

## BOURNE VALLEY RIDING CLUB

1973 April Newsletter by Philip Hart

The Annual General Meeting will take place on Tuesday 8th May at Tedworth House. This is an important occasion as the accounts are presented, new committee members are elected, rules are changed (and subscriptions raised!) and the Club's aims are generally aired, so please try to come along. This year we are having a talk afterwards from Mrs. Fairfax, the Riding Clubs' Committee representative for the south. Mrs. Fairfax will be able to answer all your questions on the policy and aims of the riding club movement as seen from the top.

The other important item for this month's newsletter is that subscriptions were due from the 1st April. There will be no V.A.T. Please complete the form at the end (£1.50 riding, £1 non-riding.)

Mrs Sara Morrison and Cathy Birnie apologize profusely for disappointing everyone in postponing the long-awaited talk. Mrs Morrison has been heard to blame it all on secretarial inefficiency - truthfully though Mrs Morrison may have to spend a while in hospital in the near future, so her plans are uncertain and it was decided to try and arrange a talk for later in the year.

The lecture from Mr. D. A. Watson on horses' backs was very good, turning everyone who went into instant experts. It appears that every horse I sit on gets an immediate bad back which stops at either jumping, tracking up, bending round corners or using itself behind the saddle. A very strange phenomenon! Perhaps the same happens to your horse! Joking apart, the lecture was very informative and well presented and gave everyone a lot to think about.

Mrs Seeley's cross-country instruction at Lockes Drove was very inspiring for those who went. Andrew Misselbrook stole the show by trying to jump with his horse's girth broken. Disaster was narrowly averted by means of a lot of incoherent shouting and the fact that Andrew's cob would not jump because things on top weren't right! Later inspection showed that 3 of the buckles had torn off the girth. Andrew's only comment was that he supposed he ought to expect that to happen after 38 years of service.

Recent members may not know this but the adjacent riding clubs send us their programmes and newsletters (and vice versa), which are housed by the Secretary and/or Chairman. These may be obtained by just applying to the appropriate person.

The Riding Clubs newsletters have also arrived. These are interesting as they contain all the news from Stoneleigh. They also contain information on the 2 camps to be held this year, a novice camp at Goodwood and a more advanced one at Larkhill. Please contact the Chairman for more information.

One of our members, Mrs. Haddock from Devizes, has a part bred Arab yearling gelding for sale, County show standard, registered with the Arab Horse Society and National Pony Society. He will make 13.2 to 14 hands. For further information please contact Mrs Haddock at Lavington 2233.

To assist the committee in planning the fixtures throughout the year, could you please complete the enclosed questionnaire and return to the Secretary.