

# Kilmacolm and Kilallan Riding Club



‘I’ve spent most of my life riding horses. The rest I’ve just wasted!’  
Unknown

Greetings!!

The first snow has fallen, the yards are like skating rinks, schools are frozen.....never mind, it is Christmas!! Most equines will be looking at a bit of a holiday, and we will all be coping with the pressy dilemma and a host of relatives!

To back track a bit, our AGM was held in October. We enjoyed a talk by the Horsecatch section of Strathclyde Police, and left appreciating what they are trying to do, namely raise the awareness of equine related incidents, not only in Strathclyde, but across Scotland. Information from them will be on our web site on a regular basis.

Our Open Dressage Competition was well supported, and well received, which means a huge thanks to those who volunteer to help. We also ran a members competition in conjunction with Renfrewshire Riding Club.

This was an afternoon event at Ingliston, and a reasonable success, therefore we will run another in February. Members results from all KKRC competitions are collated, and at the moment, Laura Swinnerton is well ahead on Dressage Points!

Running these shows is a pretty intensive session....generally they are staffed (slaves!!) by the same people, however there are spaces as, sometimes, some of us would like to compete. In an effort to encourage more helpers we are offering either a stable at Ingliston for the day ( so you can compete and help!), or 1 free test at a KKRC competition, for anyone who can help for a full half day at an Open competition.

Our first members dressage is on 13<sup>th</sup> February, with the Open one on the 6<sup>th</sup> March.

The first Area 1 Qualifier was held at Sandyflats in November..the Winter Novice Dressage. We sent 3 teams, and were well placed with a team 4<sup>th</sup> and quite a number of individual placings. Our 4<sup>th</sup> team consisted of Rhona Campbell, Evelyn Cumming, Hilary Baxter, Laura Swinnerton.

A quiz night was held in Houston, with Angela McKenna and Trish Harvey as Quiz Masters.....greatly contributing to the enjoyment of the evening! Thanks to all who came along, resulting in another contribution to Club Funds.

As most will be aware, the grand dream is to have our own home. We are making progress with this.....therefore all contributions from the events we run are most welcome. A project such as this takes time, however we remain positive!

Our winter rallies have started. A huge thanks goes to Andrew and Fiona Malcolm for the use of their indoor school. We are also using Ingliston for our BSJA sessions with Aileen Craig. In December we ran a Sunday session, and will run another on the 10<sup>th</sup> January. If possible another Sunday will be run later on. The decision to run Sunday sessions was based on a suggestion from a member...so, ....please do not hesitate to proffer suggestions, as we do try to deliver!

We are extremely fortunate to have Fiona Muirhead as a member. Fiona is a list dressage judge, a Technical Advisor for BE, and represented Britain, on behalf of Riding Clubs. Fiona took a session of 'through the judge's eye' at Ingliston.....so good, that all have requested a repeat, so, Fiona will be back in March....a great opportunity to sharpen up those marks, and gain the edge.

In the new year David Gatherer will be taking his pre eventing sessions at The Malcs.....fantastic fun! These sessions are very popular, so please give earliest time available, and competition level when booking.

Area competitions are good fun, and open to all levels. The Novice Winter Show Jumping is being held at Oatridge on the 7<sup>th</sup> February....two rounds, with max 90cms in the second round. It is a team event, so please contact Catherine on 10505 325757 to volunteer....whilst on the subject of team events, the Hunter Trials are being held at Titwood, Ayrshire on 28<sup>th</sup> March....another fun session, and a great preparation for the season ahead, again, phone Catherine.

Keeping cheerful is a challenge during the winter months, so come and join us all at the Windyhill Restaurant in Kilmacolm, on 18<sup>th</sup> February. This is an AA rosette winning restaurant, and they have an excellent menu for us....2 courses including coffee for £15.00 per head. Please let Jennifer know by Monday 15<sup>th</sup> February if you are able to come.

We have contributed to the lease of Houston for next year, last year so many of us had terrific training from Muriel and David, as well as a bit of show jumping and dressage on grass...we are really hoping the weather next year will be a bit more user friendly.

So, Best Wishes for a most enjoyable Festive Season, and for the year ahead.....Jennifer