dlowes.com01884 860663

Tamsin O’Connor  tamsinandsteve@hotmail.co.uk  07503 031486

**QUADRILLE NEWS**

Following the success of our Quadrille team there has been enough interest from the club for members to put together two teams for this year. Look out for further news as they begin to plan their routines. There will be opportunities to support them in their fund raising as the year progresses.

WRC Exmoor Quadrille Team have arranged:

Ferret racing: 22nd May at Yeo Mill Village Hall at 7.30pm.

Quiz: 11th Sept at Sportsman’s Inn Sandyway.

 Full details to follow

There’s an article about the Witheridge Wonderful Wizards Quadrille team in the spring edition of the Exmoor Magazine.

**EVENT REPORTS**

**TEAM QUEST**

Team Quest dressage got off to a sticky start when Bicton cancelled the
first competition!  However, it has been rescheduled for us on the 28th
March, so we shall get to show our stuff then!  We hope that we will
have three teams competing, which will be great.  Anyone else wanting to
take part would be most welcome, it is not too late, just contact
juliabeggs@operamail.com.

**Area 12 Festival Of The Horse (FOTH) Combined Training at Pontispool on 25th January.**

This competition consisted of members riding either a Prelim dressage test and jumping a course of 75cm showjumps, or riding a Novice dressage test and jumping a course of 85cm showjumps.

Due to some unfortunate withdrawals and being unable to fill the places short notice we re-jigged the two teams and were down to two teams of 3 meaning all were counting scores. The teams were:

Caroline Lowes – Galway View

Becky Smith – Brigand

Alicia Balfour – Delta

Catherine Milward – Bonny Prince Luso

Di Sealey – Dantsky

Tamsin O’Connor – Mavericks Cape Caracus

Sharon Routley – Holly (Novice individual)

As always the standard of competitors was high, but the scores were all very close. Unfortunately, out of 19 teams, neither of our teams were placed this time. Becky and Di both finished on their Novice dressage score earning them 4th and 6th place individually in their arena. Alicia and Tamsin also finished on their Novice dressage score but just missed out on the placings in their arena.

Many thanks to Sophie Jones who took on the role of team manager this year, especially as most of the organisation took place over the busy Christmas period.

**Rising Stars**

The Rising Stars dressage in January was a resounding success despite being a very long day! Our Intro team was placed 3rd (Miriam May with Nemo, Shelley Pocock with Thea, Julia Beggs with Arctic Flame and Annie Bear with Coco) with individual placings – Shelley 4th and Annie 6th. The same team (with Julia riding Dallas this time) were also successful in the prelim, placing 6th as a team with Annie placed 4th individually and Julia winning Best Turned Out. A fantastic effort from everyone! A special thanks goes to Michele May for lending Annie Bear the fabulous Coco who came home with such an impressive haul of rosettes.

The Rising Stars show jumping is on Easter Monday (6th April) for anyone who would like to have a go – please contact Cindy Somerville, entries need to be in by 30th March.

**Future dates**

 14th June - RS Dressage

1st November - RS SJ

**Area 12 Festival Of The Horse (FOTH) Combined Challenge (SJ & XC) at Pontispool on 15th February.**

Well this competition certainly lived up to its name this year!  The cross country element of the course with a trakehner and new ditch complex was certainly “challenging” with only 5 of the 12 teams in the 90cm class having a completion score due to the high number of eliminations and hardly anyone making the time.

 The Witheridge Wisps team, with solid jumping rounds from Tamsin O’Connor and Sharon Routley and an unlucky 20 penalties for Lisa Manley, meant they came 5thso came away with much deserved rosettes for them and Hayley Gale, who had stepped in at the last minute to make up the team.

The Witheridge Whirls were very unlucky to only have 2 completions, both though great clear and fast rounds from Becky Smith and Connie Isaac, in her 1st team appearance as a Senior.  Sadly Cheryl Mundy and Nicola Moon’s horses weren’t quite on form, on the day, despite both having schooled round the course previously but this is a strong competition early in the season.

 Tamsin and Connie were 7th in the Pairs class (out of 15) with a quicker and clear round from Tamsin and a quicker round from Connie but sadly one SJ pole down.

 In the 1 metre class, we were fielding 2 individuals, your Chair, Caroline Lowes and new member, Helen Govier.  Sadly, it wasn’t their day but they were not alone in having trouble in this class either.

 Helen Goff stepped in to team manage and also carried out car park steward duties from 7.45am until 11am and Cheryl Mundy kindly stepped in to assist which was much appreciated.  Di Sealey also helped with arena party duties so Witheridge definitely contributed more than their fair share of volunteers on the day and so many thanks to them all.  It was nice to see committee members Bridget Grieve and Mary Baillie come along to support as well.

**Area 12 Intermediate Dressage at Stockland Lovell on 1st March.**

This new winter team competition consisted of one member riding Prelim, two riding Novice and one Elementary.

We had one team entered as a non-qualifier of:

Helen Govier & Joey

Celia Bellamy & Toptime Taliesin

Becky Smith & Brigand

Tamsin O’Connor & Mavericks Cape Caracus

Helen and Celia rode their tests in the lovely sunshine and although scored well, unfortunately missed out on bringing home any ribbons by less than a % each. Helen qualified for the West Somerset & Devon Dressage Championships in Prelim and Celia was justifiably pleased achieving a Novice score of over 67%. The original Elementary rider’s horse sustained an injury just before the competition so Tamsin stepped up to ride the Elementary, but the heavens opened and although managed to complete the test in horizontal rain, didn’t fair so well. Becky kindly stepped in to fill the second Novice place and rode a super test just after the storm had passed, but the scores in this section were tight.

