

Kilmacolm and Kilallan Riding Club



Newsletter: September 2009

“ Neither look forward where there is doubt, nor backward where there is regret. Look inward and ask yourself not if there is anything out in the world that you want and had better grab quickly before nightfall. But whether there is anything inside you that you have not yet unpacked”
From *Resident Alien : Quentin Crisp Explains it All.*

I think the above is an excellent quotation for riders! We continually challenge ourselves.....actually, sometimes it is the horse that does the challenging, but we come out on top!!

The summer got off to a good start with many freeing up freezer space for the barbeque sausages.....enough said! We had an excellent training weekend at the end of May , especially on the XC course at Houston where David and Muriel gave expert instruction. We have managed five XC training sessions, and are hoping to have more before the winter....if the rain stops. Both David and Muriel have been extremely supportive of KKRC, this is greatly appreciated. Before things became too soggy we had one club dressage evening, judged by Linda Porter, and two show jumping sessions with Aileen. In the days before the May weekend, a few of us put in quite a number of hours painting the jumps at Houston. We intend to do more of this in order to preserve this wonderful venue....so keep your old clothes and join the party when the time comes!

The Area Qualifiers have taken place with many good results from members. Rhona Campbell was part of the Novice Show Jumping team and was one of the only four to go double clear. This was Rhona's first official jump off, so a terrific performance, bringing home an Individual Fourth , the only KKRC placing on the day. The Horse Trials were held at Greenfields. Catherine Moody came fourth in the Open non qualifying section, and Muriel Colqhoun was thrilled to go double clear at Banjo's first Horse Trials. Next came the dressage, also held at Greenfields. KKRC Open team (Gillian White, Victoria Walker, Laura Swinnerton, Fiona Hunter) came 6th, and Muriel came Individual fourth. Our Novice

teams also had a good day with two personal bests...Evie Cumming and Mary McCreath, Evie coming Individual fourth.

Many thanks to all who flew the flag for us....and also to all those who helped at the Qualifiers, especially at the Horse Trials.

Much has been cancelled this season, limiting the chance to move up, however three members made notable progress. At Blair Horse Trials Wendy McLeod completed her first One Star, and Kate Conway was well placed in the Two Star. Victoria Walker had to retire due to an equine injury, which was unfortunate as Victoria's preparation included winning the Intermediate at Eglinton Horse Trials. It is worth mentioning that in the Two Star there were only eight non professional riders...including Kate and Victoria.

Debbie Rodwell , and Duncan, managed to stay on their feet , in shocking conditions, coming 3rd in the BHS final and 4th in the Open Show Jumping at Blair.

Niki Underhill, Cathy Lee and Gillian White all qualified for the Scottish Dressage Championships. Unfortunately the weather had not improved, so the competitors had to contend with squeaky windscreen wipers...so the judges could see what was going on!...and flying flower pots! Gillian came 3rd in her warm up test. Our new dressage instructor, Linda Barnes was well placed in the Elementary and Medium Championship classes. In the wings, preparing for future success.....in the ribbons at an early stage are Avril Wilson's Zena ,Fiona McLeod's Cairo, and Karen Baxter's Kinsha. Another member , Rhonda Brown, has had great success in Endurance competitions, have successfully completed her first 40 miles.....coming first!

Combined Training

Along with The Strathclyde Dressage Group we ran this at Sandyflats at the end of August. It was a fun day, with many wanting a date for the next one!

Training

During the summer Linda Barnes has joined our regular trainers. Linda competes at Medium level (dressage) , and dressage to music. A few of us have had most entertaining 'music' sessions! Linda is now teaching 'normal' dressage along with 'music', regularly. The music sessions are really great, so if you would like an extra slant to your lessons, come along.

Our regular dressage trainer, Linda Penman is having a hip operation so will not be teaching in November and December. In November we are having another 'What the Judge would like to see' session. Fiona

Muirhead, a list 4 British Dressage Judge will take this. Last winter this went extremely well so book early to be sure of a place. Each lesson will last 30mins, and will be in the main arena at Ingliston. Aileen Craig will continue with show jumping. Our monthly BSJA sessions commence in September. For those who have not attended these, we use the main arena at Ingliston with a full BSJA course...set at the relevant height for you and your horse. It is terrific practice and a great chance to become familiar with the spooky fillers! Please book well in advance as it takes a bit of organising and give clear details of time available and current standard. In the new year David Gatherer will take the eventing preparation sessions. Andrew and Fiona Malcolm (The Braes, Kilbarchan) have kindly agreed to let us use their wonderful indoor school for much of the winter training.

Would you all please remember to take EXTREME care on the driveway, and arrive for your lesson in good time so you do not meet a vehicle on the drive.

Dressage

We are holding our Autumn Open Dressage competition at Ingliston on the 31st October. As always we will need helpers so please let Jennifer know (01505 690563) if you are free. The details will be on the web site. The Area 1 Winter Dressage Qualifier will be held at Sandyflats on the 15th November. We send Novice and Open Teams so please phone Catherine to volunteer...01505 325757.

On the subject of teams, we really do want you to let us know. We spend an awful lot of time trying to contact people, so it would be a great help. The paperwork for the Qualifiers has to be at Stoneleigh three weeks before the competition.

In November we are joining with Renfrewshire , running a members only dressage afternoon at Ingliston. This will be an informal day, and will be repeated if successful.

Horse Welfare Conference

This is being held at Oatridge on the 7th November. The topics include responsible worming, legal issues (contracts, loaning etc), euthanasia and disposal. It promises to be a worthwhile day, and only costs £5.00 which includes lunch. The details are on the web site.

Quiz

Friday the 14th November is a date for the diary! Our social event takes the form of a team quiz.....including supper and a glass of wine. We have expert Quiz Masters , Trisch Hunter and Angela McKenna....they learnt the job at the last one!! Anyway, teams of four will be required. The venue is the Houston Bowling Club (where last year's Ceilidh was). Tickets are available from Rhona Campbell....0141 639 2549

AGM

The Annual General Meeting of the club will take place on Friday 16th October and will be held in St Fillans Church Hall (as last year), Moss Road, Kilmacolm, at 7pm. Once the official business has been concluded, Karen Beattie from Strathclyde Police will give a presentation on Horsecwatch Strathclyde. Go to www.horsecwatchstrathclyde.co.uk for more information. Bring your thoughts and ideas, and join us for a chat once the formal part is over.

This is the last newsletter of this year. I hope you have enjoyed being part of the club, have benefited and enjoyed, the training sessions, and social occasions organised .

I, and the committee, look forward to next year and hope you do.

Jennifer