**Witheridge Riding Club**

**Newsletter**

**June 2015**

**President:** Vanessa Cheffings

**Committee**

**Chair**

Caroline Lowes 01884 860663 [caroline@dlowes.com](mailto:caroline@dlowes.com)

**Treasurer**

Maggi Woodward 01398 341751 maggi.woodward@gmail.com

**Joint Secretaries**

Annie Bear 01769 540030 [annebear@btinternet.com](mailto: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.gov.uk

Cindy Somerville 07939 510085 cindy.somerville@metoffice.co.uk

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

**Team Coordinators**

Novice Indoor SJ Tamsin O’Connor [tamsinandsteve@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:tamsinandsteve@hotmail.co.uk) 01884 242972

Rising Stars Cindy Somerville cindy.somerville@metoffice.gov.uk07939 510085

Summer Dressage Nicola Moon [nmoon00@aol.com](mailto:nmoon00@aol.com) 01398 361731

Senior Horse Trials Caroline Lowes [caroline@dlowes.com](mailto:caroline@dlowes.com) 01884 860663

Summer Outdoor SJ Nicola Moon [nmoon00@aol.com](mailto:nmoon00@aol.com) 01398 361731

Junior Teams

Here we are in the full swing of summer competitions!

We have already had successes this season.  Caroline Thompson came 5th and Lisa Manley was 6th in their BE90cm sections at Millfield School.   This was a beautifully run new BE event with an immaculate cross country course.  At Pontispool BE, Celia Bellamy was 3rd, finishing on her dressage score of 24.5 in her 80cm section (Alicia Balfour would have been 7th if she hadn't been HC) and Philippa Balfour was 8th in her 90cm section.

This weekend was also very busy.

We had the area Horse Trials at Bicton on June 28th.

 90cm event team did well today  - 2nd overall. Connie Isaac was 2nd, Caroline Thompson 4th, Helen Govier 6th and Sharon Routley 10th.   
The 80cm team did well coming 2nd overall as well with Celia coming 5th.

Daisy Waldron also did well coming 8th in her 80cms class.

We also had the Treborough BE Horse Trials on 27th June where [Sophie Jones](https://www.facebook.com/sophie.jones.33046736?hc_location=ufi) came 3rd, [Becky Smith](https://www.facebook.com/becky.smith.7311?hc_location=ufi) came 6th, [Zoe Boyles](https://www.facebook.com/zoe.boyles.1?hc_location=ufi) came 5th, Dan May came 11th, [Lisa Manley](https://www.facebook.com/lisa.manley.1694?hc_location=ufi) came 13th and [Nicola Moon](https://www.facebook.com/nicola.moon.589?hc_location=ufi) came 13th and 1st double clear. [Josie Moore](https://www.facebook.com/josie.moore.568?hc_location=ufi) who also completed with her lovely young horse. A big thank you to members Kim Dart, Bridget Grieve, [Frances King](https://www.facebook.com/frances.king2?hc_location=ufi) , Mary Paxton, [Nicola Moon](https://www.facebook.com/nicola.moon.589?hc_location=ufi) and [Becky Smith](https://www.facebook.com/becky.smith.7311?hc_location=ufi) who kindly helped at dressage. The next event is planned for 29th and 30th August.

Congratulations to all of them.

Next weekend we have the area Show Jumping and Dressage competitions at Chard.

Our summer dressage training with Tyler Bradshaw in the Paxtons' beautiful grass field has proved very popular, and we are running showjumping clinics with Chris Johnson there.  We are planning a conformation and ringcraft evening with Guy Landau, one of the UK's most successful showing experts, for Tuesday 14th July.

Please call me if you have any queries, complaints (surely not?!) or suggestions on 01884 860663.  These things are always better discussed on the phone than by email.

Happy Riding!

Caroline

**Membership Update**

Since the last newsletter we have had 10 new members: Rob and Liz Parkes, Beth Tiernan, Joanne Murray, Jennie Dallas, Emma Jones (J), Jess Woolacott, Jayne Haynes, Tayleah Borchardt (J) and Mary Bradshaw (J).

**Junior Team Manager for Area 12 Competitions.**   
After 17 years of being Junior Team Manager for all the Area 12 qualifiers, sadly Cheryl Mundy has made the decision to retire from the role.  She has done a fabulous job of co-ordinating and supporting the Juniors over the years and seeing many of them becoming Senior members.  We are very grateful for all she has done.   
    
