

Kilmacolm Riding Club



Newsletter: December 2007

From the other side of the fence....

‘Adult humans can be difficult to train. Patience, persistence, consistency, planning, co-operation and an ability to overcome setbacks and move on will all be important in your training programme, along with the belief that your human will get there eventually’

One Hundred Ways For A Horse To Train Its Human

Hello All,

Welcome to our new members. I hope you all enjoy your membership. The Autumn kicked off with our Open Dressage Competition , held at Ingliston Equestrian Centre. We were most fortunate to secure sponsorship from Scottish Horse and Pet Supplies, Custom Design Buildings and Mid Gavin Nursery. Our KRC winners were Lindsay Morrow, Gillian White, Jenny McBain, Tess Persson, Cathy Lee and Victoria Walker. By this stage, the show jumping lessons from Aileen Craig were well under way. Michelle Hair was cruising round the BSJA courses, however more stars were waiting in the wings.....we sent two teams to the Area 1 Novice Indoor Team Showjumping, and WE WON!!!! With only 4 penalties after 3 rounds, we tied with Pebbles and District, however 4 perfect clear rounds from Evie Cumming, Catherine Moody, Gillian Shearer and Elizabeth Campbell proved unbeatable. A terrific result.

Our Annual General Meeting was held in October, a round up of the year’s activities reported and the accounts presented. The Club Trophies were presented:

The Dressage Cup was won by Thelma Black, The Cross Country Anniversary Cup was won by Sheila Gillespie, and the Points Trophy was won by Thelma Black.

The main topic of discussion was the proposal to create a new 'home' for the club. This was the subject of an Extraordinary General Meeting earlier in the year.

Kilmacolm Riding Club has built its reputation not just on the quality of training but the camaraderie associated with the club. In the old days we all used to meet in a field at the back of Kilmacolm when we had evenings with the emphasis on fun. Since then we have had the use of excellent facilities and have concentrated more on training. The availability of those facilities has come to an end and establishing our own 'home' would mean we could return to the 'sociable' evenings and also offer even better training as we would be able to operate seven days a week if necessary. If we manage to develop a suitable site the club will have secure venue for a very long time. Considerable work has been done on the proposal since the EGM and this was reported to the attending members. The club has been offered an excellent site on the outskirts of Bridge of Weir, In the Parish of Houston. The site belongs to Mr Mark Crichton-Maitland of Elderslie Estates. In order to satisfy the regulations surrounding the planning application it is necessary to change the name of the club to reflect a connection with Houston. All this was put forward at the AGM and the membership agreed the new name should be 'Kilmacolm and Kilallan Riding Club'. Kilallan is the part of the estate that marches with Kilmacolm and has historical connections with the estate.

This proposal means a considerable amount of work for an already hard working committee and there is no guarantee that we will be successful. There are still a number of issues but rest assured we will leave no stone unturned in the quest for the most sensible route to take.

Our constitution is being re drafted to show the change of name, so, from this news letter onwards the club will be known as 'Kilmacolm and Kilallan Riding Club'

It will require a considerable amount of funds to achieve this goal. An application will be made to relevant funding bodies but it is up to us to show we are making an effort ourselves.

You all join this club for what we have to offer for you and your horse. We all say, 'perhaps next year', and we make plans – your club is no different. Fund raising events will be organised with a major one next autumn. It is most important that the membership support these.

I would like to thank those who came, with friends in tow, to the 'Nag Drive', held in November. It certainly was an evening with a difference. A delicious supper was provided by the committee, and the raffle was well supported. One thing was apparent....going by the sketches, not too much attention has been paid to equine conformation!

Our programme continues with Aileen Craig, David Gatherer, Linda Penman, Ailsa Gilchrist and Sue Melady. As before, I must receive the cheques for the Ingliston lessons at least four days in advance. The BSJA sessions are excellent training, and fun! David will teach eventing preparation at The Braes, and will as busy as ever with cross country training. (see programme). Please check the events list on the Scottish Equestrian Association web site for additional training.

Ingliston have increased their prices again, however I will not know the zone prices until January so the rally prices have been increased in line with their facility price increase. Hopefully there will not be too much of a difference.

The Equestrian Centres have busy schedules and many of our members are seen out and about. The eventers are moving up the show jumping grades as are the dressage followers. Nicki Underhill has been consistently placed at Novice and has made the move to Elementary. Debbie Rodwell won her first Elementary on Duncan and Jennifer travelled to Oatridge for Rolo's first Medium test, far enough away for it not to be witnessed!! The judge made some encouraging remarks, so on with the lessons! At the December Combined Training, held at Rowallan, Fiona McLeod ventured out on Diamond. Much training has taken place at The Prelim Group! This resulted in a double clear and a rosette. Thelma Black competed on her young horse, going double clear as well. At the same competition, Wendy McLeod was 2nd in the Intermediate and won the Open. Congratulations to all.

Our own Open Dressage Competition will be held at Ingliston on the 1st March. Our sponsors for this competition are Burndale Workshop and The Equine Veterinary Clinic. This will also be the Area 1 Winter Qualifier Team Dressage. The team tests will be Prelim 12 (2005) and Novice 27 (2007). If you would like to volunteer please phone Catherine Moody on 01505325757. These tests will be incorporated into the main schedule so team competitors can do both. This will be an extremely busy day, so, if you are not riding, please do offer to help by phoning Lillian McWilliam on 01505 87 3950.

We have a new Points Trophy to present this year. Mr David McGarva has given us the use of the Silver Fox, which was first presented at Houston Horse Trials. The winner must compete in all three disciplines: dressage, show jumping and cross country. We are intending to hold show jumping competitions during the summer. Discussions are still taking place as to how to incorporate the cross country.

Spring cleaning!! We are holding a car boot/table sale on the 9th February, at Gryfeside Livery Yard (kind permission of Mr Willie Baxter) on the outskirts of Kilmacolm. This is an ideal opportunity to

clear out the cupboards. To book your slot phone Rhona Campbell on 0141 639 2549. The cost of each slot is £10.00. There will be tea, coffee, baking etc to keep you going. The sale will commence at 11am. The Equine Veterinary Clinic is giving a series of talks on Horse Health and Welfare at Ingliston. See 'Ingliston.com' for details.

Enclosed with this newsletter is the Press Release for the Riding Club Extravaganza to be held at Oatridge on 15th and 16th March. This will be an interesting and informative weekend with excellent workshops and demonstrations. The weekend is being subsidised by BRC. If you are interested, please phone Jennifer on 01505 690563 so we can organise effective transport.

Finally, I would like to thank The Prelim Group for inviting me to their Christmas Party, held at Clachers. A very gymnastic jumping display was given followed by Mulled Wine and Mince Pies.

I hope you all enjoy the Christmas break and survive hacking past all these inflatable Santas and Snowmen! The New Year is just round the corner, I hope it will be a good one.

Jennifer

