



## Maidstone and District Riding Club - July 2015

If you would like any items or adverts to appear in the newsletter please send them to Sarah at [sarahleggatbt@btinternet.com](mailto:sarahleggatbt@btinternet.com)

It's much easier and faster to email a copy of the newsletter to all the members. If you have the technology please add your email to the distribution list. Postage costs are almost prohibitive now so if you can receive this electronically please do so. Thank you.

**I apologise for the delay in producing this newsletter. Family circumstances and a lack of reports from members are the cause. However, here we go!**

ROSEMARY BERRIDGE

It is with sadness that we have to tell you of the death of one of our lifelong members of the riding club, Rosemary Berridge, in January, at the age of 85 years.

From our inauguration in 1948 she was an enthusiastic supporter building an "original" hunter trial course through woods, up and down quarry banks at her home at Bydews Place in Tovil, where she also kindly hosted our 50<sup>th</sup> year Club Anniversary, which some of you must remember.

Rosemary was a great supporter of the Tickham and Ashford Valley Hunts initially as a rider and latterly as a keen car follower - the Ashford Valley Huntsman appropriately blew a resounding "Gone Away" at her funeral. Rosemary was a true countrywoman being surrounded by a variety of animals, particularly her dogs - a true one-off who will be missed.

Peggy Skinner

### Area Eventers' Challenge

Michelle Yeo, Jess Hawkes and myself travelled to Munstead on a chilly Sunday.

Michelle and I did the 100 in the morning and Jess was later in the day doing the 90.

The show jumping course was interesting as it included a skinny and an angled double followed by a decent cross country course. The ground is always good there as it is sandy so a perfect day to have a go at an eventers challenge which was all new to me.

The idea is to go clear in both and then it is subject to being within the time and closest to it (I think?).

I warmed up with Michelle which was great and much to our surprise the day went really well. It was good fun. I did a double clear, Michelle had an unlucky four faults show jumping but we both did exactly the same time cross country. The results came in and unexpectedly I came first followed by Michelle second.

The 90 class had lots of entries and Jess did a fantastic job with a double clear well timed and ending up in second place.

So overall a good day for Maidstone and qualifications to the championships for both classes.

Naomi Henderson

### Area combined training 2015.

On 28th March MDRC competed as individuals and teams at the area 10 combined training at Felbridge show ground. The day had a great atmosphere despite the unpredictable weather with some great results within the club.

Georgina Kester 2<sup>nd</sup>, Wendy Neath 3<sup>rd</sup>, Kate Richardson 4<sup>th</sup>, all for senior prelim individuals. Senior blue team came an impressive 2nd place.

For the novice section senior individuals Melanie Jones took 1st and 4th place, with myself, Sydnie Kelly, gaining 1st place for the junior individuals.

The day was enjoyed by all, and I for one am looking forward to competing again in the near future with hopefully some more junior members coming forward to enable a junior team to be put together.

I would also like to thank Lucy Field for all her hard work towards organising this event.

By Sydnie Kelly

NATIONALS OR BUST! Spring 2015 version...

Last year's edition of Nationals or bust ended with me trying to get myself sound to ride Ollie at the BRC Music Nationals in October 2014. Well, we got there, though with my injury I was in a lot of pain. We managed a respectable test by Ollie standards, right down the order but I am so glad I went. A matter of weeks later I lost him after a field kick up left him with hock fractures.

So 2014 was a roller coaster year in everyway. Before I lost Ollie I had already

bought Rocco [Ferrero Rocher] aged 5 who is rapidly turning into one of the most fun horses I have owned - not that I have had many horses as they usually grow old with me.

SO fast forward to this March - we have competed once at Prelim dressage and once at SJ together, but have spent the winter training and bonding, so I feel happy to put myself forward for Area Combined Training at Felbridge.

Recently I have developed a bad habit of arriving early - which in this case left me time to get nervous. The 'arena' for our test was a grass patch with some scattered rubber and sand, but it actually rode well, and apart from me having a minor error of trotting too early out of my first canter he did the best he was capable of. The judge liked it too and put me on 33.5 penalties leaving me well up the order. Meanwhile Kate Richardson was doing an equally good job in the other arena.

