



# Delamere Forest Riding Club

A British Riding Club affiliated to the British Horse Society

## NEWSLETTER

December 2019

2019 has certainly thrown some “interesting” weather conditions at us and the end of the year looks to be no exception – think most riders (and horses) have amended their letters to Father Christmas to include wellingtons and water wings.

As this is the last letter of our (new) riding club year, the Committee would like to send a heartfelt thank you to everyone for supporting DFRC - taking part in lessons; events; volunteering to help and representing the Club at Area competitions. We are grateful and it just would not be the same without you !!

The following covers some 2019 events past, present and future; and we would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your horses a very Happy Christmas and best wishes for equestrian activities in 2020.

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### PAST EVENTS:

#### Dressage Competitions

The winter season commenced on 13 October and it is really good to report that all places have been taken by DFRC members. Some excellent results have been posted with one Judge actually commented on the high standard of horses competing. Places were hard fought for and obviously a number of members have already got their sights firmly on a trophy at next year's AGM. The competition on 8 December was more than enhanced by a number of horse and rider combinations totally embracing the challenge of making it a fancy dress occasion and, as a result, great placings were obtained by elves; reindeer and Christmas trees. Thank you to everyone who made it such a fun day and well done to those who won best dressed rosettes.

#### AGM

The AGM took place on 1 November at Crowton Village Hall. Unfortunately a number of people had committed to bonfire night parties but we were delighted to see a large turn out of members taking advantage of a good meal; good company and lots of prizes. And, as a bonus, the formal part of the meeting (Chairperson and Treasurer's speeches) were kept as short of possible. Very well done to all our trophy winners which were well deserved after a great year of competition.

#### Dressage Test Riding – 1 December

Holly and Mary organised a dressage test riding session with Jane Carruthers and this was again very well supported. Jane was on hand to give a serious critique and lesson; while Mary judged the test. We are very proud (by association) to say that, following another exam in September, Mary is now a List 5 Judge – belated Congratulations on this achievement from the Club and we look forward to seeing her in an official capacity at future events (will this mean that Judge's refreshments have to be upgraded ??) The majority of riders then had the opportunity to ride through the test again and the improvement was noticeable. Jane's lesson was seriously constructive although some riders were obviously tempted to try and cross her palm with silver in order to obtain a five minute breather. All round, it was agreed that it had been a very good event although somewhat chilly for the judge and her writer.

[www.delamereforestridingclub.co.uk](http://www.delamereforestridingclub.co.uk)

## Area Events :

### Area Winter Dressage : Somerford Park on 3 November

We were delighted that so many of you put your names forward to represent the Club at this event. We were able to enter two teams and five individuals :

#### Teams :

Steph Woodland	Sam Sansom
Karen Jackson	Amanda Lyne
Alison Arden	Vicki Lowe
Brent Sansom	Katie Holden

#### Individuals:

Holly Llewellyn  
Jo Tomlinson  
Clare Whitfield  
Wendy Burgess  
Kate Johnson

The standard of competition at Area events is always incredibly high so its excellent to be able to advise that our members performed brilliantly and posted some extremely good results. In one of our teams, Sam was 2<sup>nd</sup>; Vicki 3<sup>rd</sup> and Katie 2<sup>nd</sup> so, cumulatively this meant that the team finished in 2<sup>nd</sup> position. This was exceptionally good but, to date, it has not been confirmed whether the team has qualified for the championships as there seems to be some query about the number of clubs trying to qualify and the ratio of teams to qualifiers. Updated news on this will, hopefully, be advised in due course.

Of the individuals, again some really good placings were achieved by our members : Wendy was 2<sup>nd</sup>; Clare 2<sup>nd</sup>, Holly 5<sup>th</sup>; Kate 6<sup>th</sup> and Jo 9<sup>th</sup>.

VERY well done to all riders (and horses)

Thanks, too, to our much appreciated helpers on the day. Fiona Saxby, Hannah Hughes, Caroline Brammer and Mary Bradbury (chef d'equipe) - the Club is very grateful to you for being there on the day as we could not compete without you.

### Area Winter Show Jumping – Southview 17 November

We were able to enter a team of four into the Novice show jumping class of this event but unfortunately one rider was unable to compete on the day. Our team was made up of Sarah Healing, Catherine Moore and Janet Freeman. Sarah had a brilliant competition when she posted two clear rounds but just missed out on an individual place after the jump off.

## FUTURE EVENTS

### Christmas Fancy Dress Show Jumping lesson – 27 December

What would Christmas be without our festive show jumping lesson with Richard Carruthers coupled with the much needed anaesthetic that is Judith's famous mulled wine. Places are now limited but if you wish to see if any are available at a suitable height level, please contact Judith Childs.

