



**Kilmacolm and Kilallan Riding Club :  
Newsletter September 2011**

**‘The Horse. Here is nobility without conceit, friendship without envy, beauty without vanity. A willing servant, yet never a slave.’**

**Ronald Duncan**

Hello All,

The best indication that summer has come to an end is the arrival of the hay ! Fortunately the weather was good for a few weeks so the hay is good. Considering the winter we had I was surprised to have quite a bit left, however it appears that as the winter was relatively dry ( yes, heaps of snow!), the horses did not eat as much as they would do in a wet winter...another gem of knowledge!

So what have we all been doing? Well our Open Dressage Team ( Debbie Rowell, Julie White, Niki Underhill and Esther Knox) excelled themselves by wining the Area Qualifier. This is the first time we have achieved this and join some well known clubs on the trophy. Our Novice Teams also did well coming 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> ...especially as the original competition had to be cancelled due to the rain which meant six out of the eight team members were all doing something else, so thanks to those who stepped into the breach...and very effectively! The day was a real club effort in other ways. Angie Black had a communication problem with her lorry chap..so Avril Wilson collected her, Debbie Rodwell gave Julie White a lift, and broke down! Niki Underhill’s husband aborted his plans and came to the rescue , and then returned to Rozelle with Niki! Fortunately Laura Swinnerton had taken her horse in the lorry so was able to bring Debbie and Julie home.

Club members are also due a huge thanks for the effort that went into the preparation of Houston for the Horse Trials. Fences were demolished and re built, new ones pegged in, and sixty five fences were painted, thistles trimmed and reeds cut. We did not expect to be quite so busy and are hugely grateful to Andrew and Fiona Malcolm for their continued support as we could not have achieved this without ‘Duncan and the digger’. We are also very grateful for the help from the non members who assisted Archie Gilbert the course builder . A great deal of effort went into the production of an extremely professional programme. I was not up to the task so a cry for help went out! It was fantastic to receive such an amazing number of offers, even from non members! Thank you to everyone, and many thanks to Emma Stewart and Donald Fraser ( Marie Claire McGhee’s husband) who coped with the task. . It was dreadful to have to cancel the competition as we had rejuvenated the Pre Novice track and were looking forward to running the three sections.

We decided to run Hunter Trials on the 10<sup>th</sup> of September. The weather was marginally better, and members were out in force to set up the course. The course looked great, and the ground was good despite the rain, so we felt secure that the emergency services would be able to cope, should they be needed.....I have to say the thunderstorm and torrential rain at 4am on the Saturday morning was not the best start. I am extremely grateful to Muriel Colquhoun for her patience and support on the run up, and on the day. We are gradually acquiring our own experts...Avril Wilson is doing a wonderful job with Cross Country Control...only those who have spent time in the control box will understand what an enormous task this is. Laura

Swinnerton had some expert teaching from Fiona Muirhead, which enabled her to do an excellent job of Cross Country Steward. Victoria Walker gave well informed commentary, and Billy McCreath helped Peter Swinnerton and Irene Stewart with Start and Finish. Many club members, their families and friends helped with fence judging etc, without their help the day not have gone so well.

We have the opportunity to expand the tracks at Houston due to funding from Awards For All , and appreciate Muriel Cloqhoun's expertise with the selection and location.

Early in the season we had some excellent training from David and Muriel, and managed some good sessions with Aileen Craig. On a glorious Saturday in July we set up a Le Trec training day. Ros Evans, Frances Pearson and Angie Black put a huge amount of work into this. I had not appreciated just how much time this took, so learnt a great deal. It was very good to receive e mails from those who attended, who really enjoyed the day. We will run this again as Houston offers an excellent variety of terrain, and the obstacles provided a great deal of entertainment!

We have Le Trec champions in the club...hopefully we can produce some home grown ones in the future! Frances and Mary Pearson are the Level 2 Champions, with Mary Pearson and Angie Black coming second.

The Autumn Combined Training was held at Ingliston. The sun shone, and we had a good entry. The winners were :Andrew Malcolm (Open), Esther Knox (Intermediate), Evie Cumming(Silver Section), Reba Laurie ( 4<sup>th</sup> Novice), and Susan Malyon ( Nursery Novice)

We have enjoyed training from Aileen Craig ( show jumping), and thank David for the use of his school during the damp months. Linda Penman has continued with the dressage training. Our Winter programme will follow the usual pattern with show jumping at Ingliston and dressage training. Cathy Lee will teach on a Saturday morning, and Linda Penman will teach on a Wednesday afternoon. Many thanks to Fiona and Andrew Malcolm and Sandy Reid for the use of their schools. During the winter there will be an opportunity to learn the secrets of Style Jumping and Riding Test. These are two competitions included in the summer Area qualifiers. In both , it is how you ride that is judged, not the performance of the horse, so if your horse plays up, you could score high marks for coping ! In the New Year David Gatherer will run a series of Indoor Eventing Techniques. There will be a session at Muirmill on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> February with David, and another on the 10<sup>th</sup> of March with Trish Harvey for those who find the evenings tricky.

Our Open Dressage will be held on the 30<sup>th</sup> October at Ingliston

We need lots of help with these events. Any help is appreciated , you may learn a new skill!!

The AGM will be held on the 21<sup>st</sup> Of October in St Fillans' Church Hall, Moss Road, Kilmacolm, 7.30pm. This is a good opportunity to meet members, and to put forward suggestions for new activities. After Club business, savouries, baking tea, coffee etc will be available.

The 6<sup>th</sup> of December is the date for a visit to The Weipers Centre in Glasgow. Most of you will know this as The Vet School. Vet Patrick Pollock will give a talk and then we will have a tour.

The cost will be £5.00 as a donation to the Centre.

Please phone Jennifer to book...01505 690563

On the 26<sup>th</sup> November we are holding a Ceilidh at the Houston Bowling Club. This is a great night so bring all your chums!

Our new web site has proved to be very useful, and much more up to date. Many thanks to Alison King for her work, and constant attention. We are happy to receive reports of members activities ...please e mail them to the club contact on the web site.

The results from the various club competitions have resulted in the Club Trophies being won by the following:

Dressage....Avril Wilson

The Anniversary Tankard.....Suzanne Hodgson

Presented to the member going clear and closest to the Optimum Time in the Novice Cross Country Class

The Kilallan Cup, presented by Karen Wallace.....Mary Pearson

Presented to the member going clear and closest to the Optimum Time in the Intermediate Cross Country Class

The Silver Fox, presented to the club by the late David McGarva....Nicola Underhill

Presented to the member scoring the most points in club competitions, including a clear Cross Country run.

Congratulations to everyone.

I hope you have all enjoyed your membership of KKRC.....our new year starts on the 1<sup>st</sup> of October. I hope you will continue with your membership. Headquarters will be sending out the membership cards in January, so must receive the information from the club secretaries by Christmas.

It just remains for me to thank everyone for their help throughout the year.

Fingers crossed for a less taxing winter than the last one!

Jennifer

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**For Sale:**

**6kg Gorenje washing machine, 4mths old..no problems, just unsuitable for an elderly lady  
Would suit equine washing as no 'small load' programme. £100.00  
Contact Jennifer on 01505 690563**