There are several Area 12 competitions that run over the winter months - dressage, SJ, combined training, and eventers challenge, and just a couple over the summer - dressage and SJ, and horse trials.  We don't have a huge number of Junior members and they are aged 15 - 18.   
    
If anyone would be interested in taking on the role, please contact Tamsin [tamsinandsteve@hotmail.co.uk](javascript:handleMailto('mailto:tamsinandsteve@hotmail.co.uk');return%20false;) or 07503 031486 with any questions and for more info.

**Easter Dressage**

WRC Members Easter Dressage @ Downe Farm, Sunday 5th April 2015

Many thanks to the Cheffings family for the use of their lovely venue. Also to judges:- Debbie Dyke, Jane Phillips and Irene Perrett. To the writers:- Lauren, Connie, Hayley and Shelley. Stewards Emma & Sam. We all had a lovely social day with a bit of dressage thrown in!

Congratulations to the winners

Class 1 Pairs Cheryl Mundy and Sam Simmons

Class 2a Intro B Chole Baker Taylor

Class 2b Intro B Cheryl Mundy

Class 3a Prelim 4 Saskia Partridge

Class 3b Prelim B Lindsey Cheffings

And a big thank-you to Cheryl Mundy for organising it.

**Visit to Vauterhill Stud, High Bickington, Umberleigh on Friday 1st May.**

18 members & friends enjoyed a super visit to Vauterhill Stud on a dry but rather chilly Friday evening!  We started off by meeting some of the mares with their young foals, one of which had been born at 7:00am that morning.  Then Graham brought out some of the stallions and told us a bit about them such as age, breeding and their background .  This was followed by a delicious buffet and hot drinks which was completely unexpected but very welcomed!  Some of the visitors were rather taken with the cute kittens...  Many thanks to Graham and his family for their kind hospitality. Thanks also to club member Kim for organising the visit. We raised £65 for Air Ambulance, the charity of Grahams choice.

The stallions include 7 Thoroughbreds, 6 Sport Horses and a Connemara.

For more details about the stud please visit their website [www.vauterhillstud.co.uk](http://www.vauterhillstud.co.uk).

**Team Quest**

**British Dressage Team Quest at Bicton College.**   
Our two Open teams are currently lying 17th and 20th out of 42 teams on the South West leaderboard.  We have two more competitions to go, one in July and one in August.   
  
**13th June** - Now over half way through the competition, more points were gained by both Senior teams to push them a bit further up the South West Open leaderboard - Cool, Calm & Not Collected came 3rd with Julia bringing out her young horse to make up the fourth team place.  The Withy Woopsies came 4th, with new team member, Marianne, filling in for Gloria this time. 

**9th May** - More success for the two Senior Team Quest teams this month.  Helen kindly filled in a team place for the Cool, Calm & Not Collected team to help Emma and Maggi gain another 1st.  The Withy Woopsies were also down to three team members this month to gain a 3rd.

**11th April** - Well done to the BD Team Questers who competed at their second competition at Bicton College to gain 2nd for the Withy Woopsies and 3rd for the Cool, Calm & Not Collected.   
  
**28th March** - Well done BD Team Questers at their first competition last week! 'Cool, Calm & Not Collected' (Emma, Maggi & Tamsin) came 1st, and the 'Withy Whoopsies' (Julia, Debby, Pauline & Gloria) came 2nd. Sadly the 'Super Glue Girls' BYRDS team were unable to score as only two of the team members (Hannah & Becky) made it to the competition. 

**Area 12 Dressage to Music Championship and Qualifier at Kingston Maurward on 25th May.**   
Well done to Carolyn Day and Carol Luxton who were 3rd and 4th respectively in Senior Novice Dressage to Music, and to Sharon Routley and Carolyn Day who were 3rd in the Pairs Dressage to Music.  A fantastic result!

**Camp report**

In the last week of April, 20 Members spent 4 days at Stockland Lovell for our annual camp. As usual the welcome was friendly and the food wonderful. We were a group of mixed age, from 20s to 60s, and certainly of mixed ability. We had 2 lessons a day including flat work, show jumping and X-Country. Not everyone wanted to do everything and our various choices were well catered for. If you just fancied a hack there are plenty of lanes and open fields to ride around. All in all there were plenty of thrills and not too many spills!

