



Delamere Forest Riding Club

A British Riding Club affiliated to the British Horse Society

NEWSLETTER

September 2019

Well the last few months have certainly been something of a roller coaster weatherwise but, as always, DFRC members have overcome minor problems (cyclones, monsoons etc) and posted some brilliant results at events that have managed to run. More than encouraging for teams and individuals going forward into 2020.

PAST EVENTS:

Summer Dressage Competitions :

There have been problems to overcome in the summer season of dressage competitions including excessive heat, flu vac certificates, excessive rain but you have all turned out to take part for which we (the Committee) are grateful. This vote of thanks goes to both entrants and helpers as, without you, we would not be able to run. It has been interesting to note the number of people/horses starting out in the Intro and Prelim classes, we look forward to seeing you all in the Prelim/ Novice and maybe Elementary classes in the coming year.

Bolesworth International Horse Show

It was more than disappointing that Bolesworth were forced to take the difficult decision (on safety grounds) to abandon all competitions outside the International Arena but anyone seeing the videos of flooded roads and the site, would more than understand why it was necessary. We were very optimistic that we were sending two strong teams and riders had been putting in some seriously good preparation for the event. It was therefore good to see many of the rider/horse combinations competing at the subsequent BE / Area events that managed to run later in the summer.

Area Horse Trials, (23 June) 7/8 July

The Horse Trials scheduled to take place at Llanymynech on 23 June also fell foul of the weather and again this was more than disappointing as we had two exceptionally strong teams as well as very useful individuals. However this problem ended well as Somerford Park were hosting East Cheshire Pony Club Event on the Saturday (7 July) and also the Area 3 Horse Trials Qualifier on the Sunday which we were invited to attend. Unfortunately some of our original teams had other commitments which could not be changed. However the remaining DFRC members did so well: in the 80cm team competition, the team of 3 finished in 3rd place which was a brilliant result – Steph Woodland on Beau was 1st (a stunningly good round even if she was in danger of lapping the rider who was in front of her on the cross country course), Janet Freeman on Ginger was 3rd and Karen Jackson on Roxy was 6th. The 90cm team didn't manage a placing but again there were some very good individual placings with Tor Cwiklinski in 2nd, Sarah Healing in 9th. Katie Holden retired on the cross country. Nic Mann, in her first attempt at this level on Woody finished a brilliant 4th in the 100cm class. These results meant that Steph Woodland, Janet Freeman and Tor Cwiklinski all qualified for the Championships but unfortunately Tor was unable to go. It was unanimously agreed that Somerford had been an excellent venue and a request was made that the Area 20 qualifier could be held there in 2020.

Area Show Jumping 28 July

The Area Show Jumping took place at Caerwys on 27 July. Janet Freeman flew the flag for DFRC and deserved to get a medal for braving atrocious weather to get there.

Area Horse Trials Championships

The Championships took place at Swalcliffe EC (near Banbury) on August 2nd – 4th and, as it was very exciting that two members of DFRC were taking part in this prestigious event, a small contingent from the Club travelled down to support. Steph Woodland and Beau did a nice dressage test to finish mid order; they then had an unlucky couple of poles in the show jumping with Beau deciding that it surely must be against the clock and taking a bit of a hold; however the partnership really came into their own on the cross country course and posted a clear round within the time. Unfortunately the sj poles cost them a top ten place but the combination is definitely one to watch for the future. Similarly Janet Freeman and her good young horse Cassie had a slightly excitable warm up for the dressage which then resulted in a mid-order score (well it was a very new experience for Cassie!); however this was totally overlooked when they posted two excellent clear rounds in the show jumping and cross country . Again a combination to keep an eye on during 2020.

Area Dressage to Music

It was DFRC's turn to organise the Area DtM competition which took place on 18 August at Reaseheath College. Clare Whitfield and Bob (our sole representative in this discipline) upheld the good results members have been posting this year and finished in an excellent 4th place in the Elementary Class.

