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NEWSLETTER MARCH 2016

Social Evenings

We kicked off the New Year with a social evening kindly hosted by Jane Collier at her home in Tackley. The food was delicious (a special mention must be made about the Meringues which were to die for), the company as always fantastic and much fun had by all. A massive thank you to Jane for making us all so welcome and for everyone involved. This was followed in early March with our annual dinner which was held at The Masons Arms in Swerford. The turnout wasn't as humongous as in some previous years but it did mean I didn't miss anyone's order off the list. Dinner was plentiful not to mention great value and it was a lovely chance to catch up with members and all their plans for the coming year.

We have no set plans for the next non riding social, so if any members have any suggestions or would like to host an event please do let me know.



Social Rides

Our Snow Drop Ride took place on Valentine's Day with June Collier leading the way through Barton Abbey. Some were put off by the constant rain we had been having but those brave enough to venture out were rewarded with a welcome break from down pour for once. Our thanks to June for organising and leading the ride.

Our next ride is The Blue Bell Ride which takes place on 7th May. Approximately 1 1/2 hours long it will be a circular route through Kidington and Ditchley Estate. Our fun rides are a great chance to enjoy hacking in places you wouldn't normally venture whilst catching up with fellow members. Anyone wanting more information about The Blue Bell Ride or wishing to come along please contact Bernadette - bernadette100@aol.com



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Winter Area Qualifiers

Both the Area Winter Dressage and Show Jumping Qualifiers took place in February with Tamsin Miall representing us in the Senior Novice Dressage and Emma Stringer in the Junior Prelim. Great result with Tamsin coming 3rd in her class.

In an ever changing line up of horses and riders we managed to send a Novice Team to the Show Jumping Qualifier. Our late call ups consisted of Rosie Wilson, Alice Reynolds and Felicity Wilson, all on horses owned by others so thanks to Jane Collier, Victoria Irvine and Joanna Cookyarbourgh for allowing us to use their horses. Considering the short notice and lack of practice a good performance was put in and a jolly day out was had.



We are always looking for members to represent ORC at area qualifiers, we are a very relaxed club, all about taking part and having fun with your horse so there is no pressure to perform. Most events have individual classes so there is no need to have the extra worry of being part of a team. If anyone is interested in taking part in dressage, showing jumping or the eventer challenge and 1 day event please let Felicity know.

First Aid Course

We are planning on running a horse riding specific first aid course sometime in April or May. It will be a one day course with practical elements focusing on injuries relating to horse riding. Anyone who would be interested in taking part please contact me - felicitywilsonsmith@yahoo.co.uk, numbers will be limited so it will be on a first come, first served basis.



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Getting to know You

Our next ORC member under the spotlight is Junior Member Emma Stringer.....

Emma Stringer, 15. Emma attends Marlborough School, Woodstock, lives in Middle Barton with Jack Russell Taco and cat Sonic.

Current horses: Crystal, 14.2 event pony bought June 2015 and Zoe, 15.2 mare in foal

Previous ponies: Conker, 12hh section A "super star" giving me "stickability" and Peanut, 13hh neurotic all-rounder, very talented and really taught me to ride a course.

Earliest memories with ponies – minimus camp aged 5 when Conker had a cough and could not go, so first day went piggy back on camp steward, then rode Shetland called Lady.

Best riding experience to date: riding Crystal through the lake at Pony Club camp this year. She went in nicely, but got very deep and back legs hit the bottom before she started to swim.



Earliest competition memory – first cross country on Conker, aged 6, with Felicity Wilson on Bovril. We finished 4th, despite my falling off just after passing the finish because Felicity decided to jump last fence as dressing fence and Conker was not impressed, bucking and cantering off!

(Note from the Editor - a valuable lesson learnt to always make sure you fall off after the flag - good teacher)

Achievements 2015:

- Warwickshire Pony Club ODE, 2'6 – 1st (2 weeks after buying Crystal)
- Pony Club Area 9 ODE 90 cm – 7th in section
- Horse-Events Eventer Challenge 100cm – 5th
- Horse-Events Elmwood ODE first 100cm – 8th
- Blenheim HT Eventer Challenge 100cm – completed course, 3 down.
- ORC Halloween Hunter Trials 100cm - 3rd

Challenges for 2016:

- Compete BE90 & 100, and qualify for Badminton Grassroots regional qualifiers at BE90
- Qualify for PC Champs at Intermediate level Eventing (and maybe dressage!)
- Either 90 or 100cm Riding club ODE