

Newsletter: Autumn 2017

WELCOME TO ALL NEW MEMBERS: Hayley Kirby, Anika Boswell, Nicola Golding

Ride like the wind

As I write this the sun is a very strange and bright shade of red-orange and the whole light around my office has a sepia tint that is making the grass look unusually green and everything else look as if I am watching it on an old television where the colour-balance isn't quite right. Storm Ophelia is making her mark, even though we are miles from the 'eye' of the storm. How many of us remember the storms 30 years ago? I remember TV images of the trees of Cowdray Park being absolutely flattened but I don't remember what it sounded like or if I was afraid. Having ridden on the still beautiful Cowdray estate fun ride in the last couple of years, it is amazing how nature can both destroy and recover so fast – although if I'm saying 30 years is fast, perhaps I am showing my age! I quite like riding in the wind – it makes me conscious of those life-affirming intakes of breath, I love the sound, the freshness of it – and of course the enlivening effect on my steed! I went to watch the South Downs Bloodhounds training meet from East Meon the other week – watching horses and riders making the most of the beautiful Autumn countryside around them was just beautiful. The hounds duly ignored running hares tearing across the crops and kept to their human quarry – impressively undiverted by other scents on the wind that day. Talking of wind, have you heard about the art installation (called 'Cavalry 360') that mimics the sound of 500 galloping horses using wind turbines? Apparently 32 turbines have been installed as a circular 'musical instrument' at Chesters Roman Fort - desired to inspire people to think about the history of its location and the lives of the cavalymen and horses that inhabited it. Sounds (literally) fascinating – it's open until 5 November apparently. Stay safe in these blustery days unless you're in hunting mode, in which case – ride like the wind! *Pippa Griffin*



Cavalry 360 mimics the sound of 500 galloping horses



Meon committee member Shirley Medgett looking very smart at a recent SDB training meet

BRC COMPETITIONS: 90cm Eventers Challenge,
Blenheim, 14 September

“Just wanted to say what an absolute pleasure it was helping our team today. Four lovely happy calm super nice riders who all did really well as it was so slippery!” Elsbeth Jeffery

- Sarah Wilson did a beautiful clear round (0JF, 1.6 TF, 65 Style)
- Daniel rode Monty brilliantly as it was the 3rd time he'd ridden him! (12JF 37 TF, 67.5 style)
- Shirley (8JF 4TF, 73.5 Style)
- Margaret (24 JF, 0 TF, 72.5 Style)



Clockwise from top left: Shirley Medgett, Sarah Wilson, Margaret Hird, Daniel Searle

BRC COMPETITIONS: 90cm Eventers Challenge,
Blenheim, 14 September

Blenheim 90 Oscar Thank Yous

“Margaret and Princess would like to express their ‘Thank Yous’ for a Grand Day Out at Blenheim.

To Elsbeth for being such an impressive and calm Team Manager - She did not have an easy time with the ever changing Team Members prior to the event. So appreciation is extended to Sarah and Daniel for stepping in and of course to Shirley, for all being such great team friends.

To our helpers, grooms and Sherpas, Diane, Veronica, Mandy White who lent the ever reliable Simonty for Daniel to ride and to Rob, Shirley's husband.

To our photo and video "professionals" Diane, Sarah, Oonagh and Michelle for such fantastic coverage of the Team rounds.

To all the supporters for cheering us on in the gorgeous Meon Gold and Black Star colours. Sincere apologies for the unexpected XC refusal of 20 penalties from Princess. Blame the stupid old bat on board not her!! However achieved one of the few rounds inside the time. Finally grateful thanks to our equine friends, Miss Spontaneius M, Simonty, Harry and Princess.”



Love this pic Margaret!

BRC COMPETITIONS: Dressage to Music National Championships,
Bury Farm, Bedfordshire, 29th Sept – 1 October

Huge congratulations to Sam McEwan and Prince Nestor who became National Champions after winning the Elementary D2M finals at Bury Farm on a whopping score of 73% and smashing the competition out of the arena! The first time ever that a Meon rider has won a national title. WOOOO HOOOOOO!!!



Photos are from BRC website



Sam also made the headlines in Horse & Hound, with a cracking photo and write-up. Your mum would be so proud Sam – as are we all!



WELLINGTON CAMP

11 people went on Wellington camp this year, and Penny stayed over on the Wednesday night with everyone. Although everyone still had fun, I think it's fair to say that this year was perhaps not as positive an experience as previous years. For the higher jumping groups, the jumps were possibly too big and the XC jumps didn't have enough of a height range for all and we didn't feel the organisation was quite as good as previous years. For example, there were only two instructors compared to four previously and those in the dressage warm-up were left to themselves for a bit too long – although those who did the ride-a-test did find the judge very kind and helpful. But importantly – there was no pudding for dinner!

