



A NOTE FROM THE CHAIR

By the time you read this, Christmas and New Year will be over for another year. I hope you and your families have had a wonderful time and with this unseasonably mild weather have also managed to get plenty of time to ride. *(Editors note – the newsletter has been a bit delayed ... and we have now had a bit of cold too ☺)*

The end of a year is a time for both reflection and looking forward. On reflection, the riding club has had a mixed year with some excellent results at championships and competitions and stalwart support from you the members. But it has also faced some challenges and some long-serving committee members, who have supported the club so well, have now left. I hope you will allow me to use this message to thank them on your behalf for their invaluable work in running the club.

In looking forward, there will be challenges we continue to face, not least of which are the finances. However, to tackle these challenges you have an enthusiastic committee comprising both those experienced in running the club and new young talent with energy and ideas. I want to make sure that as a club we provide a range of activities that appeal to a broad range of members. We will take note of what you said in the recent survey and aim to arrange more social and educational events similar to the talk given by Fellowes Farm at the AGM. With the fantastic support we get from our Chefs and instructors there will be plenty of opportunities for you to enjoy both training and competitions in 2016.

But the survey is not the end of it. If you have some fresh ideas or suggestions, or just want to help now and again, please get in touch with me or any of the committee. Our merger with Houghton Hall has provided the club with access to some great facilities and benefits so please make sure you take advantage of your membership. I wish you all a happy, enjoyable and safe 2016 with the riding club.



EVENTS & TRAINING CALENDAR

Keep an eye on the website, Facebook and club emails for details of up-coming training. If there is anything in particular you would like to see on the training programme or any particular trainers you would like us to use then please do let us know – huntingdondrc@gmail.com.

We now have training arranged at Houghton Hall and Long Drove. Check in here for the latest <http://www.huntingdonrc.co.uk/online.html>

AREA 7 & CHAMPIONSHIP DATES

The Novice Winter Dressage Championships are being held right on our doorstep at Keysoe rather than at Hartpury and as a club we will be stewarding at this event – please keep the dates free if you can – we will need as many members as possible to help out.

2016 Qualifiers

Event	Location	Organising Club	Date
Winter Indoor SJ	Houghton Hall EC	CDRC	Sunday 31st January 2016
Winter Dressage Qualifier	Keysoe EC	RFRC	Saturday 20th Feb 2016
FOTH Challenge	Osberton Estate, Worksop	Area 7 / Area 16	Sunday 20 th March 2016
Combined Training Qualifier	Wittering Grange	WARC	Sunday 17th April 2016
Summer SJ	Keysoe EC	Keysoe	Sunday 10th July 2016
Summer Dressage	Potters Field, Earith	HHRC/CDRC	Sunday 3rd July 2016
Dressage to Music	Houghton Hall	HHRC	Sunday 24 th July 2016
Horse Trials Qualifier	Keysoe EC	Area 7	Monday 30th May 2016



2016 Championship Dates

Event	Location	Date
Novice Winter Champs	Keysoe EC	9/10 April 2016
Intermediate Champs	Bury Farm	30 April / 1 May 2016
FOH	Aston-Le-Walls	4/5 June 2016 **Updated date
Horse Trials	Swalcliffe	5/7 August 2016
National Champs	Lincoln	10/11 September
Dressage to Music	Bury Farm EC	1/2 October 2016 - provisional
Quadrille Finals	TBC	TBC

Important News - Championship Fees

In previous years the club has funded the entry fees for any member that has qualified to compete at a Championship. However with the ever increasing costs of these events and also the fantastic number of our members that are qualifying we are no longer able to sustain this as a club. We have kept our membership fees as low as possible and to make it fair to all members from 2016 competition year we will ask members to fund 50% of the championship fee. This still represents a great return on investment for your £25 membership fee. The committee hopes that you appreciate our position on this topic but if you have any concerns or questions then do direct them to our Chair on chairman@huntingdonrc.co.uk

MEET THE COMMITTEE

We are very pleased to have established a new committee following the AGM in October. Many of the faces are new to the club so here is a brief introduction to them all.

