

1996

BOURNE VALLEY RIDING CLUB

NEWSLETTER : OCTOBER 1976

Programme Report

1. Outings and Visits

One Picnic Ride on Sunday 15th August proved an enjoyable outing for the select few who took part, especially as our lunch-time rendezvous was The Cricketers at Tangley where our President, David Packman, and a number of un-mounted members and friends had assembled to greet the riders. All present enjoyed a delicious Ploughmans Lunch partaken in the pleasant garden, in glorious sunshine.

The fact that 40 people (members and friends) appeared for our visit to the Herridge Stud on 18th August suggests that members are more interested in learning than mere socialising! Mr. Kilpatrick who runs the stud pointed out that there would not be much to see at this time of the year. But we thoroughly enjoyed a well-conducted tour of the premises, admired the few foals still 'in residence' with their mothers, and were most impressed by the quiet, friendly handling techniques practised by the Kilpatrick family and staff. The highlight of our visit, nevertheless, was seeing the champion dark grey stallion, The Go-Between, whose majestic bearing (not to mention his lordly stud fee!) made us positively gasp We hope to visit this stud again in the Spring, to see more young stock. Our last outing of the holiday period was on 15th September to Myalls Saddlery at Ludgershall where an enthusiastic group of 20 learned a great deal from Eric about the characteristics of a genuine saddle and the snares to avoid with inferior ones. He demonstrated most ably in fact that 'there is no substitute for leather'. But the tempting refreshments kindly provided by Shirley bore no traces of saddle soap or Neatsfoot oil!

2. Equestrian Events

(a) The Bourne Valley Gymkhana

Held at Kimpton on 8th August, this summer holiday 'special' was as much fun as we'd hoped and owes much of its success to the energy and enthusiasm of Jenny Patterson and her helpers. The Gymkhana results were as follows:

BENDING RACE: Bill Austin(Penny Arcade), Jenny Bowman (Cottesmore Kelly), Mark Haggan (Pal).

CARTON RACE: Mark Haggan (Pal), Jill Vallis (Katey), Lynette Gilbert (Heather Boy).

EGG AND SPOON RACE: Jill Vallis (Katey), Mark Haggan (Pal), Elizabeth White (Lady).

WALK, TROT AND CANTER: Lynette Gilbert (Heather Boy), Tom Olliver (Satan),
Mark Haggan (Pal).

POTATO RACE: Lynette Gilbert (Heather Boy), Julie Cobbold (Shamus), Elizabeth White (Lady).

MUSICAL SACKS: Jill Vallis (Katey), Mark Haggan (Pal), Lynette Gilbert (Heather Boy).

GYMKHANA CHAMPION: Mark Haggan (Pal) 24 points
Lynette Gilbert (Heather Boy) 22 points
Jill Vallis (Katey) 21 points

In the Mini Hunter Trials, open to non-members, 1st and Champion was Sandra Olliver on Fancy Flip in 1.33.1 mins; 2nd Drew Patterson on King Andy in 1.39.2 mins; and 3rd Bill Austin on Penny Arcade in 1.53.1 mins.

Our Prix Caprilli Competition, kindly judged by Mrs. Gray, attracted an encouraging number of entries with the following results:

1st and Champion Diane Richards, nee Waller (Blazeaway), 73; 2nd Jenny Bowman (Cottesmore Kelly), 72 and 3rd Nixie Taverner (Demma), 64. (Without wishing to be smug, please note that these three had been involved in regular instruction and practise sessions; 'dressage' is no more than a system of basic training and basic training is clearly beneficial to horse and rider.....)

Several competitors commented on the happy atmosphere; the unusually attractive rosettes created quite a stir and we made a clear profit of nearly £10.00

(b) Area One Day Event

Held at H.M.S. Dryad on Sunday 22nd August, this occasion was somewhat marred by minor misfortunes such as the non-arrival of our entry forms at Headquarters and the fact that Marty's own horse went lame. Eventually, however, our team went into action as follows: Marty Hoare on Satan, Sandra Olliver on Fancy Flip, Tom Olliver on Antic Hay and Emma Murdoch on Special Edition.

In the words of Sam Hart who was there to help and encourage:

"In Eventing it is only after the Cross Country that the running form can be gauged, and indeed our total Dressage scores placed us last. Tension, inexperience, the unpredictable, always produces in Riding Club competitions, varying changes in fortune and when Marty Hoare on Satan with our best Dressage score of 53 was eliminated at the 5th fence, our hopes sank, but Tom Olliver on Antic Hay, Sandra Olliver on Flip and Emma Murdoch on Special Edition were all clear. The Cross Country did not look formidable, but was very trappy and when the Show Jumping phase started only the Purbeck, Meon and Bourne Valley still had three riders in the running, all the other teams had been eliminated. So we started the Show Jumping with one jump in hand. Unfortunately, Flip hit one, Antic Hay hit a few, and Special Edition napped when the bell rang and jumped over the start markers and was eliminated, so we didn't even get a 3rd.

