

1971

BOURNE VALLEY RIDING CLUB

NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER 1971

This month's honours go to David Packman for organising such a successful Annual Dinner Dance at the Rothsay. One must add that it would have been nice to see more members there - it was estimated that only a third of the people present were actual members. The Club seems to be turning towards Wine, Women and Song, though this doesn't detract from Jackie Dibden's excellent Cabaret. Prof. Gordon Lugg, a successful farmer and race horse owner, was the guest of honour, and he gave an excellent speech, explaining the important roles that horse, jockey and trainer play in getting a horse first past the post.

Singing leads us to the bonfire, run by Mrs. Hart. A lovely time was had by 50-odd people who went - with lots of food, a warm night, noises off by courtesy of the Army, booze and a variety of people playing a conglomeration of instruments, who could want for more. The bonfire lasted until well into the night, and the last people left after 1 a.m.

Getting back to The Horse, 12 people journeyed to the Horse of the Year Show and enjoyed an excellent night's jumping and the chance to cheer on the R.A. (Salisbury Plain) P.C. team riding in the Prince Philip Cup. We had a bit of difficulty in getting rid of the tickets, as people didn't like the idea of driving themselves up - next year we shall have to have a rethink. The Ringwood and District Riding Club were taking part in the Quadrille, which is a lovely thing to watch, but some of the horses were unsettled by the crowd which didn't help. We were sad that they didn't win, though.

Last week 40 odd people had the luck and pleasure to listen to a talk, ostensibly on preparing for a One Day Event, by Colonel Frank Weldon. A very worthwhile evening, with first class advice mixed in with amusing anecdotes from his own experiences. The evening passed all too quickly and members who attended all went away looking very thoughtful - perhaps it was the sight of the gold and bronze Olympic medals Colonel Weldon won in 1956! If anyone wants a fairly concise resumé of Col. Weldon's talk, please get in touch with the Secretary - it would take too long to type it out for everyone to see.

Congratulations to the successful Grade I and II candidates - Sandra Knox (Grade II), Nadia Brown, Rosemary Steele and Tom Oliver (Grades I and II).

The Club Hunter Trial course took a small step nearer realization when 6 people (what happened to the rest of the club?) went out to Upton on 14th November to dig up tree roots and generally smooth the path, which has been cleared through the woods on David Packman's and Mr. Portman's lands. The helpers appreciated the food that Jacky Dibden so kindly laid on afterwards.

The candidates for Grade III were all disappointed not to be able to take their exam in November, due to the examiner's illness. It seems that Grade III examiners, at any rate in this part of England, are hard to come by, and we were unable to persuade anyone else to deputise before Christmas. Having worked so hard in both riding and stable management, it was a let down to say the least. However we think we will have better luck in January or February, and we will let the people concerned know.

To end on a cheerful note, it is good to see Sylvia Misselbrook out and about again with both feet, if not firmly, on the ground and walking with the aid of sticks. I hope she is able to cast them aside before Christmas, and prove to the Doctors that her ankle is A.I. again.

Happy Christmas and New Year to one and all.