Chair – Phil Short



My first encounter with horses was as a schoolboy as my friend's mum owned a stables and riding school. But like most teenage lads, other pastimes took over and it was not until my young daughters started riding ponies that my love for horses was rekindled. Taking advantage of the facilities provided by HM Forces, I learned to ride with the British Army at Warminster. While working in London, I was able to ride out of Knightsbridge Barracks with the Household

Division. Hacking around Hyde Park early on a spring morning in the centre of London was pretty special and often attracted some astonished looks from the tourists.

As my daughters grew older, the youngest was the keenest and started Pony Club. Through this and then onto local riding clubs, my connection with horses continued, more as transportation and groom than rider. Pony was swapped for horse and many years passed enjoyably at 1 and 3 day events, show jumping competitions and hunter trials. But competition horse Elsa had to retire and give way to dressage. So now, while youngest daughter rides her dressage horse, I can ride Elsa. I took over as chairman in November 2015. With a little more time on his hands these days, Phil said he would like to play a part in the riding club that has given both him and his daughter many moments of pleasure and looks forward to meeting many members throughout the coming year.

Treasurer – Hazel Bannister

I bought Jester, my 10yr old 15.2hh Connemara gelding, two years ago and he is the first horse I have owned and self-financed as an adult rider. He was inexperienced, and so was I, so after a year of getting to know each other I started riding lessons (with the fabulous Sarah Anderson) and soon caught the competition bug. This year I have tried anything and everything – from Drag Hunting to One Day Eventing to Team Chasing to Long Distance Riding.



I joined HHRC last year because it seemed like a good opportunity to meet more like-minded people, gain access to training/competitions and become involved in teams. I have never been in a riding club before, so was unsure about what difference it would make, but since joining I have had the opportunity to compete at the summer Show Jumping, the Hunter Trial and the Blenheim Eventer

Challenge. I recently joined the committee so that I can give something back to the club and – hopefully - represent riders' thoughts and views on the future of HHRC. I am proud to be part of such a friendly and motivated organisation.



Vice-Chair – Rebecca Robinson



member and look forward to seeing the club grow through 2016.

I have been involved with Pony Club and Riding Club for many years. My super star horse Christopher competes with both me and my friend (and SJ Chef) Sam Morgan (I also help Sam out with the organisation of the SJ teams). I have a 1 year old son who I am hoping will follow me into the saddle. This year I have taken on the role of Vice Chair for the club as I am now the longest serving committee

Junior Chef – Sarah Anderson

I have been riding horses for as long as I can remember. I have been a qualified instructor for a number of years and am lucky enough to have a large client base many of whom are also riding club members, have a degree in equine studies and have also become a qualified Equissage Therapist. My super eventer horse, Misty, presented me with a lovely filly in June 2015 and I am looking forward to watching her grow up.

Following a number of injuries I now spend more time mastering the art of dressage which I love (although I still love to jump and XC too)

I have been involved with the club as a member and committee member for a number of years and I am really pleased to be the Junior Chef (and joint Dressage Chef) this year. The juniors had a great year last year so 2016 should be even better.



Training – Anne Palmer






I have been involved with the Riding Club for many years and was a founder member of the Huntingdon and District Riding club when it merged with Ramsey many years ago. I have competed for the club at dressage and show jumping, been on the committee, retired from the committee and come back on the committee. My lovely mare Gracie was retired in 2015 and I am just starting to get to know my new boy Robbie. I look forward to seeing you all out and about and am keen to get a great training program up and running this year



Training and Health & Safety– Alison Brock



I kicked off my riding club career in the days of Ramsey Riding Club and sat on the committee for a while as junior representative. I moved to Newmarket for some while and returned to the Huntingdon area along with an ex racer whom I owned and competed on for 20 years, our last competition being the team jumping last Summer. After sadly saying goodbye I have purchased another ex racer and I am looking forward to competing in all disciplines alongside my 12 year old daughter who has a young New Forest pony.

