



South Wilts Riding Club Newsletter

www.southwiltsridingclub.org.uk

January 2009

Chairman's Report

A very happy new year to everyone. My wish is for SWRC to continue going from strength to strength in all its aims and for 2009 and to be a DRIER and SUNNIER year (snow falling heavily as I finish this letter!)

The coming year promises to be busy. At Area level we start with a team going to the Novice Indoor SJ at Crofton Manor on 15 February, then get going at full speed with the "Cross Country" Qualifier which we are organising again in April at Rockbourne. There will be some **major** changes to the format of this qualifying competition and you can find more about that plus other area and club dates on other pages. We now have provisional dates for our own summer competitions to be run at Warminster Saddle Club, and will get details out nearer the time.

A new programme of instruction is under way and includes gridwork with Di Burgess and flatwork and jumping from 2 instructors new to the club : Tracey Crutcher whose individual flatwork sessions are almost a "sellout" and Lisa Kimber who provides our Jumping for Fun instruction - which is living up to its name. Our grateful thanks go to Lisa for allowing us to use her indoor school for instruction and training (what a bonus in the current weather!) and also to Zoe Gregory for our continuing use of the lovely outdoor arena at Manor Farm. To complement [Jumping for Fun](#) we start some [Dressage Demystified](#) sessions in early March for anyone who has never had a go at dressage but would like to find out where to start. I'm delighted that our former chairman, Sally Oliver, has agreed to take these sessions. We shall also add specialist training sessions for those wishing to be in teams. Keep an eye on the website for details.

My thanks to Mary Corrie and her team for organising a super [Mulled Wine Ride](#) in early December. The weather couldn't have been kinder and two groups set off through the glorious countryside around Teffont, finishing back at Farmer Giles for delicious mince pies and mulled wine. Numbers were a little disappointing, but we were still able to send a small donation to the Wiltshire Air Ambulance.

So, that's the update for the moment. Please, please don't hesitate to get in touch if there is anything else you would like to see on the programme - for example, do you know of any good demos or lectures that could be included, or any bridleway routes that would lend themselves to an informal fun/pub ride?

Best wishes to everyone,

Judy

Welcome

to new members who have joined since the last newsletter: Maxine Crook from Upton Scudamore, Dawn Slater-Bosley from Salisbury Rebecca Sebag-Montefiore from Dinton, Jenny Nicholson from Teffont Magna, Kathy Friday from West Knoyle and Susie Smith from Winterbourne Stoke

Congratulations

to Zoe and Grant on the birth of their daughter Lottie. We look forward to enrolling her as a junior member very soon!



Changes to Festival of the Hunter (FOH) 2009

Just before Christmas we received information from our BRC Area Rep about major changes to the format of the Cross Country (formerly Hunter Trials). The BRC competitions committee has decided to replace Cross Country with a new competition for the 2009 FOH championships in May. It will be called the FOH Challenge. Although most clubs are less than happy about changing the format half way through the qualifying year (some Areas have already run their qualifiers under the old format), SWRC committee has taken the view that, if the BRC decision can't be reversed or at least postponed until 2010, we should adopt this new competition format for the Area qualifier at Rockbourne in April. It will at least give riders the opportunity to try out the format before the championships. I am fully aware that these changes replace a single discipline competition (XC) with a combined discipline (SJ + XC) and what that means for those with horses that are XC enthusiasts but not so keen on SJ. However, there will others who see this as an exciting new competition, and we are therefore determined to do everything we can to make a success of this event. Below is an outline of the changes and information about two additional new championship classes for this year (Festival of the Hunter Combined Competition)



From BRC

"At the 2009 Festival of the Hunter there will be two new competitions: the Festival of the Hunter Challenge, which is replacing the Cross Country competition (the old Hunter Trials) and the Festival of the Hunter Combined Competition.

The Festival of the Hunter Challenge

This competition has been introduced following the comments we have received from members concerning the old style Hunter Trials and the Cross Country format which replaced it, where the test of skill was no longer available and all placings were determined solely on optimum times – at the championships this often involved differences of just hundredths of a second.

It will be a test of the ability of a horse and rider to negotiate a show jumping course together with piece of hunting country well, at a fair hunting pace.

There will be four Challenge classes:

- 1 Junior Novice & Open - for teams of four riders and individuals*
- 2 Junior Pairs*
- 3 Senior Novice and Open - for teams of four riders and individuals*
- 4 Senior Pairs*

The course will consist of 7 - 10 show jumps followed by 8 – 15 cross-country fences, which may include up to 3 dressing fences in the Junior and Senior Pairs Championships (this will be optional at Area).

The Festival of the Hunter Combined Competition

This is a new competition which has been introduced to offer an optional extra class at the Championship venue, one class for Junior riders and one for Senior riders. The competition consists of two phases, Riding Test (RT7 - 2007) and Style Jumping which must be taken in that order. The same horse and rider must complete both phases and elimination from one phase will result in elimination from the competition.

There will be no Area qualifiers for this competition; all entries are to be made direct to the BRC Office via club secretaries."

Details of the rules for these two competitions should shortly be available on the BRC website, and I will also post on the SWRC website. We shall also arrange training day for those who wish to be considered for teams.

**Exciting New Qualifiers and Championships for
British Riding Clubs
AmTrust Equine Insurance :: Royal Windsor Horse Show**

Unaffiliated Show Jumping and Riding Test Championships 2009

These new Official Competitions are aimed squarely at individual "grass roots" riders, under the auspices of British Riding Clubs (BRC) and the organisers of the Royal Windsor Horse Show (RWHS) with the backing of AmTrust Equine Insurance. This will be the first of several seasons and arrangements for the championships will be subject to continuing development. In 2009 there will be six competitions:

.Junior Riding Test
Senior Riding Test
Junior Novice Jumping
Senior Novice Jumping
Junior Intermediate Jumping
Senior Intermediate Jumping

Each will have four phases:

Club qualifier (local round)
Area qualifier (regional round)
RWHS Final
RWHS Championship

There will be attractive prizes in kind and memorabilia for the winners at Royal Windsor and in addition, the six champions will be invited back to Windsor for additional presentations at the European International Championships in August.