We walked the show jumping and were all concerned about the turn to the first jump. Kate kicked off the proceedings with a lovely

fluent clear, and as I rode in Rocco suddenly felt babyish as he faced the scary trademark Felbridge decorations. But as soon as we got moving all my training jumping out of trot paid off, we got off to a great start and then flew round clear. The first 2 to go and 2 clears - leaving it all to play for our other team members doing Novice tests and jumping 85. As I had to go home to work [no peace for instructors!] I couldn't stay and watch them, but Mel Jones as ever did a super test and went clear, and whilst Emma Dendy had a few problems with some of the spookiness of Felbridge our scores were good enough to leave our Blue team in second place - Mel 1<sup>st</sup> in her section, Kate 4<sup>th</sup> and myself 3<sup>rd</sup>

We are waiting as I write to hear if we have qualified for the FOTH Nationals at Aston le Walls at the end of May as there were so many [19] teams. Fingers crossed - going to another BRC Nationals at my first attempt with my baby horse would be such a thrill!

Meanwhile other club riders were doing their bit for the other 2 teams, and one team

came 7<sup>th</sup> - well done to them too. All in all a good day at a well run event thanks to Faversham RC.

Post script:

Delighted to report that the team did qualify for FOTH and were placed 10<sup>th</sup>. Well done all.

### Easter Fun jumping show at Street Farm

It was good to see early in the M&DRC calendar that the Easter Fun jumping show was going to be run at Street Farm, courtesy of Wendy Neath. In particular this was a key date in the diary for me as having had a disastrous second half of 2014 I was keen to have another go at getting back into the jumping ring and had this in my sights as a gentle introduction. *Where previously Pharaoh and I had progressed to 1 metre and 1.05 classes throughout 2013 and early 2014, this was brought to a sudden halt after what seemed to be an innocuous fall at a jump clinic but I hurt my back sufficiently that I couldn't ride for a month. June arrived with us back in the saddle again but shortly after along came another, bigger, fall at Eaglesfield and by this time my confidence was completely shot to pieces. It wasn't helped by Pharaoh behaving out of character and frankly being a bit of a monster when jumping but was it him or my lost confidence affecting him? Either way I didn't fancy jumping much at all. We took a step back but Pharaoh continued to behave oddly and finally we ended up at the vets where he was diagnosed with a bone spavin and a kissing spine. Steroid injections and box rest followed by a very slow return into work in the New Year. I wondered if we would ever jump together again. My nerves weren't any better either by the enforced break. We started off training very slowly and I decided to have a couple of lessons with Wendy early*

*this year to help build up my confidence and to see if Pharaoh was feeling ready for it. Small steps and after some solid pole work we progressed to popping over some small jumps while trying to contain my huge horse's enthusiasm for pelting full tilt over everything in front of him. I have to say that whilst I knew Pharaoh was up for it, I wasn't particularly...* Along came the date for the Easter Fun show and I told myself this was what I had to do to get me started again. I looked forward to it but also with some fear (??) but told myself, lovely venue, nice friendly atmosphere and it was a FUN show. On route in the trailer the clouds were dark and I braced myself for a wet and cold day. Should I go home? No! Wendy had been watching the weather carefully and declared the night before the show would go ahead. We were among the first to arrive and I noticed my hands were shaking while tacking up. After telling myself to pull myself together we headed up to the arena, went quietly into the warm up paddock and went through our normal warm up routine, trying to breathe calmly. I kept looking at the jumps that were starting with the clear round at 60-65 cm. Dry mouth and shaky hands. This was ridiculous! However, I soon got chatting to some of other contestants arriving and found to my relief there were quite a few of us who were very happy to have access to a fun show not least because none of us were feeling brave enough for anything more. The course was walked, by some on foot and those of us who were less prepared just walked our horses around before starting hoping they themselves would remember the order of the numbers. You can't do that at a more formal show! Clearly some of our horses haven't learned their numbers yet as a few of us got lost on route as well. It seems that everyone who had a go early on had a little problem to start with. Either a pole down, a naughty horse or a refusal, something was having to be dealt with. One young rider was off at the first jump but she leaped straight back on and completed the rest of the course on her pony whose enthusiasm grew every time she went in the ring. The big smiles as people came out were very satisfying and encouraging all round. During Class 1 more people were arriving for the next clear round and bigger jumps while the sun was coming out too - although there were a couple of drizzle showers on and off later. It was such a great day for anyone wanting to either warm up their horse

for the season, just have a go, or rebuild their confidence. Rosettes abounded and chocolate easter bunnies for prizes. Nothing like a lovely bit of chocolate to satisfy frayed nerves. For me? We went in the ring 4 times, didn't have any poles down, won Class 1 and cleared 70-75cm nicely. Words are not enough to describe the boost this gave me and we are now really looking forward to our next clinic and show already booked! Thank you Street Farm!

