

DATES FOR DIARY
Virtual Dressage Monthly Jan- Nov

24th March “Mystery of the core”
Amanda Barton –Brockenhurst.

27th March Ride Coach Ride
@Wilton RDA

10th April DTM taster – Ros @ RDA

10th April clinic with Trudi Wade
@RDA Wilton

19th April Treadmill demo –
Fordingbridge

24th April Dressage @ RDA Wilton

See Event schedule for full details
www.wessexridingclub.co.uk/between-the-ears

March –April

Newsletter 2022

Wessex Riding Club

Dear Members,

Welcome to the WRC Spring Newsletter and hoping this finds you all well. I know we are all looking forward to the guaranteed lighter evenings and (not so guaranteed!) promise of better weather and ground conditions over the next few months.

Sadly internationally this newsletter finds our world adding to the woes of the pandemic with the devastating sadness of war and we think of all those affected by it with loss of lives and changed lives forever. We are all well into the start of the year now and desperately hope for things to improve.



Springtime here makes me think of our horses at the very start of their lives. Most will have been conceived in spring and if not summer and then grown for eleven months until mature enough to be born. I am lucky enough to have some photos of my horse's parents and her as a foal almost 16 years ago but even more lucky to have her and know her now in person.

Springtime for her, all fingers crossed, will be the start of getting out to join some horsey events and we hope to see many of you there!

Springtime for the club means the Committee have been busy meeting and planning events we hope will be varied, inclusive and enjoyable for all our members.

Our virtual dressage competitions are well underway and our first dressage competition of the year at Wilton RDA is about to happen with the popular Ride Coach Ride format.



Our non-ridden WRC events are also well underway having jointly hosted the excellent BHS Road Safety evening with SMS Equestrian, so please enjoy the very full and informative write up written with thanks by Lucy Watling.

We have lots of upcoming non ridden events to look forward to so please come and enjoy for starters our Water treadmill and Mystery of the core events, email hazel.England0@gmail.com to secure you places.

We frequently invite you to attend events via email so do check your mail and your junk mail regularly in case our messages in error end up there! Do look at the website as all our events are published www.wessexridingclub.co.uk.

We would also love to see you at our ridden events. We really value your entries and when not riding we would be absolutely delighted for any help with the running of the events on the day with no previous experience of events required whether riding or assisting!

There are many ridden clinics offered by different instructors hosting at their venues or at Wilton RDA with a choice of flat, poles or jump. See our event schedule details www.wessexridingclub.co.uk/between-the-ears.

On 28th February Sarah Mitchell-Sheppard hosted the second member's clinics at SMS Equestrian, another super Monday morning session thank you. Please take a look at the events schedule and book in if you would like to join these sessions as places as always are limited.

On 6th March our members enjoyed a Julia Cory clinic or the Dressage to Music Taster session with Ros at Hurdcott. Thank you to Julia for hosting a wonderful day and Ros for kicking off WRC in house DTM.

The very exciting news is that Day Camps are back! The dates planned for these this year are:

17th April

8th May

19th June

17th July

11th September

9th October

All to be held at Wilton RDA with the use of both the indoor and outdoor schools to make full use of the two instructors booked for the day. Please contact Lorna lorna_roger@hotmail.com register your interest.

When entering the dressage or achieving PRS hours new to the club this year is our new riding club logo (as voted for by yourselves) which is now featuring on all future orders of WRC rosettes! It looks really super so look out for these coming in newer stocks of our gorgeous rosettes.

Rosettes are being achieved by our pleasure riders who are riding onto their first or progressive hours rosettes.

Congratulations to PRS members for all their achievements so far, most recently

Caroline and Jigsaw - 600hrs

Pam and Monty - 200 hrs



The new logo also looks great on our new range of clothing and horse wear soon to be available to order directly on line! The clothing colours are very classic and wearable and the development of WRC merchandise from small items to large is really very exciting especially as the company has a proven track record of quality and value. Further information on ordering will be with you all shortly.

