

Bourne Valley Riding Club

incorporating Woodhay District Riding Club

(Affiliated to the British Horse Society)

Chairman: Lindsay Hills
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NEWSLETTER

October 96

I'm sorry if you are getting a bit bored with my special brand of wittering. However, it's going to happen again this month because, guess what, I have been on holiday. Hah! Yes, I am well aware that if you have spent the last two weeks in the English weather (it has been raining hasn't it?) doing your nice daily chores while I've been sunning it up in Palm Springs, then you might not wish to read what a perfectly amazing time I had or my personal views on the American countryside. If so, I suggest you try reading down the page a bit, because what follows is pure self indulgence.

Cast your mind back a bit to when you were little. (Takes a bit longer for some of us than others). Do any of you remember those fantasy games of cowboys and Indians; no, not the bit where you all jump into a dark cupboard together - the other bit, where you ran around shooting each other and pretending to charge around the place on horses. (Why has a deathly hush just hit the Andover region?) You mean nobody else but me played these silly games! (Sorry, don't believe you.) Well, to return to the plot. There I was, half way between Palm Springs and Las Vegas, not an electricity pylon in sight (there are a lot of pylons in the desert), standing in the middle of the Old West and all I could see around me was just bare brown desert. Mountains reach up in every direction, but where ever you look that is all you can see. There is no sign of life, no water, no roads, just brown earth and mountains. To image that people in olden days actually managed to cross this landscape on foot and horseback just fascinates me beyond belief. If we think life is hard now, just imagine what it must have been like then.

And, cowboys really do exist. No, not the fake plumbers but the real wild west cowboys. I have to be honest and say that I thought they might have become a bit modernised by now. I was wrong. They still dress the same as the old western films, they still ride the same as the old western films and in some cases they still talk the same as the old western films. In fact, in the area we stayed, one of the overwhelming impressions was how little some parts of America have changed since John Steinbeck's visions. If you don't know who he is don't worry, I'm just showing my age.

I learnt a new word when I came back; jetlag. Never had it before. Good isn't it. I'm afraid it's the main reason why this newsletter is a bit late. Post holiday blues have set in also. Did I hear a hard luck echoing down the telephone line? Well, I have to be honest and say I enjoyed every minute. To get back to the real world, it's October, time for the club to think about what socials it is going to host over the next few months. There're funny things socials. You can run the same theme each year and one year get five people and the next year get thirty five. Lots of different ideas have been put forward; question time, a barn dance, skittles evening, lectures and demos, another quiz night, a racing night. Hopefully, we might get enough members at the AGM to find out if there is anything specific you people out there would like to come to. If there is anything particular you might like to see arranged then perhaps you could give Lindsay a call and let us know, on 01264 772388.

Update on Area 17 Novice Show Jumping Team Qualifier

I don't know if you remember from an earlier newsletter that our novice show jumping team had been one of two teams to complete the event on a zero score and had then jumped off for a place in the finals. Unfortunately we had been a bit slower than the other team, so even though we ended up on the same score we could not go through to the finals. Or so we thought. Apparently (this is almost as good as the good old flu vax) the printed rules are not always correct, because, a little answering machine message was received by Di asking when our entries for the final were going to be in. Unfortunately, we didn't know we were meant to be going. The call only came the day before the entries were due to sent off and despite Lindsay frantically ringing round to see if the team was available, people had already been previously committed, or were otherwise indisposed. (It has to be said that Roy Southey did consider trying to do the cross country event he had entered and the show jumping on the same day; thanks for the thought Roy. By the way Roy, whatever it is that you get your energy from, could I have some please!) Anyway the basic upshot was we didn't have enough time to get a full team together before the close of entries. How close can we get. Sorry team but nobody knew the rules had been changed.

The team who pipped us at the Area Competition finished a magnificent second at the National Championships!

