



AFFILIATED TO B.R.C. & B.H.S.

HARROW AND DISTRICT RIDING CLUB NEWS

* MAY - JUNE 2011 *

Greetings to all our readers – and we hope you enjoy these highlights of our recent newsletter. We also hope you enjoyed the recent spell of warm weather? How thrilling it is to wake up on a beautiful day, and go out in the country on a horse, feeling the wind in your hair as you gallop along. At such times we really know how it is to fly without wings.

We have four new members since our last edition, namely -

DAVID



I only started riding three years ago, when I wandered into Littlebourne and met Anne. I have had regular lessons with her every Friday since, moving from private lessons to a group where one of my fellow riders is new member Richard. In fact the picture is a recent riding holiday in Spain – of me and fellow new member Richard!

I don't have a horse of my own and enjoy a different horse each week; but I particularly like Pumpkin and Wallace.

LAURA

Liz and Nick got chatting to their fellow rider Laura one Saturday Morning after their lesson with Anne had ended. She expressed interest in our club, and decided to join, filling in a membership form on the spot.

As you can see, Laura very much enjoys jumping!



RICHARD

I already ride at Littlebourne Farm; my main lesson is on a Friday – with fellow new member David - and sometimes I have an extra ride on Tuesdays too.

My main reason for joining HDRC is the leisure activities, but I hope to enter some competitions in the future.

Hope to see you all in the near future

Regards, Richard

SUSAN

I am so delighted to have joined HDRC!

I've pretty much ridden all my life and I have my own horse Sophie - in Little Chalfont. I have joined because she is now 27 (though she seems 10 years younger), and though I ride her every other day she is doing less and less, and I am missing doing just that little bit more.

So I want to start riding other horses and begin winding her down. I am not in a position to have two horses - as much as I would love to - so joining HDRC seems a good way to start!

I have worked in television production all of my life so was a long time member of the BBC Riding Club – which at that time was based at Park Farm in Northwood.

I very much enjoyed the various events, and the Stirrup Cup Bar afterwards! So I much look forward to joining in your activities.....

See you all soon, Susan

HDRC RECENT EVENTS

APRIL 16 ROADS & TRACKS

Always a popular event, this appeals to everyone – both to the competitive (who go for the “match the hidden time” element) - and the “happy hackers” who have a jolly good time meandering through the glorious countryside with their partner.

Sometimes it is very hard to believe that we are so close to London as we ride along – especially those of us who are lucky enough to see rabbits scooting about in the fields.



We try to vary our event every time and this time's course included a wooded bluebell copse, and the ever popular “Heaven” (was a field ever better named...?). All agreed it was a super journey. But the serious competitors amongst us couldn't wait for the results, which were...

FIRST PLACE

Geoff / Luke & Barbara / Kudos

Narrowly behind them were Charlotte on Kudos and Nick on Wallace. Third went to Liz on Wallace and Louise on Kudos; fourth to Alison on Archie and Judy on Jack; and fifth to Ellie on Rupert and Tracy on Archie.

Well done to our winning team, thanks to everyone who took part, and also to Richard, who did the time keeping for us.

APRIL 25 LITTLEBOURNE OPEN SHOWJUMPING



Always a great day out, and this year there was also a showing ring. HDRC members often take part in these events so look out for us!

The Wednesday Competitions are now in full swing; action starts at 4.30 p.m. so pop along and maybe have your late meal there for a change? There are classes for all standards and its not just for people with their own steeds, as you can easily hire a Littlebourne horse and take part.

MAY 21 JUMPING CLINIC - LITTLEBOURNE



Nick, Charlotte, Laura, Tracy, Ellie and Judy all took part in this event.

We want to give many thanks to Caroline for taking the class, and for her fabulous tuition, which was both informative for the riders and enjoyable for our spectators.

Nick sent us this report...

I enjoyed this event very much and we were very lucky to have Caroline teaching us; she is very good at assessing the horses and riders and giving very helpful comments so that improvements can be quickly made.

It was great to have Alex helping as well.

I rode Wallis, who really cantered around the arena and popped straight over the single jump, but he was so fast it was difficult to turn him once the other jumps were introduced to make a course.

So Caroline asked Alex to ride him for a while to calm him down whilst I watched, then I changed onto James and started working in on him in the other arena with Alex before joining the rest of the class.

James and I really enjoyed the jumping, and I thought the clinic was wonderful and really informative.

Everyone who took part really enjoyed themselves, and we also had some spectators, including Louise and Alison, who also said it was very enjoyable to watch.

AND WHAT'S NEXT **OUR JUNE COMPETITION**

will be:

Style (Equitation) Jumping

This is on **18 June** at 4 pm, and its the event where riders come in, salute, canter figures on both reins, and then canter sedately over a course of show jumps.

After the final jump they return to the circle to canter on both reins once more. Full details next time, or come watch!

Our annual Group Hack in the New Forest will be in July. Non-riders are always welcome to join in afterwards for lunch at a local inn and we are delighted so many do this.

We had an invite recently to try our hands at carriage driving. As its at the end of June a report will appear next time.

HORSE SENSE.....

You probably know that at lots of major events tack and rider equipment is checked for safety. The latest checks involve riding hats; what they are looking for now is the British Standards Kitemark, as cheaper hats have recently been coming in from overseas without this logo and the associated safety features. So when you next buy a hat do check it carries a kitemark.

.....OR NOT HORSE SENSE

Many thanks to Des who sent us an email recently all about a man in Wales. Apparently this man just walked into a railway station with a small white pony on a lead rope, and tried to get on board a train with him!

