



# WITHERIDGE RIDING CLUB NEWSLETTER

## MARCH 2017

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**Welcome** to the first newsletter of 2017. We have been busy since the AGM putting together a programme for the first part of the year. Not all dates are arranged yet but hopefully there is enough to whet your appetite for the year ahead. I hope you enjoy reading the Riding Club news. We are always looking for new ideas so get in touch if there is something you would like to hear about. This one starts with some important notices of relevance to all members. This is followed by a note from Caroline, our Chairman, and news of the events planned for the summer ahead. We have some news from members and thought that you would like to read some of the stories behind the WRC trophies awarded this year at the AGM and some other news from members. Finally we have reports from the Area 12 team and individual competitions where members have been active over the winter and details of team competitions to come over the summer.

## Important BRC rule amendments with immediate effect - January 2017

*1) Stop watches are allowed for all HT classes*

*2) Eligibility regarding FEI rules:*

In the eligibility table little (c) will be reworded to:

Riders who have competed under FEI rules in the relevant discipline in the last 5 calendar years. For Eventing, restrictions at CT75, CT85, HT80, CH 80, HT90 and CH 90 applies to 2\* and above only and for HT 100 and CH100 applies to 3\* and above only. There are no restrictions on 100+.

Please see the BRC website for the full text.

### **A MESSAGE FROM WRC CHAIRMAN, CAROLINE LOWES**

After an unusually dry winter, the rain started again in late February and, here we are, wet as ever. I turned two horses out at night last week (the other two have been out all winter, so much more content than the clipped fit pair who would love to revert to the wild!), only to bring them in again last night when we had 3/4 inch of rain and wind. So we are very lucky to have our new outdoor school here, where the WRC held a happy clear round jumping session this Sunday morning.

Sally Watts organised a lovely beach ride at Woolacombe last week. It was cold but didn't rain for our picnic afterwards. Everyone enjoyed themselves, no dramas, and those of us whose horses braved the white water were very proud of them! Thank you, Sally.

Unaffiliated eventing starts at Pontispool on 25 March, then Rowena Ball masterminds our dressage competition at Wellbeck on 26th, so the competition season is starting. Good luck to you all in everything you do with your horses this summer, whether it's Trec, showjumping or simply hacking on the roads - enjoy it all!

Caroline

### **WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS IN 2017**

Alex Batstone, Anna Chambers, Sheryl Higgins and Lizzie Laight and welcome back to Vicky (Small) Plume

### **Riding club sweatshirts, rugby shirts etc**

Don't forget you can order WRC embroidered hoodies, polo shirts and jackets from Margaret at Maritime Motifs South Molton tel. 01769 572727 or e-mail [maritime-motifs@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:maritime-motifs@hotmail.co.uk)  
Orders can be payed by BACS or credit card and can be posted direct.

## Some dates for the coming year WRC events in blue, BRC in black

Date	Activity
26/3/17	WRC Dressage at Wellbeck, Exeter
9/4/17 pm	XC Training with Mary Baillie at Southcott
17/4/17	Rising Stars Dressage
22/4/17	Downe Farm Dressage
21/5/17	Exmoor Fun Ride – members only
29/5/17	Area 12 Dressage to Music
3/6/17	Day camp Downe Farm
11/6/17	Area 12 Horse Trials
17/6/17	Open Combined Training
21/6/17	Day camp Downe Farm
25/6/17	Area 12 showjumping and dressage at Heazle
16/7/17	Rising Stars Dressage and Show Jumping
15/10/17	WSDDC Dressage Champs

The schedule for Welbeck has already been sent out and the others will be sent nearer to the date of the show. Schedules can also always be found on the riding club webpage [www.witheridgerc.org](http://www.witheridgerc.org)

Those who enjoy Fun Rides should follow the Face Book page Fun Rides in the South West for all fun rides. Thanks to members Sarah Midwinter and Debbie Appleby for setting this up.

### March to July activities

March started with another very popular jumping clinic with Tim Cheffings at Downe Farm. I know we are always being asked to arrange more sessions with Tim but he is far too popular! The March 1<sup>st</sup> date was the first date Downe Farm could give us for a clinic when we went to book it in the first week of January!! Members wanting sessions with Tim are advised to get a group together themselves and book for just the one slot. We will, of course, book more clinics with Tim as the year goes on. The 2 June Day camps are both at Downe Farm and we hope that Tim will be one of the trainers.

