



KILMACOLM AND KILALLAN RIDING CLUB

Newsletter : December 2008

Sagittarius: In an old hunting print you can spot the Sagittarian horse with ease: he is the big, gangly bay, all hooves, fetlocks and knees, leaping well clear of the yawning ditch, reins loose and stirrups flying. 'Bold jumper' does not cover the derring-do of this horse – he can fly like a speeding arrow from the Centuar's bow without so much of an indicative twitch of his long, attentive ears. Never unkind, even so this horse is definitely clumsy on occasion, being the impatient soul that he is. There will be many times when he inadvertently steps on your feet or knocks you into a wall with a cheerful whinny, but don't be upset – it's his Jupiter personality : boisterous, fun-loving and enthusiastic. He is also a gambler (hence the habit of launching joyfully into space) so veterinary insurance is recommended!
(November 23rd – December 21st: the sign of the Archer)

Dear All,

Well I hope all Christmas shopping has been done, cards written and your tack cleaned, as it has been impossible to ride these last few days!

Our year started in October with cancellation of the Area 1 Hunter Trials due to the torrential rain. The last few months have been a series of hurdles....cancelled events, would there be good hay?, then the credit crunch bringing a shortage of shavings, now we are frozen solid! However we will battle on!

Our AGM was held in October. Your committee were persuaded to remain in office and the club Trophies were presented. Fiona Hunter won the Cross Country Anniversary Cup, Cathy Lee won the Dressage Trophy, and Wendy McLeod won our new Points Trophy , a silver fox presented by Mr David McGarva.

It is with much sadness that I have to report Mr McGarva died in September. He supported the Club from it's earliest days, remaining a member until a few years ago.

The first competition of the year was our Open Dressage competition held at Ingliston. We had a record number of entries requiring us to book Ingliston for an extra hour. Unfortunately the weather on the day was appalling! The wind was so strong one member was blown off her feet trying to load her horse! I would like to thank all those who helped on the day, coping with withdrawals, class changes etc. Normally that is where the 'thank you's' stop, however this time I would like to thank the competitors for turning up in such shocking conditions. Without you all there would have been no competition.

Winners of the KKRC Special rosettes were :Debbie Rodwell, Gillian White, Fiona Malcolm, Catherine Moody, Fiona Muirhead, and Muriel Colqhoun.

Hot on the heels of this came the Celeidh . This was organised by Rhona Campbell and was a terrific evening. Houston Bowling Club was a good venue, Rhona found an excellent band from Kilbarchan on the internet and the committee rustled up the supper. The hall was full , resulting in more funds for our Project....the building of our own school. We have heard from the planning authorities that an application to convert the old gravel quarry at Gryfe Wraes Farm near Houston is likely to be considered favourably.

Training

I would like to thank David Gatherer for helping out with the Aileen sessions in the late summer and autumn. Andrew Hamilton has also stepped in.

In the new programme you will see Andrew Hamilton will take the show jumping lessons . He is a fantastic teacher. Aileen is making good progress and hopes to make a gentle return sometime in February. We are most grateful to Andrew and Fiona Malcolm for the use of their indoor school for these sessions. The lessons will be on a Thursday. Please do not leave booking these until the last minute as we will be combining with Muriel Colqhoun who organises Andrew's sessions. Debbie Rodwell has been a welcome addition to the instructor's roll and will continue fortnightly, along with Linda Penman. David Gatherer will take the cross country sessions in the spring.

Training will also be available through Area 1. Riding clubs, nationally, are divided into areas, we are Area 1. Keep an eye on the SEA (Scottish Equestrian Association) web site, events page, for details. Information about the first training day is enclosed. We are hoping to set up a Dressage Master Class with a list judge (very friendly!!) early in the New Year. This will be based in the West and will be a very casual spectator/ rider day with the judge explaining how to ride the moves, letting you into the secret of what they look for!

British Eventing/ BSJA offer.

Exclusive British Show Jumping Deal for Eventers.

For just £50.00, British Eventing Members can benefit from a special three month (Jan-Mar) BSJA membership including horse registration, to show jump and compete for prize money and Regional Points at any BSJA event in the country. This is an excellent opportunity to compete over affiliated tracks in preparation for the season ahead and is a much appreciated gesture in recognition of these straightened times. Details can be found on www.britisheventing.com or call the BSJA office on 02476 698800 or Liza Randall at BE..07702901002.

A local Horse Behaviour Specialist.

This news letter has been sponsored by Bozena Bienkowska, a Horse Behaviour Specialist living on the outskirts of Paisley. She has trained with Monty Roberts and Dr Debbie Marsden. Information about Bozena is enclosed. I would like to thank her for her interest in the club.

Teams

The first Area Qualifier is the Novice Team Show Jumping (max 80cms) on 1st February, the second is the Winter Team Dressage , run by KKRC at Ingliston, on 28th February (P12, N 27). Please phone Catherine on 01505 32 5757 if you would like to take part. Preliminary entries have to be in at the beginning of January so let us know as soon as possible.

With best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.....Jennifer

