

Dates for your diary:
QUIZ NIGHT on ZOOM 9th Feb 21
TALK & CHAT :ZOOM 9th March 21

Remember :

- Wash your hands
- Stay Alert
- Cover your face, wear a mask
- Keep the 'two metre' at least, social distance
- Protect our NHS
- Save lives

JANUARY 2021

Newsletter

Wessex Riding Club

Welcome to the first Club Newsletter of 2021!

First and foremost! Happy New Year! We, as a committee, send you our very best wishes and hope that you and yours are safe and well.

I was hoping to be full of positive vibes as I wrote this; information and dates for activities for us to look forward to; events and opportunities, dates for Talks and Chats and the odd trip out, but, as we are all well aware, life is on hold at the moment.

However, that doesn't mean we can't plan and as everyone knows good planning and preparation is the best way of achieving your goals.

The committee had a Zoom meeting earlier this month and discussed what we wanted to achieve this year and here goes with our Goals!

List of dates starting in March for Dressage at RDA at Wilton are now set in the diary, the first is programmed for the last Sunday of March 2021. We will publish this on the website with the tests and options that we are running.

1st programme of tests is as follows;

Intro A
Prelim 7
Prelim 18

Any Novice Test – must be announced by rider in advance(one week)

Of course, this like everything else this is subject to change but...



Last year 'Winter Area 17 Dressage' WRC competitor Maggie with Robert.

if it looks as though we are going to have to re-arrange we will be planning a virtual test programme on the same tests – so that means there is no excuse for not practicing and this is a fantastic way to start that planning and objective programme in our heads!

The aim is at least to run Ride Coach Ride, this enables you to ride the test twice breaking between tests to receive some guidance, advice and tips from

one of our lovely judges. Great training with reduced pressure!



We threatened training and we meant it! Lorna has been in contact with the usual suspects and a few new ones which will mean training at both RDA and some training yards further afield. There will be information coming out as soon as when get the green light to start booking this but, in the meantime can you register your interest with Lorna at the email address noted. Any type of training that you would particularly like to attend now is the chance to add it to the agenda.

Julia Cory is on standby to offer training March 7th – please lodge your interest with Lorna for this asap. It is also helpful to indicate if you are happy for 1-1 or maybe buddy up with another member so she can start to draw up a programme. Obviously subject again to restrictions as they apply and change hopefully as the year progresses.

This training is not just limited to dressage and flat work, we open the doors to poles and jumping and eventually when we are allowed, perhaps cross country! so let's have your goals and ambitions so we can work on making the best of what we have available to us. Lorna will be assisted by Catherine on this project.

Lorna's email is:

Lorna.roger@hotmail.com

I suppose this is a good time to remind everyone who hasn't renewed that the time has come to part with £25.00 and rejoin for the year, if you haven't done already. The Membership form is going to be updated as I write but you can find a copy on the web site or attached to this newsletter, please do consider rejoining! A club can't survive without its members, and we all need to be part of something at the moment. This newsletter will be going out automatically to everyone who was a member last year and the new list of members for 2021 which I am delighted to say is growing by the day. If you have not joined by the beginning of February the next newsletter will not wing its way to you automatically as we don't want to be accused of sending out unwanted mail.

I had the fortune to talk to a lady called Alice last week who was one of the founder members of the club 20 years ago. We don't need much of an excuse for a party but 20 years is a good one that we will look forward to marking. They had a starting point of 4 members so I feel amazingly proud that we could boast we had about 55 the year before last. Let's see what we can do?

Big thanks must go to Nancy Buchanan who sent me some copies of previous Wessex Classical Riding Group Club newsletters she had come across from 2004 & 2005. I have added a short column about the old Wessex Classical Riding Club later in this newsletter which you hopefully will find of interest.

The newsletters have given an insight to the types of activities that were arranged and I must admit I felt a tinge of 'green' reading about the barbeques and socials that were regular features that we **so** miss right now. BUT we will make up for it when we are allowed and it's safe to do so.



We are going to run a Virtual QUIZ NIGHT on 9th February 2021 details are as follows;

Log in starting at 7.30 for a start of the Quiz at 7.40
The login details will be published soon for the Quiz and the Answers

There is no charge to Enter – but you will need to provide your own drinks and nibbles!

Join Zoom Meeting – instructions to follow by email

Details will be announced a week before by email
look for the mail giving you the links.

The Quizmaster is none other than our own Club Secretary Shelley Bracey – I am told she is tough cookie when it comes to order, she's looking for a spot on ITVs The Chaser as the Governess I believe. (a very much slimmer version I might add!)

