

Dates for your Diary
January / February 2020

Talk & Chat at RDA Wilton.
21st January 2020 starting at
6.30pm an invite by Pinkham
Equestrian

Talk & Chat at Grovely Yard.
18th February 2020 starting at 7pm
A Talk given by Sam Stockley on
her first year in eventing.

January 2020 Newsletter Wessex Riding Club

Firstly, Happy New Year and I hope everyone has had a good break and plenty of fun!

We are starting to plan the club events and want to make this year a real challenge, so welcome to being part of a busy club fixture list. You will see the dates for our Dressage Competition are listed later in the newsletter and we have discussed making some changes, providing challenges and flexibility, which hopefully will encourage everyone to have a go!

The major change, requested by a large majority, is the switch to British Dressage Score sheets. This represents a substantial change but please keep an eye on the web site for further information.

We are very fortunate to have such a robust committee this year and the task of organising our training has fallen on Catherine Faulkner. Huge big thanks to her!! We really do need to hear from you as to what you want from this training and what would interest you enough for you to attend. So, feedback is what I am after. This gives us the chance to tailor our events to suit you. At the end of this newsletter are the email addresses for comments, suggestions and enquiries. Training covers a multitude of skill sets; flat work and poles, jumping and dressage techniques are the obvious, but it also builds upon the basics of straightness, flexibility and harmony and we all need guidance and help from time to time. Training builds confidence and working with others helps you to develop and dare I say it, have fun? Training forms will be available on the website with details of Trainers, dates and venues being added shortly.

As you will see the Talk & Chats programme kicks off on **Tuesday 21st January 2020** with a visit to RDA Pembroke Centre at Wilton where we have been invited to attend

an event run by Pinkham Equestrian Vets. The event starts at 6.30pm and will finish at about 8pm. There will be a Dressage to Music display given by GB Dressage Youth Team Rider, Angus Corrie-Deane and talks from one of the vets on Worming, an update on disease risk and current vaccination protocols for Influenza and EHV to name but a few of the topics that will be covered.

The following month takes us to Grovely Riding School in Wilton on **18th February 2020** for a talk by the Head Girl at the yard who will share with us the highs and lows of her first year of Eventing. Sam has kindly agreed to talk to us about her adventure and I am sure we will all gain from her experiences. A big thank you to Ger and her team who have made us very welcome at the yard, this talk starts at 7pm.

The entry fee for these events, and all our talks and chats, are £3.00 for members and £5.00 for guests.

Again, I would like to encourage you to make suggestions for future talks and visits you would find interesting by



using the emails addresses noted at the bottom this newsletter. Refer to the web site for further details, March and April will be announced shortly.

We are guests at the first event ourselves so as a gesture the committee would like to donate the meeting subs for

this event to RDA. If you wish to attend please email janetbower@tiscali.co.uk so we can add your name to the list at the reception.

We have talked together about running a Summer Camp with our horses and it would be helpful to see how many people would be interested in attending. The target would be to hold the camp in the summer and include an overnight stay for both horse and rider. Is this something that you might be interested in?

Please let us know what you think about this idea and if you would be interested in booking a place. Spaces would be limited to about 12 places and the cost would cover board (we would plan for the availability of feed for horses) and of course provide meals for riders during the duration of the stay. Suggestions at this point range to a barbeque for members with a general invite to those who wish to join the evening activity and make it a real club activity.



At the AGM it was very clear that people liked the idea of going to events as part of a group. The ideas floating around are that we organise another trip to the Royal Windsor Horse Show as this has been very successful in the past and enjoyed by all. WRC will arrange for transport to and from the venue and details will be made available on the website soon but again it would be

helpful if you could let us know if this is something you would like to attend? The RWHS takes place in Windsor Park 14th 15th & 16th May 2020.

What about a summer picnic in Wilton Park? We could eat and watch the Wilton Horse Trials in September. Would you be interested? The event is really a practice ground for those who go on to ride at Badminton and Burghley. Mark Todd, bless him, has been doing Wilton Horse trials for years so his absence will be sorely missed but there are still a lot of successful young riders and the not so young, waiting in the wings. The event is full of trade stands and plenty to see and watch. Would you like to join us for a fun day out and some great party food? The event takes place 25th & 26th July 2020. We will finalise this as the year progresses.

Are there any events that you would like to suggest we plan for? Please tell us your thoughts, this is your club too and we need to know what you would like from us?

Dressage dates for your diary for 2020.

29th March
26th April
31st May
28th June
26th July
30th August
27th September
25th October

All events take place on Sundays and will be held at the RDA at the Pembroke Centre, Wilton. Please refer to the website – on the Dressage tab - for full details and the schedule of classes.

The next item is an article written by Catherine, about the training event that she attended last November. This event was open to all our members and organised by Area 17 with Robert Pickles.

'Well on the Saturday morning I was questioning my sanity going out in the torrential rain (and so was Noodles!) but the facilities at Manor Farm are excellent and we stayed lovely and dry in their stunning indoor school. Now Noodles LOVES jumping and can be very strong but I thought I'd only be doing poles, so took my dressage saddle and snaffle bridle. On walking into the

school Robert had set up a bounce grid and a one stride grid 🤔

We were lucky that there were only 2 of us in our session and Robert spent time at the beginning explaining about our jumping position, what length our stirrups should be and how this would impact the angles of our leg/ body, which was really helpful (although a challenge in a dressage saddle 😊). We then set off doing canter poles to start with, making sure we stayed in a light seat and didn't adjust our position over the poles. This then progressed to building up the bounce grid, again keeping our position stable and our lower leg securely underneath us and ensuring the horses had enough power but not necessarily speed.

We then moved on to the one stride grid, still working on keeping our position stable and our horses canter active so they could easily make the distance. This was really effective and really helped the horse's athletic ability. I also specifically worked on halting Noodles at the end of each grid to ensure I remained in control and I was thrilled that we did.



I came away having learnt a lot, specifically that **I CAN** jump in a snaffle and remain in control, provided I've got everything else in place. Robert actually recommended jumping grids in a snaffle rather than stronger bit so the horse doesn't rely and lean on the bit, so this is something we'll take away as homework.

Thank you so much to everyone involved in the organisation of the sessions, Robert was amazing and I'd love to have another session with him if more are organised (Especially if they're indoors!!)' Catherine.

Renewal of your membership is now due!
If you haven't renewed yet, the forms can be found on the Website.

Email contact details for feedback

Membership and enquiries and feedback

janetbower@tiscali.co.uk

Dressage

wrcdressage@gmail.co.uk

Social & Events

Lorna_roger@hotmail.com

Katemtrec@gmail.com

Training

Faulkner_catherine@hotmail.com

The newsletters will be saved to the website this year so you can look at them at your leisure.

Until next time, happy riding and see you soon.

Regards,

Janet

WRC Chair and the Committee