

Dates for your diary:
Actual / Virtual Dressage entry
closes 24th May Video submission
by 30th
11th May Talk & Chat Zoom

Remember :

- Wash your hands
- Stay Alert
- Cover your face, wear a mask
- Keep the 'two metre' at least, social distance
- Protect our NHS
- Save lives

April 2021 Newsletter Wessex Riding Club

Hi all,

It's a busy time so I am delighted to say we are ready to go and look forward to seeing you all soon. A lot to get through so hold on tight as we race through whats going on.

The training day at RDA on the morning of Sunday 25th April was a real success and numerous videos have been uploaded from it to add to those already submitted for April's 'Visual affaire'! It has been agreed, subject to COVID restrictions and changes that May's event will be an actual attendance event! But, each entrant will only being able to enter one test per horse, and only have one helper to accompany each rider to keep numbers down. It was agreed by the committee that we would run a virtual event in conjunction with the actual event but with different tests. Listed below are the Actual and the Virtual details for May 2021. Entry forms and details are on the web site. Entries need to be with **Ali** by **24th MAY** and the video uploaded to WhatsApp by 30th May close at 7pm that day.

Virtual Costs are as follows;

Members £6.00 per test
Guests £11.00 per test

Actual Event Costs

Members £13.00 per entry
Guests £18.00 per entry limited to one
Late entry fee £5.00

In both cases the results will be published 10 days after the closing date and test sheets and rosettes will be sent

out by post to avoid congestion at RDA for actual attendees

The tests are as follows;

Actual EVENT

Intro B (2009)
Prelim 2 (2002)
Prelim 14 (2002)

VIRTUAL EVENT

Intro B (2009)
Prelim 1 (2006)
Prelim 18 (2016)

or

You can pick your own Novice or Elementary Test, for Filming it must be 20 x 40 metre arena test and details must be noted on your entry form. Full details can be found on the website.

For the actual competition, competition dress and rules apply - please ensure that you refer to the rules on tack as the judge may deduct points if you are not conforming!

For the virtual competition 'Tack in accordance with BD rules but boots/bandages can be worn. Competition dress not required 'matchy matchy' is encouraged!'

You will need a 20mx40m arena, either in a menage or on grass. Markers should be placed at each of the letters around the outside of the arena. This can be by using letter markers or homemade markers such as cones.

Video must be filmed from C, please make sure that the video'er keeps the horse and rider in sight at all times.

Your video **MUST** have sound and be unedited - callers are permitted but there must be no training. Do not cut or edit your video. Videos must start before entering the arena and last for a few seconds after the final halt.

Ensure your video is labelled with the test, rider name and horse name. This can be done verbally at the time of recording or add the details when you upload to the WhatsApp group.

Videos to be uploaded to the WhatsApp group by 30th May. You will be added to the WhatsApp group once we receive your entry. Results will be published 10 days after the closing date and rosettes and test sheets will be sent afterwards.

Score sheets and awards for the Actual test day will be posted following the event to enable competitors to do their test and leave as promptly as possible to ensure we don't infringe any regulations and all stay safe.

Seamus Mullins is organizing an Open morning in October 2021 between 10.30 and 12.00 based in his yard in Wilsford Cum Lake in Salisbury, if you would like to attend his web site holds the basis details but I will see what I can find out and publish later in the year.

[Open Morning 2021 - Seamus Mullins](#)



Congratulations to Jola and her team for their Quiz Victory at our virtual quiz evening on 6th April. And a very special thanks must again go to Shelley for organising it. Yet another successful time and enjoyed by all who attended.

A quick mention that as the weather improves the **Pleasure Riding Scheme** numbers are starting to rise so if you haven't joined yet now is the perfect time to get some hours under your belt. We are up to 16 now! The joining form is on the web site and it's just £10.00 for the year,

Caroline can be emailed about the PRS at the following;
Jigbabe15@gmail.com

Sarah Short, a new member to the club this year, attended the RDA training on 25th April and it was really lovely to meet her face to face. I asked her to give me her thoughts on the training morning at RDA, bless her we also asked her for her thoughts on Julia Cory's training session at her yard also. I thought the feedback would help and encourage some others to give this a try in the next few months.

