



Maidstone & District Riding Club - Newsletter March 2010

M&DRC Website

Don't forget to keep checking our website www.maidstoneridingclub.co.uk for all the latest news, results, membership information, photos, contact details, diary pages and schedules.

Wendy Neath is currently responsible for updating and adding to the site - please email any items in either pdf or word format (photos should be in jpeg format) to wendy.neath@btinternet.com

RIDER Magazine

RIDER Magazine's letters page - we have been asked to publicise the fantastic prizes up for grabs for winning letters sent to Rider magazine. Ariat are sponsoring this page, so why don't you put pen to paper? It doesn't need to be controversial or technical - just something of interest to other readers - riding club members from all over the UK

Endurance Ride - Berkshire

If there are any aspiring endurance riders or bored Treccies - here's an event we've been asked to tell you about. It's an endurance ride held over 2 days in Berkshire with a riding club qualifier. For more info check out www.berkshiredownsenduranceqcb.co.uk

NEWS/RESULTS

Fun Quiz Night - Saturday 13th February

We had a very good turn out at this year's 'wine and wisdom' evening, with 11 tables competing for the winner's title, or not as the case may have been!

Some very keen guests turned up before we'd even got the hall open, but despite the new venue this year everyone eventually found it. The extra space proved invaluable, but we had a few teething problems getting the kitchen equipment working - fortunately we overcame this and the superb food was served, albeit slightly later than originally anticipated. Many thanks to Jenny (and Brian) Hutchinson for the excellent catering. Also thanks to all who helped to serve the food.

We also struggled with the heating not working - we did notify the school who were very apologetic and reduced the hiring fee assuring us that they would overcome this issue if we were to use this venue in the future. We hope this did not distract from the evening too much. Thanks to Mel Honey for finding the venue - as there was a shortage of available and affordable halls for this date.

We sold all the raffle tickets - thanks to Mark and Marion, who fulfilled this task diligently, and to all the committee who donated the prizes.

Bill and Carol did an excellent job of being the quizmasters with all the papers being rapidly marked and the scores displayed on a projector. It was a close run thing right to the end. Many thanks to them for all the hard work they put in to making it such a successful evening.

We made a good profit for the club, and kicked the year off with a fantastic fun start event. Thanks to everyone who attended and joined in the fun - we hope to see you all back next year.

Wendy Thomas

XC Training 20th February

Despite it being minus 7 degrees in rural Kent on the morning of the training - the brave few who were booked in for the training all got to LMEQ in Reigate for our first training session with Lucy Thompson.

None of us had been to this venue before, but it proved to be a fantastic venue for our first session - a very large training field with over 100 jumps from 2'6" right up to advanced - one of which looked more like a small bungalow than a jump!

The ground was perfect and we had two full groups - most of the horses had not been out since last season and all benefited from Lucy's help and expertise - we all jumped a range of fences including steps, combinations, ditches, skinnies and the water. It was good to get some early training, and we hope that it benefits people wanting to do the team events later on in the year.

We have our second training date on the 21st March at Chilham, and hope that proves to be similarly successful.

Wendy Thomas

Stilebridge Barn Show - Saturday 20th February

The first show in our Dressage Championships ran very smoothly - a BIG thank you to Sue Stewart, Di Blackburne, Kate Connell and Karen Julians for helping.

The results were:-

Class 1 - Walk and Trot test B

- 1st Mel Honey - Hess
- 2nd Suzi Stokes - Ffin *
- 3rd Paul Clayton - Mr Mackeizie*
- 4th Virginia Rider - Willo the Wisp

Class 2 - Prelim 4

- 1st Kay Lockyer - Muschamp Karismatic
- 2nd Brenda Hawkes - Rolo
- 3rd Mel Honey - Hess
- 4th Bill Fox - Monty
- 5th Ann Moon - As Time Goes By
- 6th Laria Collister - Blimey O'Reilly

Class 3 - Prelim 18

- 1st Pippa Julians - Sonny Boy Blue
- 2nd Louise Chaplin - Paris FmB Beamer
- 3rd Lisa Allbutt - Blue
- 4th Kay Lockyer - Muschamp Karismatic
- 5th Sue Stewart - Connie
- 6th Ann Moon - As Time Goes By

Class 4 - Novice 28

- 1st Julia Izzard - Jock Scotch Broth
- 2nd Lisa Allbutt - Blue
- 3rd Louise Chaplin Paris FmB Beamer
- 4th Hilary Moon - As Time Goes By
- 5th Victoria Wood - Active Malt
- 6th Pippa Julians - Sonny Boy Blue

Class 5 - Novice 36

- 1st Julia Izzard - Jock Scotch Broth
- 2nd Di Blackburne - Milly
- 3rd Jo Cottee - Premium Blonde

Karen Newman

Spring Beach Ride, Camber Sands- 7th March 2010

We had a very good turn out for the Beach Ride on March 7th. I counted 13 mounted members including some new faces which was great to see. We were very lucky to have sunny weather but we did need to wrap up warm from the cold and the wind. It was just as well we were meeting early because by about midday there was not a square inch of car park space unoccupied.

