



NEWSLETTER



ISSUE 5 FEBRUARY 2009

WELCOME



"What not to wear when mucking out!"

Welcome to the Valentine Newsletter (pinker than a Katie Price towelling 'leisure' suit)! Anyway, last month was our Annual General Meeting (AGM). Highlights included the Chairman's Report; Jim thanked everyone for their contributions to the club with an amusing mention for Robert 'Webmaster' for managing to post the Dressage Results on the Website seemingly before the tests were actually finished!

Good News: Club membership is up - probably helped by the use of various facilities we enjoy throughout the year for which we are grateful.

Janet, our Club Secretary, was pleased to report that the shows that went ahead were well-supported and profitable.

Lots of awards were given out; by far the biggest being a Quince Tree (see pic) for 'Masterchef' Sheila as a thank-you for catering at many events. Peter and Tom who physically do lots of hard work for the club received GDRC Blue Fleeces (they didn't fancy one of Katie's!) and all the Team Members were given very posh rosettes.

Trophies were awarded to Caroline Hannam as "Most Improved Senior", and Jess Ewers won "Most Improved Junior". Selina Suttle won "Most Enthusiastic" member and Rosie Hawkins won "Best Attendance". Ellie Parjeter was "Best Overall Junior", Mary Parsons "Best Helper" and Helen Johnson "Best Senior Attendee". A new Shield was awarded to Caryl Overy for attending Lincoln Dressage Championships individually in 2008.

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

THIS ISSUE...

- ♥ *Welcome, including AGM highlights*
- ♥ *Winter Dressage Series Update*
- ♥ *Membership Secretary, Sara de Claire's Mongolian Adventure*
- ♥ *Dates for your Diary*
- ♥ *Bits of News*



Meeches Prolific Quince

THE THIRD WINTER DRESSAGE SERIES

We have already had 5 Dressage shows! All have been well-attended and the overall results Table is looking appropriately complicated! The current leader is Helen Johnson with Platinum Skyfire. They have 76 points.

Currently in second place is Jennifer Cranford (me) with Marmite and they have 62 points. Assuming they could win 2 classes (eek!) on 22nd Feb, this would give them 82 points. But, Helen would need to come 4th in just one class to win the Championship, so it looks like Helen should make space on her mantelpiece for some silverware in March!

As aforementioned, the next Dressage Classes are on Sunday 22nd February. There will be 3 Classes: Prelim 4, Prelim 14 and Novice 27.

Entry is £11 per Class. *GDRC members receive a £2 discount for each Entry.*

The Championship Show in March is Invitation Only (oooh, get us!) and from this event a Walk & Trot, Prelim and Novice Champion will be decided. There's a GDRC Summer Sheet going to the winner of the Novice plus different prizes for the other classes.

(Dressage Times are available on the Thursday night before the Tests on the GDRC Website, and also available by phoning Janet between 7.30 and 9.30 pm on the relevant Thursday.)



After perusing through Luke Gee's photos, this one of Katrina Billingham with Gorgeous George was one of the best!*

**Official Photographer for GDRC*

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sunday 15th Feb: Area 13 Indoor Show Jumping at Sands Farm. The Seniors are competing in the morning and the Juniors in the afternoon.

Sunday 22nd Feb: Winter Dressage Series (5) Entries in by 15th Feb please.



Friday 27th Feb: Tack Sale at Clapham & Patching Village Hall. Sellers should be there for 7pm (£5 Table Charge). Shoppers (50p entry) should be there 7.30pm prompt to grab a bargain!

Wed 4th March:

Ferring Country Centre will be hosting an evening with New Zealander James Hart, from Equus Health. He will be talking about the use of herbal supplements for general horse care and competition. 8pm start, and it's free!



Thurs 18th March: Area 13 Quiz will be taking place in Pulborough and is being organised by Rudgwick Riding Club. Anyone interested in being in a team should contact Janet.

Sun 22nd March: Invitation Only Winter Dressage Championships.

Sun 10th May: In-Hand Show at Castle Goring. The schedule is currently being worked on but the usual popular classes will be there as well as the good weather again we hope!

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 19th July: Open Showing Show at Castle Goring (*Date could change if this show clashes with similar local shows.*)

Sun 6th Sept: Hunter Trials at Titnore Lane.

Sun 27th Sept: Hunter Trials at Titnore Lane.

Sun 11th Oct: Eventers' Challenge at Titnore Lane.

MONGOLIAN HORSE TREK CHALLENGE

Many of you may be aware of the fantastic work that The Brooke does for sick and injured donkeys and horses abroad. They also educate owners in better animal care to help end harmful practices. For more information please visit their website at www.thebrooke.org. In a recent issue of Horse and Hound 64% of their readers said that they support equine welfare charities like The Brooke by giving financial donations.

Sara de Claire, our Membership Secretary, has committed to undertake the Horse Trek Challenge across Mongolia this June to raise sponsorship for, and awareness of, the vital work that The Brooke does. You could help her to raise money for this work by visiting her sponsorship page at www.justgiving.com/saradeclaire which enables you to donate online or alternatively please send cheques, made payable to "The Brooke" to her at 3 Pebble Walk, Littlehampton, BN17 6TE. We are obliged to advise you that a percentage of the sponsorship money goes towards tour costs.



Sara is really looking forward to using her knowledge of looking after horses at home to raise money for horses around the world who are lacking, food, water, shelter and, of course ♥ .

The trek takes place on 5-15 June and starts at the base of the mountains in

Kharkhorin. The weather can be extreme with 260 days of sunshine a year but there could be frost on Sara's tent in the mornings. Brrrr! Bearing in mind that the horses need to be comfortable there's a weight limit the whole trip... So instead of that extra pair of evening sandals, 5 different sun-creams and 4 extra tops (just in case!), Sara will be packing minimally... just one suncream, insect repellent, a loo roll and not much else!!



o o BITS OF NEWS o o

- ♥ Our Senior Dressage Team has had an exceptional start to 2009 by qualifying for the National Riding Club Indoor Dressage Championships which will take place at the end of March in Gloucestershire. Gaining both 1st and 2nd places in the Prelim tests secured the entries to this NAF sponsored National competition.
- ♥ The Junior Dressage Team came a veritable 2nd, but unfortunately only the 1st placed team go to the Championships.
- ♥ Michael Johnson (see Halloween edition of GDRC Newsletter, but this doesn't mean he's scary!) is to be the Team's Dressage Manager at the National Finals. He'll be giving the Team extra training beforehand and on-the-day encouragement too!
- ♥ New Saddlecloths emblazoned (tastefully, of course) with the GDRC logo are currently being hand-stitched* by Janet and will make all our Teams look really smart.
- ♥ Our forthcoming Riding Club events should be featured in the March 23rd edition of Horse & Hound.

*Janet's hands are busy organising the stitching!