I think all the team enjoyed it and the great thing about Riding Club competitions is to take part, have fun, improve yourself and regard rosettes as a bonus".

(c) One Day Event at Bordon

More recently, on Sunday, 19th September, 4 enterprising members took part in a One Day Event at Bordon, organised by the Hampshire Rural Riding Club. Our team consisted of Jenny Bowman on Cottesmore Kelly, Shirley Myall on Christmas, Diane Richards on Blazeaway and Bill Austin on Penny Arcade. Considering it was a first-time experience for all concerned, they did remarkably well and merit warm congratulations. Jenny Bowman achieved a special award for the highest placed Riding Club member, finishing 8th out of 30 and Bill Austin would have achieved an overall third but was sadly eliminated for jumping the wrong fence twice!

Fired by success, some of the group are planning to take part in a similar event at Tadley, Berkshire, on Saturday 16th October.

(d) Our Own Hunter Trials

You will see in the programme that this Event is now scheduled for 31st October and with the active support of as many members as possible, we hope it will be both enjoyable and profitable. Jenny Patterson who was such an efficient 'Secretary' for our first effort in blazing June, is happily occupying the same role again. A schedule is enclosed, but further supplies are obtainable from Jenny. June Bush has also kindly agreed to act as 'Chief Scorer' again, a role for which her experience and equanimity are highly suited and David Packman will be in charge of 'Field Communications'. But we do need reliable helpers as jump judges, telephone operators, time keepers etc, and we plan a short dress rehearsal during the afternoon of Saturday 30th October. So would anyone willing to assist in any

capacity, PLEASE contact Nixie Taverner as soon as possible.

3. Looking Ahead

(a) Instruction for Riding Club Grade Examinations

Several members have expressed an interest in taking a Riding Club Examination as an objective to work towards and the following summary of the Grade II syllabus will give you an idea of its scope:

Requirements - General

The rider must be capable of riding a well mannered horse alone or in company and of assisting in the stables.

Equitation

Having a good position in the saddle, independent of the reins.

Having control of the horse at a walk, trot and canter.

Riding without stirrups at walk and trot.

Recognise diagonals at the trot.

The correct use of the aids for elementary movements:

i.e. Walk, trot and canter

Turns and circles.

Increase and decrease of pace.

Halt and stand still.

Jumping low fences and small ditches from the trot and canter (up to 2 ft).

Riding up and down hill.

Stable Management

Knowledge and use of essential grooming kit and everyday stable equipment.

Putting on a rug and roller.

Mucking out and bedding down.

Elementary knowledge of the care and cleaning of saddlery.

Recognising a loose or worn shoe, risen clench of excessively long foot.

Recognise common injuries and ailments.

Recognise when a horse is lame.

Knowledge of watering and feeding out at grass and in the stable.

Fitting and care of bridle and saddle.

General Knowledge

Riding on public highways.

Opening and shutting gates.

Bringing a horse in cool.

While, in my opinion, the requirements are well within the capacities of a number of members, B.H.S. standards are - rightly - high, and regular practice would be essential. Marty Hoare and myself are quite willing to undertake a programme of instruction in both Equitation and Stable Management (both at Tidworth and Kimpton) provided there is adequate support. (About 6 keen enthusiasts would do!) and those who enrol are prepared to attend the sessions we organise, regularly, with a view to taking the exam in the Spring. Would those interested please let me or Marty have their names within a week of receiving this newsletter so that we can go into action. (Marty Hoare's number is Chute Standen 203 and mine, Andover 2554).

(b) A new clipping service

With the hunting season imminent clipping can be a problem. But you may be pleased to know that Sandra Olliver now provides a clipping service at £1.00 an hour or £3.00 minimum for a trip. If you need her help, ring Weyhill 2746.

(c) Purchase of Club Badges

With membership rising and morale high, the Committee decided that a Club emblem would be desirable. We have, therefore, ordered a stock of specially designed Club badges in navy blue and white (Bourne Valley colours). These will be available to Club members at only 40p each and will be on sale at all Club functions.

(d) Christmas and New Year Festivities

As you will see in the programme, we have arranged for a pre-Christmas 'treat' in the form of an outing to the Dunhill International Horse Show at Olympia on Saturday, 18th December. I have reserved and paid for a block of 30 seats at £3.00 each. A 30 seater coach will cost £44.00 for the trip there and back. The total per head will, therefore, be approximately £4.50. If you would like to buy a ticket (or more) please let me know soon.

We are also arranging a New Year Social with a difference at Tedworth House on Friday 14th January for members and guests. We shall have the use of three lovely reception rooms complete with open fires, floral decorations and our own bar. There will be a mouth-watering Buffet supper, a Disco downstairs and a Licence until 2 a.m.

Numbers will be limited to 100, so again, please book early. Tickets will be obtainable from Jenny Patterson.

Happy Hunting!

Nixie Taverner