



Delamere Forest Riding Club

A British Riding Club affiliated to the British Horse Society

NEWSLETTER

April 2018

Well we have had one day of sunshine – so can the heavy weight rugs and waders come off ?! Its been a hard three months but hopefully you have all survived the last throes of winter and are now positively looking forward to Spring and Summer activities – and a bit of warm weather and non-muddy fields.

As you will know, we have managed to run some events and have unfortunately had to cancel others . Full details of the first quarter's activities as follows

PAST EVENTS:

Clear Round Show Jumping on 28 January.

We had a brilliant response to this event with entries from a wide range of members and non members who wanted to make the most of a season warm up under cover. The coveted chocolate bars (for a clear round) were keenly fought for but proved pretty elusive – those who attained these rewards obviously felt that, as riders, they had done the majority of the work as there didn't seem to be much sharing of rewards with ponies !!

Indoor Hunter Trials on 18 February 2018 at Forest Gate Farm, Norley.

The clear round was closely followed by the IHT and again, entries were really good. Richard's course was, as always, a bit daunting on the ground but actually jumped exceptionally well – to the extent that places were awarded against optimum times rather than against any jumping penalties – will it mean having a lot more fences in the arena next year as people are obviously now beginning to find it easy ?! We would like to thank the people who helped put the course up on the Saturday – though a number of people who were competing on the Sunday, were very noticeable as they walked the course on average 5 times trying to work out exactly where they were going. Also we would like to thank everyone who turned up on the Sunday to help, and also those who came to support, encourage and barrack !! It was really good to see a number of members in the ribbons and congratulations go to :

Karen Jackson who was 4th in the 80cm class

Emma McDonald who was 6th in the 80cm class

Sarah Healing who was 2nd in the 90cm class

Alison Arden who was 3rd in the 90cm class

Nicola Mann who was 5th in the 90cm class

Visit to watch Liverpool Mounted Police Training

In March, we were given an amazing opportunity to go through to Allerton for a tour of the Mounted Police Stables, watch a riding demonstration, meet the horses and see the protective gear for both horses and riders. The training demo was fun as one of the horses was seriously playing to the crowd (great levellers, horses !!) . It could not go near the plastic sheet; it certainly could not walk over the mattress and generally made the ride something of a challenge for the officer on board – only for us to be told that the horse is one of the more mature, experienced ones who puts

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his serious head on and turns into the consummate professional as soon as he is taken to a work situation but who obviously had a real sense of humour. We were also told about chain reins which have to be used when certain known fans attend football matches as its game on to try and slice through the leather reins as a "bit of Fun". We were also shown the dressage element as the horses have to do a full pass to gently push a crowd in the direction that is deemed sensible. Lindsay Gaven (Stable and Mounted Training Manager) hosted our visits and has said that, if anyone has a horse with a spooking problem or other issues, she would be more than happy to help – if anyone would like her contact details, please let me know.

Cross Country Training

Sue Griffiths organised the annual cross country training session with David Llewelyn on Good Friday at Kelsall. This went well with riders and horses getting a reminder of eventing fences for the coming season.

Cathy London had arranged another cross country session with Sara Johnson on 8 April at Kelsall for those wanting a taster run at xc fences. However as Kelsall fell victim to the incessant rain, this has had to be postponed until 13 May.

Again it is nice to report that these lessons have been well supported.

FUTURE EVENTS AND DIARY DATES

Dressage Competitions

The summer season recommences in April and Sue Lea will be taking entries. Details are available, as always, on the web site:

29 April	Intro C; P14; N34; E50; M63
27 May	Intro A; P18; N30; E49; M71
10 June	Intro B; P2; N27; E42; M63
29 July	Intro C; P7; N28; E44; M71

Combined Training on 7 May at Cheshire Riding School

The annual DFRC Combined Training competition will take place on 7 May at CRS starting at 12.30. The dressage phase will be on grass but the show jumping will take place on a surface. There are three classes : Beginners – jumping a 60cm course; Novice – a 75cm course and Intermediate 90cm. The schedule and entry forms can be found on the web site. We are delighted to advise that Barnyard have sponsored the CT and have donated prizes which will be awarded to the winner of each section.

DFRC Camp 2nd and 3rd June 2018

As usual, we have had an excellent response from members wanting to go to Somerford for a really social and fun weekend. Instructors have been booked who will ensure that everyone goes away having had a great time and learnt a lot (hopefully!).

Although all places were snapped up quickly, if anyone would like to go on the waiting list, please contact Cathy London

Area Horse Trials June 24th at Llanymynech

Sam Sansom has emailed all members asking for expressions of interest for the Horse Trials Qualifier. If you haven't received this email, especially if you are a newly enrolled member, please contact her on samsansom@hotmail.co.uk. Entries/passport/fees need to be with her by May 25th latest! Anyone who would like to volunteer to help on the day would be gratefully received!!

One Day Event

For early information, this will take place at Smallwood on Sunday 9 September. Fingers will be tightly crossed this year for favourable weather conditions as opposed to the quagmire that valiant riders, horses and helpers encountered last September !

Area Qualifiers

As you may know, DFRC were due to run the Area Combined Training Qualifier at Forest Gate on 2 April. The dressage phase was going to be on grass (as per rules) but the appalling weather we experienced prior to the event left the ground completely saturated and led to us (after discussions with the Area representatives) reluctantly having to abandon the event. In accordance with BRC rules, a ballot has taken place to select teams to represent Area 20 at the Finals as it did not prove possible to find an alternative venue prior to the closing date for the Championships at Aston le Walls on 19-20 May. The Junior Team won a championship ticket in the draw but unfortunately our senior teams were not quite so lucky. However DFRC has had to decline the place available to the Club in the junior section as two team members withdrew and it was not possible to find replacements. We were disappointed at this outcome as it was felt that DFRC were fielding some very strong teams for this event – so thank you to everyone who had put their names forward to represent the Club.

Area Dressage

This event will take place at Rodbaston on 29 July. If you are interested in representing the Club, or would like further details, please contact Mary Bradbury. Entries have to be confirmed by June.

Training

We are pleased to announce that Nicola Tustain has agreed to return to do some dressage training and, as anyone who has attended one of her training sessions in the past knows, it's a full on (and very useful) workout. It will take place on 19 August at Forest Gate Farm. Further details will be on the web site nearer the time.

STOP PRESS

We have just been advised of a very exciting initiative by the team at Bolesworth. They are hosting an Equerry BRC Show Jumping Competition on Saturday, 16 June. There will be two sections;

Team Competition Class 64 for a team of four jumping a course of 80cm fences.

Class 64a will be for the highest placed team members from Class 64 to compete for an individual prize.

Class 65 is again a team competition for four jumping a course of 90cm fences

Class 65a is again the highest placed team members from Class 65 to compete for individual places.

There is a number restriction of 20 teams in Classes 64 and 65. The competition will take place in the lake arena and therefore will be on grass. In view of the number situation, DFRC has contacted Bolesworth to express interest in entering a team in Class 64 (80cm). If you would like to be considered for a place in the DFRC team, please contact Sue Griffiths at the earliest opportunity.