

ORC Newsletter September 2012

Committee:

Chairman: Anna Reynolds 07860 316176

Treasurer: Hilary Stratton 01608 737509

Secretary: Alice Reynolds 01869 331714

Membership: Beverley Gould 07817 322185

Sally Browne 01993 812726

Jill Cartwright 01869 331422

Felicity Wilson 01608 677361

Bernadette Evans 01608 811203

June Collier 01869 331255

Charles Landless 01869 347541

I'm sure you've all hugely enjoyed the Olympic equestrian coverage from Greenwich and indeed ORC has had its success this summer too!

I'm pleased to say that we are now on facebook, which you can find via the ORC website or [facebook.com/oxfordridingclub](https://www.facebook.com/oxfordridingclub). Please post your news, we want to hear about your events, lessons and anything of interest to members, we'll also use it as another way to update club information.

We've had three fun rides this summer, all well attended and great outings. The first one was extraordinarily wet, the next extraordinarily long and the last a very pleasant hack along the Berkshire Downs. Our next will be 30th September 2012 starting at June's barn, Tackley at 11am with lunch after. Please contact Anna for details and directions.



Jean Ballard

It is with great sadness that we heard of the death of Jean Ballard earlier this summer. Jean was a founding member of the Oxford Riding and Driving Club as it was in the early 1960s, and she remained a staunch supporter of the club right up until her death. Early on in the Club's career a team was sent to the Royal International Horse show under her guidance which they won. Jean was a successful dressage rider (notably with "Africa") and a

distinguished list 1 dressage judge. She was a very gracious lady, generous with her time and support, hosting and judging at area show jumping and annual dressage shows. She always attended ORC annual dinners and we shall miss her.

London 2012 – from the eyes of Gamesmaker Louise Way



So, how many of us as children dreamt of one day becoming a professional event rider? I wanted to ride at them all Burghley, Badminton and of course, the Olympics. Instead I chose to follow a more traditional career path and keep riding as a hobby. So when the opportunity to be a part of London 2012 arose, albeit as a volunteer, I jumped at the chance.

When I filled out the application online, I had no idea of the arduous process involved to become a Gamesmaker. Several trips to London for interviews, pep talks, and to pick up my uniform, and I was ready for my role in the Equestrian ‘Timing team’. Even so, when we arrived at Greenwich Park for our ‘cross country dress rehearsal’ nobody really knew what to expect. Rehearsals consisted of waiting for golf buggies to go round impersonating

horses, while carrying notes containing various scenarios on which we might have to act. We only had to 'restart' one golf buggy, which was less than the number of horses we had to restart on the actual day.

I had offered to do some extra shifts with the Equestrian team and this meant a 4.30am start at Greenwich Park on Sunday's dressage day. I was stationed on the gallops, controlling the flow of people and horses which meant I got to see all the riders and horses during their warm-up for the first phase of their Olympic adventure. After my shift finished, I stayed to watch the last lot of riders doing their dressage; poor Kristina Cook had the worst of the weather as a thunderstorm struck and it was at this point that I discovered that our uniforms were not really meant for the great British summer!

On cross country day we were fortunate to be positioned between fences 22 and 23 with a clear view of the warm-up, cross country start and fences 1 to 3. Our job was to time each horse that went past our point; with the other members of our team ready further up the track to stop anyone who needed to be held on course. We had to hold 4 riders at our stopping point but luckily no Brits and therefore no scrutiny of the timings!

It was a great spectacle and overall the course rode well. It was fantastic to hear the support for the British riders; you could literally hear the roar from the crowd travelling from fence to fence as Nicola, William, Mary, Zara and Kristina went around the course, which meant that we could follow their progress until they came back into view!

I really enjoyed being a part of the action. We were made to feel that our contribution helped to make the Olympics a success and I would definitely recommend volunteering at events you may never get the chance to ride at. Bring on Rio 2016!!

Dressage Qualifier at Solihull on 11th August 2012

Our Novice Summer Dressage team was extremely pleased to win the area qualifier on 8th July 2012. Heavy rainfall meant the original venue was waterlogged and last-minute arrangements were made for it to be moved to Warwickshire College at Moreton Morrell. Alice Reynolds, Sue Ruddock, Louise Way and Beverley Gould all enjoyed the good surface and now look forward to competing at the championships at Lincoln.



More success.....

this time for the Intermediate show jumping riders. Sue Ruddock won the area qualifier with Maltby May and Lex Merrick came 6th with Too Much Buzz. Both jumped lovely rounds and thoroughly deserved their placings at Solihull on 11th August 2012.



Foals

Two of the clubs stalwart mares have produced beautiful foals this summer. Jane Collier's Chelsea had a colt by the trakehner stallion Grafenstolz. Katy Wilson's Jemima had a filly, Nellie Newton by the Sport Horse stallion Donda.



Autumn Hunter Trials: Your Club Needs You!



Our Hunter Trials are going to be held on 28th October 2012 at Grange Farm, Swalcliffe and a schedule is attached. This is always a lovely venue and if you're not planning to compete please volunteer to help with fence judging or other jobs on the day (you will be given a packed lunch and a bottle of wine!). Please let Anna or June know if you can be of assistance.