

Kilmacolm and Kilallan Riding Club



Newsletter: March 2010

‘Spring is when you feel like whistling even when a shoe is full of slush’
Doug Larson

Many of our members will be a bit puzzled with the above quotation....those who live around Kilmacolm will not!! I can remember many cold winters, but struggle to recall one that lasted as long. This has played havoc with the training and fitness programmes.

Thanks go to Andrew and Fiona Malcolm for the use of their indoor school, as we have been able to keep things going, for those who could get there!

Since Christmas we have had our second Members Dressage competition at Ingliston, run in conjunction with Renfrewshire Riding Club, and our Open Competition.

Our open competition was a bit quieter than normal, however, 90% of entries were KKRC ones! Thanks to all who came, despite the lack of work...one judge commented on the plethora of neck straps!!

A huge thanks goes to all who helped....I do get e mails from grateful competitors, and this one was no different. We seem to have developed a reputation for a very friendly, and well run competition. Many have commented on ‘The Team’...and complimented ‘The Team’. !

The results from the dressage competitions are collated, as we have a Dressage Cup, which is presented at the AGM. As you will see from the table, Laura Swinnerton is the winner! Congratulations!!

A special mention must go to Mary McCreath who has consistently achieved a ‘PB’ at every competition.

In addition to the Dressage Cup, we have a beautiful silver fox which goes to the member who has achieved good results in all three disciplines...dressage, show jumping and cross country. We also have the ‘Anniversary Trophy’ which is presented to the member who goes clear, and closest to the Optimum Time ,at the Area Festival of the Horse competition , held at Titwood at the end of March.

The winter training has been greatly enhanced by the Eventing training , run by David Gatherer, and the BSJA sessions , taken by Aileen Craig. Some of us enjoyed a most entertaining evening at the Windyhill restaurant in Kilmacolm.....stories so good, the proprietor thought she should join!! The Open Dressage saw many competitors qualify for the Scottish and Northern Riding Club Winter Dressage Championships Best wishes, and 'Good Luck' go to Cathy Lee who is off to the National Dressage Championships on Janet Spens ' Haver' We have a number of new members who have joined over the winter. I do hope you all enjoy being part of the club, and would like to hear from anyone who is unsure about the way we do things, or has a suggestion for something we do not do!!

So, onwards to the season ahead.

We are having another Easter Ride in the Houston area, just like last year. The ride takes approximately 1 hour....with lunch at the end. All participants meet in the quarry at Corslehill, at 10.30 am. Please phone Catherine on 01505 325757 to book....we need to know how many Easter Eggs to bring!....by the way, there will be a prize for the best decorated hat!!

We have made a contribution to the lease at Houston House. This enables us to jump on grass, and to offer the most amazing cross country training, starting with complete beginners.

We will move the club jumps to Houston Horse Trials field at the beginning of May, and , hopefully, start XC training in May.

Linda Barnes (dressage) will make a welcome return in April. She will teach at Clachers every alternate Tuesday. For those who bring transport, parking is available at Mathernock (many thanks to Rosemary Leslie)...please see the web site for directions. Linda joins Linda Penman, teaching dressage over the spring and summer. Aileen will continue with the show jumping training, with David Gatherer and Muriel Colquhoun taking the cross country training.

We have scheduled a couple of 'Clear round jumping/ dressage' days at Houston to give members a chance to practice on grass. As always, anyone who is able to help will be welcomed...telephone Jennifer on 01505 690563. Test information will be on the web site in due course.

Now, years ago Kilmacolm were legends for running unaffiliated cross country competitions.....and Houston Horse Trials was the one to do...this year KKRC are running a Nursery Novice and Novice (Intro) One Day Event at Houston. This event will include the same elements as a BE one day event...except competitors will show jump in their (and

their horses) XC kit, and will proceed straight to the XC (12 jumps) from the show jumping. This should be a really fun day.....we will need an awful lot of helpers!!!! Please do not hesitate to offer, no experience is necessary, so phone Jennifer on 01505 690563. We have been most fortunate in securing sponsorship from Jumps on Line, Scotia Town and Country Feeds, Burndale Workshop, McKenzie Bryson and Marshall, and others.

Prior to the event we need to paint fences, erect arenas, etc etc....it would be greatly appreciated if any member...plus husband/ partner....in other words, muscles , could volunteer help in the week before the event, as there really is an awful lot to do!!

Please phone Jennifer on 01050 690563.

The Area Qualifiers take place in June and July. This year the Novice and Intermediate Horse Trials will be held at Burgie, courtesy of Moray Riding club. Anyone interested should contact Jennifer on 01505 690563. The show jumping and style jumping will be run by Ettrick Forest, on the 20th June, the Novice and Open Dressage is at Greenfields (as per last year) on the 3rd and 4th of July...and the Open Horse Trials Qualifier will be at Eglinton Horse Trials on the 10th/ 11th July. Anyone who is keen to take part, please contact Catherine on 01505 325757.

Now that the weather is better and we are all out hacking again, could I just remind all members who use the cycle track, to be acutely aware of what their horses are up to! I use the track regularly and have noticed an increase in equine droppings. We are incredibly lucky to have this facility, so, please, if your horse does dung, please make sure it is on the grass, or dismount and kick it into the side.

Carol Whiteford has started a tack cleaning service, for all those busy people whose tack, boots etc, could do with a good spring clean. Details are on her web site.... www.Tackworx.co.uk.

Finally, I do hope we will all enjoy a good Spring and lovely Summer...I did hear that due to the long cold winter a considerable number (millions!!!) of midges had not survived! That must be good!

Best wishes,

Jennifer

