



# Delamere Forest Riding Club

A British Riding Club affiliated to the British Horse Society

## NEWSLETTER

April 2020

Firstly may I apologise that this Newsletter falls foul of trades description as its going to be more of a news briefing than informative letter. We have certainly all faced flood, plague and pestilence so far this year : the miserable wet weather and mud that heralded in the new year followed by the truly dreadful coronavirus. The main thing though is that we all keep safe and come out of this ready to resume riding activities in the summer/autumn.

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### PAST EVENTS:

#### **Clear Round Show Jumping – 26 January**

Despite less than perfect weather, this was one of the events that we have managed to run and the attendance was excellent. Richard had designed a course (complete with Christmas trees) that, although flowing round nicely, did ask a few questions of horses and riders alike – especially as, for most competitors, this was their first outing of what was to be a short season. Clear round chocolate bars were in fairly short supply but it was a testament to how much people were enjoying it that they completed a first round then paid their entry fee to have another spin round. These clear round sessions always provide the more inexperienced riders and/or horses with the opportunity to ride a full course of fences in a competition atmosphere but without the pressure of it taking place in “show” surroundings. Consequently the lower height classes are always busy and its lovely that people know they are assured of a good welcome by DFRC when they take part.

#### **Jump Training –1 February with Richard Carruthers**

Following fast on the heels of the Clear Round, Richard “presided” at one of the ever popular Jump Training lessons. This is always very well supported with riders commenting (albeit sometimes through gritted teeth but usually with a grin) on what a good event it was. We’ll really look forward to being in a position to arrange future events/training with Richard and Jane; amongst others.

#### **Dressage Competitions**

Again we were lucky that we were able to complete the Winter Season of dressage competitions despite some rather challenging weather. The competition scheduled for 9 Feb fell foul of conditions but was postponed for a couple of weeks and ran later in the month. The March competition was also completed. So thank you to everyone who supported these two events.

#### **Area Arena Eventing – 9 February**

We were very proud of the fact that Janet Freeman braved miserable weather conditions to represent the Club at the Arena Eventing.

#### **Area Intermediate Showjumping – 8 March**

Sarah Healing did really well representing the club in this very competitive event.

### FUTURE EVENTS

As you will have seen in the email that Peter has sent round, all BRC events have to be postponed until 30 June because of the coronavirus as no insurance will be extended to anyone flouting this regulation. As a result, we have had to cancel the Arena Event/Hunter Trials;

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Combined Training; Camp; Summer Dressage; Bolesworth. One competition that fell victim was the Area Novice Dressage Championships due to take place in Grantham on 28 March. The team of Georgie Critchley, Katie Holdlen, Amanda Lyne and Sam Sansom had done so incredibly well to qualify and it was a shame they could not go forward to the finals.

However the light currently at the end of the tunnel is tentatively pointing towards resumption on/about 1 July but obviously this will not be confirmed until much nearer the time. Should this be the case, we will obviously be looking at doing all we can to get some events organised for the Club. The main one will be the **One Day Event on 6 September** but we'll keep you updated as regards any progress.

## **MISC**

### **Horses For Hope – Australia Appeal.**

As most of you will know, DFRC sent £100 to this Appeal to sponsor one of the dressage classes. Again the weather tried to disrupt events at Somerford on the day of the dressage competition but the horsey crowd are a pretty stoical lot and a vast amount of people went along to watch. The organisers did a fantastic job and a total of £17,000 was sent direct to the front line of need in Australia.

### **Micro Chips**

There is a directive in place that, with effect from 1 October, all horses must have a microchip – its going to be a legal requirement. A lot of horses aged about 11 and under seem to be automatically chipped but some of the older ones may need to be checked. From a personal point of view, it's a bit of a faff getting it done ..... the vet inserts the chip (monetary wise, it's a cost of around £50 but that probably depends on the vet practice); the passport authority has to be notified - in my case it's the Irish Horse Register. However with that organisation, it can't just be done with an email message with the chip number. I had to get a new description page completed and then send that, by registered post, together with the passport to have them register it and forward the details to the National Data Base. I then had to send the money to have the passport returned by registered post (not a little worried in case it got lost in the post). Having said all this, speaking to other people, it seems that some other organisation are a little more casual about registering the chip number. In the meantime, I have had a message from a Club member saying that they just registered the number with the chip provider and that was all that was required. Maybe the best thing is to get advice from the Vet or whoever inserts the chip.

### **Coffee Cups**

The Club provides hot drinks at our events and you kindly pay with the money then being passed on to our annual charity. We have been trying to be as environmentally responsible as possible with regard to the cups and, until now, have been purchasing biodegradable/compostable ones. However it now transpires that the composting recycle organisations are struggling to cope even with this type of cup. I've spoken to staff at Cheshire West and am advised that the cups should be washed out and then put in the cardboard kerbside bins. Consequently we'd ask anyone using one to take it home and dispose of it this way but the best outcome would be if you all could bring your own ceramic mugs to any competition and we'll really reduce our footprint.

**Keep safe, take care and we'll really look forward to getting back to normal as soon as we can.**