



SPRING 2023 NEWSLETTER

News Flash

Endell Equine Hospital talk and chat – 18th April (see events section)

Actual Dressage entries live on Equo Events (link can be found in the Dressage section)

Dear Members,

Thank you for your patience, our club Newsletter is back!

Jody and I intend to create a Winter, Spring, Summer and Autumn letter this year and as always, we welcome your inputs for inclusion in the next editions! This can be anything from write ups after attending Club events, pictures or stories about your horses or your own articles that you think members might enjoy reading or links to trusted information. Please send any ideas to either of us via email or if you would like to be on the Newsletter creation team that would also be wonderful!

So firstly, a huge Thank you and Welcome to all our new and renewing members to Wessex Riding Club for the year 2023. Also, our junior member who has renewed for the first time now as a Senior. This year to date we have 51 all Senior members including 7 new members to the club so a very big warm welcome to you all! (Our membership year runs from January to December so if you have not re-joined yet but intend to please do so now or this will be your last email)

Our 2022 committee remain on-board with some extra additions for our 2023 team:

Lorna (Chair)

Hazel (Secretary plus)

Rose (Treasurer)

Ali (Dressage)

Sam (Area events)

Catherine (Training)

And Emma (PRS/Newsletter)

New additions -

Jody (Facebook/Newsletter)

Sarah (Support)

Andrew (Website)

making our committee a strong 10.

The Committee is a hard-working voluntary team essential to the operation of the club, but it is never exclusive. We always invite you all to let us know if you would like to join the Committee or if you would like to come and help at any of our events or to organise something for the club yourself with our assistance. You will always be appreciated.

So, 2023! Many of us have had a very restricted start to the year with the extreme cold weather we had and many of us were marooned by ice or found exercising horses impossible or at least challenging and the ongoing cold and rising costs of living making life more difficult than before. Hopefully now as we see the evenings getting gradually lighter and some days of glorious winter sunshine, we remain optimistic for some good horsey times ahead.

Website and Events

Andrew and Hazel have spent a lot of time skilfully revamping the WRC website so please make sure you look at it. Our events are all listed there with whom to contact on the Events page. With many events being filled quite quickly it is worth looking and booking ahead.

We are currently making arrangements for a group visit to Endell Equine Hospital, where we will be given a guided tour of the Hospital by one of the senior vets. This will be scheduled for April, so keep an eye on the WRC events page on our website.

Link to WRC Website: <https://www.wessexridingclub.co.uk/>

There are numerous training dates and monthly dressage competitions booked at Wilton RDA and training at SMS Equestrian and sometimes other venues to look forward to.

Our actual Dressage Competitions recommence in March and our Virtual Dressage monthly competitions are underway. There are social evenings planned, which have started with the quiz and informative talks to attend. There are some events still in the planning stage such as Day Camps, a possible loading/groundwork session and possible trips. As always if you would like to organise something as well for club members or help with any event already listed, please let us know!

Training

Lorna and Catherine have been working hard on organising and running training with a variety of instructors. This year already members have attended training sessions in Poles or Jump with Stephen Way and Trec with Amanda Barton and Flatwork with Julia Corey at our Sunday Pick n Mix Training sessions. Our March training with Heather Lewis (flat) and Sarah Mitchell- Sheppard (jump) is currently full but please email Catherine if you would like any of the next sessions on the events calendar or register your interest in being on the waiting list. Supporters and helpers are always required and welcome to attend so please come and enjoy a morning with us anyway if not riding - watch and learn, take refreshments around or scoop up a poop or two!

As well as Wilton training dates there are monthly Monday's training dates listed. These are at SMS Equestrian on your own horse with Sarah and can be tailored to your individual needs Flat, pole or jump as you wish.





Dressage

Ali and Rose have spent a lot of time bringing our entries system fully up to date and from now on entries need to be done using the online platform Equo Events. Please register yourself with Equo to enable your WRC Actual Dressage entries to be processed from now on. (Does NOT apply to Virtual Dressage entries) There is a small booking fee applied and with this in consideration the club has aimed to keep entry costs at a minimum but having to increase the entry price it has gone up slightly to £14 per class.

Equo Events website link: <https://www.equoevents.co.uk/>

We are very much looking forward to welcoming you to our first competition of 2023 on 26th March. If you need any help with entries or support to come to our dressage – or even just to know there will be a welcoming friendly face which you will have at the event for sure, please do ask. We just ask for small donations for a caller and for the refreshments on offer too. Please come and see what they are all about on foot and support the riders. Help is always required so if you would like to add up or help others get into the arena or even make a cup of tea for the judge and scribe! Ali would love to hear from you.