"Hi everyone! I am a new member to the Wessex Riding Club, yesterday I thought I would have a go at the Virtual Dressage Training and Filming event that was held at the Wilton RDA.

I was really nervous and apprehensive as I pulled up as I didn't know what to expect. I was greeted by Janet and Hazel and instantly they put me at ease as they are the friendliest most lovely people as is Lorna who I also met.

I had a half hour lesson with 'Sarah' who was a fantastic coach she gave us some good pointers and homework to do to!

Hazel filmed myself and my mare 'Flicka' twice, I was super nervous but everyone was really kind and encouraging and supportive.

We had a lovely time and I wouldn't hesitate to take part again.

I would highly recommend this event, I can take so many positives out of the day, it was thoroughly enjoyable! See you next time!!

Sarah xx

Another contribution has come from Sam Painter another new member.

'Just wanted to say thank you to everyone involved at the RDA today. I found the session with Sarah very beneficial and would really enjoy more sessions with her in the future.

One thing I took away from today was how much I suddenly clam up as soon as a test is involved and all the beautiful schooling went out the window!

I look forward to doing more Dressage with the club in the hope that things will turnaround and I come to love it

😊😊 Thank you again, Sam

The next Training Session with Julia Corey will be at her yard on the 2nd May 2021. This is now full but please lodge your interest with Lorna and maybe we can persuade Julia to do more dates for us. Flat and Pole work is available for booking with Trudi and Sarah at RDA on Sunday 23rd May an opportunity to get that test practice !! Get in touch with Lorna to book your place. The Cost for members is £40 private 45mins / £25pp shared for 1 hour. Non members cost £45 private /£30pp shared for 1 hour

The training and coaching, with opportunity to run through the test and get feedback is a great way of ironing out those 'work in progress' moments. Sarah from SMS was a brilliant teacher and coach and I am sure if you would like to take part Lorna will be able to entice her back to RDA for more motivational riding. I watched everyone on Sunday go through their paces and everyone came away learning something, which is all we can ask of ourselves and our horses.

I have a couple of great shots taken at Julia's the yard on 18th April and particularly draw your attention to the great feedback sent to Hazel from Sarah Short pictured below who thoroughly enjoyed the session and from Sara Morley another one of our new members this year. It's always lovely to hear feedback and I urge you take part in these sessions as life starts to get back to some sort of normality.

**'Hi Hazel, it was so lovely to meet you yesterday!
I just wanted you to know that I loved Julia's clinic she gave us a wealth of homework to do and she was such a lovely instructor.**

**We must have her again lol!!
Hopefully we'll meet up again soon!
Take care,**

Sarah Short'



Sarah Short and Flicka

The staff at RDA were pleased to see us back on site and hopefully we will get back into our routine of Monthly dressage competition and clinics. Hopefully we can use the indoor school soon with access to loos and of course that means coffee and cake but let's not get carried away, one step at a time.

There are certainly plans in place for the Day camps, which were so successful last year. Again, I ask if there are activities that you want to do please let us know so we can consider them and truly make this about you the members enjoying the club and your horses.



Sara Morley and Elburg enjoyed themselves too!

Firstly, my thanks to those on the committee who organised my flat lesson with Julia Cory on Sunday. It was probably the best flat lesson I've ever had, largely due to Julia's expertise and patience with some credit to my trusty warmblood Elburg - so a big thank you to Julia who seems to have the knack of getting not just inside the horse's head but also the rider's. Amongst other things we practiced circles in walk, trot and canter.

My horse has a tendency to drop his left shoulder so generally our circles become ovals, however on Sunday there were more circles than not. Quite a result as I am hoping to do better at dressage than hitherto, particularly as I am representing the club at my first ODE in May (already beginning to have dreams about the cross country...).

