

Bourne Valley Riding Club

incorporating Woodhay District Riding Club

(Affiliated to the British Horse Society)

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NEWSLETTER

January 97

FEBRUARY QUIZ & DRESSAGE

Well, did you survive the experience, Christmas that is. You remember Christmas don't you. About three to four weeks ago, spending lots of money, working really hard to produce masses of food which everybody eats without mentioning 'how nice it is'. Feeling sick, because you've eaten so much, family get togethers, rows and onand on. Thank goodness for horses and riding! Nothing quite like an early morning muck out and ride to put everything back into perspective is there? The New Year is upon us. Any really good resolutions out there? Perhaps somebody would like to write to me about their New Year's resolutions for their contribution to the Newsletter. Now, for the person you has just thought, hah! mine only lasted two minutes, that will fill up one whole line, no, I meant a contribution, not half a sentence. Funny one's in particular would be a help. Any offers. I've got my first contribution for this month, as you will read later, but I'm still waiting for the one for next month. So, don't forget, anything you want to share: funny, serious, heartbreaking or just plain factual, lets hear it. Send it through to me, Monica Tomkins, 25 Shaw Close, Andover, Hants. SP10 3BT.

Now then, for those of you who haven't noticed the banner at the top of the page, we are holding a Quiz and a Dressage competition in February. The Quiz includes a Tack Sale, (you don't have to come to one to go to the other, but it would be jolly nice if you did). The Dressage is at Kings Somborne and anybody who would like to start earning their Caballine trophy points ready for their free membership next year should contact Caroline Stevens on 01264 323729 and offer their services. A couple of hours is all it takes and I can assure you, you will be welcomed with open arms.

By the way, I've forgotten to mention the skittles evening at the Silver Plough at Pitton. Yet another riotous evening was had by all with about 50 people turning up, producing large volumes of cheering and heckling. This seems to be a popular event, even though Pitton is a bit of a drive, the atmosphere and food are definitely worth the effort. Thanks to Annabel Slater for setting it up and for everybody who came for making it a good night. I hope you all felt the same.

Whilst we are on the subject of good times, I'd like to wish Sam Hart Happy Birthday from all of the club members. Sam is the President of the Riding Club and if you attend the AGM's you'll know he's very good at reminding the club exactly what it is here to do. He does an excellent job of keeping the club on the rails. He is always to be seen at our events and I don't think I've seen him when he isn't happy and smiling. Its difficult to believe that Sam has just celebrated his 80th Birthday. We do hope that you had a lovely day.

BVRC Quiz/Tack sale to be held at the Red Lion, Clanville on the 7th February, 1997 from 7.00 pm

I know you've probably forgotten, but, it will soon be time for our first social of the year, the Quiz & Tack Sale. Please bring along plenty of things to sell, labelled with your name & price, and / or bring plenty of money to buy. The tack sale will run for one hour before the Quiz starts at 8pm & continue during the course of the evening. Now, Lindsay will be playing quizmaster again this year and I promise to come up with some easy (hee hee) questions. You can bring as many people as you like and the questions are non horsey as well as horsey, so families won't be left out. Four or five people can make up a team, or if you want to come on your own then just turn up or give Lindsay a ring on 01264 772388 and she'll band people together as necessary. Don't forget under 16's are welcome at our socials, so there's no reason to leave them home. The cost is £2.50 each for the quiz and as it is at the pub, you can order some grub and get a drink whenever you feel the need. (Perhaps you could leave it until at least after the second question?)

