



South Wilts Riding Club Newsletter

www.southwiltsridingclub.org.uk

May 2009

Chairman's Report

My apologies for such a long period of silence since the last newsletter. The last couple of months has been frenetic with preparations for the Area 17 Festival of the Hunter Qualifier in April. I'm happy and relieved to say that, despite all anxieties about the new combined show jumping and cross country format, the day was a huge success. We had a night on perfect day, over 200 entries and a very enjoyable competition. We even finished five minutes early! My sincere thanks to all those who gave so much help both before and on the day of the event - what a brilliant team!

The best news is that our junior pair, Charlotte Perrott and Chloe Poolman, won their class in great style and have qualified to represent the club at the National Championships at the end of the month. Congratulations to both of them, and we wish them well at Aston Le Walls. In the Senior Novice Class, our Blue team (Dawn Slater-Bosley, Geoffrey Davies, Donna Boyd and Zoe Gregory) deserve congratulations for finishing fourth out of 14 teams, as does Geoffrey Davis who was 6th in the individual placings.

The single disappointment of the day was the non-arrival of the photographer, so with the exception of two super photos taken by Ellie-May Hart's sister, we have no other record of the day. If anyone has any photos of the day that they would be happy to see in the next newsletter or on the web, please send them to me.

Further congratulations go to Sophie Clotworthy who won the new Topscore SJ qualifier, which qualified her for the Championship at the Royal Windsor Horse Show. Sadly, her work commitments prevent her from going, so she has had to cede her place to the runner up. Congratulations also to our Novice Indoor SJ team who came 4th at the Area Qualifier in February.

I am very conscious that the huge effort needed to make the Rockbourne event a success has taken attention away from other club activities, so I'm keen to get going again as quickly as possible, with Jumping for Fun and Dressage Demystified, together with some specific cross country, dressage and show jumping training for those who would like to be in teams this summer. Full details are on page 4 and on the website.

Our own dressage and combined training competitions start on 14 June at Warminster and I enclose a schedule. Also enclosed is a helper's form, so if you are not competing, your help would be very much welcomed. We can't run any of these events without a band of enthusiastic helpers, so PLEASE, PLEASE volunteer if possible.

One special date for your diary - we have booked Camilla Brogaard to give an evening demonstration of Dressage to Music and to work with a few invited "guinea pigs". There will also be a BBQ. More details to follow, but put Friday 3rd July in diaries now.

All this should keep us busy through the summer. I hope you all enjoy the coming months and wish you and your horse success in whatever you undertake.

With very best wishes,

Judy



Zoe Gregory and
Ellie-May Hart clear the
first fence in the SJ
phase of the Festival of
the Hunter Challenge
at Rockbourne



Topscore – Top Fun

On Saturday 4th April The New Forest Pony Enthusiasts (NFPE) held the Area 17 Royal Windsor Horse Show Topscore Qualifier at Sparsholt Equine Centre. This is a new competition for 2009 and is aimed at “grass roots” riders.

The course consisted of 12 obstacles each of which was capable of being jumped in both directions. Fences were built to differing heights and each carried a points value, increasing with the height of the fence, ranging from **20 to 120**. There was also a Joker fence worth **200** points. The heights of the fences were:

	20 points fence	120 points fence	Joker (200)
Novice	2' 0"	2' 9"	3' 0"
Intermediate	2' 6"	3' 3"	3' 9"

The idea of the competition is to build up as many points as you can in the 60 seconds allowed, by jumping as many jumps as you can. The Joker fence is the highest fence on the course and worth 200 points but if you knock it down then you loose 200 points off your score. If you knock down the other fences you don't get any points deducted from your score but you just don't get any points for that fence. All the fences can be jumped twice including the Joker. There is no set course so it is a case of designing your own course which involves more brain power than you initially think?! – so no partying the night before !!

I was competing in the Novice Topscore Qualifier on Tass Richardson's horse Diamond Chance (or Barney to his friends). Luckily the Novice Junior Topscore was the class before us and were jumping over the same fences (just a few holes lower than we would be jumping) so I was able to watch the class and try and formulate a route of some description! This proved to be a good plan as when the drawn order was called I was third to go.

My game plan was to start my course by jumping the fences with the highest points and the joker twice to accumulate as many points as possible early on and then to start jumping the smaller fences until my time ran out. Its amazing how long 60 seconds is when you have to design your own course, jump at a jump-off speed and try to remember which fences you have and haven't jumped and how many times! But eventually the bell rang to say my time was up and I rushed across the finish line.



