

# Bourne Valley Riding Club

incorporating Woodhay District Riding Club

*(Affiliated to the British Horse Society)*

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## NEWSLETTER

August 96

Historically, this is the quiet one. You know, the hush, hush, let's have a bit of a breather ready for the autumn and all those lovely hunter trials. Yes, I am talking about this month, you know, AUGUST. It sort of sits somewhere in the middle part of the year between July and September. So, I thought as it was so quiet, I might try being a bit reflective; the big thinker syndrome. There I was having an innocent conversation the other day (about horses what else) listening to someone tell me some of the problems, accidents and escapades they had encountered over the years with horses and it suddenly occurred to me (yes, a flash of light hit the brain with the speed of a snail) that I am NOT the only person who seems to spend all their holiday money (and more beside) on the Vet, and that I am NOT the only person who has had years where disaster after disaster has overtaken the horsy beast. Isn't it strange, when it is happening, you tend to think that you're the only person in the world going through it. Perhaps we should have an Auntie Marjorie section in the newsletter. A problem shared is a problem halved. Actually, on this basis, I wonder if anyone would like to share my horse; no..... no..... that's just not fair. (Thinking about it, how about we organise a prize draw at the AGM? I understand that the latest fashion at the big dressage shows is to offer a horse as a prize. We could offer my horse. At least everyone would have a good reason not to go. Oh look, my PA (he hates being called this) has just whizzed out and bought the raffle tickets. I wonder what he is trying to tell me! )

### Area 17 Dressage Qualifier at Forest Lodge

Well this really is scene from the saddle. I actually went. Lindsay, our Chairman, very kindly lent me her son's pony so that I could do the team dressage and have a go at the Riding Test. Well, what can I say. I'm very unfit and stiff and a couple of trial sessions before the big day left me managing a pretty good impression of John Wayne's walk, but the pony was absolutely marvellous. Apart from an occasional "what does she think she's doing" he behaved impeccably. Thanks very much indeed Lindsay and Jonathan for allowing me to ride. It was brilliant.

We set off to Forest Lodge at about 7.00 am and in fact it only took us about an hour and a bit to get there. The facilities were super, with good grass covered arenas, a nice indoor school and some lovely boxes.

Both Gail and myself were kindly driven by Lindsay and we did all of our tests and were out and finished by twelve thirty. However, it was then that the problems started. It's the little matter of scoring that seems to really show up the men from the boys when it comes to organising these events and if I tell you that we actually got the results just before we left at six thirty in the evening, it gives you some idea of how long they took. It was a jolly hot day too. Fortunately, the horses were quite happy to stand in the lorry or we just held on to them and let them graze. Understandably, the other teams members all went home. It just does not seem reasonable to have to wait the whole day for the results of classes which started at nine in the morning. The organisers seem to want you to stay for as long as possible. They do things like keep your flu vaccination certificates until the results of the class are known.

Despite all of our checking, we still got caught with two of the certificates. One of which belonged to Gail, who as you might know, has represented the club many times before both at Area & Championships. Fortunately, she managed to race round and sort out the discrepancy. On the day, poor Julie's certificate was queried. However, good sense prevailed and a three day exemption was given to sort it out. Me thinks at one time these events were probably meant to be fun, but like a lot of fun things, bureaucracy has come to invade competitions of this type in modern society and because of the potential spread of disease etc. seem to end up making it a bit of a trauma. This apart, there is no doubt that for the clubs who gained their ticket to the championships the effort is totally worthwhile and for those you didn't, ourselves included, we'll get it next year.



The results were as follows:

Twenty six teams contested the Team Dressage competition and nine teams contested the Riding Test competition. A strong contingent from the IOW Vectis won both the dressage and riding test competitions. In the dressage they nearly had a clean sweep with 3 first and a second place from the 4 four tests. With 25-30 riders in each test, our members did very well to gain midway placings, with special congratulations to Annabel, Monica & Julie who were in the top ten, and the Riding Test team on their sixth place.