There has also been a beach ride and clear round show jumping this month. March 26<sup>th</sup> is the Wellbeck Equestrian Centre dressage competition. This is open to members of other clubs and there are 2 classes that are qualifiers for the West Somerset and Devon Dressage Championships in the autumn.

There is a members only dressage competition at Downe Farm on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> April. Once the Paxtons' field is dry enough to open for use, we will be holding training and shows there over the summer. Rather than have separate dressage and show jumping shows, we have decided to hold clear round jumping alongside the dressage. Last summer the show jumping shows were not well enough supported to make it worthwhile to have a showjumping only show.

Sarah Midwinter has offered to run a guided ride over Exmoor on May 21<sup>st</sup>. Please let Sarah know if you want to come along so she knows how many escorts will be needed. Email Sarah at [sarah\\_home@midwinterkoval.co.uk](mailto:sarah_home@midwinterkoval.co.uk)

As our usual residential camp at Stockland Lovell will not take place this year, we will be having 2 day camps in June and 2 later in the year. These will be arranged by Di Sealey again and will be a mixture of fun training and socializing. As last year, all members are invited to come along and join the riders for lunch and chat. In order to make sure there is something for everyone there will be a weekday camp and a weekend day camp catering for all abilities/experience.

On July 17<sup>th</sup> we are holding a Combined Training (dressage and show jumping) competition. This is open to all other local riding clubs.

## Camp

There is no residential camp at Stockland Lovell this year due to problems at their end. Only available date was in March and this was sharing with another club and there was not enough interest to make it worthwhile. Pontispool was considered but has to be booked a year ahead and this can't be done until October. Bicton has dates but no accommodation and there was a large response that we are all too old to sleep in trailers! Following discussion at the AGM, it was decided that the club would book Stockland Lovell again for next year. The day camps that are being organised hopefully will go some way to make up for this.

For club members who want to attend camp this year, there are spaces at Stockland Lovell for the beginning of October sharing with North Devon Riding Club running from Sunday October 8<sup>th</sup> until Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> after lunch. All those interested, please contact Alf Broadhead at [A.Broadhead519@btopenworld.com](mailto:A.Broadhead519@btopenworld.com) Please note that, due to other commitments, she may take a little while before replying.

## Training

Sadly Julia Beggs has retired from the training group so we are looking for someone to take her place. Julia's strength was that she had ideas beyond the normal flatwork, show jumping and cross country. She introduced the musical ride and some interesting in hand sessions. Is there any member who has some new ideas about what we might do as training who would join the group? We meet usually 3 times a year over a meal at Nomansland (though this isn't compulsory). Each of us take responsibility for organising 2 or 3 training sessions following the meeting. It's a friendly group and we are all willing to help each other.

Amelia, Tamsin and Ros met last week and came up with a draft programme for the Spring and early summer. This is summarized below. Details of all the sessions with dates, prices etc will be sent out separately. You will see that we have arranged a mix of new trainers and old favourites (sorry Mary and Irene – favourites but not so old!). Helen Griffiths is a List 5 BD judge and has ridden at Prix St Georges and is currently competing 2 horses at Medium and Advanced Medium. Joanne Pullyblank

Date	Activity	Trainer	Organiser	Venue
April 9 <sup>th</sup> pm	XC	Mary Baillie	Amelia	Southcott
May	Choice of flatwork and/or jumping in the field	Mary Baillie	Amelia	3 sessions
June	Show jumping	Paul George tbc	Ros	1 session Paul's yard <a href="http://www.paulgeorgespothorses.com/">http://www.paulgeorgespothorses.com/</a>
Spring	Dressage	Helen Griffiths	Ros	3 sessions – weekday afternoon/evenings <a href="http://www.thedressagecoach.yolasite.com/">http://www.thedressagecoach.yolasite.com/</a>
June/July	Flatwork and poles	Jo Pullyblank	Tamsin	Mill Barton or field
August	Flatwork	Irene Perrett	Tamsin	3 sessions Drayford, Witheridge
Evening summer	On the ground stable management	Irene Perrett	Tamsin	Drayford, Witheridge

## MEMBERS' NEWS

On the 9th March myself and Caroline Thompson had a master class with the one and only Yogi Breisner. Our lesson was at 4pm and I was feeling very excited all day about going. Lovely Nic Moon came with me to help. We got into the arena and Yogi made us feel very at ease. He asked what level we were working at, then we started some pole exercises. He had a five jump grid set up and other jumps all around. My Tally and Caroline's Bear worked really well and we were so pleased and proud of our boys (the other horse in the group was a bit of a demolition derby!) Yogi was such a gentleman and the way he came over was wonderful – I would recommend it to everyone if you get the opportunity  
Celia Bellamy

Congratulations to Millie Bradley whose design of the final fence at Badminton made it to the final 10 designs. The voting was very close with Millie's design in the lead for a while. Sadly she was just pipped into second place but a real achievement anyway.

