

**Witheridge Riding Club  
Newsletter  
October 2015**

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**Committee**

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Junior Teams

## **From our Chair**

It seems to have been a busy summer in the Paxtons' field at Rackenford. Seven training sessions (one moved at the last minute to Heidi Bates' school due to wet ground), four dressage/jumping competitions and two postponed to a full day in September. Andy and Mary are so kind to let us use it, and so generous with their time (moving trailers around, putting in stakes, maintaining the loos, etc – the list is endless) and tolerant of your Committee's occasional aberrations (I managed to leave a gate open!). It is a great privilege to be able to ride on old turf and puts a spring in the step of horses used to going round an all weather arena.

Our event teams represented the WRC successfully and Connie Isaac had a lovely time at the championships. A small squad of dressage riders put in a lot of work to do well in the south west BD Team Quest league. Sadly there was no interest in the area show jumping and dressage at Chard – we would be interested to know why this was?

I had a personal sadness in that my lovely old roan Minpin had an accident in the field aged 20 and had to be put down (by the gentle and discreet Gary from the Eggesford Hunt). She was my joy, the second horse I bred, who turned her hoof to anything: steep fell rides in the Lake District, beach rides, Pony Club teams with Bella, Riding Club teams with me, herding cattle, winning/being placed/ being eliminated Pre-Novice eventing, team chasing, hunting in Lincs, Rutland, Leics, Northants, Yorks, Herefords, Shropshire, Glos, Somerset, Devon, Cornwall... You name it, she did it, often with spookiness, always with enthusiasm. It is lovely to do so many different things with one horse – both you and the horse learn so much, which helps across all the different disciplines.

Looking ahead, now that we have changed our Riding Club year, the AGM won't be till next January or February. We will be looking for new Committee members so if you feel you would like to contribute, we'd love to hear from you. You don't have to be a champion rider, just an enthusiast prepared to put in a bit of time to help us organise events and perhaps think of new things to get every member involved in something which appeals to them. Please call or email any member of the Committee if you would like to help.

***Caroline***

## **Quadrille team qualifies for Olympia!**

They've done it again. Well done to the Quadrille team (Carol Luxton & Foxy, Sharon Routley & Holly, Carolyn Day & Nibbles and Marianne Holton & Fiddler with Sally Watts & Tassle as reserves) who have qualified for Olympia with their brilliant routine based on the film 'Chicken Run'.

## **Membership News**

Welcome to Anna Barry, Ellie Maguire and Aimi Glover who have joined the club since the last newsletter.

You will be pleased to hear that subscriptions remain the same for another year and are not due until January 1<sup>st</sup> 2016. It is £30 for a senior members (18+), Junior members £20 (aged 15, 16 or 17 and under 18 on 01/01/2017) and Social (non riding) members £15. If you have helped during the 2014/15 club year you are entitled to renew at a discount of £5. Renewal forms will be available from the club website in December.

## **Lunging & Long-Reining Demo at Drayford, Witheridge on 22nd July.**

On a lovely sunny summers evening 20 members enjoyed a very interesting and informative demo. Irene started off by lunging with two lines and long-reining Eva. She showed us some useful exercises that can be achieved and explained their advantages. Then we had tea and coffee and some tasty homemade cakes which Suzanna had organised, including a delicious cake that Irene's Dad had made! We then watched Lucy lunge Olive and had chance to ask Irene questions. We were shown how to use side reins and a Pessoa correctly. Many thanks to Irene and her team, everyone enjoyed the evening.

## **British Dressage Team Quest at Bicton College**

**15th August** - At our last competition Emma, Maggi and Tamsin rode for Cool, Calm & Not Collected gaining 2nd place, and Julia, Pauline and Marianne rode for the Witty Whoopsies gaining 3rd place. Both teams have done really well and will probably finish mid-table on the South West leaderboard out of over 45 teams but are unfortunately just a few points away from qualifying for the Regional finals. The competition league finishes at the end of this month. Many thanks to Julia who kindly took on the task of Team Manager.

**4th July** - At the penultimate competition we unfortunately only had enough riders to submit one full team this time. Pauline very kindly swapped into the Cool, Calm & Not Collected team to join Maggi and Tamsin, and Becky kindly filled in for Emma. The team finished 3rd to earn another 8 points for the leaderboard. Team co-ordinator, Julia, came along to provide support and cake instead of riding!