As well as our in house competitions the Area qualifiers 2022 have begun with the most fantastic result for our club as our Novice show jumping team placed 5th, Well Done Team ;-)

AREA 17 SHOW JUMPING QUALIFIER Moreton 2022



A massive thank you to our lovely helper on the day Beth who was fantastic as our nominated WRC volunteer. Thank you so much x



*We did enjoy the day & you guys were brilliant, on hand when needed. It was a lovely sunny day & the team spirit was amazing, it was great fun!
Thanks for the support
Chris and Scar*



*I went back out to compete! First time since 2018!
My pony did me proud with a double clear and we came home with a team 5th well done team [Wessex Riding Club](#) Martine*

Please email sampainter07@gmail.com if you would like to ride for the club at any future competitions or be the super star helper for an event ;-)

2022 Area 17 Qualifiers

3rd Apr - Combined Training @ Sparsholt
10th Apr - Combined Challenge @ Moreton
19th June - Horse Trials @ Moreton
3rd Jul - Summer Dressage @ New Park
10th Aug - Dressage to Music @ Woodington
TBC - Novice Dressage & Summer SJ

THE BRITISH HORSE SOCIETY - Dead Slow Campaign



The Statistics:

1,010 road

incidents involving horses have been

- 2 metres - 10mph.
- Please be patient.
- Please pass wide & slow.
- Please drive away slowly.
- 3 brains working:
 - ✓ Rider
 - ✓ Driver



reported to The British Horse Society.

Of these, **46 horses** have **died** and **118** have been **injured**.

130 people have been **injured** because of road incidents.

45% of riders were **victims to road rage or abuse**.

80% of incidents occurred because a **vehicle passed by too closely** to the horse.

43% of incidents occurred because a **vehicle passed by too quickly**.



We as Equestrians will do our bit:

- Wear **hi viz** when hacking out - appropriate colours for seasons - horse and rider hi viz (to help measure distance and detect rider)
- **Plan** your route before leaving - look out for traffic, road closures.
- Be **aware of weathers** - heavy rain, low sunlight & fog - all factor to limited sight for drivers.
- We will only ride out if we as a rider are **experienced** & our **horses are safe** to do so.

- Our ideal route is bridleways not roads. -we aren't trying to hog the road!
- Get our horses **attention** to win their **respect** and **gain** their trust.
- Operation snap - **hat or body cams** to keep us safe.
- Adhere to the **HIGHWAY CODE**.

Facts:

- **1 in 10 accidents** were reported in 2021 to the BHS.
- **BRAKE** - road safety charity - helping us **stay safe** on roads and educating road users.

Brake
the road safety charity

we are cycling
The cyclists' champion **UK**

- **Cycling UK** - support the BHS - helped us change the **highway code** to keep us safe.



- The **highway code** states - 'you can ride in the centre of narrow roads if safe' - **don't feel pressured** to move out the way instantly for other road users if there isn't enough space for all of you.

- New forest, Dartmoor & Exmoor have the same rules in the **highway code** apply to keep **wild horses** safe on road areas.



- **1.8 million** riders on roads at least once a week.
- If you **join the BHS** now you can receive up to **£30 million** cover on insurance.
- The BHS are educating all ages - **close pass operation** - in schools **Henry the Horse**.



DOWNLOAD OUR NEW APP - HORSE i



Our new horse incidents reporting app, Horse i, allows you to quickly and easily submit details of any incidents you encounter directly to the BHS via your mobile or tablet device.

THE NEW 'HIGHWAY CODE':