### **Dressage to Music CDs**

Following the DTM training session last year we have available CDs with associated Prelim test that members can borrow. The CD has music by Mantovani with walk, trot and canter movements. The CD was purchased from Sapphire Sounds who are a good source of music for dressage. Contact Ros Fisher-Smith if you want to borrow a CD stating whether your horse's paces are similar to a 15hh or 16hh.

## **STORIES BEHIND THE TROPHIES**

Those of you who were at the AGM will have heard several trophies being awarded to members and their horses. We thought you might like to hear some of the stories behind the trophies.

Two dressage trophies were awarded this year in recognition of how well our members have been doing at our own shows and at open shows elsewhere. Sophie Marshall with Roxie and Tamsin O'Connor on various horses were both recognised.

Roxie is a 15 year old 13.2hh skewbald, probably off Bodmin Moor. We bought her over 7 years ago for my children, but made sure I could also ride her. As my horse, Minka, got older and my children lost interest, I started to do most of the exercising. She only hacked and show jumped with her last owner, but as I prefer dressage she now has to go round in circles! She is very amenable and tries hard, has a steady trot and doesn't fuss with her head.

I have had her living with me for nearly 4 years, and last year went to a show about once a month. We also went on a dressage camp week end, had our first lessons.

We won a rosette for every test we did in 2016. This year we are going to have a go at Novice, which, due to her confirmation, I know some movements will be a struggle. I also know, she will travel easily, be well behaved and try her best.

I am lucky to have her.

Sophie Marshall

Tamsin: I was lucky enough to have a variety of lovely horses to compete last summer and we did particularly well in dressage so I was thrilled to be awarded a riding club dressage trophy at the AGM. My own veteran Warmblood gelding, Cooper, won both his classes at the Wellbeck dressage as well as homebred Arab mare, Sheen, winning both of her classes. Sheen was also on the Team Quest team last summer and did well both as part of the team and individually at the Quest regional finals. Ex-racehorse Denton won both his classes each time at the club dressage in the Paxton's field having never done dressage previously. And I had the most fantastic day at the West Somerset & Devon Dressage Championships where ex-race Arab mare, Pakama, won the Prelim Championship and Sheen won the Novice Championship!

*Tamsin.*

Alicia Balfour's horse Delta was awarded the trophy for the best veteran. She writes:

Thank you to the committee and members who voted for the award of the Veteran cup in recognition and in remembrance of my wonderful horse Delta. For those of you at the AGM you will have witnessed my surprised and emotional response when the award was announced. Ros asked if I could write a little bit about Delta so here goes!

Delta arrived from Ireland as an unbroken and fairly traumatised three year old. We bought her as a fairly timid 5 year old from a lovely person. Delta was my eldest daughter Katherine's first horse. She was genuine and willing to learn. I will never forget her first win at BE90cms - we were overjoyed and Delta looked pleased with herself too!

Delta went on quickly through the levels and competed successfully at Novice gaining points for numerous wins! Delta accompanied Katherine to University and it was there, whilst preparing for a CCI one star, that she damaged a tendon and never went back to competing at that level. This was when I inherited her, having lost my hunting pony, lucky me!! Delta then became the epitome of the riding club horse. We attended camp for 5 years and competed at combined training and horse trials. We went to the RC championships in the 80 cm team coming 4th as a team.

Unfortunately last May Delta contracted a gut disorder which meant that she couldn't metabolise food effectively. In January this year we had to make a very difficult and sad decision. Delta and I enjoyed a very happy 13 year relationship. She was always a lady in and out of the stable. She was a gentle and loving horse. Sadly missed by all the family.  
Alicia Balfour

Jennie Dallas and her Arab mare, Kashka, won a trophy for progress in jumping. She writes:

I joined WRC two years ago with my little Arab mare, Kashka, hoping to try jumping. She was new to this whilst my experience was decades ago. Gradually we started popping poles in sessions with Mary Baillie. The great thing is that Mary takes you seriously no matter what level you are at. So with her kind encouragement and a great camp last year we are now enjoying tackling small courses. At times I think Kashka is as pleased as I am.  
Jennie Dallas

Denton won the Retraining of Racehorses (RoR) Riding Club Challenge Cup

Ex-racehorse Denton, owned by club member Max Carew, was kindly loaned to me last summer. He is 13 years old and has been with the Carews as a family hunt horse for three seasons. During our time together over the summer we took part in the riding club dressage at the Paxtons' field where he won all of his classes achieving amazing scores of over 70%. We also 'had a go' at the club SJ, collecting some more points for the RoR Challenge. We did some showing classes too where he won numerous classes, he always seemed to catch the judges eye!