Hunter Trials at Headbourne Worthy on 29th September, 1996

What hunter trials I hear you ask? Well the one which didn't take place is the only reply! Unfortunately, the number of entries to this event would not have covered anywhere near the costs of trying to make the event take place. The decision was made to cancel. It has to be said that these decisions become very difficult when you get a load of late entries, but unfortunately it is too late to do anything about it by then. Its not very often that the Bourne Valley is forced to cancel an event but obviously we are obliged to spend the members money in the best possible way. To this end if the number of members actually entering the event is so low that the costs cannot be covered then the club cannot justify running the event and losing money. A tale to be learnt from all of this of course, is to come to our TACK SALE and AGM and make known what events you would like to attend. Then at least we know we are getting it right, or perhaps wrong, who knows.

Tack Sale and AGM on the 13th November, 1996 at the Red Lion, Clanville at 7.30pm.

We're going to have a tack sale! Wow, I can hear the gasps of surprise from here. Now now, less of that thank you. I cannot believe that everybody hasn't got just one or two bits that they would like to get rid of. What better way to snap up a bargain than to pop over to the Red Lion at Clanville on the 13th November at 7.30 pm and see what is on offer. Bring any stuff that you want to sell, preferably priced if possible and see if there is anything you want to buy. It beats a car boot sale anyway for conditions, after all, a bit of wine or beer and a bit of bar food, a bit of a tack sale oh and I had better mention that we are having the AGM at the same time. Now before we get the, oh yeah, knew there was a catch routine, I have to say, it is really not that bad. We have a jolly efficient chairman who tries to whiz through the card as quickly as possible, we hand out cups and loads of rosettes, we tell everyone how we are spending their money. We also have to elect new committee members. Our chairman, treasurer and two other committee members will be standing down this year, so if you have any nominations for these posts or you wish to serve on the committee yourself, then you need a nominee and seconder. These nominations should be received by Lindsay Hills before the 12th November, 1996 either by ringing her on 01264 772388 or dropping her a note at the Ridings, Dauntsey Lane, Weyhill, Andover, Hants SP11 8EB. All sounds very AGMish doesn't it. Well, just try to concentrate on the TACK SALE!! all goodies will be extremely welcome, so come and have a gander.

UK Chasers Ride on Sunday 10th November, 1996 at Kirby House, Inkpen

The UK Chasers ride arranged for May of this year was very successful, so we have arranged to use the UK Chasers Course on Sunday 10th November, hopefully without the sleet, snow & galeforce winds. The ride will start at 10am. Being a UK Chaser Ride, there are lots of jumps of varying heights, none of which you have to jump if you don't want to. It does however, give you a chance to go round a course like this in company, as the ride will set off in small groups. If you want to have a go, but don't want to ride round on your own, or are worried about the pace, then speak to Lindsay on 01264 772388 and she will try to arrange suitable groups of people. The ride is open to members and non members (16 years of age or over). If you are already a member of the UK Chasers group then you must put your UK chasers number on the reply slip. If not, then the cost of the event includes membership of the UK Chasers group for a year.

UK Chasers Member - £8.00 Non UK Chasers Member - £15.00 (+£2 for guests)

Directions - From Andover take the A343 towards Newbury. Immediately north of Hurstbourne Tarrant bear left (opposite the Saab garage) signed Netherton and Linkenholt. Take the first right to Faccombe. Follow the road through Faccombe and on to the junction at the bottom of the downs. Follow the road round to the right, then straight on past Kirby House to a T junction. Turn left and the entrance to the farm for parking is approximately 100 yards on the left.

Skittles evening at The Silver Plough at Pitton on Friday 29th November, 1996 at 7.30-8pm

After the roaring success of the April Skittles evening we decided to repeat the function as a pre Christmas get together. So, drag out your other halves (PA's), see if their bowling arms are intact, and come along for an evenings entertainment. If you can't persuade (armlock) anyone into accompanying you, then dont be shy, come along on your own and join the throng.

The Silver Plough is pretty brill when it comes to atmosphere and food and they are offering a choice of hot food, lasagna, curry, stir fried chicken, garlic bread & a salad for £5.95 per head or cold food, homecooked honey roast ham, turkey, new potatoes & a selection of salads at £4.95 per head or a traditional plated cheddar ploughmans at £3.95 per head. You don't have to eat at all if you don't want to, but if you haven't been to this pub, you have missed out on their special home made wine section. They do all sorts, elderberry, parsnip, apricot, plum and loads I can't think of. Actually, the truth is after the four I can't remember the rest.