Sara

Thanks to everyone who has allowed me to use the feedback given I am delighted that Sarah Mitchell Shepherd found time after a very busy day to send us a comment that she too had enjoyed the training day, meeting up with lovely folks and their horses.

Our next Talk and Chat is planned for 11th May - invites will be circulated nearer the time.

We have a lovely lady called Victoria Leabeater who is going to talk to us via Zoom about her new business and what she can bring to our training and progression. Her business is about assessing performance using technology. Whether Dressage, eventing or jumping we could all do with guidance. You can find out a lot more by visiting her Web site www.equestrainperformaceanalysis.co.uk

It's been rather a sad time with the passing of Prince Philip on the 9th April and I am sure we all feel for the Queen at this time. I was sent info via the Royal Windsor Horse Show, which is planned for 1-4th July 2021. The Show are running an online book of condolence, a tribute to the Duke who was an active President of the show and organisation for 30 years. "The Horse World Remembers"- an Equestrian Tribute to the Duke of Edinburgh, co-ordinated by RWHS will provide a way to celebrate and commemorate the life of a remarkable man and will be available to all those who wish to pay their respects. During the RWHS the entries to the Book of Condolence will be on display on a Wall. It is proposed to bind the entries into a book which will be presented to Her Majesty The Queen. WWW.RWHS.co.uk

I don't know how many of you saw but the article in Horse and Hound but I was very sad to see Tim Holderness-Rodham passed away recently. His wife Jane was an eventing and Olympic superstar back in the days when there was no money in the business. He was a true supporter of the eventing and breeding field and was tireless in his support of the sport giving much of his time for free. I was very lucky five years ago to spend a day with them at their Stud farm in Chippenham. We saw the whole process of A.I. that morning, were treated to a huge and very lovely farmhouse lunch and then, treat of all treats, Jane took us to Badmington, unannounced – just rolled up to a huge welcome; where we saw the stables and the Napoleonic tack rooms and then a tour of

some of her favourite bits of the Badminton 3 Day Event Course.

This trip had been a prize in a raffle and I was lucky enough to be invited to join in. We had a really great day out with an amazing woman. What I didn't know until I met her was that she had done all the riding in the film 'International Velvet' and Tatum O'Neil who played the lead role, did very little riding, she just did the close up shots. Apparently when the film was finished the editor discovered that the shots of the cross country event starting the course with Jane had been done on a mare with plaits, the end of the course finish line showed a horse with no plaits! So, the whole thing had to be re-filmed and edited again. I bet the Cutting Room floor was an interesting place to be that day? The couple were so warm and friendly and I felt very sad to see that he had passed at the age of 78 last week.

Attached to this newsletter is information about Area 17 events and the need for Helpers so maybe this will be of interest.

I am making some enquiries in respect of a day trip to Royal Windsor Horse show which is something we have done as a club before that has been very popular and successful. Could anyone who is interested in coming please drop me an email to register interest. I suspect we will be hard pushed to get free entry this year, the day prices start at £18.00 rising to the Saturday cost of £27.00 but I will gather as much info as I can. Obviously whether we go ahead depends on numbers interested to attend. We hired a minibus last time, which left from Wilton and got us there and back without any fuss. It was a great day out I must admit.

The Committee are keen that we all get a chance to get together and have some fun and what better way to do this than a barbeque or social which is in the planning stages at present, adhering to COVID rules of course but outside and safe. More news to follow as soon as we have made some planning steps on this.

Finally, Good luck to the Wessex Riding Members who are competing in the Hunter Trials Area Qualifier at Larkhill – we have three riders, Lorna, Sam and Sara going to brave this one day event. If you would like to support them further details will follow nearer the time.

Hope to see you all soon,

Very best wishes, and be kind to yourselves, stay safe and well.

Janet and the committee

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