*Tamsin.*

**The Riding Club Challenge** is an RoR initiative to attract and promote ex racehorses competing at Riding Club level. The main aims of this initiative are to encourage ex racehorse owners to register with the RoR, get their horse out competing at riding club competitions and to encourage ex-racehorse owners to join their local riding club. If you have an ex-racehorse why not sign up to this. Our shows give points towards this trophy which is awarded to the member with the most points at the end of the year.

## Teams

Our teams have been busy over the winter. Read the reports below and then see what is coming up over the summer.

### **BRC Area 12 Winter Competitions**

#### **BRC Area 12 Winter Novice & Intermediate Show jumping January 7<sup>th</sup>**

Two Senior teams competed at the Area 12 Novice Winter SJ at Kings Sedgemoor in the first week of January. The two courses, one at 80cm and one at 85cm, proved challenging for many other combinations but Witheridge was very well represented. Everyone rode brilliantly! This was a team only competition with no individual placings awarded. The non-qualifying team finished 6<sup>th</sup> overall, and the qualifying team finished 4<sup>th</sup> out of the qualifiers – not good enough to qualify but a creditable performance anyway. Di and Tamsin also gained clear round rosettes for achieving double clear rounds.

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#### **Qualifying team – 4<sup>th</sup>**

Di Sealey	Oulart Van Dantsky
Sharon Routley	Molly
Carol Luxton	Parkhill Fred
Samantha Englefield	Bungalow Bill

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### **Non-qualifying team – 6<sup>th</sup>**

Sian Brown	The Mistress
Sally Watts	Brownscombe Firoella
Tamsin O'Connor	Mavericks Cape Caracus
Louise Nash	Azola Bar Blue

Sian also rode in the Area 12 Intermediate SJ competition as an individual on Sorbona. She was 3<sup>rd</sup> in her warm-up class but unfortunately it wasn't her day in the Intermediate class. Many thanks to Sian for team managing.

### **BRC Area 12 Intermediate Winter Dressage**

On the 22nd January we had two teams enter the Area Dressage at Kings Sedgemoor. The teams were made up of Tamsin O'Connor, Josie Moore, Rebecca Brown, Sally Watts and Amelia Green. Most of our horses were feeling a bit fresh and keen to be out resulting in some of us being a bit disappointed at getting lower scores than we would normally have expected. Nevertheless our teams took 5th and 6th.

There were also a few individual placings, Josie was 3rd on Wanted and Tamsin 5th on Mellway Silver Sheen in Novice 34 and Amelia 4th on Mr Chris in Advanced Medium 85.

Josie Moore	Wanted
Sally Watts	Penpoint Denver
Amelia Green	Mr Chris
Tamsin O'Connor	Mellway Silver Sheen

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Rebecca Brown	Dun a Jig
Tamsin O'Connor	Pakama
Amelia Green	Mister Bond
Sally Watts	Brownscombe Fiorella

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Amelia Green

### **Festival of the Horse Eventers' Challenge 26<sup>th</sup> February 2017**

This annual BRC Championships qualifier was held as usual at Pontispool, and for the first time there was an 80 cm team class available, so we were able to send entries for all three classes. We did not have any qualifying entries, so our horses and riders were competing for the Area Championship. They were:

#### **80 CM Team**

Sarah Midwinter	Marley
Tamsin O'Connor	Mavericks Cape Caracus
Di Sealey	Dantsky
Sally Watts	Branscombe Fiorella

#### **90 CM Team**

Lisa Manley.	Only I Will
Tamsin O'Connor.	Galway View
Jane Phillips	Rackenford Cruiser
Daisy Waldron	Toureen Bridge

### **100 CM individuals**

Amelia Green	Mister Bond
Amelia Green	Mr Fred
Caroline Lowes.	Stellar Silk

The competition consists of a course of show jumps, immediately followed by a longer course of cross country fences, including ditches and water, all in the arena, against the clock. Quite apart from the jumping, the challenge is for the riders to learn the course! There were a lot of entries, so it was a long day for all, but most of us managed to jump before the rain set in in earnest. All round it was a very good day for WRC. The 90 Team won their class (and beat the top Qualifying team too!), the 80 Team were second in theirs, and individual placings were taken by Jane Phillips (3<sup>rd</sup>), Daisy Waldron (4<sup>th</sup>), Tamsin O'Connor (5<sup>th</sup>), Di Sealey (7<sup>th</sup>) and Caroline Lowes (10<sup>th</sup>).