There were quite a few non Riding Club people riding on the beach and I think some were quite perturbed that we had a large group. One lady asked me if we would all be going off together and in which direction because she would go the other way!! I was able to reassure her that we were going to ride in small groups and did not intent to annihilate anyone, well not intentionally anyway!

It was my Connie's first time at the beach and she loved it. She was completely non phased by the waves which in actual fact were quite small as the tide was right out.

We finished off the day in the usual fashion with ginger wine and chips in the trailer.

A special thank you to Sian Abey who picked up one of our new members, Helen Cojeen, after we had sent an email plea for transport. To me that epitomises the spirit of the Riding Club.

Jo Cottee



FORTHCOMING EVENTS/TRAINING

Festival of the Hunter

This Riding Club competition has been revamped. It is now more of an eventer's challenge - show jumping and cross country. The south east area (which includes us) is running a novice qualifier team event at Redlands, Sevenoaks on the 17th April. We contact potential team members according to what you put on your joining/renewal form at the beginning of the year. If you are interested in this competition (or others coming up later in the year) but have not indicated it on the form, you need to let us know - by email, text or phone ...not E.S.P!

We send teams to most qualifiers and championships (if we get there!). Let us know if you might be interested. Team Organisers contact details are on the website.

Wendy Thomas

Fun SJ show - Friday 2nd April, Street Farm, Burham Rochester ME1 3RL

Why not start your Easter weekend by joining other members for a very informal show? With the emphasis on fun and show jumping for all abilities, don't miss out on a popular Club event! Schedules available either from our website or telephone Meryl on 07840 542343 for a copy.

XC Training with Wendy Neath at Bull Farm, Cranbrook - Thursday 1st April and Saturday 10th April
Spring is here! We have booked 3 XC practices to get you started or refresh your skills! These will be held ground permitting at **Bull Farm Cranbrook** and at **Bonfleur XC Linton** with Wendy Neath as follows:

Bull Farm Thursday April 1st 11am
Bull Farm Saturday April 10th 11am
Bonfleur XC Wednesday April 14th 2pm

Times may vary if there is more than 1 group

Starter/novice/refresher (may be divided).
Cost £30
Apply by 10 days before each date to Wendy.
SPACES ARE LIMITED

Please contact Wendy Neath, Street Farm, Burham, Rochester ME1 3RL. Tel. 07802 676896 Email wendy.neath@btinternet.com

Riding Test Clinics

If you are interested in being on a club team for a Riding Test, or you are just want to know what it's about...come along to one of these dates. Riding Tests look like a dressage test at Prelim or Novice but are judged on the rider.
Friday 21st May evening
Sat June 12th afternoon
Thursday 15th July time tbc

£15 please book in with Wendy Neath by email
These clinics will be held at Street Farm and taken by me - by then I hope to be a qualified BRC judge for these.

Wendy Neath

Curry Night at Toastmasters, Church St, Burham ME1 3SB - Tuesday April 13th 7.30 for 7.45pm

If anyone would like to join some of the committee and members for an informal curry night and a chat we'd love to see you. There are a few non curry and mild options and very good beer! Family welcome. Pay your share - I go there often and rarely manage to get to £20!

Meet there or park at Street Farm and walk down. Please book in with Wendy Neath by Friday 9th.
07802 676 896 wendy.neath@btinternet.com

TREC Training and Practice PTV (obstacles) and Control of Gaits - Sunday 18th April, Anchor Farm, Rochester Road, Aylesford. ME20 7EA

Come and practice some of the Trec obstacles and the Control of Paces, with guidance from experienced competitors and judges

Suitable for all from complete novices to Level 4 competitors

Small groups, 1 hour sessions

Entry Fee £7.50 for M&DRC members. Schedule available to download from our website or email meryl.honey@mypostoffice.co.uk or telephone Meryl on 07840 542343 for a copy

Fun Quadrille from scratch Street Farm Burham Friday April 23rd 6.30pm St Georges Day

If you've never been to one of our fun quadrilles - here's how it works.

We will practice various figures and patterns in groups depending on the numbers involved, and then will put together a short performance. You will be asked to wear either a red or white top and light coloured breeches, to be smart but not plaited. You don't need to have a dressage horse but you do need to be able to stay in control, separate from others and move on and slow down in walk and trot. If we have enough with brakes we will do some canter too, possibly in 2's or 4's. It helps if you know right from left.....

Entry fee is £10. Please apply including details of your horse to Wendy Neath. Contact details as for jump rallies. Responses by April 16th please.

Dressage Championships 2010

The Club holds a series of shows (five this year) at which Club members can gain points. Rosettes are awarded to 6th place in each class in the normal way but, in addition, the best 5 show results for each horse/rider combination will count towards the Championship.

A win earns 30 points, 2nd place 28 points and so on down the results order to 15th place earning 2 points. The points will be displayed at each show and on the website so that competitors can track their position throughout the show series.