<p>Secretary – Katherine Short</p>  <p>I have been on the RC committee for quite a few years now and I am also the key player in organising the always popular Hunter Trail which is held in October. I have competed for the club in dressage, show jumping and horse trials. These days I compete BD with my lovely mare Nikita. This year I persuaded my father, Phil, to take on the role of Chair to help the club grow further.</p>	<p>Comms & Website – Judith Marshall</p>  <p>In the grand scheme of things I am pretty new to the world of horses having only owned horses for the last 6 years. I originally got involved with the club when my daughter, Sarah, joined and started competing. I don't compete much myself (my riding skills have not quite reached the right level) but can often be found helping out at events. I also help Katherine with the Hunter Trial and attempt to drum up fence judges & other helpers. I took on Comms & Website a year or so ago with the aim of ensuring members know what has gone on and what is going on.</p>
<p>Child Welfare – Maria Crawford</p> <p>I have 3 daughters, 2 of whom are keen riders and both members of the Riding Club. I love being around the horses and being at my field is one of my favourite locations. As well as being chief taxi and groom for riding club events, I also take both girls to Pony Club. I have taken on the role of Child Welfare to ensure the club remains compliant with the many rules and regulations that come into play when Juniors are involved.</p> 	<p>Show Jumping Chef – Sam Morgan</p> <p>I have been a member of the riding club for as long as I can remember – starting as a junior, now a senior and most recently taking on the role of SJ chef. I regularly compete for the club in all disciplines and have been fortunate enough to attend many championship events too (<i>editors note – and win them!</i>). I teach regularly for Pony Club and also enjoy hunting. I am enjoying my role as SJ chef although technology is not my thing so do bear with me.</p> 
<p>Committee Member – Lyndsey Adamson BHSII</p> <p>Throughout my very horsey life I have ridden in all disciplines and been lucky enough to work and train in a number of areas, both here and abroad. Highlights include: Eight years as an Equine Nutritional Advisor for NAF; four years training at a top competition yard in Germany, assisting in the training of the horses up to Grand Prix level; and most recently I was a Senior Coach at the amazing Gleneagles Equestrian Centre in Scotland.</p> <p>I've now relocated to Cambridgeshire and am lecturing in equine nutrition and enjoying freelance coaching and training horses at all levels. I am also an area judge for the Riding Club Style Jumping and Riding Tests. I look forward to meeting the club members throughout the year.</p>	



HUNTER TRIAL

Well what a super day we had. We could not have asked for better weather for set-up on Saturday or the event on Sunday. We had a fantastic number of entries from within the club and outside of the club. The team of volunteers did us proud and I would personally like to thank all of them for giving up their time to help us. This year we had quite a few new volunteers and they all offered to do the same again this year which is fantastic for us.

The Hunter Trial has also been a great money earner for the club – this year it would be great to see even more entries to help us even more. The money raised all goes back into the club to support training, competitions and championships.

Results from the HT can be found on the Website. Congratulations go to our members who found themselves in the rosettes – specific mentions to our “Best Members” Malcom Massey, Louise Ayres, Hazel Bannister, Karen Neal with Alison Jones, Phoebe Crawford with Emily Bye. If you would like to help us out with organising this year’s event then do get in touch with Katherine.

Photographs are still available from Graham Gannon.
<http://www.grahamgannonphotography.com/f201107745>



Our own Karen Neal with Freddie



We are very pleased to announce that Katherine Short and Sarah Anderson have agreed to take on the role of Dressage Chefs for the club. We would like to thank Sam Impey for all her work for us over the years and we are very grateful that she is remaining as our Membership Secretary. A massive thanks to Katherine and Sarah for stepping into the role. Winter Dressage Qualifier entries have been coming in and we look forward to having a few teams representing the club at this qualifier and hopefully making it through to Champs.

DRESSAGE

HHRC is teaming up with CDRC to host the Summer Dressage Qualifiers which will be on 3rd July 2016 at Potters Field, Earith. Make sure this is in your diary.

HHRC is also going to be running the Dressage to Music qualifier at Houghton Hall on 24th July. Get your music and floor plans ready to roll. Talking Dressage to Music – huge congratulations and well done to Nicki Willis who came 5th in the BRC Novice DTM championships in August last year. Nicki was really pleased as there was only a few % in the top marks and it was only her third ever DTM competition. Fantastic stuff – well done Nicki.



As ever we will be knocking on your door for volunteers to help at these events.