These competitions are open to all BRC members, and will involve Topscore SJ and BRC Riding Tests. I have a fairly comprehensive competitor's pack which I can send or e-mail to you if you are interested, and will also post details on the Area 17 page of the SWRC website, together with schedules when available. JN.

Chilworth RC will host a **Round 2 qualifier for the Riding Test**
at the club's Spring Dressage Competition
on Good Friday 10 April at Crofton Manor EC.

New Forest Pony Enthusiasts will host the Round 2 qualifier for the **Top Score qualifier**
at a Show Jumping Competition that they are running
on 4 April at Sparsholt College.

Flatwork Instruction with Tracey Crutcher

I've always found that riding instructors are a bit like a hairdresser or a dentist! You shop around to find one that suits you and that you can place your faith in. You spend time building a relationship with them and then when you lose them, for whatever reason, momentarily your world falls apart as you start the precarious business of finding a new one to fill their place. This happened to me recently when Jo Fairclough sadly, for us, relocated out of this area. Jo had been helping me persuade my much loved horse that dressage wasn't just for duty whereas jumping was definitely for fun and had helped us raise our game so that we could complete a novice test and even contemplate an elementary.

Luckily at about the same time, Tass Richardson, started to organize some lessons for club members with Tracey Crutcher at Little Wishford Farm just outside Stapleford. Tracey, famous for her dressage coaching and her highly successful daughter in the world of dressage, seemed a bit too high powered for us. However, I had booked into a dressage competition at West Wilts the following week and had always found club-organised instruction to be valuable – so I went along. Tracey was wonderful. She was all smiles and quickly assessed us both homing in on the bits we did well and asking us to do more. I came away thinking I had learned something and with some clear exercises to work on before we met again. The next time we met she commented on the progress we had made and began to push us further. Tracey has an amazing ability to spot the, apparently, small point that seems to be getting in the way of progress that once corrected makes a big difference to performance. I was always conscious that May Deane would fall out through his right shoulder on the left rein unless I kept tremendous control of the outside rein. "No!" said Tracey, "it's his left rib cage leaning imperceptibly on your left leg. Move it off and you'll sort the problem" And she was right! We've now just had our third lesson and I'm still feeling the same level of progress after each session. At the risk of sounding like an advert for Tracey, I would recommend her to any club member who is interested in improving their flatwork with their horse. Tracey works with you as a team and has an easy ability to understand your current level of riding, and I think it's because she is so clever at recognizing and helping you celebrate the things you do well that you can't help but come away having learned something as well as having had a good time!

Mary Corrie

13 January 2009

*Is there anyone else who would like to share their views on a particular Riding Club activity? Just e-mail me your copy.
(judy.nathan@yahoo.co.uk)*

Dates for the Diary

Sat 31 January	Individual Flatwork with Tracey Crutcher	Little Wishford
Sun 15 February	Q Novice Indoor SJ	Crofton Manor
Thurs 19 February	Group Flatwork and Gridwork with Di Burgess	Manor Farm
Fri 20 February	Jumping for Fun with Lisa Kimber	Little Wishford
Sat 21 February	Individual Flatwork with Tracey Crutcher	Little Wishford
Sat 7 March	Dressage Demystified with Sally Oliver	TBC
W'end 28/29 March	C Winter Dressage /Novice Indoor SJ	Hartpury College
Sat 4 April	Q SJ Topscore	Sparsholt EC
Fri 10 April	Q Riding Test	Crofton Manor EC
Sun 19 April	Q Festival of the Hunter Challenge	Rockbourne
Thurs-Fri 14-17 May	C SJ Topscore / Riding Test	Royal Windsor Horse Show
W'end 30/31 May	C Festival of the Hunter	Aston le Walls
Sun 14 June	*SWRC Combined Training	Warminster SC
Sun 21 June	Q Show Jumping	Pinkmeads Farm, Botley
Tues 30 June	*SWRC Evening Combined Training	Warminster SC
Sun 5 July	Q Horse Trials	Larkhill
Sun 19 July	Q Dressage	Moreton
Thurs 23 July	*SWRC Evening Combined Training	Warminster SC
7/8/9/August	C Horse Trials	Offchurch
Sun 6 September	*SWRC Combined Training	Warminster SC
W'end 12/13 September	C SJ and Dressage	Lincoln

Area 17 Qualifiers and Championships
 Royal Windsor HS Qualifiers and Championships
 SWRC instruction and competitions (*provisional dates)

*Please keep an eye on the website as we add further SWRC instruction and competition dates.
 If you don't have access to the web, please let me know and I'll try to keep you regularly updated on
 any new events (Judy 01963 31742)*

Team Entry Contributions 2009

Members who represent the Club at qualifying events will be asked to contribute towards their entries as follows: Dressage and Show Jumping £15; FOH challenge £20; Horse Trials £30



Hope the weather has improved by the time you read this!!

Committee 2008/2009

Chairman: Judy Nathan 01963 31742
Membership Secretary /Treasurer : Sally Grant 01980 620320 **Minutes Secretary:** Tass Richardson 01985 844031
Teams : Mads Southey 01980 621068 **Publicity:** Sophie Clotworthy 01722 716059
Merchandise: Debbie Carroll 01985 841092