Winter Dressage at Hoplands Equestrian Centre, King's Somborne on Sunday 16th February, 1997

Our first competition of 1997. Winter Dressage!!! Thick socks, warm clothes, ear warmers and a sense of humour and off we jolly well go. We've got three prelim classes and two novices. Just enough for anybody, and every effort will be made to make sure that the times for classes, if your doing more than one, are at a reasonable distance from each other. Its difficult sometimes, because some people like to go in very quickly and other people prefer a break, so if you have any special requirements, please just ask when you send in your entries. Things can't always be changed later on, but if there is a problem, people do drop out and the space that becomes available may be more suitable, so do ask. Hoplands has got plenty of warm up space and the test arena surfaces are nice. So, off with the winter blues and on with the schooling and we hope to see you on the day. Oh, please remember that the entries close on Tuesday, 11th February and I know its winter and that everybody will be watching the weather, but if your going to have a go please try to get your entries in **BEFORE** Tuesday morning!!

Novice Indoor Show Jumping Qualifier at Priory Equestrian Centre on Saturday, 22nd February, 1997

Don't forget this one. This is the first of the Area 17 qualifying competitions, with teams of four going over two rounds. The jumps go from 2'6" to 2'9" and the best three scores count. The competition is at Priory Equestrian Centre, which is Frensham, Nr Farnham. If you are interested in being part of a team ring Nicky Winham (deputy to Di Symes) on (01264) 860138. Please remember that you will need a fully up to date flu certificate.

Show Jumping at Hoplands Equestrian Centre, Kings Somborne on Sunday 16th March, 1997

Schedules are enclosed for our next competition at Kings Somborne, Show Jumping!!! I love this time of year, when everything seems to be gearing up towards something. I'm not sure what, but its the planning, of getting the horses fit and looking forward to the rest of the year.. So come on guys, gear up, wind up, come to some instruction and have a go at the Show Jumping.

Instruction

The Tuesday instruction sessions with Diana Burgess (Fitzsimmons) have relocated to Virginia Chamber's outdoor school in Lower Chute. Parking is courtesy of the Chute Club, but please park towards the front of the car park and please ensure that the area is left tidy (no litter or droppings). Please ring Lindsay (01264 772388) if you would like more detailed directions. The dates are as follows:-

Tuesday 11th February	10.30 am	Cost £9	(one session only)
Tuesday 18th February	10.30 am	Cost £9	(one session only)
Tuesday 4th March	10.30 am	Cost £9	(one session only)
Tuesday 18th March	10.30 am	Cost £9	(one session only)

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

Sunday 2nd February	12 pm	Cost £10	(one session only)
Saturday 8th February	12 pm	Cost £10	(one session only)
Saturday 1st March	12 pm	Cost £10	(one session only)
Saturday 8th March	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 due date.

Hunting

Just in case you've forgotten. The RA Hunts meets every Wednesday and Saturday at 11 am. The meet details are published weekly in the Horse and Hound. Alternatively, you can ring Sam Hart on 01980 843378 and he will be able to provide you with details and help with protocol, parking etc. Some meets require participants to have Pass cards to give access to certain parts of Salisbury Plain. Applications for these passes are available from the Hunt Secretary, Nick Hornby (address below) enclosing a stamped addressed envelope. (Allow a few days). Di Symes hunts most Saturdays and is very willing to give a helping hand, give her a call on 01980 652272. The hunting cap is £15.00 per day. You should make yourself known to the Hunt Secretary on arrival and you will need to produce your BVRC membership card, so **DO NOT FORGET TO TAKE IT**. You will also need £1 for the guy who watches the horseboxes while your out having fun. There is a limit of six meets per person during the season, but this still gives plenty of opportunity for everyone to have a go. Hunt Secretary: Nick Hornby, Paddocks, The Cartway, Wedhampton, Nr Devizes, Wilts. Tel. 01380 848117.

A day at Riyadh Races

*****Contribution from Clare Heald, albeit via her hubby*****This was written by Clare, back in 1985.

The Ascot (and Epsom) of the Saudi scene is undoubtedly His Majesty's Camel Races, which take place in March each year. There are only two races, one in the morning and one in the afternoon, but with about 1000 camels running in each and a further 2000 or so camel-mounted spectators to confuse the issue. Directions at the course, an area of about sixty square miles, are rather lacking, but we parked with some other cars in what appeared to be a combined car park, camel park, saddling enclosure and parade ring. We then made our way on foot towards the distant stands, finding en route that as foreigners we were honoured guests to be admitted automatically, while Saudis were only admitted by invitation.