If you didn't hear this amazing story, then it, and CCTV images, can be viewed at:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-13437279>

HORSE TALES

Louise popped up to the Chiltern Open Air Museum recently to have a look at their Working Horse weekend.

She reports there were some really lovely horses taking part, including these...



She also spotted there's another heavy horse show on June the 19th.

Actually the museum is a great place, with some super old buildings that have been rescued from demolition and re-erected on this huge site.

And its not too far away if you want a weekend drive.

Check www.coam.org.uk for more info plus all the dates when events are scheduled – but we think the highlights are:

11 & 12 June

Dig For Victory

1 & 2 October

A traditional Harvest Festival

Friday 28 October

Hallowe`en Spectacular (6- 9 pm)

19 November

Grand Annual Charity Auction

SULTAN'S HYMN

A spot of poetry by Ellie

To be sung to the tune of 'Plough the Fields & Scatter'

We eat our hay and scatter
Our droppings in our bed,
Then mum comes here to
groom us

And make sure we are fed.

The sunshine in the
springtime,

The soft refreshing rain,
It keeps the grass a-growing,
So turn us out again.

All good things around us,
Are ours by right of course
So feed us now, oh feed us
now,

Or turn us out at once.

We eat our breakfast early
And out we go to graze,
Then in again for lunchtime,
A snooze and then our hays.
Then mum comes up to feed
us

But she expects a hack,
We'll dawdle out, we'll gallop
back,

It's time now for a snack.

All good things around us
Are ours by right we say,
So feed us now, oh feed us
now

And then bring us our hay.

BITS AND BYTES

Our regular browse through the equine internet has found:

www.rescueapet.co.uk; this is really good and includes horses looking for homes! If you are not online, or prefer a slow, dipping read, local vets have magazines.

Don't forget to keep checking www.horseshelpheroes.co.uk – the replica WW1 ambulance starts from Lands End in mid June. Sadly the closest they get to us is Gloucester, but you can donate £5 just by texting HORSE to 70900 – and follow the trip on www.emagin.org.

And finally...its time for

A FORAGE IN THE ARCHIVES

10 years ago – it was May 2001 – and here are some of the highlights from that year that you may have forgotten about.

I'm sure you know Littlebourne's "Bob The Cob", but did you remember a "Bob the Cob" who hit the headlines when rescued by The International League for the Protection of Horses. The super little piebald captured the nation's hearts, and in May 2001 it was announced he would be immortalised by Julip, with part of the proceeds from the sale of his figure benefitting the ILPH. Now if you were a child in the 70s or 80s I am sure you remember Julip toys – rubbery horses with proper tack, (their mouths even opened to put the bits in) plus stable equipment, dogs, and riders.

Also in May 2001 came the astounding news that the Welsh Pony and Cob Society had reached its centenary. Yes, it really was founded in 1901....! I am sure most of us will have

fond recollections of at least one Welsh Cob or Pony – they are such great characters and seem to appear in all stable yards.

After the recent General Election the Ministry for Fishing Farming & Food (MAFF) was replaced by the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA – an acronym we are all familiar with today). Sadly, at the end of May, outbreaks of Foot and Mouth were still reported in the North of England. And in June it was reported the equestrian industry was losing at least £100,000,000 a week via show cancellations and stable closures.

25 years ago – it was 1986 and my Archives tell me there was no ridden event in May, but we had a team in the Pinnerwood Quiz – our competitors were Blenheim, Charville, Civil Service, Hyde Park, Northwood & Pinnerwood. Northwood won with a perfect 4.4 score, but we were second with 4.3 (hoorah!). Hyde Park and Pinnerwood tied on 4.0, Civil Service on 3.4, Charville on 3.3, and then Blenheim on 3.0. Not competing in that year were area stablemates B.B.C, Hounslow, Patchetts, RAF Benson, or Wandle.

On the 4th June was the 207th Epsom Derby. Walter Swinburn won on Shahrastani – with the favourites, Greville Starkey on Dancing Brave, coming second. Third place was "pin up boy" Steve Cauthen on Mashkour. Now at this point I suddenly remember a friend who didn't like horses at all, but still had a poster of Steve Cauthen on her bedroom wall. And I am pretty sure there were two American "pin up" jockeys at the time but I can't remember the other – can you?

On **June 22nd** eighteen HDRC members gathered at Suzanne's for a **Dressage Test** for the Clayton Cup.

Thirteen of these rode school horses and five brought their own. Oddly Jane W appears in my records in both classes – anyone remember why?

Now sadly I don't have any records of the horses used, but I do have a note of the course (it was BHS No.9), and of the results which were

"SCHOOL HORSE CLASS"

FIRST PLACE – Debbie M

Second place – Jonathan I

Third Place – Pat B

Fourth Place – Trish L

Fifth Place – Bob R

And on one point were: Ann A, Jean B, Evelyn E, Pauline J-O, Tricia K, Debbie P, Claire R, and Jane W

"LIVERY CLASS"

FIRST PLACE – John H

Second place – Barbara B

Third Place – Midge H

Fourth Place – Debbie W

Fifth Place – Jane W

The overall winner was **Livery rider John H**, riding **Owen**. He had waited a while to win the Clayton again – ever since his previous victory in 1982 - and in doing so he would thwart the third consecutive victory plans of Barbara B, who had won the Clayton in 1984 and 1985.

Well folks, afraid that's it for another edition. But don't worry, our next one is due out in late July.....

Happy riding, till then, from all of us at HDRC