

## Newsletter: June 2017

### **WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS:**

*Gemma Evans, Lesley Campbell, Sam McKewan, Sophie Ruffer, John Rickard*

### **HOT HOT HOT!**

Tricky little weather spell we've been having – from no heat, to heatwave and back again. I'm useless in the heat, and my pony doesn't like it much either, so I can't believe how well those of you competing at Moreton for the Horse Trials coped!! What amazing ponies and riders in what must have been 30 degrees - HUGE well dones. Full report from Sharon over the page... There's been lots in the press too about how best to cool off a hot horse – to scrape or not to scrape? As usual, even the social media debate gets rather heated! Anyway, I hope you are enjoying the sunshine – stay cool people!

*Pippa Griffin*



Georgina Marks insists this was for the jump judge at our Arena Eventing competition, not her (Mmmm). Well done G – great event! (details over)

### **DON'T FORGET**

- Online dressage competition – entry deadline has been extended to July 15<sup>th</sup>!
- Volunteer to ride in the Dressage to Music qualifier being held at the end of July
- If you've booked a place on our residential Holiday at Wellington Riding Tuesday-Friday 18-22 September 2017, please make sure you've paid!

## MEON COMPETITIONS: OPEN ARENA EVENTING, SUNDAY 4<sup>th</sup> JUNE

Well wasn't she amazing! If any of you watched Margaret and Princess in action, didn't it just make you want to have a go too. I loved watching them both, they were a total inspiration, whizzing around that course like teenagers! *More over the page...*

Margaret and Princess were the undisputed stars of the show:  
amazing riding, amazing partnership, huge congratulations



"I would like to thank everyone for their very kind comments about Princess. Also to thank the Committee, all helpers and for such a challenging and thought-provoking course that only produce five clear rounds in the four classes. Also a very friendly atmosphere prevailed, as always, and that the new members and other competitors were made most welcome. All in all a very successful day with even the weather obliging!! Big Thanks to one and all!!" *Margaret Hird*

## MEON COMPETITIONS: OPEN ARENA EVENTING, SUNDAY 4<sup>th</sup> JUNE

So here's the thing. Knowing that I will need to write a report on this fabulous event, many of you will have seen me pen in hand, noting down fabulous performances and getting quotes off lovely newbie members (that's you Laura Newnham) about how fab their day was and how wonderfully friendly everyone was and how the course was ACEEEEE – and then I also wrote down all the names of all the volunteers and wrote "WOW" against Womble the super pony and "WOO HOOO" against Olivia riding Elsbeth's Vinny and doing brilliantly and winning at least one blue one, and I remember writing "WHAT A COURSE" against the notes because it asked riders and horses to think and prepare and look and turn and ride ride ride and then guess what? I've lost all my notes. So now I'm having to rely on memory – which a month later, is rather tricky so you have to go with what stuck in your mind don't you! So here's what struck me most:

- Wow there are some cracking young riders who simply **MUST** join Meon when they have their 18<sup>th</sup> birthdays – to name just a few: Jessica Wilson, Lydia le Brocq, Olivia Debono, Ella Mitchell on the amazing Womble – we want you!
- Wow there are some cracking riders and horses in the club too – Chris Doherty you were fantastic, Adele Shaw and Anne Evans - you did some great riding and Ruth Evans – your daughter looked fab on The Ritz too!
- It was super to see some newer members out at a Meon competition for the first time – Jenny Day – Hugo is lush and Laura Newnham - Kalbin - just fabulous!
- Thanks to FEI judge and BHSI Donald Kear who set the course up for the pony club the week before and with tweaks together with Georgina made it an absolute corker for the Riding Club
- Georgina Marks – you are **AMAZING** – thank you for organising such a brilliant event. Thank you Andrea for spending all day in the back of the lorry!
- Thank you all helpers who picked poles, made me lots of tea, dabbed suncream, smiled a lot. You are all amazing! *Pippa Griffin*





## MEON COMPETITIONS: OPEN ARENA EVENTING, SUNDAY 4<sup>th</sup> JUNE

When one has lost one's notes, the best thing is to show more pictures....



