

Kilmacolm Riding Club



Newsletter : September 2007

‘Closeness, friendship, affection: keeping your own horse means all these things’

- Bertrand Leclair

Sometimes it is hard to remember that is why we have horses, when the competition season has taken so much planning, and then falls apart. This year the weather has meant many goals have not been reached, and unusual ailments have prevented others having a go – ailments not confined to the horse!

However life goes on. Despite the challenges there have been a variety of successes. Kate Conway has progressed to Intermediate Eventing, with a terrific performance in the 1 Star at Blair Horse Trials. There is a fledgling equine at the Conway’s yard, so maybe there will be double success in 2008. Fiona Malcolm also had a good run at Blair, competing in the 2 Star. Jennifer Lee competed in the Working Hunter Finals and enjoyed the experience. David Gatherer and Clair Campbell’s Schiller have made their mark eventing, winning the Intermediate Novice at Aswanley. Wendy Mcleod, despite 5 cancelled events, finally ran in the Novice section, going clear cross country at Hutton. Wendy’s ‘warm up’ show jumping lessons at Ingliston with Aileen, became a spectator event! Alex Tucker has been consistently placed at Pre Novice and Joanne McNiven riding Nikki Barrett’s Albert have had a number of Intro placings. In the dressage arenas Thelma Black, Cathy Lee, and Lesley Storrie all qualified for the Scottish Championships. Cathy came 3rd and 7th in her tests. Marion Boyle and Mhairi Young have had success at Jumps.

Good luck to all who have qualified for the Scottish and Northern Finals in October. Michell Hair continues to move up the BSJA grades, now going double clear in Newcomers...what’s more, Michelle now attends Linda Penman’s dressage lessons in order to improve the canter and flying changes, ready for the Foxhunter classes this winter!

Firmly rooted to terra firma were the Riding and Road Safety group. It is good to report that all 8 trainees passed the exam, although at one point it looked as though First Aid would have been more appropriate as one fell off the mounting block and the trainer missed a step, twisting her ankle! Candidates Sandy Reid, Penny Whiteford, Cathy McNeill, Linda Edgar, Catherine Moody, Evie Cumming, Jenny Neeson and Jennifer Rentoul can now take advantage of the offer from Scottish Equestrian Insurance. If any other members are interested, please get in touch with Jennifer as there is a possibility of running a course this winter.

Linda Penman, Ailsa Gilchrist, Aileen Craig, Sue Melady and David Gatherer will instruct this winter at a variety of locations. There are a few price increases.

The facilities at Ingliston have been upgraded and are now even more fantastic. We will continue to use Ingliston for the monthly BSJA sessions, and a schooling session in half of the main arena.

Please could you all note that it is imperative that I receive your cheques and booking forms FOUR days before each rally as Ingliston's booking policy has changed.

Andrew and Fiona Malcolm have kindly given us the use of their school so a variety of training will take place there.

Our Open Dressage Competition is on the 7th October. We are most grateful to our sponsors : Scottish Horse and Pet Supplies, Custom Design Buildings, Mid Gavin Nursery and Tack Direct. Their sponsorship has enabled us to keep the cost of entries down, despite increased venue costs. Now we just need lots of entries...and helpers!

On the 11th November there will be human Horse Trials training at Ingliston. Behind every successful competition there is an army of helpers. Being involved is not confined to riding. It starts at 1pm and will be fun and informative. Skills to learn will be cross country fence judging, cross country control, and scoring. The trainers are British Eventing personnel...and the equine guinea pigs will be well known! Even if you have helped with one of these before, come and learn another...we should all multi task! This training will be subsidised by SEA. More details will be available on our web site and the Area 1 web site in due course.

So, all work and no play? A date for you diary is Friday 30th November. We are holding a fun evening in the Masonic Hall in Kilmacolm. Come to a 'Nag Drive'! Tickets are £15.00 and include supper with a glass of wine. They are available from Alison King.

Please send an SAE to her at Greenend Farm, Uplawmoor, Renfrewshire.

The Area 1 Novice Indoor Showjumping will take place at Ingliston on the 4th November. The jumps are 2'6 in the first round and 2'9 in the second. We usually manage to send more than one team, so please phone Catherine on 01505325757 if you are able to join in.

SEA (Scottish Equestrian Association) are holding an Event Training lecture at Ingliston on 7th November, with Oli Townend and Piggy French. Tickets are £15.00 to SEA members or £20.00 . Contact Fiona Rawson, Lagg, Stair, Nr Mauchline, Ayrshire, KA55JB.

The Kilmacolm Off Road Riders have been busy tidying up the track from Highwood to Stepends. To get more information please contact Evie Cumming on 01505873352 or Ann Kennedy on 01505873756.

As the temperature drops and we have to put away the T shirts (if you actually had them out!) do not forget you can purchase a cosy fleece embroidered with the club logo, for £35.00, and the best ,warm, highly visible waterproof jacket you will ever have, price £47.00. Order through Jennifer.

Finally,

The subscriptions are due on 1st October. A membership form is enclosed. The subscriptions have gone up this year, the first time for four years. Administration costs, affiliation fees and venue costs have all increased.

The Annual General Meeting of Kilmacolm Riding Club will take place on 25th October at 7.30p., in St Columba Church Hall, Bridge of Weir Road, Kilmacolm.

We would appreciate the attendance of you all as we will be discussing the future location of the rallies. It is possible that a vote will be taken. At the EGM alternatives were discussed. More work has been done on this subject, so, please do attend as the committee run the club for your benefit.

Tea / coffee etc will be served on the conclusion of business.

'Life is good, a horse makes it better'

Unknown

Jennifer