The only thing is, we need to know beforehand how many people are coming. So I'm afraid its the dreaded reply slip time. I know its really difficult to make up your mind before the actual day, and even more difficult to find an envelope and a stamp, but go on, give it a try.

If you want food, please send reply slip to Annabel Slater by Saturday 23rd November, otherwise just ring to let her know you are intending to come along. Tel: 01980 862263. (Members, friends & accompanied children welcome).

Directions: Leave A30 Middle Wallop/Salisbury road opposite The Pheasant pub, signed Pitton. At the crossroads go straight on. Once in the village turn left at the T junction and the Silver Plough is on the left hand side.

Instruction

Claire Mason has agreed to fill in for Diana Fitzsimmons for 2 Tuesday instruction sessions. These will be held at Catherston Equestrian Centre in the outdoor school. Unfortunately, the cost for these two sessions will be slightly more than usual.

Tuesday 5th November	10.30 am	Cost £12	(one session only) at Catherston EC.
Tuesday 19th November	10.30 am	Cost £12	(one session only) at Catherston EC.

Diana returns to give two sessions in December but at present the venue is undecided.

Tuesday 3rd December	10.30 am	Cost £9	(one session only)
Tuesday 10th December	10.30 am	Cost £9	(one session only)

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

Saturday 2nd November	12 pm	Cost £10	(one session only)
Saturday 17th November	12 pm	Cost £10	(one session only)
Saturday 7th December	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.

Subscriptions

It's that time of year again when subscriptions are due for renewal. These have been pegged at the same level as last year so its good value at £15 Riding Members / £12 Non Riding Members. Please fill and return the enclosed membership form. There are lots of good things happening so do rejoin soon. If you are considering hunting then you will need new yellow membership cards by 1st December.

Hunting

Well folks, its that time of year again. If you remember my little ditties from last year, you will remember that I am a proverbial chicken and I haven't been hunting. As my horse if currently retired this has become a handy excuse for not going this year. However, after listening to the fun that people have when they do go, I'm beginning to get the impression that I should have dumped my feathers a couple of years ago and had a go at this. Di Symes or Sam Hart are very willing to provide a nanny service for novices or first timers. Di can be reached on 01980 652272 or Sam Hart on the number mentioned below.

Due to the popularity of our Hunting connection with the RA Hunt we have extended it to cover this year.

The hunt meets every Wednesday and Saturday at 11.00 am. All of the details of meets for the hunt 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. 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. This will take 2 or 3 days to arrange so don't leave it until the last minute. Sam can provide you with any information on protocol etc., and I as mentioned for those people who perhaps would like to try for the first time, or are not confident about their hunting, he will try to sort out a minder.

The hunting cap is £15.00 per day. (I think normally you would pay about £40.00.) You should make yourself known to the treasurer of the hunt on arrival, rather than waiting for them to find you and you will need to produce your BVRC membership card, so do not forget to take it. You will also need £1 for the chap who watches the horse boxes whilst you are out having fun.

Hunt Treasurer: Nick Hornby, Paddocks, The Cartway, Wedhampton, Nr Devizes, Wilts. Tel: 01380 848117

Members section

This month one of our members Martyn Harvey has written in with a contribution concerning the Bourne Valley's hunting subscription which we have renewed again for the 1996/1997 season. Thanks very much Martyn.

*******Do you know what you are all missing? Are you all aware that the BVRC pays a subscription to the RA Hunt to enable club members to go hunting at a greatly reduced cap? Due to the lack of members making use of the opportunity the BVRC may have to withdraw this offer. (Not quite true Martyn, we are offering this again for the 1996/1997 season, but we may have to reconsider for the 97/98 season.)**

It was brought to my attention that members are under the illusion that they would have to buy lots of expensive equipment and clothing and would be not welcome by regular hunt goers, this really is so far from the truth. I started my days hunting without posh gear and have never looked back. I also have a far better horse for it as well.

All you need is safe riding tack, shirt, tie, hacking jacket, breeches, boots, gloves and be well mannered, which you all are. I can say from my own experience that anyone coming hunting for the day will have a great day out and be well looked after by all the regular hunt goers. So don't miss this chance. If you are still unsure and would like to know more you can ring me at home on 01264 352125 (evenings only please).*****

MH.