### Pole work / Arena Eventing Course at Reaseheath – 30 December

Jo Roper has offered to run a polework/ (50cm up to 80-90cm) arena eventing workshop in the indoor arena at Reaseheath from 11am on 30th December. Once again this has proved popular and numbers/heights are now limited but if you'd like to check availability, please contact Cathy London: email [cathylondon@sky.com](mailto:cathylondon@sky.com)

**Winter Dressage :** This season's Competitions continue on :

9 February

8 March

**Summer Dressage:**

19 April

**[www.delamereforestridingclub.co.uk](http://www.delamereforestridingclub.co.uk)**

Full details of the tests and entry dates etc can be found on the web site.

If you are not planning to enter, we need helpers for all of these competitions so please contact Cathy London on the email address above if you can help.

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

This very popular, early season, event will take place at Forest Gate Farm on 26 January. Once Christmas and New Year's Day have passed, riders begin thinking of preparation for the forthcoming year and this is a great start. There will be usual selection of heights and the ground team will make sure everyone gets round and enjoys the event. Confirmation of all details, entry etc will be on the web site very soon.

And the January fun continues ...

### **Jump Training – Saturday 1 January with Richard Carruthers**

A great opportunity to follow up (and improve on ?) the clear round jumping the previous week. This session follows a similar format to previous years with people jumping a round of show jumps, followed by a mini lesson with Richard and then jumping the round again. Class heights will be 60, 70, 80, 90 and 100cms; entries in advance only to Holly Llewellyn (schedule to follow on web page in due course)

**May next year is going to be an amazing month for Club events so cancel any plans you may pencilled in that month !!**

### **Arena Eventing meets Hunter Trials**

We're really pleased to confirm that we are able to run a similar competition to last year's fun event at Forest Gate Farm – well the spectators had fun and there was some "colourful" encouragement from our riders ... This will take place on **Sunday, 24 May** and full details will be published a little nearer the time.

### **Combined Training at CRS, Comberbach.**

Final details re date etc are being firmed up but we are pleased to say that popular annual event will take place at CRS with both the dressage test and the jumping taking place on their excellent outdoor surfaces. Confirmed details will be posted on the web site in due course.

### **Camp**

This highlight of the social year is again at Somerford Park and will run from 29 to 31 May. It's such a brilliant venue and a great privilege to enjoy both amazing facilities and excellent instruction at a more than reasonable cost - there are lessons for all abilities. If you would like to come or want more information; please contact Cathy London.

### **Area Winter Events / Qualifiers coming up in the New Year:**

If you would like to be considered for places in any of the following Area Competitions, please can you contact the relevant chefs d'equipe :

Arena eventing, 1st/2nd February, Radfords Equestrian Centre, Llanymynech, Contact Peter Booth.

Intermediate Winter Dressage, 29th February, Somerford park, Contact, Mary Bradbury

90/100/110 Winter Show Jumping, 16<sup>th</sup> February , Northop College, Contact, Sue Griffiths

Combined Training, 21st March, Fieldhouse equestrian, Uttoxeter, Contact tbc.

## **MISC**

### **Event Master**

As mentioned at the AGM, due to issues with HorseMonkey / Stripe, we are switching to the Entry Master system in 2020. Sam is currently finalising all points with them and we hope to go live in January. We have received some good reviews of Event Master endorsing the ease of use and efficiency of the Entry Master site so are optimistic that it will be a good change for the Club. Obviously we'll send a full confirmation and advice to all members once we have a confirmed switch date. For information, its linked via Paypal.

### **Olympia International Horse Show**

It was pleasing that DFRC was represented by four committee members at this prestigious event but even more so as Holly Llewellyn came away with the 1<sup>st</sup> place rosette in the Dressage Freestyle ... well that's sort of accurate ..... after an amazing competition which a lot of you would probably have watched on tv, Charlotte Dujardin completed her lap of honour after the prize giving and threw her rosette into the crowd. Holly's years of playing with the girls' netball team were vindicated as she caught the ribbon as it flew over the heads of the watching audience.

### **Keep Safe**

As some of you may be aware, there have been some very near misses on the roads round Delamere recently for local riders. A lot of drivers are excellent but equally a number do not appreciate that horses are not robots and therefore can be totally unpredictable. More and more riders are turning out with great hi viz wear which, particularly when the sun can be low in the sky, does give an early indication that horses are on the road. There is a phone line to the Police to report any dangerous driving around horses. In turn, we as riders should also play a part. A lot of drivers will slow down for horses but this goodwill can evaporate if a rider does not acknowledge their efforts in any way. We know that its not always easy to take a hand off the rein to thank a driver, but a nod, smile or mouthed "thank you" can indicate that we are appreciative of their concern.

So Happy Christmas. Enjoy hacking out. And keep safe.