Our instructors, Natalie, Jo and Tash were full of enthusiasm and really encouraging to those wanting to push themselves a bit further. They were equally patient with those of us who are less confident. I think everyone left feeling that they and their horses had made definite steps in the right direction.

On the Wednesday evening the local vet gave an interesting talk on summer ailments. She told us of the latest developments in the identification and treatment of Cushings disease as well as discussing the rise in atypical myopathy in horses.

Fiona Crawford, photographer, spent the day with us on Thursday and brought along the photos for us to look through in the evening. She has a wonderful way of capturing that one, rare moment when your horse and you are doing exactly what you should be!

Yet again this year we were lucky with the weather. Those amongst us who are optimistic had brought along our shorts and it was pleasant to hand-graze the horses after the afternoon lessons and then sit out in the courtyard sipping our ‘refreshment of choice’.

So if you want a great time with your horse and good friends make a note in your diary for next year – we have provisionally book it!

**WRC Accumulator Series**

The Accumulator series has been popular again this year and with only one more competition to go for both dressage and show jumping, we will soon have our winners! Dates for the last in the series are Friday 17th July evening showjumping, and evening dressage on Friday 24th July. We hope to see lots of you there to give our leaders some competition!

**Training Update**

We have a varied programme of summer training and hope that there is something for everyone.

On March 21st, 11 members on the ground and 3 riders enjoyed the ‘Riding a Dressage Test’ morning with Tyler Bradshaw. This included a quick talk about preparation, legal tack, working in, how to enter the arena, how to use arena and markers properly, what happens if you go wrong/jump over boards/forget your test, etc.  This was followed by a demonstration of an Intro, Prelim and Novice test. These were videoed and shown later with feedback from Tyler. Thanks to Julia Beggs and Caroline Lowes for the organisation and cakes.

The XCountry schooling with Mary Baillie at Southcott in March/April fell foul of the weather and sadly only one session was held.

There were five sessions of flat work with Tyler Bradshaw in May and June at the Paxtons’ field by kind permission of the Paxton family. These were well supported and provided excellent preparation for our club dressage accumulator shows and for those planning on competing at ODEs over the summer.

In response to demand from members, we held a session on building and walking a show jumping course with Mary Baillie a couple of days before the first show jumping accumulator show. This was subsidised by the club and free to members. 11 people attended. It was a friendly evening and we ended up with a course built ready for the show on the Saturday.

Two groups of four riders spent an afternoon at with Tim Cheffings at Downe Farm Event Centre on the new XCountry training jumps. Members were able to practice steps, ditches the water complex and several other jumps of varying heights.

**STILL TO COME**

**Evening Show Jumping Training with Chris Johnson**

Wednesdays , 17 and 24 June and 8 July.

Chris is a very experienced and enthusiastic Riding Club and Pony Club trainer who believes lessons should be fun.

£8 each for groups of 4, £12 each for groups of 3, and £18 each for two.

Please book with Caroline Lowes on 01884 860663 or [caroline@dlowes.com](mailto:caroline@dlowes.com) stating your horse's experience and the height you want to jump.

**Lunging and Long-Reining with Irene Perrett @ Springfield, Drayford, Witheridge.**    
Wednesday 22nd July 6:30pm - 8:30pm.

**Irene Perrett BHS Stage 4 SM Cert Ed.** Irene has been training riders and their horses for over thirty years, with particular emphasis on developing a partnership between horse and rider through a better understanding of correct and empathetic training. She is happy to teach all who enjoy improving their riding and their horses way of going whether competitively or for self development. She has competed in dressage to Inter 1, Novice BE and BS and examines for PC up to B test. Facilities include a large arena with mirrors and livery to suit each individual's needs in a relaxed environment.   
    
Irene will aim to show different uses of lunging and groundwork, the various equipment, and some long-reining.  There will be time for questions and any issues that people may have.   
    
Members £5.00, Non-Members £8.00.   
    
Please book with Tamsin [tamsinandsteve@hotmail.co.uk](javascript:handleMailto('mailto:tamsinandsteve@hotmail.co.uk');return%20false;) by Friday 17th July.  If there is anything in particular that you would like to be included, please do say.  You will need to bring your own chairs.   
    
**Directions:**

**Springfield, Drayford, Witheridge EX17 4SL**

Follow the B3137 out of Witheridge towards South Molton. The Drayford turn is on the left about 1 mile from the village just before the top of the hill. Follow the road down to the bottom and park where you can. Irene’s yard is on the right as you come down the hill up a steep drive.