Olivia and Vinny, Adele and Coco,  
Kim Bakker and Peterman, Laura Newnham and Kalbin

## **BRC COMPETITIONS: HORSE TRIALS QUALIFIER AT MORETON EC, NR DORCHESTER SUNDAY 18 JUNE** *Report by Sharon Veal*

“A call was put out for volunteers for the Horse trials team. Should I put my name forward!!

### **I am not ready!**

Blow it I will never be ready. My name went down. I was asked to be an individual so the pressure was off. **Hooray**. I work well under pressure so I went about booking training. Although I was terrified, I so wanted to be wearing Meon colours again after a break.

Barbara had helped me with my dressage and was a huge support.

The two-day Meon camp at Fair Oak was brilliant with Cheryl as my instructor helping me to be positive and attack the XC fences. Look up!

The **day before** the Horse trials arrived I went down to Moreton with Diane and Nicky to walk the XC course. With their help and support we talked through the best route etc. I tried to be brave! So much to get ready: cleaning tack, passport, clothes, fuel, maps, directions, and the list seemed endless.

I did not sleep very well the Saturday night. Sunday morning arrived. Ok off we go my sister and me for my adventure.

My three disciplines were very close together and the heat was raging.

### **Help!**

Where is Rachel Chubb's lorry with my numnah and XC colours? The green one over there I was told. Can't find them? I am rooting around and a rider comes trotting towards me. I am in the wrong lorry. I explained the situation obviously wrong lorry! Very embarrassing.

Right off to **Dressage**. Warm up super. Test different. 33.8 I can't believe it.

### **Amazing.**

**Jumping**. Gave myself a right talking to. Ride forward. Ride forward. I actually went clear. I am now uncontrollable. On cloud nine. Excited is not the word.

**XC** - I don't think I can do this. So **nervous** don't think I can even get over the first one. Stupid to even think I can do this.

Off we **flew**. Ride Sharon, ride and get over the first jump. **I rode for my life**. Just rode harder at the ones I was frightened of. I got one stop and re presented my horse and over he went. I completed the course. Over the last jump.

### **I did it. I did it.**

Right stop. Get off I feel I am going to die from the heat. Take off hat, body protector, gloves, the heat was unbearable. I was overjoyed at what I had achieved. Drank a bottle of water straight down. A few minutes later I was told I hadn't gone over the finish line! I was eliminated. I could have been of been placed but never mind. I was very pleased with myself and of course my wonderful genuine horse.

If I can do it so can you ladies. **Feel the fear and do it anyway.**”

## BRC COMPETITIONS: HORSE TRIALS QUALIFIER AT MORETON EC, NR DORCHESTER SUNDAY 18 JUNE

*In case you missed these on our  
Facebook page...*

“Had an amazing day at Moreton Horse trials BRC qualifier. Up at 5am just as sun was rising, and a lovely drive down with little traffic courtesy of a wonderfully kind Lesley who gave us a lift in her lorry and was a superb groom! Ok dressage test (27.8) on a rough and stony arena, one pole down in SJ and pilot error in the XC which cost us lots of time penalties (26.8). A very, very hot day but great fun in such lovely company and fab team spirit. Team came 3rd - they all did brilliantly. Hattie was a saint and just a tad fed up on the way home, but we were all tired, hot and sticky by then”.

*Diane Williams*



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“So so proud of my little horsey today. Really pleased to get 26 in a horrible stony arena, clear (and calm!!!!) showjumping and lovely clear cross country with 12 time faults. I didn't want to push him too fast today due to the ridiculous heat, the ground and the steep downhill. Was a shame though as I was leading after the showjumping so it knocked me down 5 places! Huge well done to everyone else today as well, great team spirit as per usual and brilliant riders and ponies.