Congratulations to club member, Claire Farrington, and China Tea, representing the Danebury RC, who won the Dressage to Music. Claire goes forward to the Championships at Stoneleigh in October.

Prelim 6	Monica Tompkins	Scrumpy	Chantal Hutton	Mr Macgreggor	
Novice 21	Gail Perren	Blackthorne	Liz Potter	Folkin Philomel	
Novice 30	Zandra Forder	Vegas Lad	Annabel Slater	Charleville	4th
Elem 44	Julie Baker	Fare Jasmine	Alison Mitchell	Lafayette	
Team Position	18th		11th		
Medium 65	Alison Mitchell	Lafayette			
Riding Test 2	Zandra Forder	Vegas Lad			
Riding Test 2	Julie Baker	Fare Jasmine	7th		
Riding Test 3	Monica Tompkins	Scrumpy	5th		
Riding Test 3	Chantal Hutton	Mr Macgreggor			
Team Position	6th				

#### **August Ride with Maureen & Sue on 11th August, 1996**

Seven very wet, let me say that again, very, very wet squelchy little ducklings took part in this esteemed ramble round the countryside. I understand that by the time the soaking wet, dripping from every extremity people got to the pub, they were so wet that the water was filling their boots. I don't think anybody bothered to get off to eat their food, which apparently was very good, but the general idea was that the saddles might keep a little adhesion if they kept their bottoms firmly in them. The sun did come out..... on the way home and like magic, little ducklings turned back into people. Maybe next time, we should plan this ride for the middle of November. Possibly then, it will be an absolute scorcher of a day.

#### **National Novice Horse Trials Championship at Everdon on August 18th**

Our novice team of Gail Perren, Serena Potter, Belinda Symonds, with a minor change, from Chantal Hutton to Nicky Winham, who so ably qualified for the championships disappeared up to Everdon for this weekend with a jolly band of supporters. They all found some stabling and then disappeared down the pub, sounds pretty fair to me, to discuss and banter over all of the everyday problems in life, like, how were they going to jump round that cross country course in the morning. As it happened, they all did very well. The Everdon course was particularly technical, with lots of angled jumps requiring precision riding and the time given on the day seemed quite tight. Each of the members of the team got one stop and then proceeded clear and I believe they all had a few time penalties. However, a quarter of all participants were eliminated so it gives you some idea of the standard of the course and a good idea of how well our lot did, particularly as aside from Blackthorn, all the horses were young and relatively inexperienced. It sounds like a good time was had by all.

#### **Report by Sam Hart.**

The main features of Everdon, as those who have competed there know well, are four fold. Narrow country lanes to find it, lovely parkland, ridge and furrow contours of the turves, like Atlantic waves and the very interesting water complex.

Di, our hard working chef d'equip met us early evening on Saturday to walk the cross country course. Fence 6, an A,B,C,D combination, straight through the arrow heads? or twist and turn over simpler routes and lose time? The team had to make their own decisions. The water complex was to cause most of the eliminations. A rail, a bounce with a 2 ft drop into water, followed by a leap up the bank at the other end, and a bounce over another rail. That was the quick way. There were multiple "easier" ways, but all time consuming. Time was to be important next day. Very few competitors avoided time penalties.

Di had of course arranged stabling conveniently close to the local pub, where we all gathered for a meal. Our fourth team member having recently moved from Larkhill to the Worcester area joined us on Sunday morning.

Five dressage arenas, show jumping half a mile away, and a one and a half mile cross country course, challenged the efforts of supporters to follow the progress of our team members. Searing heat was tempered by a stiff cooling breeze and shade provided by large parkland trees. Half the cross country course could be viewed from a vantage point 10 yards from the lorries.