**Conformation and Ringcraft with Guy Landau**

TUESDAY 14 JULY 6PM at Mill Barton, Witheridge, EX16 8NU

After his initial career as a successful jockey (3rd in the 1987 Grand National), Guy took over his late stepfather Roy Trigg's yard in 1994 and became a leading showing producer, notably of Finn McCool, champion hunter at the Horse of the Year Show and Royal International in 2008 and 2009.  He now lives near Bridgwater and is joint Master and Huntsman of the Taunton Vale Foxhounds.

He will talk through the conformation of a few horses then we will move up to a field so he can tell us about ringcraft.  It would be helpful to have one or two guinea pigs to add to the two we have, so if you would like to bring your horse, no showing experience is necessary.  You must be prepared to accept constructive criticism of your horse (unless it has perfect conformation!) and be confident and capable of walking, trotting and cantering a circle with other horses in an open field.  Please call Caroline Lowes - 01884 860663.

Please book with Caroline Lowes  [caroline@dlowes.com](mailto:caroline@dlowes.com)

August: **Dressage with Irene Perrett** at Drayford tba, details to follow, book through Ros Fisher-Smith [fishersmith@eclipse.co.uk](mailto:fishersmith@eclipse.co.uk)

If you have any suggestions or comments about riding club training please contact one of the WRC training group:

Julia Beggs [juliabeggs@operamail.com](mailto:juliabeggs@operamail.com) 01398 351472

Ros Fisher-Smith [fishersmith@eclipse.co.uk](mailto:fishersmith@eclipse.co.uk) 01398 341799

Caroline Lowes [caroline@dlowes.com](mailto:caroline@dlowes.com) 01884 860663

Tamsin O’Connor [tamsinandsteve@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:tamsinandsteve@hotmail.co.uk) 07503 031486

**WRC Summer Combined Training Competition Sunday 23rd August at The Paxton's Field**   
**Includes a Prelim and Novice qualifier for the West Somerset & Devon Dressage Championships.**Schedule available on the WRC website. **Any offers of help to set up on the Saturday or to help on the day, if only for a couple of hours, would be most welcome.  Please contact Tamsin**[**tamsinandsteve@Hotmail.co.uk**](javascript:handleMailto('mailto:tamsinandsteve@hotmail.co.uk');return%20false;)**or 07503 031486.**

**Quadrille Update**

Practicing and costume making is well under way for this year’s quadrille. Entries opened earlier this year but were closed by the end of April as 16 teams came forward within a week of the entries opening. We have been guaranteed our slot for this year’s event again held at Bury Farm, Bucks at the beginning of October.   
We have been very busy with our fundraising, a pampered chef party, and last month saw some ferret racing, which filled Yeo Mill Village Hall, I think all the children had a great night! We have been very lucky to have a sponsor come forward, which we are all very grateful for and will help cover the £400 stabling charge for Bury. Our next event is our Frock Swap on July 10th, this is joint with Molland Village Hall, so if anyone has any clothes, accessories, shoes etc that's they no longer wear, bring them along and swap for new! Would be great to see you there.   
Once again the Quadrille team would like to thank everyone for their continuing support and we will continue our hard work in the hope we have another successful year. 

**Special General Meeting and Equine Dental Talk**

We would like to change our membership year to run from January to January instead of October to October and in order to do so we need to change our Rules and Constitution.  We have to hold a short Special General Meeting to do this and need the club members to vote.  Provided the change is agreed, you will not need to renew your membership until January 1st 2016.

We are planning to hold a social evening, an Equine Dental talk to be given by Ruth Squance, who is an equine dental technician based in North Devon.  We will hold the Special General meeting first to explain our proposal and to formally propose and vote on this change. Notice of the exact wording of the proposal to be voted on will be sent out with the notice of the Special General meeting, at least ten days before the meeting. This meeting and talk will be held on Thursday 20th August at 6.30 pm at Mill Barton, Witheridge.  Caroline is offering the barn for the meeting and anyone fancying a swim or game of tennis are invited to do so.

Please bring some food to share, and Caroline has a barbeque as well.

I know everyone is very busy but we need as many members as possible to attend this Special General Meeting, and it is a great opportunity to get together as well!

If you plan to attend, please contact Bridget Grieve – [**bridgetgrieve@talktalk.net**](https://btmail.bt.com/invalidurl.gif)**or**

**phone her on 01884 253 223**