For those who could get there in time for lunch (probably some 40,000 people), His Majesty had provided mountains of food served in marquees allocated to various worthy bodies such as "King Faisal Specialties (sic) Hospital", "The British Mission", "Aramco Co" (sic) and "Others". When we arrived at 3 o'clock, the runners were beginning to wander down to the start, so we had a chance to examine the course and ask questions. The race is twelve miles long - three and a half times round an enormous spiral. The prizes were parked in front of the stands - a 20,000 litre water tanker (1st) and a Range Rover (2nd). Two hundred National Guards lined up at the finish, all with numbered markers to hand out to the first 200 finishers, supposedly in the correct order.

As preparations continued for the afternoon race, the two remaining camels which had collapsed at the end of the morning race were finally removed. The first was carried away by breakdown truck, while the second took one look at the truck and very sensibly decided to go on his own four feet. The National Guard Band meanwhile attempted some musical entertainment, the conductor being ably assisted by two very determined small boys from the British contingent.

At 4 o'clock camels were still going down to the start, if anything in increasing numbers, and the British Embassy commercial staff were busy composing notices of export opportunities for British companies.... 2500 starting stalls (camel size) or two miles of starting tape, 10 camel ambulances, 5000 sets of racing silks (assorted colours)

At 4.30, not only were camels still going down to the start, but some were coming back, having obviously given up hope of ever racing. The small talk was drying up and some spectators were leaving. At 4.50 a shout of "They're off" went up, but it rapidly became apparent to the spectators that it was a false start. Only about half the field were running and a posse of military police cars was trying to head them off. However, the leaders, having got off to a good start, were determined not to lose their position, and they refused to be stopped for about three miles. Meanwhile a fleet of cars and buses pulled away from the stands and onto the course. When the race restarted the reason for the false start became apparent. Once again, half the runners were left at the start, (perhaps they had never intended to race anyway), but this time Crown Prince Abdullah, in the first bus, was up with the leaders, so the race could proceed. Not quite like the Royal drive down the course at Ascot, but at least the bus marked where on earth in the distant dust cloud the leaders were.

By the last circuit, it was getting dark and the spectators peered into the gloomy clouds of dust, deriving some amusement from the antics of the slower riders trying, usually unsuccessfully, to steer their camels away from the course exit by the stands. Doubtless someone knows who won, but we don't. The first five past the post are presented to the King, while the first 200 are allowed to keep their place markers. Having finally managed to persuade the guard on the exit from the stands enclosure that we did not wish to stay for the display of national dancing, we joined in the race for the exit, which was quite exciting in its own right - see above references to dust, dark, young drivers, unrestrained dashing etc.

Grades

Sue McGrath has undertaken to organise tuition for the Grade tests. This will involve some stable management sessions & some ridden instruction. More details will be published in the next Newsletter. The stable management evenings will be open to all comers, whether they want to do a final exam or not. If you are interested in taking the Grade tests and you haven't already said so, do give Sue a ring (01264) 392054.

Subscriptions

If you have not renewed your membership, this is the last Newsletter that you will receive. A renewal form is enclosed for those of you that we think haven't rejoined yet. If you have paid up & not yet received your yellow membership card then please let us know so that we can rectify any error.

Club News

We would like to send our best wishes to Sue Kerrison & her mother in law, who were involved in a nasty accident whilst Sue was driving her pony and trap. We wish both of you a speedy recovery.

On a more sober note, we would like to say how sorry we were to hear of the sudden death of club member Mary Fraser. Mary was very involved with horses and was often seen with Di Symes, her daughter, when Di was competing. We send our deepest sympathy to Di and all of the family as we are sure she will be very much missed.