Just one more, Barney pleeease!

At the end of the class all the scores were read out, Barney and I had managed to accumulate the joint highest number of points but were quickest across the finish line after the bell had gone to say the 60 seconds were up – so we **WON** ! Both Tass and I were over the moon and a little bit surprised

as there were some real speed merchants in the class. It does however go to show that if you keep a good rhythm during your round whilst keeping your turns tight and balanced you can give even the speediest of merchants a run for their money.

Winning meant we qualified for the finals at the Royal Windsor Horse Show on Friday 15th May. This would have been the most amazing experience for owner, rider and horse but unfortunately due to work commitments I am not able to get the time off work, so the qualifying place has been passed down to the second placed competitor – the joys of having to earn a living to support the rather expensive hobby which involves our four legged friends!

I would highly recommend the competition to everyone in SWRC who enjoys show jumping as it was such good fun, and it would be lovely to see more SWRC faces competing at the qualifier in 2010. It is such a wonderful opportunity to compete at the Royal Windsor Horse Show in its wonderful setting. Top score – top fun!

Sophie



**Area 17 Novice Indoor Show Jumping Qualifier
at Crofton EC - 15 February 2009**

L to R:

Roy Southey and Olivers Twist, Sophie Clotworthy and Diamond Chance, Heidi Poole and Dark Angel, Mary Corrie and Maydeane line up to receive their rosettes.

Welcome

to new members who have joined since the last newsletter: Philippa Thatcher from Sutton Mandeville, Camilla Halski from Salisbury, Chloe Poolman from Warminster, Claire Lester from Amesbury, Alice Sherry from Salisbury and Debbie Tibble (sorry, Debbie, I haven't yet received your address JN)

Congratulations

to Debbie Carroll who has just been appointed Yard Manager at Warminster Saddle Club. We wish her every success in her new job.

Dates for the Diary

As at 08/05/09

*Mon 11 May (e)	Dressage Demystified with Sally Oliver (JN)	Little Wishford Farm
Thurs 14 May	Gridwork and Flatwork with Di Burgess (JN)	Manor Farm
Th-Sun 14-17 May	Ch Topscore SJ / Riding Test	Royal Windsor Horse Show
*Sat 16 May	Dressage Demystified with Sally Oliver (JN)	Little Wishford Farm
Tues 19 May (e)	Jumping for Fun with Lisa Kimber (JN)	Little Wishford Farm
Wed 27 May (e)	SJ Team Training (LK)	Little Wishford Farm
W'end 30/31 May	Ch Festival of the Hunter	Aston le Walls
Sat 6 June	SJ Team Training (LK)	Little Wishford Farm
*Thurs 11 June	Gridwork and Flatwork with Di Burgess (JN)	Manor Farm
Sun 14 June	SWRC Dressage and Combined Training (JN)	Warminster SC
Tues 16 June	Jumping for Fun with Lisa Kimber (JN)	Little Wishford Farm
Sun 21 June	Q Show Jumping	Pinkmeads Farm, Botley
Tues 30 June	SWRC Evening Dressage and CT (JN)	Warminster SC
Fri 3 July	Camilla Brogaard Demonstration + BBQ (LK)	Little Wishford Farm
Sun 5 July	Q Horse Trials	Larkhill
Sun 19 July	Q Dressage	Moreton
Thurs 23 July	SWRC Evening Dressage and CT (JN)	Warminster SC
7/8/9/August	Ch Horse Trials	Offchurch
Sun 6 September	SWRC Dressage and Combined Training (JN)	Warminster SC
W'end 12/13 Sept	Ch SJ and Dressage	Lincoln

We are waiting for Tracey Crutcher to give some new dates for Dressage Instruction

SWRC instruction and competitions

(*provisional dates - check with organiser, (e) = evenings)

Area 17 Qualifiers and Championships

Royal Windsor HS Qualifiers and Championships

Organisers: (LK) Lisa Kimber 07595 629737 (JN) Judy Nathan 01963 31742/ 07739 801621
(TR) Tass Richardson 01985 844031/07715 664746

Please keep an eye on the website for any changes or additions.

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

Debbie Carroll 01985 841092

Lisa Kimber 07595 629737