

1969

BOURNE VALLEY RIDING CLUB.

NEWSLETTER - SEPTEMBER 1969.

I expect by now most members will have heard of our show jumping teams success at Hickstead, where 26 teams from all over the country competed for the National Riding Clubs' Championship. We held the Area qualifying round at Tidworth in July when two teams from the Hampshire Rural R.C. and two from the Ringwood & District R.C. came to compete against our three teams. The Hampshire Rural 'A' team won this event with B.V.R.C. 'Red' second and R.D.R.C. third - the first two teams going forward to Hickstead. Our team chosen for Hickstead was Miss F. Farrell (Gamble), Mrs E. Kitson (Samaria), Miss A. Knox (Satan) and Mrs J. Moir (Alexander). The preliminary round was held in Ring 3 in the morning. Mrs Kitson, Mrs Moir and Francis Farrell jumped clear and Sandra Knox had 17 faults but as only the best three scores in each team counted we were through to the final which was held in the International Ring in the afternoon. The other teams to get through were Hawley, Wokingham, West Sussex, Bath & West, Bookham & Kenilworth, South Oxford, Coventry and Battle. Mrs Kitson got us off to a great start in the afternoon with another clear round, Mrs Moir had two fences down, Sandra Knox had 7 faults, Satan going rather more kindly than he had in the morning, and Francis Farrell had 4 faults which gave us a total of eleven against the best three to count. South Oxford were the eventual winners after a jump off against the clock with Hawley, both having had clear rounds; Bookham & Kenilworth were third and Bourne Valley finished joint seventh which was a tremendous effort - many congratulations to all the team members.

The Club has been invited to join the Tidworth Mounted Sports Club which has been formed to "Encourage riding activities in the area and to co-ordinate and control the use of equestrian facilities in Bulford and Tidworth Garrisons". Membership is basically for service personnel and their families, but some individual and groups of civilians have been invited to join. The annual membership fee for the Bourne Valley is £5 and the committee considered that it was well worth this amount in order to have official use of the facilities at Tidworth i.e. the covered school, show jumps, outdoor manege and dressage area and it is hoped that some small fixed fences will be built. Up till now we have had the use of the school etc. on an unofficial basis and we felt that the time might well come when this would be denied us and we would be left with no convenient place for schooling and instruction. Individual members may use all the facilities at any time except when they are required for events such as the Army Horse Trials etc. Any enquiries should be made to the Staff Captain at HQ RAC (Tidworth 3221 Ext. 323)

The question of instruction has caused a lot of discussion in committee and we have finally come to what we hope is a reasonable solution. To quote from the Minute Book:- "... that a planned sequence of instruction based on Grade I and Grade II of the Riding Club Tests should be given on the second Sunday each month (with the same instructor if possible) and that instruction on the last Sunday of the month should continue as previously with varied instructors". I must emphasize that although the instruction on the second Sunday will be based on Tests I and II this does not mean that everyone attending instruction will have to take the Tests so please don't be put off by this; the idea is to give the instructor something basic to work from and to try and get some continuity in the instruction. Members may of course attend on either or both Sundays.

It has also been decided that we cannot continue to ask instructors to give up their Sunday afternoons for us without some remuneration so we will in future offer them expenses of £1. 1s. 0d. per session. Members attending instruction will be invited to contribute 2/6d each to help cover this expense - this small payment is quite voluntary - but if at some time in the future, we engage a professional instructor such as Colonel Froud, to whom we will have to pay a full professional fee, members attending that day will be charged accordingly.

Tests will be held in the spring but I emphasize that these will be entirely voluntary. Test cards are available from the Hon. Sec. price 6d.

There are some more names to add to your list of members. Two old members have rejoined and we welcome three new members to the Club. This brings the total membership to 77.