- **214 Animals.** When passing animals, drive slowly. Give them plenty of room and be ready to stop. Do not scare animals by sounding your horn, revving your engine or accelerating rapidly once you have passed them. Look out for animals being led, driven or ridden on the road and take extra care. Keep your speed down at bends and on narrow country roads. If a road is blocked by a herd of animals, stop and switch off your engine until they have left the road. Watch out for animals on unfenced roads.
- **215 Horse riders and horse-drawn vehicles.** Be particularly careful of horse riders and horse-drawn vehicles especially when approaching, overtaking, passing or moving away. Always pass wide and slowly. When you see a horse on a road, you should slow down to a maximum of 10 mph. Be patient, do not sound your horn or rev your engine. When safe to do so, pass wide and slow, allowing at least 2 metres of space.
Feral or semi feral ponies found in areas such as the New Forest, Exmoor and Dartmoor require the same consideration as ridden horses when approaching or passing.
Horse riders are often children, so take extra care and remember riders may ride in double file when escorting a young or inexperienced horse or rider. Look out for horse riders' and horse drivers' signals and heed a request to slow down or stop. Take great care and treat all horses as a potential hazard; they can be unpredictable, despite the efforts of their rider/driver. Remember there are three brains at work when you pass a horse; the rider's, the driver's and the horses. Do not forget horses are flight animals and can move incredibly quickly if startled.
- **216 Older drivers.** Their reactions may be slower than other drivers. Make allowance for this.
- **217 Learners and inexperienced drivers.** They may not be so skilful at anticipating and responding to events. Be particularly patient with learner drivers and young drivers. Drivers who have recently passed their test may display a 'new driver' plate or sticker (see [Safety code for new drivers](#)).
- **49 Safety equipment.** Children under the age of 14 **MUST** wear a helmet which complies with the Regulations. It **MUST** be fastened securely.
Other riders should also follow these requirements. These requirements do not apply to a child who is a follower of the Sikh religion while wearing a turban.
Laws H(PHYR) Act 1990, sect 1 & H(PHYR) Regulations 1992, reg 3
- **50 Other clothing.** You should wear: boots or shoes with hard soles and heels. Light-coloured or fluorescent clothing in daylight. Reflective clothing if you have to ride at night or in poor visibility. Rule 50- Help yourself to be seen
- **51 At night.** It is safer not to ride on the road at night or in poor visibility, but if you do, make sure you wear reflective clothing and your horse has reflective bands above the fetlock joints. A light which shows white to the front and red to

the rear should be fitted, with a band, to the rider's right arm and/or leg/riding boot. If you are leading a horse at night, carry a light in your right hand, showing white to the front and red to the rear, and wear reflective clothing on both you and your horse. It is strongly recommended that a fluorescent/reflective tail guard is also worn by your horse.

- **52** Before you take a horse or horse drawn vehicle on to the road, you should ensure all tack fits well and is in good condition make sure you can control the horse. If you are an inexperienced horse rider or have not ridden for a while, consider taking the Ride Safe Award from the British Horse Society. The Ride Safe Award provides a foundation for any horse rider to be safe and knowledgeable when riding in all environments but particularly on the road. For more information, see www.bhs.org.uk
Always ride with other, less nervous horses if you think that your horse will be nervous of traffic. Never ride a horse without both a saddle and bridle.
- **53** Before riding off or turning, look behind you to make sure it is safe, then give a clear arm signal.
When riding on the road you should:

Keep to the left

Keep both hands on the reins unless you are signalling

Keep both feet in the stirrups

Not carry another person

Not carry anything which might affect your balance or get tangled up with the reins

Keep a horse you are leading to your left

Move in the direction of the traffic flow in a one-way street

Never ride more than two abreast, and ride in single file on narrow or busy roads and when riding round bends.
- **54** You MUST NOT take a horse onto a footpath or pavement, and you should not take a horse onto a cycle track. Use a bridleway where possible. Equestrian crossings may be provided for horse riders to cross the road and you should use these where available (see [Crossings](#)). You should dismount at level crossings where a 'horse rider dismount' sign is displayed.
Laws HA 1835 sect 72, R(S)A 1984, sect 129(5)
- **55** Avoid roundabouts wherever possible. If you use them you should - keep to the left and watch out for vehicles crossing your path to leave or join the roundabout - signal right when riding across exits to show you are not leaving - signal left just before you leave the roundabout.
- **27** Equestrian crossings are for horse riders. They have pavement barriers, wider crossing spaces, horse and rider figures in the light panels and either two sets of controls (one higher), or just one higher control panel for use by equestrians.

○ **Code of Practice for Horse-Drawn Vehicles**

The Code of Practice is available from the Department for Transport, Transport and Technology and Standards Division 6,

2nd Floor, Great Minster House, 76 Marsham Street, London SW1P 4DR. Tel: 020 7944 2078



*Please email any newsletter contributions
Thank you for reading
Hazel and Emma*