

Chairperson's Report – Spring 2007

Well thankfully the winter is just about behind us now, the nights growing longer and sometime the heat will arrive, - ever the optimist that's me.

As many of you already know we have had quite a busy winter, good attendance at our Training Rallies and excellent support for our Combined Training Events and Dressage Day. I am very grateful to everyone who contributes in any way to the success of these events.

The Arena Event proved to one of the most challenging we have had to deal with in recent times. The weather was not kind to us but that was made up by the generosity of the competitors. I am so grateful for the support, patience and humour displayed by everyone who made the journey to Rowallan. One minute we were inside the next we were out, we tried every connotation of arena we could think to try and be inside. In the end the Intermediate and Open Dressage were outside and the day proceeded as planned. To Adam and Stephen who moved heaven and earth to get things right and worked so tirelessly all day. To the volunteers and families who gave their time to Steward for us, you are invaluable to the success of the Club and these events. Dressage and Showjumping judges who gave their Mothering Sunday treats a miss to be with us, THANK YOU. Finally to **J&M Sommerville** who very graciously sponsored the Arena Event Rosettes for us.

We have been very fortunate to have four new hard working committee members in Angus Macara, Caroline Cameron, Kirsteen Watson and Lyndsey Matthews (was co-opted after volunteering to be Press secretary, she has contacts) who have been contributing very actively at the Committee meetings. The Agenda for the meetings is available on our web-site so you will see how much work the Committee undertake over the weeks and months. We have to move with the times and be flexible and responsive to our members needs, taking aboard all new legislation pertinent to our sport whilst keeping the fun element alive in our hobby. As many of you are aware I am very protective towards the Committee and have a zero tolerance on abuse of either volunteers or horses, but I will happily take constructive criticism on their behalf with the view to turning things around if necessary and implementing change. Please feel free to contact me if you can see a way to improve our Club that we have missed.

After the AGM we undertook to try and engage with sponsors to support our ventures. We have been extremely fortunate in having **Merkland Feeds** support the production and delivery of our newsletter. Please return the favour by visiting their stores where a reduction of 10% will be available at certain times on promotions on the production of your Ayr Riding Club membership card. **J&M Sommerville** have also come up trumps for us by supporting the rosettes at our Arena Event. The dressage Competition in February at Muirmill had **Irene Young of Sara Inspiration Therapy** sponsor the rosettes for two classes. We are currently in consultation with other companies looking for sponsorship for our 50th Birthday Party next year. If you know of any company that would be willing to be in on our party please get in touch.

We started the New Year of with a First Aid Training Course held at Craigie Inn, this is a training venture we will continue to offer our members free of charge on an annual basis. If interested get in touch. The Beach Ride went well and the coastguards got the weather spot on. No rain till we were leaving.

This year we are very lucky to have two of our members accepted for the Scottish Equestrian Association Coaching Programme, Elana Chilton and Linda Barnes. You have been supporting them by coming along to their training rallies. Both girls are extremely grateful to the members for the support and experience of teaching. It is very important we invest in our members and support training. I am also keen to support members who wish to undertake BHS stages in some way, and would be willing to talk to any member wishing to take Stage 1 or who has Stage 2 and wants 3 and so forth.

Training Schedule for April is really concentrated it covers every night of the week, this is to ensure everyone has the potential of attending at least one training session. Why not mix and match 1 flatwork 1 showjumping and one outdoor XC just to get you going. Or go for the session. My idea was to bring all the members out of hibernation. The month of May is totally set aside for TEAMS. We are returning to team selection and training nights in the hope we can get a bit of bonding and organise the party for the days away. The Club are subsidising the training at Titwood and will financially support those teams and individuals who are lucky enough to qualify for National Championships. The Area pre-entry fees to Stoneleigh are met by the Club but the actual Area entry fees are payable by the individual to Ayr Riding Club and given to the Team Co-ordinators. The club re-invests heavily in Teams as they are the basic ethos of the Riding Club movement and are an achievable aim for all members. They are fun and a good way of meeting other members not only in Ayr but throughout British Riding Clubs. April 7th we have Jump X training at Greenfields please contact me to secure a place. Book online or post to Lagg, Mauchline, KA5 5JB. I am off on holiday for a week at the end of March so will contact everyone from the 2nd April onwards.

On the social side (without horses) a group are off to Aintree on the 12th April, Mugs at the helm of the bus. We will be back in time for the Car Boot Sale at Titwood Farm on Friday 13th April 7pm onwards (I hope). Bring a bottle as well as all your movable horsey and non horsey stuff or otherwise. Cost per table £10. Contact Mugs. 01563 523901 to reserve a table.

The month of June will see the Club members who have been selected, off to the Area Qualifiers and do their stuff. Dates for your diary and contacts on training sheet.

June 3rd Novice Dressage and Riding Test – Greenfields

June 10th Open Dressage and Dressage to Music – Rozelle

June 16th Horse Trials all levels – Oatridge

24th June Showjumping and Equitation Jumping – St. Boswells

The Club on Sunday 10th June at Rozelle Park will also host a Scottish & Northern Equestrian Riding Clubs in Scotland Qualifier Dressage Series. The Championship date and venue still to be agreed for this. Rules will be on web-site or available by sending me SAE.

BHS Working Hunter and Equitation Jumping Qualifier Series will also be held on 10th June at Rozelle, the Final for both of these is at Blair Castle in August.

For the real party animals amongst you it is likely that Moray Riding Club will run their very popular 3 day event with roads and tracks at Burgie again this year from 14th -17th June.

So much fun to choose from and not enough money!!!

For the more restful scenario we are off to West Kilbride for our June Rally. This is going to be organised by Lesley Smith and Francis Rodman. The actual plan for the day likely to be Saturday 30th June is still in the making.

July, August and September will see us run rallies the Monday after the British Eventing Horse Trials at Barskimming, Auchinleck and Culzean. This is in return for the Club sponsoring a jump at each of the local events. This information will come to you in the next newsletter.

Well a busy time ahead I hope you can join in at some point, look forward to seeing you out and about having some fun with your horse.

Cheers

Cathy Rawson