DIARY DATES

FEBRUARY

- 02.02.97** BVRC General Instruction with Claire Mason at Bluebell Farm, Penton Grafton, Nr Weyhill.
Send Reply Slip to Lindsay Hills.
- 07.02.97** BVRC Quiz and Tack Sale at the Red Lion at Clanville, Nr Weyhill, 7pm.
Organiser: Monica Tomkins 01264 366407.
- 08.02.97** BVRC General Instruction with Claire Mason at Bluebell Farm, Penton Grafton, Nr Weyhill.
Send Reply Slip to Lindsay Hills.
- 11.02.97** BVRC General Instruction with Diana Burgess at Lower Chute, 10.30am.
Send Reply Slip to Lindsay Hills.
- 16.02.97** BVRC Winter Dressage at Hoplands Equestrian Centre, King's Somborne.
Organiser: Caroline Stevens.
- 18.02.97** BVRC General Instruction with Diana Burgess at Lower Chute, 10.30am.
Send Reply Slip to Lindsay Hills.
- 22.02.97** Area 17 Novice Indoor Show Jumping Qualifier at Priory EC, Frensham, Nr Farnham.
Ring Nicky Winham 01264 860138.

MARCH

- 01.03.97** BVRC General Instruction with Claire Mason at Bluebell Farm, Penton Grafton, Nr Weyhill.
Send Reply Slip to Lindsay Hills.
- 04.03.97** BVRC General Instruction with Diana Burgess at Lower Chute, 10.30am.
Send Reply Slip to Lindsay Hills.
- 08.03.97** BVRC General Instruction with Claire Mason at Bluebell Farm, Penton Grafton, Nr Weyhill.
Send Reply Slip to Lindsay Hills.
- 16.03.97** BVRC Show Jumping at Hoplands Equestrian Centre, Kings Somborne(schedule enclosed)
Organiser: Sue Fentiman 01264 350236
- 18.03.97** BVRC General Instruction with Diana Burgess at Lower Chute, 10.30am.
Send Reply Slip to Lindsay Hills.
- 23.03.97** BVRC UK Chasers Ride at Firgo Farm, Whitchurch (more in the next Newsletter).
Organiser: Lindsay Hills 01264 772388
- 28.03.97** BVRC Hot Cross Bun Ride on Salisbury Plain (more in the next Newsletter).
Organiser: Lindsay Hills 01264 772388

ADVERTS

For Sale 16.2 Quality 7/8 TB/ID chestnut roan mare, rising 12.
Good RC allrounder, often placed in dressage to Novice level, nice jump. Good to catch, shoe, clip, in traffic etc.
Going well but needs more time than businessman owner can give, so sadly for sale. £3400 including rugs and some tack.

The Appleshaw Saddlery Winter Sale starts Saturday 25th January for a limited period.
Rugs, Winter Jodhs + some stock clearance. At The Forge, Appleshaw. 01264 771343.

Bentleigh Farm House is holding a series of courses, (flatwork and jumping) & competitions during the summer.
Dressage or Jumping with Shena Kozuba-Kozubka

22/23 March, 19/20 April, 21/22 June, 30/31 August, 1/2 November.

Driving with Mo Francis

24/25 May.

Childrens Course with Annabel Slater

27/28/29 May. Course for Children aged 8-14 years.

These courses are aimed at all levels of horse & rider and people can attend at any time during the course, either for just one session or for several sessions.

Competitions:

Dressage	30th March	Dressage & Combined Training	4th May, 15th June.
Dressage & Open Show	27th July	Championship Show	24th August

Further details from Annabel Slater, Bentleigh Farm House, Pitton, Salisbury, Wilts, SP5 1EG. Tel: 01980 862263

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I would like to attend the general instruction with Diana Burgess at 10.30am on Tuesday 18th March at Lower Chute,
and enclose a cheque for £9 (made payable to Bourne Valley Riding Club). Sessions 1 hour 30 mins based on 4-6 sharing.

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