



Kilmacolm and Kilallan Riding Club : Newsletter March 2009

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

Hello All,

On searching for a suitable quotation for the start of this newsletter, I thought I would use a folklore one for March , however trying to find a positive one was impossible, so you will all have to rely on your own optimism!!

2009 has got off to a good start with KKRC success in the Area Qualifiers. We sent two teams to the Novice Indoor Show Jumping. There few double clears until Rhona Campbell and Katie Drummond showed us just how it should be done! Along with Marion Armour and Elizabeth Campbell , they were 5th. At the Winter Dressage , we had three teams representing the club, The Red team, Fiona Muirhead, Fiona Malcolm, Wendy McLeod and Cathy Lee were 4th, with many other rosettes gained by the other teams. Many thanks to all who participated.

The Qualifier was backed by our own competition. We used all four arenas at Ingliston to the full, the busiest we have ever been! A huge thank you goes to all members who helped on the day, some ‘chained to the post ‘due to hiccups. We have had many messages from competitors who enjoyed the day, commenting on the good humoured helpers who always had a smile! KKRC members who won best rosettes were: Debbie Rodwell, Emma Stewart, Wendy McLeod, Yvonne McKelvie, Cathy Lee, Fiona Malcolm, Fiona Muirhead, Kirsty McColl and Barbara Craig.

Despite the weather we have been able to continue with our training thanks to the kindness of Andrew and Fiona Malcolm. Andrew Hamilton, Aileen Craig, and Linda Penman have all been busy, along with David Gatherer whose pre eventing training was enjoyed by many. A dressage workshop was held at Braeface Stud , near Uplawmoor. Fiona Muirhead gave valuable clues as to what the judge would like to see, and helped many achieve better circles, etc. It was a very interactive session with Fiona involving those on the ground, encouraging observations and questions. This is something we will organise again.

Our summer training will commence at Gryfside Livery Yard and the schedule has a few changes. We have a new instructor, Lauren Hagen, who is a music specialist. She will be taking those who would like ride to music, probably in groups of three or four. This will be a fun evening, running fortnightly, with everyone welcome . We have made a contribution to the lease of the ground where the Houston Horse

Trials were held. Hopefully a few Intro sized fences will be built and we are (definitely!) hoping we get suitable weather in order we can jump and have the occasional dressage lesson on grass. We will be having our training weekend at the end of May. Each training session will be subsidised .As usual dressage, show jumping and cross country training will be on offer and we plan to have a novice session for those who have not experienced this fun!

Our regular trainers, Aileen Craig, Linda Penman , Debbie Rodwell and Sue Melady will continue to help us solve our problems. At the start of the season Debbie will be doing a couple of sessions to help those who enjoy showing their horses. She is immensely experienced, making regular, successful appearances at The Highland Show and Blair Horse Trials.

We hope to have a couple of members competitions at Houston in June, so fingers crossed for good ground. We may have to limit entries for the dressage competition, so bear with us. If there is a demand for this type of thing, we will put more on.

In April we have scheduled an Easter Sunday Ride round Houston, the majority of this will be 'off road'. Easter Bonnets (prizes!) are a must so it should be a colourful outing! A snack lunch will be served at the end of the ride.

On the subject of hacking out, it has been reported that dung has been 'left' on the cycle path. In the last couple of weeks the amount has increased. This is completely unacceptable and horse riders are in grave danger of being banned .Please ensure your horse positions it's rear end on the grassy bit, or if are caught out, dismount and kick it into the side.

The trailer thieves are at it again. A new trailer , with all sorts of locks etc was stolen from just outside Kilmacolm, so be on your guard.

There are three Area Qualifiers this summer....show jumping, horse trials and dressage, in that order. We always ask for volunteers for our teams so don't hold back, phone Catherine on 01050 325757 ! Last year many helped with fence judging at the Horse Trials, for some it was a most entertaining day! We cannot guarantee entertainment, but a new water complex is being built at Greenfields! We really need an army of helpers at these events so if you can help, in any sphere, please let Jennifer know....01050690563.

Last summer the Strathclyde Region of The British Horse Society launched a 'Search for a Star' competition. We held a Qualifier at Gryfside, with our finalists all collecting awards at the Regional Finals. This fun competition.....well, it was fun thinking up the obstacles and watching the competitors!.....will be run again.

We have a number of new members, welcome to you all and I hope you enjoy your membership.

Jennifer

Wanted: Second hand full size trailer. Phone Jill Haddow on 01505872303