The team finished 9th overall out of the 16 teams entered.

Well done to everyone for riding such solid tests.

**WRC Dressage @ Wellbeck EC, Sunday 15th March 2015**

Well, the sun didn't shine, but at least the rain just about held off for our first competition of the year! Firstly, many thanks to Sian Collins whose efficient organisation ensured the event ran smoothly. With very few withdrawals, Rowena Ball and Sophie Marshall were very proficient at stewarding, ensuring that all the competitors started on time.  Suzanne Willcox did a great job of scoring and getting the results out very quickly. Thanks also to the judge, Liz Matthews, and her husband, Tony, who kindly did all the writing.

For the Intro class there were some first timers - horses, riders, and new combinations.  It was won by Tamsin and Pakama, an Arab ex-racehorse.  There were lots of entries in the two Prelim classes.  In the first one the scoring was very close at the top with less than 1% between 1st - 4th place and coming down to the collectives for 1st & 2nd and 3rd & 4th., Shelley won the class on her lovely young horse Kremin Thea.  The second class, a WSDDC\* qualifier, was won by new club member Amanda Martin-Smith and It's Quiztime.  The WSDDC\* Novice qualifier was won by Lisa and Only I Will, but unfortunately Will stood on a stone and was unable to compete in the next Novice class, which was won by Tamsin on her own Mavericks Cape Caracus with the highest score of the day.  For the final class of the day, Elementary, Anne and Willesley Wotnot, also the very last combination of the day, showed us how it should be done!  It was very refreshing to have an alternative Elementary test from the usual 42 or 44 that often appear at unaffiliated dressage. A good time was had by all with impressive scores all round.

Full results can be found on the ‘Event Results’ page of the website [www.witheridgerc.org](http://www.witheridgerc.org)

\*WSDDC qualified combinations TBC

CLASS 1 – INTRO B

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Rider** | **Horse** | **Score %** | **Place** |
| Tamsin O'Connor | Pakama | 67.17% | 1st |
| Ros Fisher Smith | Zee | 64.57% | 2nd |
| Kiersten Silvester | Puzzle | 63.91% | 3rd |
| Sally Hyde | Newtown PG | 62.61% | 4th |
| Cheryl Mundy | Pippi Longpark Stockings | 62.17% | 5th |
| Kerry Sleep | Paddy | 61.96% | 6th |

CLASS 2 – PRELIM 1

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Rider** | **Horse** | **Score % (Collective)** | **Place** |
| Shelley Pocock | Kremin Thea | 66.32% (66) | 1st |
| Sarah Midwinter | Marley | 66.32% (65) | 2nd |
| Sophie Marshall | Roxie | 65.79% (67) | 3rd |
| Tamsin O'Connor | Mellway Silver Sheen | 65.79% (66) | 4th |
| Maggi Woodward | JJ | 65.26% | 5th |
| Marianne Holton | Westmount Fiddler | 63.95% | 6th |

CLASS 3 – PRELIM 18 (WSDDC Q)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Rider** | **Horse** | **Score %** | **Place** |
| Amanda Martin-Smith | Its Quiztime | 67.92% | 1st |
| Tamsin O'Connor | Mellway Silver Sheen | 66.88% | 2nd |
| Sophie Marshall | Roxie | 66.67% | 3rd |
| Sam Simmons (Junior) | Diva Dancer | 65.63% | 4th |
| Maggi Woodward | JJ | 64.79% | 5th |
| Marianne Holton | Westmount Fiddler | 64.17% | 6th |

CLASS 4 – NOVICE 27 (WSDDC Q)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Rider** | **Horse** | **Score %** | **Place** |
| Lisa Manley | Only I Will | 66.96% | 1st |
| Amanda Martin-Smith | Its Quiztime | 64.29% | 2nd |
| Sam Simmons (Junior) | Diva Dancer | 61.79% | 3rd |
| Jane Penfold | Charlotte | 60% | 4th |

CLASS 5 – NOVICE 34

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Rider** | **Horse** | **Score %** | **Place** |
| Tamsin O'Connor | Mavericks Cape Caracus  | 69.38% | 1st |
| Cheryl Mundy | Hoe Punchinello | 65.63% | 2nd |
| Jane Penfold | Charlotte | 58.96% | 3rd |
| Anne Plume | Willesley Wotnot | 66.04% | H/C |

CLASS 6 – ELEMENTARY 50

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Rider** | **Horse** | **Score %** | **Place** |
| Anne Plume | Willesley Wotnot | 66.79% | 1st |
| Tamsin O'Connor | Mavericks Cape Caracus  | 62.32% | 2nd |
| Cheryl Mundy | Hoe Punchinello | 61.61% | 3rd |

**New Club Website & Facebook**

The new club website was launched in December as we felt that the old site was a little dated. If you haven’t already had a browse, please do have a look – the address is [www.witheridgerc.org](http://www.witheridgerc.org). The site includes details and schedules of club events, training dates, information on the West Somerset & Devon Dressage Championships as well as information and contact details of trainers who the club use or have used in the past and there are directions to frequently used training venues. There is a classifieds page for members adverts, so if you have anything for sale please send your ads and photos to tamsinandsteve@hotmail.co.uk. There is also a members only area which you can access by creating a log-in – you can find the newsletters here and minutes of the AGM etc. We would like to replace the existing photos with some new ones so if you have any copyright free good quality photos of club events / activities please do e-mail them across. If there is anything you would like to see included on the website then we welcome your input.

The club also has a Facebook page with almost 300 ‘likes’. Club news and information is now posted on the page on a regular basis. Please ‘like’ the page if you haven’t already so that you can read the latest news.