## **Team Quest Roundup 2015**

Well done to WRC Team Quest members! We turned out two teams for this competition and thanks to the commitment and effort of all those who took part, we ended up coming 19<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> out of 45 teams who took part in the South West region. It was fun to be part of a team and to see the improvement in horses and riders as confidence grew over the months. Thanks to all for making such a sustained effort and for sharing the highs and lows with such good spirits.

***Julia Beggs***

## **WRC Special General Meeting and Equine Dental talk at Mill Barton on 20th August.**

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 held a short Special General Meeting to do this and the club members voted. The proposal to change the membership year was passed unanimously. This means that current members will not have to renew their membership until January 1st 2016. For anyone who has joined since June, or who joins between now and January 1st 2016, their membership will last until January 1st 2017.

This also means that there will not be an AGM this autumn but it will be held in February next year – a chance for a friendly winter get together in the period after Christmas.

The revised Rules and Constitution are available on the Members Only page on the website.

Afterwards, we had a very interesting and informative Equine Dental talk given by Ruth Squance, who is an equine dental technician based in North Devon. This was followed by a lovely BBQ and a chance to have a chat and catch up with fellow members.

### **Accumulator Series, Dressage and Showjumping**

We are delighted to announce the winners of our accumulator series. We started the summer with lovely weather and the events ran to plan. Unfortunately August weather was not kind and we had to postpone the last two events until September. Many thanks to the Paxton family for allowing us to use their field. So, here at last are the results!

#### **Dressage**

Joint First, Cheryl Mundy and Hoe Punchinello, and Sophie Marshall and Roxie.  
Third Emma Voysey and Millstock Sequoia

#### **Showjumping**

Joint First, Caroline Lowes and Noel, and Rebecca Robins and Joe  
Joint Third Sian Brown and Monty and Monica Ashton and No Bodder

### **West Somerset and Devon Dressage Championships**

The 7<sup>th</sup> running of the West Somerset and Devon Dressage Championships for the 7 local Riding Clubs was a great success with a record number of entries, up a third on 2014.

The standard was as high as ever with the cream of the clubs members coming together to battle for championships honours and this year, it was West Somerset, Sid and Otter and Exeter who rose to the top.

Lucie Swann and Free Fox (Fred) won the Preliminary Champs with over 76%, just pipping Sarah Tancock and Sam by 1.5%. This started the day well for West Somerset as Gwenda Bassett had also won the warm up class. With Sarah and Sally Pidsley 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> it was also a good start for Exeter.

Cheryl Beer from Sid and Otter was victorious with Typhoos Turn in the warm up Novice class and Novice champs with Sarah Tancock again as the bridesmaid just 1.2% behind this time. Mercedes Pemberton – Fitch was 3<sup>rd</sup> and Anne Hand 4<sup>th</sup> for Sid and Otter. It was a good day for Anne as she went on to win the Elementary champs class with a solid 66%, closely followed by Pippa Perry (EDRC) and Vanessa Warren (QRC) who were on joint scores and so, for the first time ever, we had joint reserve champions.

The championship class winners and down to 4th place won training grants which were funded by the clubs and by the increased entries and the champions also won a complimentary photo, kindly donated by our official photographer, Kate Alford.

Prizes were awarded as in previous years for veteran rider, horse, junior rider and young horse plus others and due to the increased entries; additional prizes were awarded so that more combinations went home with a rosette, free photo or voucher. We are grateful to Wychanger Barton Saddlery and Brincombe Equine for vouchers and also to Suzanne Willcox who was our chief scorer on the day again but who also donated a plaiting apron (made by Equine Plaiting Solution) for the best turned out combination in Class 2. Full list of award winners on “special prizes” list.

The introduction on the ROR Riding Club Challenge was disappointing with only one entry for the Prelim and Novice but Rachel Hill from West Somerset, a long time supporter of this event, was still happy to win Wychanger vouchers and lovely Champion rosettes which had been donated by ROR.

Donations have been made to The Blue Cross and Teenage Cancer Trust as our nominated charities this year, plus an additional donation to the Somerset Levels RDA Carriage Driving Group, a cause close to the heart of Charlotte and Jon who run KSEC and who host us so well.

