



OXFORD
RIDING
CLUB

SPRING NEWSLETTER



April/May 2011



Committee:

Chairman : Anna Reynolds 01869 331714

Treasurer: Hilary Stratton 01608 737509

Secretary: Alice Reynolds 01869 331714

Membership Secretary: Beverley Hart 07817 322185

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*We're off to a flying start this spring with the Area competitions well underway, regular show jumping clinics and fun rides. We had a great evening at our annual dinner at the Mason's Arms and I do hope a good number of you will come to the show on May 1st at Hull Farm either to compete or simply to enjoy the day. We are still looking for helpers - if you can spare an hour or two we would love to hear from you - please contact Alice:
reynolds.a@hotmail.co.uk*

Snowdrop Ride 26th February 2011

This hack along the bridleways surrounding Barton Abbey brought together 13 horses and a handful of walkers. Setting off from Tittenford Bridge, Alice lead the 5 mile ride at a sensible pace thanks to the slightly sloshy going but this was not long enough for the endurance riders in the group who decided to go round again. Delicious winter soup and chocolate cakes were waiting at the end!



Success for ORC members in Winter Area Qualifiers!

Indoor Winter Show Jumping Qualifier

Unfortunately we were unable to send a team but Louise King travelled to Solihull on 13th February to represent Oxford in the Top Score competition. In this new class each jump is worth a different number of points with a 'joker' fence carrying the highest score. Louise put in two superb rounds on Fred Astaire and won the Novice class. She has qualified for the championships which will take place at the Royal Windsor Horse Show in May 2011. We wish her lots of luck and hope she has an amazing day.

Winter Dressage Qualifier

Area 5 welcomed us most warmly as we arrived at Warwickshire College, Moreton Morrell for the Novice Area Dressage 2011 Qualifier. Hilary Stratton, Sue Ruddock, Alice Reynolds and Beverley Hart put on their white gloves and asked the horses to perform calm and obedient tests despite the gusty conditions. Alice won the Prelim 18 class and overall the team was placed 6th. Well done all on a difficult day that we thought we wouldn't even get to!

Bitting Evening



With a great many years of experience behind her, Hilary Vernon, an independent bitting expert, brought enthusiasm and knowledge to her talk on 24th March. We had a very good turnout for the evening to listen to Hilary speaking on bit-related problems and bit design. She explained how bits are carefully constructed to complement the conformation of the horse's mouth to improve comfort, communication, and promote effective control. There were lots of questions and lively discussion and everyone enjoyed an informative and entertaining evening with food and friends. Many thanks to the committee for organizing such a successful event.

I recommend.....

A trip to Badminton

Badminton Horse Trials were first run in 1949 as a training event following British disappointment at the 1948 London Olympics and has since become the world's leading 4*. In those days the event drew a crowd of 6,000 which has now grown to over 200,000. Just as the number of people attending has changed so have the rules; riders can no longer get bonus points for going fast across country or have penalties taken away by jumping direct routes clear. The roads and tracks and steeplechase were abolished in 2006 and entry requirements have become much stricter. Despite this, Badminton continues to attract riders from around the world.

I'm looking forward to going again this year and follow the horses and riders through this immensely tough and exciting weekend.



Dates for your Diary:

1st May ORC Combined Training Show, Hull Farm, see schedule attached

18th September Kirtlington Sponsored Ride (www.kirtlington-sponsored.co.uk)



Ride in Ditchley Park on Saturday 14th May 2011

Catherine Wills has kindly offered to take us for a 1 – 2 hour hack through the beautiful park

Meet at Model Farm, 10.30am

For more details and directions please contact Anna on 07860 316176

djmr@doctors.org.uk

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