SHOW JUMPING



Sam Morgan, who many of you will know, has taken on the role of Show Jumping chef and along with Sarah Anderson has been busy planning training and building teams ready for the up-coming Winter Show Jumping Qualifiers at Houghton Hall. We will have both senior and junior teams and its looking like it's going to be a long day but hopefully full of fun and success. The picture above shows the team in training. Full report will be available in the next newsletter where hopefully we will be reporting on great successes.

HORSE TRIALS

The Area Committee has come together to organise the Festival of the Horse which will take place at Osberton, Worksop on Sunday 20th March. Anyone wanting to be on the team then let team chef Katie Larman know. Look out for club emails on it.

Classes:

- 1 Junior 90 Team
- 2 Junior 90 Individual
- 3 Junior 90 Pairs
- 4 Junior 100 Team
- 5 Junior 100 Individual
- 6 Senior 90 Team
- 7 Senior 90 Individual
- 8 Senior 90 Pairs
- 9 Senior 100 Team
- 10 Senior 100 Individual

AGM 16TH OCTOBER – HOUGHTON HALL

The AGM was well attended by members and we have been fortunate to secure new members to the committee. As well as a lovely buffet provided by the super catering team at HHEC we were also treated to a talk from Stuart Thorne from Fellowes Farm equestrian. I am sure that everyone that attended will agree that they learnt something from this session, I know I certainly did – who knew that the horses front legs are not actually joined to their body! And a great phrase to live by – “*The Solution to Pollution is Dilution*” – wash out any wounds thoroughly.



AWARDS AND QUIZ NIGHT

We had a great evening at the Awards and Quiz night. Rebecca put together a great quiz and Houghton Hall provided a lovely meal. A full list of award winners can be found on the website. Here are a few pictures from the evening.



HAT TAGGING




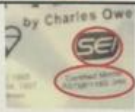


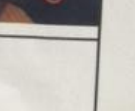
Don't be caught out – make sure you have checked that your hats meet the new standard before attending any qualifiers. Sam did a tagging session earlier this month and an awful lot of hats (including all 4 from my tack room) did not meet the standards. Any questions then please contact the club. There will be hat tagging available at qualifiers. See the website for the full download – below is an extract from it.

For 2016, all members will be required to have their hats tagged with a new **ORANGE** hat tag before competing in any BRC Qualifiers or Championships.

Please note, you will not be allowed to ride anywhere at that event if your hat has not been tagged, and hats which do not comply to an accepted standard will not be tagged under any circumstances.

It is the competitors' responsibility to ensure they arrive at a competition with a hat to the correct standard so it is therefore imperative that you check your hats before you get to the event, in order to avoid disappointment. To do this:

- 1) Use the picture and download information or the BRC 2016 Rule Book for reference
 - 2) Check that your hat clearly displays one of the accepted standards
 - 3) Check that the standard also shows the correct corresponding date
 - 4) Check that your hat also displays the correct corresponding quality assurance mark
 - 5) Make sure that you do not remove any labels from inside of your hat which may hold the relevant information as a hat will not be tagged without all of the required information permanently visible.
- Only hats which comply with **all of the above steps** will be accepted for tagging. If you're in doubt, please contact the BRC office for further advice. If your hat cannot be tagged, you will not be allowed to ride wearing that hat under any circumstances.

BRC Hat Guidelines 2016 v1				
<p>Only hats to the following specification are acceptable at ANY BRC competition. At all BRC Area Qualifiers and Championships, hats must show a visible BRC orange 'hat tag'. Any other standards / dates are NOT acceptable and will not be tagged. Hats must meet ALL of the requirements of one of the following rows:</p>				
Standard and Date	Quality Assurance Mark	Examples		
1 PAS 015 (1998 or 2011)	AND MUST HAVE BSI Kitemark			
2 VG1 01.040 (2014-12)	AND MUST HAVE BSI Kitemark			
3 ASTM F1163 (2004a or 04a onwards)	AND MUST HAVE SEI mark			
4 SNELL E2001	AND MUST HAVE Official SNELL label and number			
5 AS/NZS 3838 (2006 onwards)	AND MUST HAVE SAI Global mark			

IMPORTANT UPDATES FOR 2016:
Due to a change by the European Commission regarding EN1384 and BSEN1384 no longer being an accepted standard, all hats which only meet the standard EN1384 or BSEN1384, and do not comply with another standard from the above list, WILL NOT be accepted and therefore will not be permitted for any BRC competition. Hats which bear EN1384 or BSEN1384 along with another standard from the above list, will be tagged. For example, BSEN1384 & PAS015 (1998 or 2011) along with the Kitemark, would be acceptable, but not BSEN1384 on its own.

