



Maidstone and District Riding Club - August 2016

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Inter Club Friendly Showjumping:

On a cold and windy winter's day in February Lilly and I set off to take part in the RC Team SJ friendly at Eaglesfield.

Maidstone were fielding two teams and my fellow team mates were Erin O'loughlin, Alice Foulger, Sam Reside, Georgie Kneller, Kate Connell and Jo Cottee.

Organisation of the event was superb as it was jam packed with lorries and the carpark stewards did a sterling job with operation stack to get us all parked. With lorries parked, numbers collected and teammates greeted, we were ready to roll! The warm up class went well with lots of clears for MDRC girls..... and then the team comp was underway.

Some great jumping by the two teams, Maidstone Black ended up in the jump off and Georgie took up the challenge to jump off. They did a cracking job with the team ending in 4th out of 20 teams....a fab result.

Have to big up the Red team too although no placing for us all jumped well. Erin was competing for the club for the first time, Jo was at only her second outing on her lovely young horse. Alice was going great guns until an unfortunate unscheduled dismount, and my girlie just had a pole off.

A great day out and as usual the Maidstone teamies all supported each other brilliantly. Thank you as well to Sarah Hall and Sarah Leggat for volunteering on the ground. With out people coming to help we can't compete and so thank you Sarahs

Can you help? - BRC Treehouse sporting Colours Intermediate Winter Championships - 30th April 2016

My horsey days were over or so I thought! I was asked quite casually 'can you help', as Maidstone and District Riding Club have qualified for the championships, and requests were made to take a volunteer. I replied 'of course I will' - expecting a couple of dressage arenas in a field the other side of Dunstable! How wrong was I, after navigating the M25 for over two hours to get through the tunnel, beautifully set arenas at Bury Farm, with white boards and flowers and flags a-flying, set the stage for a reawakening of an interest that I have had over the years. Sleeping in a horse lorry was quite painless, as I was allowed to take my Carmen rollers and hair straighteners!! Even the toilets at Bury Farm were in the stakes of some of the cleanest I have seen over the years!

The next morning writing for a lovely lady judge for two and a half hours, confirmed to me that I was missing something special in my joy at seeing all types, sizes, shapes and colours of not only horses but riders! The competition was stiff and there were some lovely tests to be seen, as well as some not so good tests, but that's what makes this sport such an interesting one - in that one day you are on top of the world qualifying and the next day down in the dumps because your horse has decided he/she doesn't really want to do what you want it to do. Team members Sharon Polding, Lesley Story, Melanie Jones and Alex Taskin all competed well.

What I haven't missed over the past few year though is getting absolutely soaked in rain, sleet and hailstones and looking like the abominable snowman all in the space five minutes, but in reality this only wetted my appetite even more. Thank you for asking me to be a volunteer!

Camp 2016!

Having never been before, we weren't sure what to expect from camp. However a warm welcome was just the beginning.....

From poles and flat work to jumping and cross country, some top instruction, with lots of tips to take home and perfect.

The venue was great, stables being a really good size, with all amenities close by. Gerry/Alisha loved the gallops!



There was plenty of good food, and enough cake for a lifetime.

The BBQ was a definite winner too, the food was amazing and what a nice guy!

Finally, it was nice to meet other members and spend the weekend with such a fun bunch of people. Everybody praising and cheering each other on, with just a "few" drinks to finish the evening. Such a lovely weekend.

Well done to Sarah for doing such a great job!

Lisa Jordan

A Snapshot of Riding Club Camp

Littleton Manor 2016.



1. First decision: Shall I put Brendan in a stable where I can look and admire him from my bed or shall I put him in a stable near the water tap? No contest, I chose the latter. Sorry Brendan.
2. Excellent idea, we had training on Friday afternoon to free up a bit of Saturday. Worked well.
3. Gourmet BBQ at Littleton on Friday evening, definitely to be repeated.
4. Some battling with the elements and it bucketed with rain as Wendy N and I got to the far point of the gallops. We fast tracked it back anyway and afterwards had to change every item of clothing!
5. Great show jumping lesson in the afternoon with Stuart Atkins who seemed to like Brendan and his fooling about which fortunately does not affect his jumping.
6. The Black Horse pub for supper with free bubbles and canapés after they messed us about by giving us incorrect menus on no less than 3 occasions. Note: The 3 most senior members of camp including myself were the only people to walk to the pub and back again. Game Old Birds definitely on form!
7. Brendan got confused with skinnies in combinations on the xc so work to be done there. Amazing pole work session with Marion

Bush. I have never seen so many poles in one arena.

8. No hot croissants on Sunday morning. Gas bottle empty in Wendy N's lorry. Still, it didn't matter that the fridge was no longer on because all the bubbly had been drunk!