Well done team 3rd Diane Williams, Nicki Whiddett and Rachel Chubb (well done on your ind 6th as well!). But especially well done to Sharon Veal, I could tell how nervous you were today and you did absolutely amazingly well! Thank you so much to Ruth Evans as well for being a fab team manager and also for collecting our rosettes. I hope ritz continued to behave himself and that you and Margaret weren't stuck there too long! What a fab club to be part of.” *Oonagh McGibbon*



## MEON RC EVENTS: 2-DAY CLINIC, 5/6 JUNE, FAIR OAK



### *Report by Penny Briggs*

Clearly this change of venue from Lower Peake to Fair Oak and change of format from three days to two were popular choices as the clinic was a sell-out pretty quickly with 20 riders split very cleverly into four groups by Barbara Wood, who took over the donkey work from me when I got ill. We also had a slight variation with instruction: tried and tested favourites, Elaine Wilson and Cheryl Bezants were there but we imported two new faces: Ingrid Dziejdzic and Roland Bellido. This all in response to requests from members at our social/AGM where requests were made for some changes of face and reduction to two days so we do listen!

We also asked for feedback at the end of the clinic and have taken on board some helpful suggestions. One or two riders missed the Lower Peake arena and the lovely big room where we could socialise for lunch, but we could have used a huge garage at Fair Oak, the downside being some way off from horses and people sometimes not happy to leave horses over lunch though this was also true of Lower Peake. The really big bonus was the huge range of XC fences. We did have the use of an outdoor arena but this was not popular as surface was not great (noted for next time). Fortunately the ground was adequate to do a fair amount on grass. We were also allowed the use of the indoor school, given by Piers Fox-Andrews to his wife as a 40<sup>th</sup> birthday present (husbands/partners please take note) In the event this was only used on day two by Roland's group in a bid to get out of the raging winds and threat of heavy rain. Day one, the sun shone and lunchtime apparently saw most riders sitting in a circle with Tiff Christer's baba in the centre. This was reported to me so I assume true! (*continues over...*)

## MEON RC EVENTS: 2-DAY CLINIC, 5/6 JUNE, FAIR OAK

After all her hard work, it was a real shame that the only drop out from the 20 was Barbara Wood so I was tasked with the meet and greet of riders and instructors on day one as poor Barbara could hardly hobble following a fall some days earlier. I could really only stagger too so was hugely grateful to Cinda Suter for taking me on Monday where she deftly did refreshments for Elaine and co and then dealt out water and biscuits to riders in the morning break.

On Tuesday, Kate Latchem kindly took me down for the first part and then my husband Bill came along for the biscuit side and helped lay out the excellent lunch for instructors and helpers such as me, kindly organised by Elsbeth Jeffery and much appreciated by all of us. We had lunch in the green wagon kept at Fair Oak but I did think we might achieve lift off on Tuesday in 40mph winds! It was a very challenging day for everyone weatherwise and really exhausting for instructors, a major problem was that show jumps would not stay up.

I loved the opportunity of being there so much - meeting new members and some horses new to members. The feedback was really useful, especially the suggestion to change the timing of lunch a bit to even up a bit the lengths of am and pm sessions, also to ensure corners, skinnies and arrowheads are flagged in future as some could not be jumped, instructors feeling it was not beneficial to school over them unflagged. Our new instructors were very well liked, especially Roland who lives near Christchurch and he freelances in our general area

There was some interest in booking him for other Meon training, so we will see. A number of us had lessons at Wellington with him on our annual holiday. He was a senior instructor there for nine years. The instructors really enjoyed the two days and found the riders very enthusiastic. Roland has said he would be glad to come again and so, I am sure, would the others. Before I got ill, I had it in mind to run a further single day in the autumn but don't feel up to it this year so watch this space in 2018!





## MEON RC EVENTS: 2-DAY CLINIC, 5/6 JUNE, FAIR OAK

Corinne Staples and Gem

### *Report by Corinne Staples*

I was excited, but really rather nervous about my first ever MRC event. I haven't had my horse Gem very long, and we have only done xcountry once before! Fair Oak in Rogate is a lovely setting, and we arrived in good time and the weather was really quite nice to ride in, not too hot, so things started off well. I was introduced to Cheryl my instructor and three other ladies in my group, Sharon, Ony and Jenny. We headed straight out onto the xcountry and although I started off choosing the smaller fences to jump, I soon moved to the middle-sized fences, and was especially pleased to get through the coffin, not just once but three times. We were late back for lunch but after washing down a sweaty Gem, there was still time to natter with the other groups over lunch. In the afternoon we had flatwork which was rather unexciting but a necessary evil. Ony did compliment my horse Gem's "self carriage" at the end of the session, so it must have gone well.