IMPORTANT CHANGE FOR THE CROSS COUNTRY PHASE:



REMINDER HOUGHTON HALL DISCOUNTS



Houghton Hall has also now confirmed discounts for members competing at Houghton. Discounts are available for Dressage and Clear Round Show Jumping. Members are entitled to £2.00 off per class for Dressage. Enter HHDR15 as the discount code if booking online. If booking in person then please present your membership cards. Discounted entries will be validated against a membership list so applicable for Club Members only.

Clear round show jumping is available at two rounds for £7.00 on presentation of your membership card. Clear Round is turn up on the day.

Discounts are also available on arena hire.

MEMBER SPECIAL MENTION

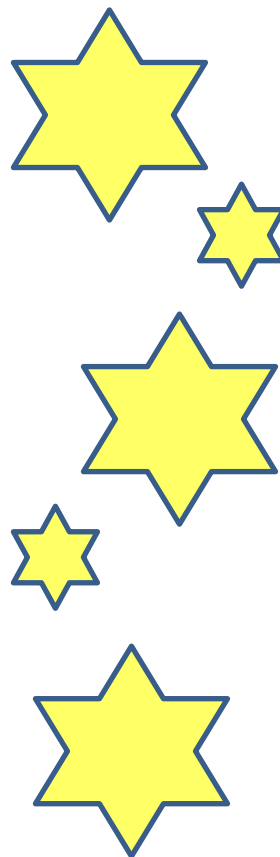
This quarter we recognise the efforts of Katherine Short and Katherine will receive a special club rosette.

Katherine's nominator says:-

She is the Club Secretary, Dressage Chef and has organised 2 very successful Hunter Trials. She is a regular attendee at Committee meetings and makes valuable inputs and ideas to the running of the Club. She has sorted out the trophies, replacing the damaged ones, and tirelessly chasing down return of trophies in time for the Awards Evening. Katherine is always willing to help others and share her extensive equine knowledge. She is a stalwart of the Club, but her significant contribution often goes unnoticed.

Thank you Katherine for all that you do.

If you have someone that you would like to nominate for our Special Mention then please get in touch. comms@huntingdonrc.co.uk



AND FINALLY



Huge congratulations to Hazel Bannister (soon to be Beecroft) who has published her first book on Amazon – Jump if you Dare by Hazel Beecroft. I am told it is horse related so bound to be of interest to our members. Download the book using this link
http://www.amazon.co.uk/Jump-You-Dare-Hazel-Beecroft-ebook/dp/B019ZPEZCO/ref=sr_1_1?s=digital-text&ie=UTF8&qid=1451575151&sr=1-1&keywords=jump+if+you+dare



https://www.facebook.com/Riding-Clubs-Area-7-230687537015098/?ref=aymt_homepage_panel

As well as following HHRC on Facebook, click on and like the Area 7 link too



Membership for 2016 was due from 1st October. Membership forms on the website or with the email. If anyone would like a version printing and posting to them please let me know. Judith 07977 218108. **This is the last newsletter that will go out to last year's members so do get joined again now.**



The 2016 BHS Rule book can be downloaded from here
<http://www.bhs.org.uk/enjoy-riding/british-riding-clubs/brc-rulebook>



CONTRIBUTIONS

We are trying to keep the website up to date with events, results and news so do keep checking in <http://www.huntingdonrc.co.uk/> If you have any news or achievements you would like to share with the club or any classified adverts you would like placed then do contact Judith on comms@huntingdonrc.co.uk. If you would like to appear on the website or in the newsletter then please send in your pictures (ensure you have the rights to them please). If you have any photos from club events we would love to see them too.