News

Congratulations and Best Wishes for the future have been sent to Diana Fitzsimmons & Andy Burgess who are getting married on the 2nd November.

Grade Tests

Something that was mentioned the other day was what had happened to grade tests for the riding club. Did you know that the riding club do a series of grade tests similar to the BHS exams but aimed at Riding Club members. If you did then skip the rest of this paragraph. If you didn't, well, read on.

Basically they run from stage I to IV, covering all aspects of riding and stable management. Grade I is relatively easy, with grade IV being equivalent to the higher BHS exams. The exams include jumping, although I understand that options are now available for people to do part of the exam excluding the jumping section. If enough people were interested in doing these exams, we could get a group together and arrange some tuition, perhaps in the evenings at somebodies yard to help prepare people. Hopefully, by training as a group, it could make it a fun exercise, with hopefully everybody getting something out of it at the end. If anyone is interested they should contact Lindsay Hills on 01264 772388.

Be Fair Cup & Caballine Trophy Results

The results below show how many members (63) got on to the competition points board this year so well done to everybody. It also shows how many members (43) have helped in setting up and running events for the club. Each point represents each hour worked. Since the Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary are excluded from the competition, and all other administrative activities such as team selection, organising dressage judges and fence judges, doing newsletters etc. etc. etc. it soon becomes apparent just how many hours are needed to run a club like ours.

Many thanks to everyone who did help out, it is greatly appreciated, and if you can spare any time in future, even if it is only a couple of hours, it does help enormously. Please come to the AGM for the grand presentation ceremony either to collect your awards (rosettes to 10th place), or to show your appreciation to others receiving them.

Final scores on Be Fair Cup Points

Julie Baker	74	Serena Potter	18	Charlotte Fulton	6
Zandra Forder	58	Anne Ashpitel	15	Hazel North	5
Annabel Slater	57	Sue McGrath	15	Diane Richards	5
Clare Heald	47	Julie Wookey	15	Clare Campbell	4
Caroline Hicks	46	Jackie Bench	14	Diana Fitzsimmons	4
Gail Perren	41	Gemma Chilcott	13	Rebecca Hamilton Fletcher	4
Di Symes	34	Brenda Harman	13	Jo Jeffreys	4
Elizabeth Potter	33	Chantal Hutton	13	Sarah March	4
Linda Kerrison	30	Judy Ince	13	Lindsay Kemble	4
Moira Willis	27	Jill Richardson	13	Martin Harvey	4
Mary Menzies	26	Roy Southey	12	Jane Bartlem	3
Penny Hall	25	Nicky Winham	12	Mary Brown	3
Jo King	22	Dee Hodson	11	Helen Huskisson	3
Lucy Mason	22	Deborah Lucas	9	Jane Skinner	3
Carol Wright	22	Peter Pell	9	Caroline Stevens	3
Juliette Lee	19	Julia Verity	9	Maggie Miller	2
Marcus Reid	19	Madeleine Southey	8	Peter Sheppard	2
Jo Cleaver	18	Alison Pearce	7	Abigail Lamb	2
Lindsay Hills	18	Caroline Primrose	7	Alison Ainsworth	2
Jenny Jones	18	Julia Mason	6	Peter Derbyshire	1
Carole Perren	18	Gill Trickett	6	Claire Oak	1

Final Scores on Caballine Trophy Points

Caroline Stevens	26	Margaret Ayres	12	Gail Perren	5
Maggie Miller	25	Peter Pell	12	Madeleine Southey	5
Sue McGrath	24	Sam Hart	11	Angela Wilson	5
Di Symes	21	Karen Nimmo Scott	11	Sam Adams	4
Sue Stevens	19	Mandy Poulton	9	Hazel North	4
Sue Kerrison	18	Linda Rawlings	7	Annabel Slater	4
Clare Heald	17	Josie Saiers	7	Brigit Williams	3
Julie Newman	17	Elizabeth Shipway	7	Nicky Winham	3
Monica Tomkins	17	Yvonne West	7	Deborah Lucas	2
Millie Brotherwood	16	Jenny Verity	7	Alison Mitchell	2
Mary Menzies	16	Rebecca Hamilton Fletcher	6	Sofia Woyka	2
Maureen Burford	15	Mary Perren	6	Jane Moss	2
June Bush	15	Claire Ingram	6	Eunice Tarling	2
Jill Vallis	15	Penny Mitchell	5		
Shelagh Forder	14				