9. A big thank you to Sarah Hall for organizing a fantastic camp and to all who helped. There was a lovely friendly atmosphere at camp with everyone having fun and enjoying the company.

10. IT WAS THE HIGHLIGHT OF MY YEAR.

Jo Cottee

Happy Campers August 2016



With a combination of excitement and if I am honest, slight trepidation, I participated in the Riding Club's Annual 3 day August Camp at

Littleton Manor Equestrian Centre in Reigate, Surrey. I attended for the first time last year as a "Virgin Camper" with a new, young horse and a slightly aging body that was returning to riding after a 23 year break.

Joining a local riding club seemed a sensible way forward and an essential way of socialising my rather green gelding called Irish. In my time away I discovered that everything had changed in the equestrian world. Starting up again became a re-education in new feeding methods and rug ranges - gone were the jute, New Zealand and holey sweat rugs. Whilst kick starting my body into the physical demands of horse riding I also needed to reach out to other horse riders for support. To find that my new Club ran a three day residential Camp was indeed exciting and just what I needed.

We are lucky to have LMEC on our doorstep. The facilities are excellent with a choice of two sand schools, full range of brightly coloured show jumping fences, extensive cross country course and all weather gallops. The location is in the heart of the Surrey countryside and once there it is horse heaven.

Pop up stables are erected and these offer sturdy accommodation with bedding provided on site. Camping by residents comes in all forms; tents in varying sizes, caravans and lorry accommodation. Having tented once before, this year I slept in the main area of my 3.5 ton lorry. All poo removed and a thorough wash down, a Z bed erected, this became my comfortable human base for three days.

At the start of the weekend we were given a personal schedule of lessons, starting with a group flatwork session on Friday afternoon, show jumping on Saturday and a grand finale of cross country followed by a pole work session in the afternoon of Sunday. In between times, we enjoyed hacking, unlimited spins on the all-weather gallops as well as watching lessons of our fellow Campers. Friday night we enjoyed a great BBQ on site and this gave us the opportunity to meet everyone. Saturday evening

was spent at the local pub for a lovely meal in civilised surroundings.

For me 2016 Camp will be remembered for the endless menu choice changes at the Pub, a fridge full of chilling wine, my show jumping lesson with Vikki riding Shannon who squealed with excitement just as much as my horse did. Irish's rodeo display for the first ten minutes of each lesson to the gasping onlookers. Patti being Mother Hen over her charges and her enviable ability to always look glamorous. Hitting the gallops along with Marisa on Bexs just as a storm broke with wild winds and horizontal rain. Irish falling in love with his stable companion Star and allowing her to share his hay net each morning. Alex Wyatt saying that I needed a parachute to land my boy XC as he jumps so big. The sweaty endurance of an hour's pole work lesson with Marion Bush. Thank goodness for Sarah who led our special needs group and was intelligent enough to navigate us through the maze of ground poles. We did giggle.

Best of all I love the spirit of Camp; the friendly atmosphere, the comradery, the kind understanding of other Campers when you had a problem and the need to take a little more of an Instructor's time to sort it out. The café culture popping up around the Lorries with tables and chairs, drinking wine and eating nibbles. The physical exhaustion of back to back lessons and the tummy spinning feeling of elation when you and your horse got it right. Every year I feel I grow whilst at Camp. I feel I know my horse that little bit better. I get pushed outside of my comfort zone, meet fabulous people and inspirational Instructors. I consider Camp to be a confidence giver and good all round summer time horsey fun.

I am grateful to Sarah Hall for her excellent organisational skills and her ability to source such great Instructors. I am truly thankful to LMEC for providing a plentiful supply of delightful hot water in their showers. I also pledge in 2017 to share the burden of clearing up from Camp - put me down for toilet and shower cleaning duties. Next year I will come

equipped with Bathroom Cleaner and a pair of rubber gloves!

Louise Martin



Inaugural Club Breakfast Ride
August 2016

From Street Farm, Burham



On a lovely sunny morning 8 of us set off early on one of my favourite rides round Nashenden valley. It's all off road bar a short stretch on a dead end lane, and we had a few canters with enough control to enjoy the views. And lots of time to catch up with old friends and new ones too!

Back at Street Farm we were joined by 2 non riders, and I dashed back to my kitchen to

cook breakfast which I had left as ready as possible. It was the whole works - orange juice, scrambled eggs, bacon, sausages, smoked salmon, tomatoes, mushrooms, beans and croissants!

There will be another one, perhaps to celebrate when our new bridleways finally become accessible!



On Sunday 24th July Dolly and I took part in our very first Maidstone and District Riding Club competition as part of the Junior dressage team.