The quiz is a mix of horsey and general knowledge and we might even have a prize or two so please join us. We will be gifting WRC vouchers for the winners.

As your 'eagle eyes' may have noticed, hopefully! We are going to have our first Talk and Chat via Zoom on 9th March 2021. Elaine Tyley is a Natural Equine Healer. You may recall Jill Coldwell, one of our members, wrote a piece in one of our earlier

newsletters about her early 'Horse Healing' experiences and study of this practice, well here is an opportunity to hear it from the horse's mouth - literally! Elaine has coached Jill from outset and has a very unique approach. Her web site 'Horsesvoice.co.uk' will fascinate you, so I am delighted she has agreed to take part in this opening 'Chat'.

Full details of the event will be published in February newsletter with an invite to join the meeting on-line set for 9th March 2021.

I have seen Elaine in action personally, she visited Dr Monty at my yard and, skeptical as I am, I was fascinated to watch her treat Monty. I have to say I found this a very emotional and incredibly moving experience. Both Monty and I have benefitted from it, our understanding of each other has grown deeper since the event and from watching I learnt a lot about my horse. We all need a little love, particularly at this moment in time, so open minds are all it takes to listen to an alternative way.

Elaine's Web site www.horsesvoice.co.uk



The Pleasure Riding Scheme has been a sanity check for me, I don't know about anyone else? Monty and I joined it in September 2020 and those hours just clocked up so in December we achieved our first 50 hours and a beautiful rosette arrived on the mat. If you are interested to join the scheme, you must be a member of the club and it costs £10.00 per year. You can join at any time, the current registration form is on the web site, register with Caroline and then start to log the hours you spend riding for fun. Lessons and training sessions don't count, this is about you and your horse and possibly another person hacking with you, but it's a great way to chill and at this time in our challenging lives this brings about a calm tranquility that is difficult to describe. Lone schooling does count. Hours or half hours just need to be recorded and when you hit the magic markers (see web site for details) you send in your record to Caroline who logs them and then issues you with a rosette according to the hours you have recorded. All the information about the scheme and the trigger points are on the web site.

Caroline can be emailed at the following;
Jigbabe15@gmail.com

To whet your appetite here is the list of members and hours achieved thus far :

Nancy Buchanan	ED	1,300
Richard James	ARCHIE	1,100
Jo Pay	ROSIE	1,000
Rachael Seager Smith	SAVANNAH	900
Janice James	FERDI	500
Caroline Carroll	JIGSAW	400
Penni Scott	THUNDER	150
Hazel England	BISCUIT	100
Jola Allaway	LADY	50
Helen Green	NYTON Master Thyme	50
Kate Morton	JDTT	50
Sally Newman	MOLLY MALONE	50
Janet Bower	DR. MONTY	50
Jill Coldwell	DUCHESS	new

You may have noticed that the vets based at Wilton Pembroke Centre Pinkhams have invited sent us an invite, open for all Wessex Riding Club members to a virtual zoom meeting on 26th January 2021. The onscreen is replacing the customer and client facing evening that we attended last year and enjoyed so much. This year's talk is will incorporate two excellent lectures on equine genetics and equine gastric ulcers and current treatments.

An invite to link in will be sent you from Pinkhams, if you use the website to register your interest and attendance. The flyer for the evening is attached.

www.pinkhamequine.com

As previously mentioned Nancy has supplied me with quite a collection of old Riding Cub Newsletters An extract from the Newsletter dated Autumn 2005 made me smile...

"On 18th August we had a talk and chat on Stunt Riding from Sue Bagguley. It was an extremely amusing talk. Sue trained as an actress and this was very apartment in her rendering of, amongst other things, a frightened pony! On the serious side Sue was very concerned that people were aware of how to fall on those occasions when we know we are going to fall off and actually have time to do something about it. Sue has premises in the New Forest and has offered members the chance to visit and make use of her very sensible, steady horse to practice if we so wish! Please let me know if you would like to take advantage of this, perhaps we could go as a group – although you may prefer to go on your own! "

Do I hear any volunteers for a trip to the Forest ?

I spoke to Alice about the club in the early days and she told me about their love for fun and that was one of the reasons they chose the Classic approach to dressage as they felt the BD approach was rather

stuffy in those days and they wanted to have fun with their horses.

I think we have a lot to thank the early team for and maybe a hats off to Carl Hester and Charlotte D. for making Dressage a bit more fan friendly. Certainly, the London Olympics gave it a heads up and every one loved it when Valegro stepped in to take Gold.

Hope to see you all soon,

Very best wishes, and be kind to yourselves, stay safe and well.

Janet and the WRC Committee.