DIARY DATES

NOVEMBER

- 02.11.96** **BVRC General Instruction with Claire Mason at Bluebell Farm, Penton Grafton, Nr Weyhill.**
Send Reply Slip to Lindsay Hills
- 05.11.96** **BVRC General Instruction with Claire Mason at Catherston EC, Hurstbourne Priors.**
Send Reply Slip to Lindsay Hills
- 10.11.96** **BVRC UK Chasers Ride at Kirby House, Inkpen, 10am.**
Send reply slip to Lindsay Hills
- 13.11.96** **BVRC AGM & Tack Sale at Red Lion, Clanville, Nr Weyhill, 7.30-8pm.**
- 16.11.96** **BVRC General Instruction with Claire Mason at Bluebell Farm, Penton Grafton, Nr Weyhill.**
Send Reply Slip to Lindsay Hills
- 29.11.96** **BVRC Skittles evening at The Silver Plough, Pitton 7.30-8pm.**
Send reply slip to Annabel Slater by Saturday 23rd November. Tel: 01980 862263.

DECEMBER

- 03.12.96** **BVRC General Instruction with Diana Fitzsimmons**
Send Reply Slip to Lindsay Hills
- 07.12.96** **BVRC General Instruction with Claire Mason at Bluebell Farm, Penton Grafton, Nr Weyhill.**
Send Reply Slip to Lindsay Hills
- 10.12.96** **BVRC General Instruction with Diana Fitzsimmons**
Send Reply Slip to Lindsay Hills

ADVERTS

STOLEN Blue double horse Trailer. Rear/Front Unload, adjustable breast bars. From farm in Enham, Nr. Andover on Saturday 7th September, 1996 between 2.15pm and 4.15 pm

REWARD for any information leading to recovery. Please contact 01264 352361 or Andover Police

DIY/Part Livery available in West Tytherley. Well fenced paddocks, nice boxes in good hacking area. Small well run private yard with security and help from £17.00 per week.

Extra large bridle with flash, no reins £15

Dressage saddle seventeen and a half inch, narrow fit, old but comfy £125

Lightweight long distance saddle, eighteen inch, medium fit, almost new. £375

Throwgood Griffin event saddle, eighteen inch, medium fit £75

Please telephone Kathryn Thornton on 01794 341725

For Sale Charles Owen jockey skull size 0 (six and a half) very little used £20

Telephone 01264 781499 in the evenings.

BVRC Sweatshirts & Polo Shirts

Sweatshirts at £12 and Polo Shirts at £11.50 in royal blue with British Riding Clubs Logo and BVRC name, will be on sale at the **AGM** or are available from Lindsay Hills (01264 772388).

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

R.J.RODDA Saddler & Harness Maker

Full Repair Service, Collection & Delivery Service, Competitive Prices, New Tack Made to Order, Special Orders.
Telephone 01722 327317.

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 Diana Fitzsimmons on Tuesday 10th December
and enclose a cheque for £9 (made payable to Bourne Valley Riding Club). Sessions 1 hour 30 mins based on 4-6 sharing.

Name Tel No

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Name Tel No

REPLY SLIP to be returned to Annabel Slater, Bentleigh Farm House, Pitton, Salisbury, Wilts SP5 1EG.
I would like to attend the skittles evening at Silver Plough, Pitton on Friday 29th November.
I would like hot meals at £5.95 each / cold meals at £4.95 each / Ploughmans at £3.95 each / no food,
and enclose a cheque (made payable to Bourne Valley Riding Club).

Name Tel No

PLEASE REPLY BY SATURDAY 23RD NOVEMBER

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Name Tel No

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I would like to attend the UK Chasers ride at Inkpen on Sunday 10th November and enclose a cheque
for £8 / £15 + £2 for guests (made payable to Bourne Valley Riding Club).

Name Tel No

UK Chasers Membership No.

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