Meanwhile the Virtual Dressage runs throughout the year with entries £8 a go by the 20th each month directly to Ali as before. Here you need a horse to ride and a 20x 40 arena (grass area is fine if messaged and markers set out that are clearly visible) - next find a lovely, patient, steady handed friend to help- they stand at the letter C and film your test for that month which you then submit for judging. You then get your scoresheet back from the judge that month, a rosette if you place and a chance for points for the WRC annual virtual league. You can dressage away when convenient for you with no need to dress up yourself or plait your pony. Please again let us know if you need to know more about any of it.

January Virtual Dressage results are:

Intro A:

1st Jola, 2nd Lauran

Prelim 1:

1st Tammy, 2nd Caroline, 3rd Julia, 4th Rose, 5th Jola, 6th Colin

Novice 24:

1st Robert

Area 17 Events

Sam works hard for us all as our club representative for area competitions - our club falls within British Riding Club Area 17 and so we are eligible to enter these area qualifier events. This year these are:

18th Mar - Intermediate Dressage @ Crofton Manor

9th Apr - Combined Challenge @ Moreton EC

15th Apr - Combined Training @ Sparsholt

4th June - Dressage to Music @ Woodington EC West Wellow (Organised by WRC)

18th Jun - Horse Trials @ Moreton EC

2nd July - Dressage & Riding Test @ Crofton Manor

8th July - Style and Show Jumping @ Sparsholt

tbc October - Novice Dressage @Crofton

You will see 4th June is the Area Dressage to Music qualifier organised by us! This is the first ever area competition organised by WRC and the subcommittee have already secured the venue, which will be at Woodington. Judges and a photographer will also be organised but there will be numerous jobs prior to the competition and on the day. We really hope that everyone who wishes to be part of this whether riding or as part of the planning team or help on the day gets involved to make it a success, so please again let us know if you are happy to offer your services.

For competing, please email Sam if you have any interest in riding for WRC in any of these events either as an individual or if we have enough interest as part of our team. Winners qualify for the subsequent British Riding Club National competitions further afield.

WRC is very generous contributing some costs towards entries for all area events so please enter if you're able to - you will have the support of the club.

Pleasure Riding Scheme

Emma remains your contact for PRS membership, and we say another huge welcome to all renewing members and all new members to the scheme for 2023.

Anybody wishing to join can still do so for £12 lasting until 31st December this year so although ideally join in January for the best value it is never too late! Rosettes are awarded for riding hours such as hacking or schooling on any horse but excluding hours ridden in lessons or competitions. You keep your own log and upon achieving 50 hrs you notify Emma and receive your first rosette. There is no limit to the number of rosettes you achieve whilst a member and they go up in increments of 50 hrs to 300 then in 100's to 2000 hours with a Bronze, silver and gold super rosette when you get there!

There is also an opt in or out exclusive to members What's app group where we share rides and our lovely steeds wearing their ribbons.

So do join the PRS or message Emma with any questions if you would like to and of course wishing you all happy riding onto your next rosettes!

This month Congratulations go to:

Rose and Casper - 50hrs

Yola and Lady - 400hrs

Pam and Monty- 500 hrs

Penni and Thunder and Charlie - 600hrs

Clothing

Please do take a look at our new WRC Clothing, available to purchase for humans and horses online through JS Teamwear <https://www.jsteamwear.co.uk/shop/british-riding-clubs-pony-clubs/wrc/>

Hopefully we will get some pictures of purchased merchandise on the next Newsletter.....

Facebook

Please do check out our Wessex Riding Club Facebook account. There are photos from our past training and events and competitions and information and dates on events coming up.

BCR Changes

There have been some changes withing the BRC rules which we have outlined some of below:

- Black or Navy Jodhpurs or Breeches may also be worn when competing in any BCR Event
- As of the 1st of January, riding hats with the following standard are no longer allowed PAS 015 1998, SNELL 2001. Any Aqua hat tags are no longer accepted. For current Hat tagging and Body Protector information please follow this link <https://www.bhs.org.uk/british-riding-clubs/brc-championships/>
- For Flu Vaccination updates please follow this link <https://www.bhs.org.uk/british-riding-clubs/brc-downloads/brc-handbook/>

Please follow the link below, where you can download the BRC Handbook for further information on all BCR matters.

<https://www.bhs.org.uk/british-riding-clubs/brc-downloads/brc-handbook/>

Socials

We had our first social event of the year at "The Fox and Goose" Coombe Bissett on Tues 28th February. We held a pub quiz, which went down well, and a great night was had by all. Thank you to all who worked hard behind and, on the scene, to make such a great event.

The results were:

- 1st Truly Useless
- 2nd Frog Eye Sprites
- 3rd Meltdown
- 4th Sisterhood of Sutton Mandeville
- 5th Spare Ribs
- 6th Norfolk 'N' Chance
- 7th Felwells



Finally, we wish all of our WRC members a Happy and Healthy 2023. May it be filled with joy on or off a horse/pony with WRC.
Emma, Jody and all of the WRC Committee.