After dad having got us lost on the way and being amused by Martin when we arrived, who didn't know that there was a Beth on his yard at Street Farm, only a Bethany when Karen asked if he knew us :- (We unloaded Dolly, and tacked up.

She was so excited at the number of horses around us, and also at the lush grass we were parked on!

Once she settled down we began to warm up and get ready to begin our Prelim dressage test when we were called to our arena.

It was strange riding a test in the open between other riders either side riding different tests in the arenas next to us. Dolly tripped a couple of times on the grass, so I thought our test probably could have gone a bit better, but it was all over so quickly and we were back by the box again before we knew it!

I really enjoyed the day and Dolly was a little superstar as usual, even if she was very tempted by the long grass!

Thank you to everyone who organised us, to Wendy for the loan of a Club saddle cloth, to Karen for calming my nerves before our test and to my Auntie for lending me her box to get there! (It's always funny watching people watching us open up expecting Dolly to be an Arab because of the box we arrive in!)

It was a really good day out and we will definitely take part in another Maidstone and District Riding Club event again if we get the chance!!

Bethany & Dolly

Congratulations to all those who competed and completed at the HT National Championship this August. The 100 team did not go quite as planned and hoped with 3 out of 4 picking up XC penalties, but I'm very proud to update that my little sister [Sophie Leaney](#) completed the competition adding just 1.2 TP to her dressage score finishing a fantastic 3rd in her arena and 6th overall, at last winning a coveted Sash!! A fantastic result knowing what it's taken just to be there this year...well done all.

Sharon Polding



TREC GB National Championships

A number of Club members compete at TREC and qualified for the TREC GB National Championships at Poplar Park at the end of July. A fabulous venue awaited them and there were some great results for TREC Riders in the South East and members of Maidstone & District Riding Club. Wendy Neath and her partner Kay Kitson (from West Sussex) were 2nd in the Level 2 Pairs class and won the teams challenge with another South East pairing. Caroline Barton and Karen Ransley were also placed in the teams challenge.

Area 10 Show Jumping Qualifier Felbridge July 2016

After weeks of dry weather we woke to drizzle, but undeterred various MDRC members set off for Felbridge. Team spirit was very important on this occasion for our Senior Novice team as not one of us had all their equipment and felt well... Kate Richardson jumped 2 clears feeling ill, I jumped 2 clears using an over large bridle borrowed from Kate, and Georgie Kneller had to wear my jacket which is generous on me – and she is several sizes smaller than me! With clears from Alice Foulger and Georgie in at least one round we ended up jumping off against Faversham and were just pipped on time.

Our horses all jumped well in slippery conditions which caused a lot of problems. It was a shame not to qualify for the Nationals but there you go – another year maybe.

In the other rings Alisha Jordan one of our Juniors was trouncing the opposition to win Junior Individual, but has since decided not to

go to Lincoln as her horse has had some travel issues [which are now nearly sorted], and the Senior intermediates with 2 teams of 3 were also struggling a little with the conditions. However one team came second, and as I write they are preparing to go to the Nationals at Lincoln. Good luck Mel Jones, Sophie Leaney and Harriet Westgate!

The Ride For Life is fast approaching. Please get your entries in asap and if you aren't riding please can you volunteer to help



Maldstone & District Riding Club are very grateful to the sponsors, volunteers and landowners who have made this event possible.

Chris Maddocks
Charles and William Tassell
James Weeks
Julian Vyner
Dot Taylor
Nigel Edmead

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Birchalls Riding Shop
Clip clap Dog Grooming & Equestrian Supplies
Gillett Cook country Store, Faversham
Tony's Tack, mobile tack shop
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THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT



RIDE FOR LIFE

SPONSORED RIDE
IN AID OF CANCER RESEARCH UK

SUNDAY 25th SEPTEMBER 2016
At Tilmangate Farm [opposite Pepperbox pub]
Windmill Hill, Harrietsham, ME17 1LP

[please do not use Fairbourne Lane for access]

By kind permission of Chris Maddocks who has generously donated the use of his field for parking

10 miles (approx) of mainly off road riding

THINK PINK

Rosettes for all riders, prizes for the pinkest horse and rider combination (separate prizes for male, female and junior riders) &

bottle of pink fizz to all riders raising over £100 sponsor money!

ENTRY FEE £16 BY POST OR ONLINE £16 (+ ROP ADMIN)

MINIMUM OF £15 SPONSORSHIP PAYABLE ON THE DAY

Enter Online or download schedule, entry & sponsorship form

www.maldstoneridingclub.co.uk/schedules.html

Refreshments and photographer in attendance

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