The next day I could hardly walk, I was so seized up! Overnight the weather had been atrocious but as we headed out onto the xcountry course it stopped raining and the sun even came out. I was very nervous again, as well as stiff, but the group was really supportive, and Cheryl was very insightful, and once again Gem and I managed everything in our path, including water, ditches, drops, combinations and my pet hate skinnies. In the afternoon we were meant to have showjumping but the wind was so strong all the jumps were flattened. Cheryl instead came up with a fancy gridwork including angled poles and super skinny bounces. Amazingly none of our horses were phased and we ended the camp all of us rather pleased with our clever horse, new found confidence, and improved riding techniques. I would like to thank all my group, and Cheryl especially, for their lovely attitudes to riding and very supportive comments. And of course Gem for being such a "cracking mare"

We're getting some great feedback from our XC training by the way, so if you haven't yet booked a slot – do it!!!

## CALL FOR TEAMS: BRC DRESSAGE TO MUSIC QUALIFIER, 29th JULY

### GET YOUR DANCING SHOES ON!

We need volunteers to ride in the teams for the Dressage to Music qualifier to be held at Moreton Equestrian Centre on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> July 2017.

- Dressage tests will be ridden on a surface
- The Championship takes place 29 September to 1 October 2017 at Bury Farm Equestrian Village.

Pairs	2 members
Individuals	Individuals in all classes
Competition	Senior Novice with 0 points Senior Novice with points Elementary Pick a Test: Medium or Advanced Medium
Horse & Rider Eligibility	Please refer to 2017 Dressage to Music Eligibility Rules document <a href="#">here</a>
Entry Fees	50% of Area entry fee to be paid by member amount: £7.50 Individual, £14 pairs. Club pays other 50%, plus Prelim Entry fee direct to BRC
Note	Anyone volunteering for the Qualifier must be free to go to the Championships

Please email [andrea.bishop1@btinternet.com](mailto:andrea.bishop1@btinternet.com) if you would like to be considered for this, giving details of recent competition experience.

All the information is on the Call for Teams page of our website, as well as Schedule and Eligibility Criteria.

Anyone interested in riding or helping out should Andrea Bishop ([andrea.bishop1@btinternet.com](mailto:andrea.bishop1@btinternet.com)) or phone: 07713351013.

**Go for it – put yourself forward – we’re always really supportive of anyone who wants to give being in a team a try!**

**FUTURE DATES:** All dates on the Calendar page of our website, but here's the summary:

**JULY onwards...**

- Sunday 9 July Show & Style Jumping Qualifiers at Bovington EC
  - 23<sup>rd</sup> July – BRC Area 17 Summer Dressage qualifier
  - 29<sup>th</sup> July – Dressage to Music BRC Area 17 Qualifier at Crofton
  - Fri-Sun 4-6 Aug Horse Trials Champs at Swalcliffe Park Sat
  - Sun 2/3 Sept National Champs Dr, RT and SJ at Lincoln
  - 18-22<sup>nd</sup> Sept – Residential holiday at Wellington
  - 29<sup>th</sup> Sept – 1 October – Dressage to Music and Quadrille BRC Champs, Bury Farm
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**Did you know?**

You can order Meon RC clothing online from Sew Equestrian? There is a whole range of items to order – all in our club colours – black and yellow! Just go to: [sewequestrian.com](http://sewequestrian.com) and go to Clubs and Teams to find the Meon range! Also – do let us know if you would like a Meon RC car sticker, pretty sure we have some left!

**NEXT TIME...**

Reports from Show and Style jumping, Summer Dressage and Dressage to Music qualifiers – **GOOD LUCK EVERYONE!**  
**Thank you everyone who has written things for this newsletter!**



Another  
FANTASTIC  
CAKE during  
the committee  
meetings – do  
join us!