Jane Pellat

## **Club Quadrille at Cobham Manor 4<sup>th</sup> May 2015**

As part of Cobham's Dressage Weekend, the Club was invited to put on a Quadrille Demonstration. As many of you know, Wendy Neath organises fun quadrille sessions from time to time and this was the first time a public demonstration was being organised.



**Wendy, Sarah Leggat, Jan Barlow, Janice Payne, Carol Adams, Sue Barritt, Jeanette Wellard and Rachel Clarke had only two rehearsals before the big day. However, despite some hiccups with the music, the whole ride went really well and was much appreciated by the audience. All the riders**

thoroughly enjoy themselves and it felt good to 'put on a show'



**Sarah Leggat**

**Area Showjumping 21<sup>st</sup> June:**

Novice team 7<sup>th</sup> - Alice Foulger, Brenda and Jess Hawkes and Rachel Clarke

Novice team 10<sup>th</sup> - Wendy Neath, Kate Richardson, Alex Taskin and Shannon Cameron. Kate placed 2<sup>nd</sup> individually.

Intermediate team 2<sup>nd</sup> - Mel Jones, Lucy Field, Shannon Cameron and Natalie Harrison. Lucy 4<sup>th</sup> and Mel 6<sup>th</sup> individually

Style jumping team 5<sup>th</sup> - Wendy, Alice, Rachel and Alex. Rachel 4<sup>th</sup> and Wendy 5<sup>th</sup> individually.

Wendy particularly liked the comment from the judges about her 'nice legs'!

Well done all.

## **EVENTERS CHALLENGE 28<sup>TH</sup> JUNE BONFLEUR CROSS COUNTRY COURSE**

This is the Club's Open Show and once again it was very well supported with almost 120 riders riding over 150 rounds of dressage and/or eventers challenge.

The weather yet again was great, there were a lot of happy riders feeling they had achieved, even if they were not placed and the whole day ran extremely well, thanks to Wendy Thomas and her team.

Club members placed were Sydnie Kelly, Kate Richardson, Meryl Honey, Sam Raeside and Kaylie Gosling. Well done all.

### **HELPERS:**

**Club teams can only take part in regional events if suitable numbers of helpers also attend. It has been quite a struggle to get helpers this year. All members are expected to help at at least one event and yet it seems that the same people often come forward and do more than their fair share of helping. The Eventers Challenge was rather short of help and a small number of people worked flat out over two days to make it run. Please make sure you give up some time for helping, not just riding. Thank you.**

### **REGULAR CLINICS:**

Wendy Neath holds a variety of clinics at Street Farm, from the Tuesday morning fun of the 'over 50's' polework group (being over 50 is not compulsory!), dressage training on grass, gymnastic jumping and cross country, quadrille riding and Trec training. See the website for dates and details or contact Wendy direct ([wendy.neath@btinternet.com](mailto:wendy.neath@btinternet.com)) or call 07802 676896

Neil Boorman's popular show jumping clinics are running at Duckhurst. Bookings will now be taken directly by Neil. Please call him on 07876 233423 or [neilboorman@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:neilboorman@yahoo.co.uk)

Bridgette Draper flatwork clinics – contact Lucy Field – [lucyfield15@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:lucyfield15@yahoo.co.uk) or call 07921 600439 See the website and Facebook page for all details.

Pippa Doran has run some Dressage To Music clinics which have been much enjoyed and Alex Taskin has organised some cross country training sessions with Sam Jennings.

**Please check the club website and Facebook page frequently for new dates and also for all Club events**

Although not a Club event, a good number of club members helped put this TREC on and competed as well. Huge congratulations to Caroline Barton and Karen Ransley who won the Level 2 Pairs class, qualifying for the National Championships in August. Wendy Neath and Lisa Geer were 4<sup>th</sup>.

Jan Barlow and her partner Jane Raye were 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Level 1 Novice Pairs, their first full TREC event.

Sarah Leggat was the organiser behind the Torry Hill TREC and raised £2950 for the Down's Syndrome Association and Handiconcept.



The Ride For Life takes place this year on September 20<sup>th</sup>. Schedules will be available shortly. Please support this lovely ride and fundraising event either by helping before and after or, of course, riding.

**The Torry Hill Trec 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> June 2015**