There is also £75 left over which will be carried over to next year and as soon as the clubs decide what, how and when, we will let members know.

Many thanks to everyone that helped to ensure the day was a success, particularly Anna Ames, Heidi Bates, Catherine Freeman and Suzanne Willcox who stewarded/scored/wrote, our judges and Diane Cudlipp, who provided the catering which kept us all going. Also, Kate Alford for capturing everyone’s finest moments on camera and for the donation of photos for the champions plus a photoshoot. This was raffled and won by Sarah Tancock – lucky lady! Special thanks to the clubs and all the members who supported the day.

***Helen Goff***

**Area 12 Competitions 2016**

These competitions are open to Senior and Junior members. They are for individuals and / or teams of 4. We can enter qualifying teams and / or non-qualifying teams. The standard of competitors is usually very high and the courses are always up to height, so you must be currently competing confidently at the appropriate level. If anyone would like to take on the role of Team Manager for the Junior teams or for any of the listed competitions, please contact Tamsin - tamsinandsteve@hotmail.co.uk

### **Winter Novice Dressage**

The Novice dressage competition is being run on **30th January 2016 at Pontispool** by TBC. **Prelim entries to BRC HQ by 8th January 2016.**

### **Intermediate Dressage**

The Intermediate dressage competition is being run on **30th January 2016 at Pontispool** by TBC. **Prelim entries to BRC HQ by 8th January 2016.**

### **FOTH Eventers Challenge**

The senior and junior FOTH eventers challenge competition will be held at **Pontispool on 14th February 2016** and is being run by the Area 12 Committee. **Prelim entries to BRC HQ by 22nd January 2016.**

### **FOTH Combined Training**

TBC

### **Winter Novice Show Jumping**

The Novice showjumping competition is being run on **5th March 2016 at KSEC** by TBC. **Prelim entries to BRC HQ by 12th February 2016.**

### **Intermediate Showjumping**

The Intermediate showjumping competition is being run on **5th March 2016 at KSEC** by TBC. **Prelim entries to BRC HQ by 12th February 2016.**

### **Dressage to Music**

The senior and junior dressage to music will be run on **30th May 2016 at TBC** by TBC. **Prelim entries to BRC HQ by 9th May 2016.**

### **Horse Trials**

The senior and junior horse trials will be run on **12th June at Bicton** by TBC. **Prelim entries to BRC HQ by 20th May 2016.**

### **Summer Dressage & Showjumping**

The senior and junior showjumping and dressage will be run on **16th & 17th of July 2016 at Chard Equestrian** by TBC. **Prelim entries to BRC HQ by 24th June 2016.**

### **Training update**

We have had a varied programme of training over the summer with all three main disciplines covered as well as two sessions of on-the-ground training.

There were three sessions of Evening Show Jumping Training with Chris Johnson at the Paxtons' field in June/July; three sessions of flatwork with Irene Perrett at Drayford in August/September and an afternoon of X-Country training with Mary Baillie at Downe Farm Event Centre in October.

In addition in July, Irene Perrett led a Lunging and Long-Reining clinic at Drayford that 18 members attended and Caroline Lowes hosted a Conformation and Ringcraft evening with Guy Landau which was attended by 19 members.

Still to come is the Centaur Biomechanics rider assessment day on November 1<sup>st</sup> with Russell Guire at Downe Farm Event Centre. The day will run from 8.30 in the morning until after 6pm at night. Nine club members have signed up for the assessment and we have three non members as well. The sessions are subsidised for WRC members. Members who are interested are invited to attend from 11am until 1.15 to watch Russell work with three riders for the price of a £5 donation to the Devon Air Ambulance.

Training sessions have been well attended this year and there have not been too many cancellations despite the indifferent weather this summer. We have had some problems with people booking and then cancelling. Our trainers are very good to allow us to book them for blocks of time before we know how many people will be coming. We always let them know numbers as soon as possible but late cancellations can mean trainers losing money or other members being refused a space. Although we understand that horses and their travel arrangements are very unreliable, we must do all we can to keep the bookings that we make and, if we cannot attend, pay the trainers for any money lost.

The training group will be meeting in November to plan the winter training. Please do get in contact with one of the group to suggest ridden or unriden sessions, new trainers and/or venues. We welcome all feedback so we can be sure to give you the training you want and need.

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