They all had good dressage scores, with Serena best in her arena and Gail fourth in hers. Three were clear show jumping, with one unlucky knockdown. Then came the deciding discipline - the cross country. Every one had one stop. Gail's Blackthorn, took such an extravagant leap over the first of some combination rails on the crest of a ridge that he was unable to negotiate the next rail set at a different angle on the next crest, two strides away.



Serena's Folkin Philomel questionably crossed her tracks, taking a slightly longer route at the water, and then hesitated at the edge, as did Belinda's Murdoch. Harpo needed two attempts at fence 17, a ditch and palisade off a tight turn.

Of the forty teams from all over Britain, fifteen failed to get three riders round and were eliminated. (Many said they didn't have water at their qualifiers).

We didn't wait for the final results, but by 6pm had calculated that we had come a satisfactory 15th - 20th and were ahead of our friendly rivals, the Meon and the Hampshire Rural.

All the horses had finished sound and fortified by Liz's cake and copious cups of speciality teas and relaxing on her ramp, we boxed up, tired but happy, for the long journey home.

The team results were:-

		Dr	SJ	XC	XC time	Total
Gail Perren	Blackthorn	26	0	20	30	76
Serena Potter	Folkin Philomel	22	0	20	20	62
Nicky Winham	Harpo	30	5	20	24	79
Belinda Symonds	Murdoch	33	0	20	24	77

### **Hunter Trials at Headbourne Worthy on 29th September, 1996**

As you will know if you actually read your newsletters, we lost the use of Larkhill for our Hunter Trials. After some umming and ahhing, it was decided to see if we could find an alternative venue and with the limited local options, it has been decided to try this year's Hunter Trial at Headbourne Worthy. I understand that the course has been changed a little since I was last there, which I must admit was some time ago, but they now have a water jump (sounds like a good place for a little spot reporter like me) although the basic course remains the same as previously.

The schedule is enclosed with this newsletter, so off with the summer tan, get your back protectors on and let's be seeing you at the show. Guess what though, we are going to need helpers again, especially fence judges. No you can't all fence judge the water jump just to see if any one wants to paddle. It would be great if you could just fence judge for a morning or afternoon. No matter if you have not done it before, just get in touch with Lindsay and she will make sure you are with some one who knows the ropes.

### **Riding Club CAM offer**

Did you all receive your copy of the CAM equestrian catalogue along with your Riding Club magazine? If you didn't then get in touch with Lindsay Hills on 01264 772388 and she'll tell you how to get hold of one. If you did, had you noticed that if you register as a riding club member, you will receive a free pair of gloves and if you spend over a certain amount of money they just keep giving you free gifts. It might be an idea to get together with a group of people and make the order size bigger that way, although how you share the gifts might prove to be interesting. The catalogue seems quite comprehensive and the prices appear fair. Give it a go and if you get any problems let us know so that we can keep in touch with what is happening. Special offers are available to Riding Club members only. The Club also benefits by receiving 5% of monies spent by club members to spent on CAM goods or vouchers to use as prizes.

### **Instruction**

The instruction sessions with Diana Fitzsimmons at Lucinda Green's yard in Appleshaw resume with the following dates:-

Tuesday 10th September	10.30 am	Cost £9	(one session only)
Tuesday 24th September	10.30 am	Cost £9	(one session only)
Tuesday 8th October	10.30 am	Cost £9	(one session only)
Tuesday 15th October	10.30 am	Cost £9	(one session only)

Four Instruction sessions have also been organised at Bluebell Farm, Penton Grafton, Nr Weyhill, with Claire Mason.

Saturday 14th September	12 pm	Cost £10	(one session only)
Saturday 21st September	12 pm	Cost £10	(one session only)
Saturday 12th October	12 pm	Cost £10	(one session only)
Saturday 19th October	12 pm	Cost £10	(one session only)

All of the instruction will be of a general nature some flatwork with some optional gridwork or a small course of jumps at the end, for groups of 4-6 people. Each session lasts 1 hour 30 minutes. The instruction is aimed at all levels of horse and rider - so do come and have a go.