For the Championship - a Challenge Trophy and Championship rosettes to 6th place will be presented. (kindly sponsored by Birchalls Riding Shop).
Championship winners will be invited to the presentation at the 2010 AGM.
Birchalls Riding Shop will also award a show rug to the Most Improved Combination over the 2010 series. This award will be judged by panel consisting of Show

Organisers, Dressage Judges and Vicki Thew (representative from Birchalls). The winner will be invited to receive this award at the AGM.

Second Show in the Series - Saturday 24th April, Street Farm, Burham, Rochester ME1 3RL

BD intro test B (2009)
Prelim 1 (2006)
Prelim 7 (2002)
Novice 28 (2008)
Novice 20 (2007)
Entry Fee for M&DRC members - £6.50 (£8.50 Non Members)

Third Show in the Series - Saturday 22nd May, Street Farm, Burham, Rochester ME1 3RL

BD intro test B (2009)
Prelim 4 (2002)
Prelim 12 (2005)
Novice 27 (2007)
Novice 36 (2002)

Entry Fee for M&DRC members - £6.50 (£8.50 Non Members)

Schedules available to download from our website or email meryl.honey@mypostoffice.co.uk or telephone Meryl on 07840 542343 for a copy

Royal Windsor Horse Show Qualifiers Top Score Jumping and Riding Test

We hope to run some of these at our Manor Farm Shows in the Summer/Autumn - if you want to know more look at the BRC or the Royal Windsor web sites. Or you can buttonhole Wendy and ask for an explanation!

Evening Social Ride, Shorne Country Park - June (date tbc)

Keep checking the website for details of a social ride organised by Anne Rillie.

Neil Boorman Clinics

The Neil Boorman SJ Clinics are held at Duckhurst Farm, Staplehurst on Friday afternoons/evenings. Sessions at 4.00 pm, 5.30 pm and 7.00 pm. £18.00 per session.

The next clinics will be held on

April 16th
May 21st
June 18th
July 16th
Aug 20th

For more information please contact Julie Offen 01233 770330.

Leanne Wall Clinics

Flatwork clinics are held every other Wednesday (late mornings) at Vane Farm, Smarden TN27 8PN. Contact Julie Offen 01233 770330 for more details or Leanne Wall 07711 287121 to book your place. Each session costs £14 for ½ hour and £21 for ¾ hour (individual lessons) or £14 each for a shared one hour session.

Important Notice! - Street Farm events and rallies
They may be called rallies but no need to rally drive!!

When you arrive at Street Farm PLEASE take great care as you drive in around the corner into the car park. We have now had 2 horse vehicles hit the stable. I am glad to say they were driven by members of another club but my livery client in that stable is getting very jittery!

Polework/Jumping Rallies with Wendy Neath at Street Farm, Burham, Rochester ME1 3RL

Suitable for all levels, nervous / novice upwards. Usual format is 3 or more groups of up to 4 riders 1 hour each. Occasionally smaller/larger groups will have a shorter/longer session, and start/finish times will be adjusted. Sessions are not always held in order of height. The emphasis is on poles, grids and exercises to encourage athleticism and confidence, and both competitors and non competitive riders are welcome

Please note that Saturday sessions will run generally morning to early afternoon due to parking constraints. There may occasionally be early slots for 1 or 2 people sharing with my livery clients

Tuesday rallies are held most weeks at 12 noon. They have become known as 'The over 50's' but are for anyone young at heart who enjoys jumping and has a sense of humour!

Please contact Wendy if you want to know more.

March

Saturday 27th - morning

April

Saturday 10th - afternoon

May

Saturday 1st - morning
Saturday 15th - morning
Saturday 29th - morning

Tuesdays continue weekly at 12 but not Tuesday 6th April.

How to book your place on rallies/clinics.

If you are a first time participant, send a response form & cheque payable to Wendy Neath with the requested information plus an email address. Include any further relevant information such as any time preferences. Once you have attended a rally you can book by email and pay on the day.

For a weekend rally/clinic I will do times on Monday or Tuesday to email out but it would be very helpful if you would book in sooner rather than later.

Payment of £13 to Wendy Neath is now on the day (cash preferred but cheque if this is not possible). If you cancel after I have done times then you may be expected to pay if your place is not filled. I will be adding more rallies - if you are not already receiving email updates (for rallies and quadrille

practices) and would like them, please email me to be included.

Please contact Wendy Neath, Street Farm, Burham, Rochester ME1 3RL. Tel. 07802 676896 Email wendy.neath@btinternet.com

Style Jumping Clinics

will be incorporated in the usual club training at Street Farm. Please let me know when you book in if this is something you might be interested in.

Parking at Street Farm is a poo free zone! Please pick up droppings - you can put them on our muck heap.

ADVERTS

Advertising is free for Club members and £5.00 for non-members. Please send any adverts that you would like included in the newsletter to:

Meryl Honey
Moon Corner
22 Duke of York Way
Coxheath
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Kent ME17 4GT
Tel: 01622 747586
Email meryl.honey@mypostoffice.co.uk

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