



Goring & District Riding Club

Newsletter



Welcome to the Spring Newsletter. It won't have escaped your notice that this Newsletter doesn't look quite as pretty as the previous ones. This is because I've sacrificed good looks for efficiency as I was spending too much time fiddling around with the layout rather than getting the Newsletter done and out there!

The first item to note is that the Club's flagship Open Show is now scheduled for Sunday 12th July.

Secondly, your Newsletter editor, me, Jennifer Cranford has taken on the mantle of Membership Secretary. This involves administering the membership forms as well as letting the British Horse Society and British Riding Clubs know who's who at the Club and which members are members of the Teams. I'm going to modernise the membership form slightly so that we can communicate in the best way to our members. Plus I'm collating a spreadsheet of your riding interests for the Club and maybe asking more questions so that we can keep our members happy! Hopefully, very soon, I'll be sending out new Membership Cards to everyone, but one of the changes is you're no longer a number, but a name! So, on the entry forms you can just tick that you're a member and if, heaven forbid, any unscrupulous fraudster pretends to be a member and they're not, we can check against our database of members! The plus side of this is that you don't have to remember your number. Other initiatives we're looking into are easier ways to join and pay online, plus entries online. If you have any ideas for your Club, do get in touch!

We hope you enjoy the Newsletter and find it an informative and entertaining read. If you have anything to be included in the next issue please contact Jennifer Cranford on 01903 267737 or 07905 370198 or email jennifer_cranford@hotmail.com

Dates for Your Diary

- Sun 10th May:** In-Hand Show at Castle Goring. The Schedules are out! Helpers required the day before (Sat 9th May) to set out the rings and check the ground; plus helpers on the day. Please text the official GDRC mobile 07988 502833 if you can help. All members should help out at least once a year.
- Sun 14th June:** Area 13 Horse Trials at Rackham.
- Sat 20th June:** Area 13 Show Jumping at Castle Goring organised by our Riding Club. Team members required!
- Sun 21st June:** Open Show Jumping Show at Castle Goring.
- Sun 12th July:** Open Showing Show at Castle Goring (Please note change of date.) This, our main Show includes the Balanced Horse Feeds' Championship Show qualifiers for the following classes: Working Hunter, Riding Horse and Mountain & Mooreland. There will also be the 'Riding Pony of the Year' qualifier sponsored by Marriages' Feeds.
- Sun 6th Sept:** Hunter Trials at Titnore Lane.
- Sun 27th Sept:** Hunter Trials at Titnore Lane.
- Sun 11th Oct:** Eventers' Challenge at Titnore Lane.

The Third Winter Dressage Series

We have now completed our Winter Dressage Series at Ferring Country Centre. As predicted in the last Newsletter Helen Johnson with Platinum Skyfire won the overall points Championship with 85 points (see Figure 1). Well done Helen!

On Sunday 22nd March we held Championship classes for Walk & Trot, Prelim 13 and Novice 20. The classes were by invitation only for those that had done well during the Dressage Series.

In the order of the classes, the winners were Mark Saxony with Mourny Boy 67%, Joanne Cooper with McIntosh 69.17% and Sophie Cook with Maaster 70%. Prizes included a huge Trophy for Helen, GDRC saddle-cloths for Mark and Joanne, and a Summer Sheet for Sophie. The winning scores were excellent and I think it's fair to say, that as a Club, our standards have improved at all levels.

A big thank you to everyone who took part to make the Dressage Series a success and of course to the helpers, writers, adders uppers etc without whom we couldn't run the Classes!

We have every intention of running a Fourth Winter Dressage Series 2009/2010 so do bear that in mind and it's worth becoming a Riding Club Member to gain a £2 entry discount for each class! Please see the website or contact me for more information on joining the Riding Club.



Left: Helen Johnson receiving her trophy from Janet Shears.

Right: Mark Saxony & Mourny receiving their GDRC Saddlecloth from Jim Lee.

Below left: Joanne Cooper receiving her GDRC Saddlecloth.

Below right: Sophie Cook won a GDRC Summer Sheet which will be specially ordered for Maaster.