If you wish to attend, please send the attached reply slip to Lindsay Hills at least 3 days before the instruction date.

### **Hunting**

The RA Hunt started Cub Hunting last week. This usually occurs at some unearthly hour of the morning, but is a good introduction to hunting for horse and rider and it's free. Ring Sam Hart (01980 843378) for more details.

MT.

## ADVERTS

### **BVRC Sweatshirts & Polo Shirts**

Sweatshirts at £12 and Polo Shirts at £11.50 in royal blue with British Riding Clubs Logo and BVRC name, are available from Lindsay Hills (01264 772388).

Sizes Medium, Large and Extra Large. (Polo shirts are largish & Small are available by special request).

### **Dene Farm Hunter Trial Course**

This inviting course is open for schooling on every first Saturday of the month from 10.00 am to 12.00 noon. Three heights are available, 2'3", 2'9" and 3'3". The cost is £10.00 per schooling session. Please phone 01264 781352. The address is Dene Farm, Nether Wallop, Nr Stockbridge, Hants. SO20 8ER.

## Diary Dates

### **September**

- 10.09.96**     **BVRC General Instruction with Diana Fitzsimmons at Appleshaw.**  
Send Reply Slip to Lindsay Hills
- 14.09.96**     **BVRC General Instruction with Claire Mason at Bluebell Farm, Penton Grafton, Nr Weyhill.**  
Send Reply Slip to Lindsay Hills
- 15.09.96**     Meon Riding Club Dressage with Show Jumping at Corhampton. (see above for schedule details)
- 21.09.96**     **BVRC General Instruction with Claire Mason at Bluebell Farm, Penton Grafton, Nr Weyhill.**  
Send Reply Slip to Lindsay Hills
- 22.09.96**     Amport Horse Show.  
Sae: Mrs M Hale Amport Riding Centre, Furzedown Lane, Amport, Hants. SP11 8BE. Tel: 01264 772972
- 22.09.96**     Chilworth Riding Club Hunter Trial at Dene Farm, Nether Wallop.  
SAE: Juliette Pond, Dene Farm, Nether Wallop, Nr Stockbridge, Hants. SO20 8ER
- 24.09.96**     **BVRC General Instruction with Diana Fitzsimmons at Appleshaw.**  
Send Reply Slip to Lindsay Hills
- 29.09.96**     **BVRC Hunter Trials at UK Chasers, Headbourne Worthy, Nr Winchester (schedule enclosed)**  
Organiser: Lindsay Hills 01264 772388.

### **October**

- 05/06.10.96**     Berks & Bucks Hunter Trial at Kingsclere.
- 08.10.96**     **BVRC General Instruction with Diana Fitzsimmons at Appleshaw.**  
Send Reply Slip to Lindsay Hills
- 12.10.96**     **BVRC General Instruction with Claire Mason at Bluebell Farm, Penton Grafton, Nr Weyhill.**  
Send Reply Slip to Lindsay Hills
- 13.10.96**     Winchester Riding Club Hunter Trial at Dene Farm, Nether Wallop.
- 13.10.96**     RA & Army Hunter Trial at Larkhill.
- 15.10.96**     **BVRC General Instruction with Diana Fitzsimmons at Appleshaw.**  
Send Reply Slip to Lindsay Hills
- 19.10.96**     **BVRC General Instruction with Claire Mason at Bluebell Farm, Penton Grafton, Nr Weyhill.**  
Send Reply Slip to Lindsay Hills



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REPLY SLIP to be returned to Mrs L Hills, The Ridings, Dauntsey Lane, Weyhill, Andover, Hants SP11 8EB.  
I would like to attend the general instruction with Claire Mason on Saturday 19th October at Bluebell Farm, Penton Grafton and enclose a cheque for £10 (made payable to Bourne Valley Riding Club).  
Sessions 1 hour 30 mins based on 4-6 sharing

Name ..... Tel No .....

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