So a few things didn't quite go according to plan and we will be feeding this back to the venue. We are also going to explore other possibilities for next year – we have heard very good things about 'Boomerang' where the Pony Club have been going recently and we have also talked about Stockland Lovell – where Solent RC go – but we wonder if this is just a distance too far?

Perhaps you could let us know your thoughts.



Kath Havering's Scout makes himself at home at camp at Wellington

AGM & SOCIAL, West Meon Sports Pavilion, Friday 13 October

Fab fun had at our AGM. Our finances are in good shape, we gave out a host of awards to much-deserving riders and enjoyed a great talk about dressage from the judge's viewpoint from BD List 1 judge, trainer, author and GP rider Debby Lush. And of course the raffle – who can forget a raffle where pretty much everyone wins something – even balloon shape making kits ha ha! Here's a run down of the awards - well done everyone.



MEON TROPHIES AWARDED 13 OCTOBER 2017

Novice Challenge Award - outstanding performance at Novice level – **Diane Williams** Diane has competed at varying levels this year, but her performance at Combined Training Qualifier with a dressage score of 27.4 and clear showjumping which contributed to the team qualifying for the championships and her performance at the Festival of the Horse Qualifier are what earn her this award.



Hawthorn Achievement – outstanding performance at Intermediate Level – **Oonagh McGibbon**

Oonagh has had a brilliant final year with Hobnob competing in all disciplines, starting with her first attempt at Elementary at Crofton, finishing in 3rd place in the 85cm style jumping and culminating in winning her Arena riding Novice 24 at the Summer Qualifier contributing to the team's overall win.

We missed you Oonagh!

Macarthy Salver – This is an award that recognises a member who has made the biggest improvement over the year, and is designed to recognise those who may not compete in our teams or other competitions, but still work very hard in the background.

– **Debby Hadwen**. When Debby first started having lessons with Elsbeth she definitely had a steering problem. She has made huge strides in her training and Elsbeth believes she is now ready to do her first Prelim competition.



Volunteer's Award – **Ony Rogers**

Ony has been amazing this year, helping at many events. She volunteered her two daughters to fence judge at the FOH Qualifier and went to the FOH Combined Training Championships at Aston-le-Walls where the girls said she was superb. She helped to get Ruth's trailer out of the mud and mucked out all their stables



AGM & SOCIAL, West Meon Sports Pavilion, Friday 13 October

Arc en Spirit Award – outstanding performance in Dressage – **Sam McEwen**

There really could only be one person to receive this trophy this year for her success in the Dressage to Music competition. She beat some pretty good local talent to win the qualifier, and then followed it up with an emphatic win at the Championships. I cannot remember when Meon had a BRC National Champion!!



Special mention should be given to Carol Alford, Pippa Griffin, Elsbeth Jeffery and Briony Stevens who qualified for and attended, the Intermediate Dressage Championships as individuals and to Diane Williams, Oonagh McGibbon, Gen Lodge and Jenny Day who made up the winning team at the Summer Dressage Qualifier, but were not able to make the long trip to Lincoln for various reasons.



Gem Cross Country Cup – outstanding performance in Cross Country – **Michelle Cartman**.

A while ago Michelle would not even consider leaving the ground, and whilst she has yet to compete for the club at XC, she has come on in leaps and bounds starting at the 2 day clinic and finishing in a team of Meoners at the Fair oak Team Chase. We hope to see her representing Meon next year.

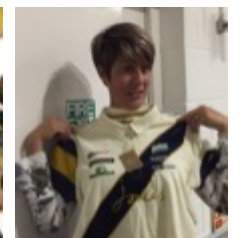
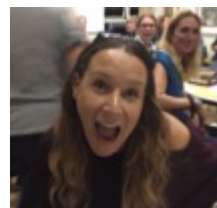
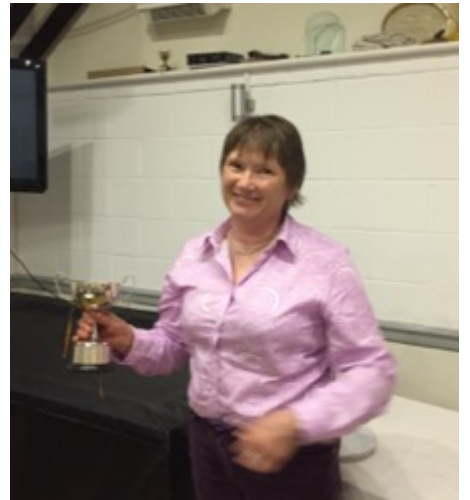
AGM & SOCIAL, West Meon Sports Pavilion, Friday 13 October

Rose Seagrave Memorial Trophy – for improvement in Dressage during the year- **Jenny Day**. Jenny started with Elsbeth when riding at Prelim level. She has made excellent progress competing in the Summer Dressage Qualifier, and being placed third in her arena, riding Novice 34 and has now done her first Elementary.