Bits of News



- Volunteers are needed to paint our Judges Box! Please contact Jim Lee 07957 776635 if you could help.
- The Club is looking at buying a gate jump which we think would be a good investment as we could use it for Working Hunter as well as Show Jumping classes.
- The Club may also buy a Blackboard or Whiteboard to use at show rings to declare when you're ready to ride. Of course, any donations would be gratefully received!
- We have a couple of members who would be interested in entering a 'Style Jumping' Team for Saturday 20th June's Team competition; please let Janet know if you'd be interested in this Class - we need a team of 4, but currently have just 2 team members.
- We're also looking at entering a Show Jumping team at Hickstead where we need 3 different horse & rider combinations to jump round 2'6, 2'9 and 3'0.
- The new GDRC Saddlecloths are now ready and look really smart. You can see them in the Winter Dressage photos where lucky winners won them! If you get lent one to compete at a Team event, please ensure you return it to Janet (Club Secretary).
- Appletrees Horse Transport are buying a nine-horse lorry and have agreed to take 9 horses from the Riding Club anywhere they want in their new lorry for the price of one!



Appletrees Horse Transport This is their old 6/7 horse lorry which is currently for sale.

Their contact telephone numbers are: 07850 215805 or 01403 741757

The National Senior Winter Team Dressage Championships



Three of the Team's horses travelled together courtesy of Appletrees Transport who incidentally, offer a group discount to GDRC Members- see Bits of News.

The Senior Dressage Team went off to Hartpury, Glos on Friday 27th March to compete in the NAF National Indoor Dressage Championships the following day – Saturday 28th. The Team members were Caryll Overy with Tornado, me with Marmite (Prelim 12); Caroline Hannam with Mr Penfold and Sophie Cook with Maaster (Nov 27). We all had a good journey and arrived at the college campus in good time. We found our stables which were well-built, clean and airy with bedding ready for our trusty steeds.

Hartpury is a great equestrian centre and when you've heard of it once you start noticing it being used all the time; it's often mentioned in Horse & Hound magazine, it's Carl Hester's local centre and it hosts many top notch events, so it was a real pleasure to be competing there.

Caryll and I went for a short hack around the grounds that evening to stretch our horses' legs after the long travelling time they'd had in the lorries. There were some very smart horses there that were also pretty sharp - two people fell off in the warm-up arena and this is before any competing began!

After we'd settled, fed, rugged and hayed the horses for the night, we went to our respective hotels/lorries to get ready for dinner as we pre-arranged to all meet up and eat together locally. Altogether there were about 20 of us which was really fun. I wished I wasn't competing so that I could relax and enjoy myself and those not competing wished they were as Hartpury is a lovely place! Michael Johnson, Dressage Trainer, came with us to help throughout the day. I was really nervous, which rather surprised me as I'm not normally, so Michael suggested I have a glass of wine and relax a bit. Ever obedient, I did as I was told and the first glass of wine went straight to my head and so did the next one! I remember it as a good evening and I think everyone else had a pleasant time too!?

I was fortunate to have a 12 o'clock test time and therefore benefited from a rare lie-in, but Sophie had to be out there, competing around 9 o'clock, then Caryll around 11 and Caroline after me.

Sophie is the youngest team member (over half the other team members' ages!) and did her test nicely. Being first of our team to go at least she got it over with rather than being nervous all day.

Next was Caryll and she had the whole team's sympathy because poor Tornado had managed to get himself a bruised sole and wasn't 100% sound. They did the test, but it was not up to their usual excellent standard because Caryll was obviously concerned with Tornado's well-being. She had the Hartpury vet look at his foot and it's now well on the way to recovery; but what a shame for this to happen at a big competition.

I was next with Marmite and we did a good test that I was very happy with; however the judges didn't see it quite so positively and awarded us a '3' for one of the movements. Not an ideal occasion to get my first '3'! Nevermind, I was still pleased and ended up in the top third individually. My husband kindly videoed my test and it's on YouTube <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y18-kfSML-0> and gives you a feel of the place – it was very windy too!

Caroline was next, and again she did a nice test with Mr Penfold. Sorry I don't have a lot of info, but we all watched her test and thought it very pleasing indeed!

At the end of the day, though we weren't placed and we had a bit of a roller-coaster time of it but it was a good experience. We were pleased to have qualified to be there and to take part. Next year, we'll try to qualify again and have another weekend away with our horses!

Special thanks to all those 'supporters' who came with us – it was lovely to have you all there!