Thanks to all those who took part and well done!

Sarah Midwinter

### **Coming up --- BRC Area 12 Summer Competitions**

We want to encourage members to join in with the teams, so Tamsin has put together a piece about what teams we are likely to be competing for WRC in the Area 12 qualifiers. If you are interested, get in touch with Tamsin or the team co-ordinators – contact details on the front of the newsletter. We already have a team going to the Rising Stars dressage at the Conquest Centre on April 17<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Horse Trials**

There is no date or venue for this competition as yet. The event consists of dressage, show jumping and cross-country phases. It will be open to Senior and Junior teams and individuals either qualifying or non-qualifying with the National Championships being held at Swalcliffe Park Equestrian, Banbury, Oxon OX15 5EX on **4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> August 2017**.

There are seven classes for members to compete in:

- Senior HT80
- Senior HT90
- Senior HT100
- Open HT100+
- Junior HT80
- Junior HT90
- Junior HT100

At the Championships the Senior HT100, Junior HT100 and the Open HT100+ take place over three days, with roads and tracks and steeplechase phases in addition to the cross-country on the second day. The Open HT100+ allows the juniors to compete against the seniors at the same height as the HT100 but with slightly more challenging and technical obstacles and the show jumping will be 110cm and will take place on the third day. The Senior and Junior HT90 take place over two days, also with roads and tracks and steeplechase. Competitors will show jump before they embark on the different phases. The Senior and Junior HT80 are one day events with no roads and tracks or steeplechase. Competitors ride their dressage, followed by the show jumping round and lastly they will tackle the cross-country.

**Please do register your interest in advance with team manager Caroline Lowes – [caroline@dlowes.com](mailto:caroline@dlowes.com)**

#### **Summer Dressage and SJ**

There is no schedule for this competition as yet. The Dressage and Showjumping will be run on Sunday **25<sup>th</sup> June 2017 at Heazle Arena**, Clayhidon. Riders can compete in dressage, riding test, show jumping and style jumping. It will be open to Senior and Junior teams and individuals, either qualifying or non-qualifying with the National Championships being held at Lincolnshire Showground, Lincoln, Lincolnshire, LN2 2NA on **2<sup>nd</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2017**.

**For those not wanting to travel to Lincoln for the Championships, there is an alternative South Wales & West of England Riding Clubs Championship (SWWRC Regional Championships) held at Hartpury in August.** Please note this is for teams only. ROR have agreed to support this competition. (TBC for 2017).

- **Dressage**

The Championships include a wide range of dressage classes for both team and individuals. Juniors may ride in junior dressage, junior teams of four, junior elementary and junior pairs dressage, while seniors can enter senior open, senior prelim, senior pairs, senior teams of four and a medium dressage class for individual seniors. Open to seniors and juniors is the teams of six. All team members are automatically included in the appropriate individual classes.

- **Riding Test**

The riding test is similar to a dressage test, but marks are awarded according to the rider's performance, and the horse's paces are not considered. For senior teams, two members ride the Prelim RT and the other two ride the Novice RT. Junior team members all ride Prelim RT.

- **Show Jumping**

For the show jumping competition, Juniors may ride in the novice class at 80cm, the intermediate class at 95cm or open at 1.10m. Seniors have the choice of riding novice at 80cm, intermediate at 95cm or open (a mixed class of seniors and juniors) at 1.10m.

- **Style Jumping**

Style jumping is similar to show jumping, but marks are based on the rider's performance rather than the horse's. Consisting of two sections, 75cm and 85cm, for both juniors and seniors at the qualifiers and championships.

Sian Brown will be the team manager for the jumping classes – [sian@westwilsonfarm.co.uk](mailto:sian@westwilsonfarm.co.uk)

If anyone would like to team manage the dressage classes please contact Tamsin – [tamsinandsteve@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:tamsinandsteve@hotmail.co.uk)

Items for the next newsletter, please send to Ros Fisher-Smith [fishersmith@eclipse.co.uk](mailto:fishersmith@eclipse.co.uk)