One Day Event

In view of the disappointment on the day, this is not the article about the ODE that we expected to appear in the newsletter. As you know, it was held on Sunday, 1 September at Smallwood Equestrian Centre. The weather on the Saturday was pretty mixed when the intrepid, but small, team of people turned up to erect dressage arenas, show jumps etc. However, Sunday was a wonderful day weatherwise and the course looked amazing. Maybe the Gods gave us a sign that all was not going to go to plan when the caterers were slightly late in setting up then experienced problems with the generator. However this paled into insignificance when a call came through to say that the Medics' landrover had been shunted, was undriveable and they were unable to attend. The team in the tent then tried to perform miracles and locate another paramedic with equipment to cover a cross country event. Although it was hoped that cover may be possible for early afternoon, as it turned out a satnav failure meant that he could not locate Smallwood in time. Consequently and very reluctantly, the decision was made to treat the day as Combined Training and abandon all hope of getting out onto the course. The majority of people were amazingly philosophical – with one couple heard to say that “at least it means we go home alive “ !!! But, after all the hard work that had been put in, it was a major disappointment both to competitors and the DFRC ground team. However, as we all know, it's a dangerous sport and there was never any thought of trying to run without the correct medical backup. Partial refunds are being given to all competitors who completed the dressage and sj on the day. From an interim sssessment of the figures, it looks as though the Club will lose somewhere in the £950 - £1,000. Despite mutterings of “never again”, I think we will be persuaded to run again next year !

As always it was good to have a contingent of DFRC members competing and getting placed in the various classes . Members' placings include:

Kate Johnson and Molly were 2nd in the 70cm class – a great result for this popular pair.

Amanda Lyne on Cosmopolitan was 6th

Sam Sansom and Dingle Star were superb in the Senior Novice and were 1st on the leaderboard at the conclusion of the show jumping phase.

Karen Jackson and Roxy continued their excellent season by finishing 5th in the Senior Novice Open.

EVENTS :

Our riding club year is now drawing to a close but the Committee is working hard to plan a schedule of events going forward through 2019/20.

An early indication of dates so far is :

Winter Dressage :

13 October
17 November
8 December
9 February
8 March
19 April

Area Winter Dressage : Somerford Park on 3 November

We are very pleased that some interest has already been expressed in representing the Club at this event. Mary is now hoping to be able to enter two teams – each team will be covering 2 preliminary and 2 novice tests. If you would like to be considered for a place on the team, please can you contact Mary as soon as possible (marybradbury20@btinternet.com). If you do take part, please don't forget that you (or your nominee) will be expected to do an Area duty day. One helper per team will be required for Somerford.

Area Winter Show Jumping

This will be held at Southview on 17 November. It will be an 80cm competition. Please don't hesitate to contact Sue Griffiths (susangriffiths@metronet.co.uk) if you would like to be considered. The closing date is 30 September. The situation as regards helping is as the Area Dressage detail above.

We are in conversation with Richard and Jane Carruthers to try and arrange various events / lessons; full details of which will be posted on the web / facebook as soon as they are finalised.

AGM

The AGM will be held on Friday 1 November at 7.30pm at Crowton Village Hall. For any new members, the format is a meal, followed by short talks from the Chairperson (Cathy London) and the Treasurer (Sue Lea) (and they really will be short !). Then the prize giving. The meal is provided free for members and at a nominal cost of £5.00 for visitors. There is not a bar so we suggest everyone brings their own drinks.

MISC

Constitution

As we have been instructed by BRC that our financial year must now correspond to the calendar year, membership agreement is needed at the AGM to this change in the Club Constitution. There will not be any disruption to members for this change which will be reflected in the fact that your 2018/9 subscription will not finish on 30 September but will continue until 31 December. However because of the prize giving aspect, we have decided that the trophy season will conclude on 30 September so that we will be in a position to give out the winter and spring dressage prizes at the AGM .

Intro Dressage Test

As mentioned in the last newsletter, there was some confusion concerning the point levels in the Intro dressage competitions.

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Consequently, from the start of the winter season of competitions, points will be awarded to anyone finishing in first to sixth positions. These points will accumulate and a trophy will be awarded for the winter season rider with the highest number of points (similarly for the summer season). Following a trophy award to the winning horse and rider at the AGM, they will then be ineligible to compete at intro level with effect from the start of the next riding club year. However, if that rider does not want to progress to preliminary levels, they can continue to ride at intro level but in a non-competitive capacity.

Dressage Entry Fees

Due to increased running costs for the Dressage competitions, it has been decided that fees will have to rise. The new cost will be £12 for a member and £15 for a non member.

Horse Monkey / Stripe

Unfortunately we have been experiencing some issues with HorseMonkey (specifically Stripe as the organisation to whom HM have sub-contracted the financial side). As a result, we are investigation other similar organisations who are UK based to see if we can find a more efficient alternative provider. We will keep you advised of any change in this area.

Charity

We are delighted to say that we have sent £100 (proceeds of the tea/coffee charity tin) to Clwyd Special Riding School who were very grateful for our support.

Coffee Cups

Where DFRC lead, Parliament follows. We have been using Vegware compostable coffee mugs for some time now. Apparently there was a Parliamentary review into their drinks situation and it was found that they use an exorbitant number of non-recyclable cups. They are now intending to purchase environmentally friendly items from Vegware.