

Hacking in the Autumn, crossing stubble fields already under the plough, the seasonal mists and the rich colours of the leaves, hunting soon - why bother about the Riding Club!!! Many of us must have thought this, but a few enthusiasts carry us inexorably forward to our next round of winter activities (see programme), but first a word about the last two months.

Pity the poor selectors. Two weeks before the Area 1 Day Event they had ten probables lined up. Roy Southy had everyone training under Sue Simmonds, and through the generosity of Mr. & Mrs. Murdoch a very useful Cross Country schooling was had after the R.A. Pony Club event at Hurstbourne. On the actual day our competitors numbered five, enough for one team and one individual. However, they all had an enjoyable day and finished second to the Hampshire Rural R.C. who, of course, went on to compete in the National Championships at Stoneleigh.

Area One Day Event - Scores - Liss September 20th

	<u>Dressage</u>	<u>X Country</u>	<u>S.J.</u>
Col. Bob Huskisson - Lunar Orbit	71	20	0
Elizabeth Derbyshire - Mary	49	0	0
Richard Hale - Romany Johnny	35	20	0
Roy Southy - Queen's Counsel	61	0	0
Keith Huntley - Copper	63	0	5

Congratulations to Elizabeth for finishing fourth overall.

At the Area Show Jumping at Bishops Waltham on August 2nd our two teams hotly contested second place, whilst Ringwood R.C. romped home winners, with double clear rounds from Jennie Loriston Clark, her head girl and Jane Parry.

Area Show Jumping Scores - Bishop's Waltham - Sept. 2nd

<u>'A' Team</u>	<u>1st Round</u>	<u>2nd Round</u>
Richard Hale - Romany Johnny	4	0
Elizabeth Derbyshire - Mary	4	4
Roy Southy - Queen's Counsel	4	12
Lindsay Hart - Summertime Jesta	7	0
<u>'B' Team</u>		
Col. Bob Huskisson - Lunar Orbit	8	8
Debbie Bees - Pendragon	0	4
Tom Olliver - Haley	12	4
Major Gordon Smith - Nomination	4	0

By dis-regarding the worst score in each round you will see that the 'A' team just pipped the 'B' team for second place.

It is interesting to note that in a club dominated by women, we had 6 males and 3 females amongst our competitors, although to balance things, our Prix Caprilli team were all ladies.

So no weekend at Stoneleigh this year. Hartley Edwards in the November 'Riding' magazine described Stoneleigh as unique. "It has an atmosphere filled with an all pervading sense of joyful and universal participation". This is, of course, the essence of the Riding Club movement "joyful and universal participation". When our top international gladiators such as Frank Weldon, James Templar, Mary Gordon-Watson and Lucinda give up their time to come and talk to us and when our own club gladiators 1972 Stoneleigh Prix Caprilli champions such as Anne Spencer and Cathie Birnie can come and judge our Prix Caprilli at Locks Grove, and when Roy Southy makes a beginners class at Tidworth Indoor School, this is very universal, but the participation must come from you.

Where were you on September 15th? Certainly not joyfully participating in a super barbecue. The huge bonfire which had been built

lost club members, and lasted until 2.a.m. when the last revellers went home. In between they sat on straw bales, drank hot soup, munched barbecued chicken and ate baked potatoes and, of course, sang folk songs. The Chairman sang his version of "Men of Harlech" and tipped the Vice Chairman off her end of the straw bale, when he wanted to move his end nearer the fire. They can't even sit on a straw bale amicably! The harvest moon shone briefly through the mist and if the working party could build a fire a month, it would solve our monthly social night out. The three drivers who missed the main road turning on the way home and finished up on the Downs above the Kiwi all blame the foggy, foggy dew and not the strength of the brew they had drunk.

What a nice place Lock's Drove was for the Club's Prix Caprilli and Jumping Derby, and with our host and President beaming to see such wonderful horses and riders on his land, it was a very enjoyable afternoon. Many thanks to David Packman and David and Jacky Dibden; many thanks also to the Committee who worked so hard and to the Knox's and Roy Dunning for lending jumps. It is probably the last occasion that we shall have the help of Jim Steele who is off to Germany soon. During the last two years whenever there have been jumps to be built or moved, Jim has been a stalwart helper and we shall all miss him.

Prix Caprilli

1st Rosemary Steele - The Barrell
2nd Sandra Oliver - Satan
3rd Sue Appleton - Eris Daughter
4th Sue Appleton - Ambrose

Jumping Derby

Tom Oliver - Satan
Judie Mackie - Mr. X
Lindsay Hart - Summertime Jesta
Tom Oliver - Haley

Overall

1st Rosemary Steele - The Barrell
2nd Judie Mackie - Mr. X
3rd Lindsay Hart - Summertime Jesta
4th Sue Appleton - Ambrose

A good crowd saw the films at Tedworth House. The veterinary X film as Philip described it, was very informative on the care and handling of stallions, mares and foals on an Australian Stud Farm, and the old film of Windsor Horse Trials featuring Killbarry contained the best commentary yet.

Roy Southy had six under instruction at the Indoor School last Sunday and we hope this class will continue throughout the winter every 3rd Sunday in the month. Tidworth Saddle Club has now assumed responsibility for the Indoor School and some new jumps are promised. It is hoped they will be in time for Dick Stillwell's annual visit in November. Many victims (riders) have already offered themselves for sacrifice and there will be a small fee for spectators in the gallery. Dick Stillwell's diagnosis of faulty jumping is uncanny and well worth hearing.

Many will remember his speech at the annual dinner last year. This year we move to Bere Hill House Hotel, where the numbers are limited to sixty, so get your tickets early. The guest speaker will be Col. Heaton Ellis, M.F.H. whose anecdotes are renowned.

This newsletter started with thoughts on hunting, so we hope there will be a full house for the British Field Sports speaker and film on "Fox Hunting".

Finally some reminders. The Club's new financial year now starts on January 1st and subs are going up, the annual meeting will be early in 1974 and the Chairman wants a rest, so here's to plenty of joyful participation for 1974.