Veteran's Cup – for a club member over the age of 50 who has been consistent throughout the year - **Margaret Hird**. Margaret was in fact nominated for more than one of our trophies, as she has done so much this year from representing Meon in the Combined Training and qualifying for the Championships through to riding in the 90cm team at Blenheim. She was definitely the star of the day at our Arena Eventing Competition and she took part in the Sport England's This Girl Can.

I am sure that there are many of you that would be more than happy to be doing what Margaret does when you are past 60!!

We also gave out the following survey to find out more about what you would like from your club. Please complete the survey by hand and either scan it and email – or complete it within PowerPoint here and email directly back to pippa@peevo.co.uk or give it to a committee member at the next event (e.g. dressage qualifier or show jumping at Crofton) – we'll wait to collate the results until after the SJ show.



*Last four clockwise from top left:
Mel Richards, Louisa Stevenson,
Elsbeth Jeffery, Ruth Evans*

Members' Survey

Why did you join Meon RC?

How often do you:

Visit our **website**

What are you looking for? Do you find it?

Rarely Sometimes Regularly Addicted

Visit our **Facebook** page

What do you like reading?

Rarely Sometimes Regularly Addicted

Read our **Newsletter**

Add any comments about it

Rarely Sometimes Regularly Addicted

To what degree are you satisfied with our training?

Score from 1 to 5 where 1 is very unsatisfied and 5 is very satisfied

Dressage

1 2 3 4 5

Show Jumping

1 2 3 4 5

Cross Country

1 2 3 4 5

Note any observations about our training or any thoughts on what could improve our offering? *If you haven't attended any, please say why*

What would you be willing to pay for a clinic with a high-profile trainer?



Members' Survey

**Do you volunteer to be on Meon RC teams?
If no, why not?**

YES / NO

**Do you volunteer to help out at events?
If no, why not?**

YES / NO

Being a member of Meon is good because... and would be better if...

GOOD because...

BETTER IF...

Tick the events you would be interested in attending in future:

How much would you be willing to pay for these? Add any comments alongside

Camp (3+ days)

YES / NO

Two-day clinic

YES / NO

Christmas pony party

YES / NO

Horsemanship/horse care talks

YES / NO

Horsemanship demos

YES / NO

Pleasure rides

YES / NO

Any other events you would like us to organise?

Would you recommend Meon RC to a friend?

If no, why not?

YES / NO

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

AUTUMN...

- Sat 21 October – Novice Winter Dressage Qualifier, Crofton
- Sat 18 November – Meon RC SJ, Crofton – FULLY BOOKED!

2018

- Sun 18 Feb – Novice and Intermediate Winter SJ Qualifiers
- Sat 24 March – Winter Intermediate Dressage Qualifier
- Fri 30 March – FOTH Combined Training Qualifier
- Sat-Sun 14/15 April – Winter Novice Champs, Lincs

Election of Committee Members 2017/2018

The following Committee members have been re-elected:

Penny Briggs
Andrea Bishop
Elsbeth Jeffery
Michelle Cartman
Sharon Ede
Pippa Griffin
Ruth Evans
Georgina Marks
Diane Williams
Shirley Medgett
Nicki Whiddett

Jackie Rixon has decided to stand down this year due to work commitments. Nicole Chambers has volunteered to stand for election to the Committee for the forthcoming year. We obviously had to make some changes to the Officers of the club when Penny was taken ill and her duties as secretary have now been split. Michelle Cartman has taken on the general duties of the Honorary Secretary and Ruth Evans has become Membership Secretary. Honorary Treasurer – Elsbeth Jeffery. Chairman – Andrea Bishop. Penny is back organising the SJ Training and running the SJ Show in November, and helping and standing in when she can.

NEXT TIME...

Reports from BRC Novice dressage qualifier and our Show Jumping show

GOOD LUCK and HAVE FUN EVERYONE!

Thank you everyone who has written things for this newsletter!