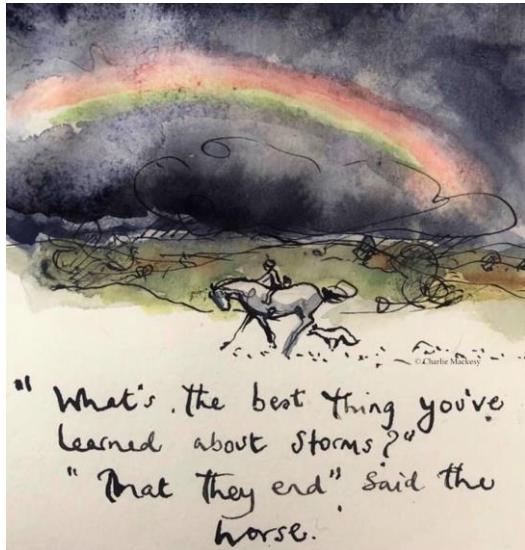




STONELEIGH RIDING CLUB NEWSLETTER APRIL 2020 No 84

Welcome to our April newsletter – normally at this time of the year we would be excited about the various winter championships and looking forward to a great spring programme. All was looking good and even Swalcliffe in the rain and mud did not dampen our spirits. But in the following days the Covid 19 restrictions were hastily put into place to protect as many as possible from the disease so inevitably we have a very different lifestyle. Many of us are self-isolating (being of a certain age and/or frailty) and relying on our friends, family and supermarket deliveries to keep going. We are extremely lucky to have gardens, animals and the countryside to step out into. It must be very difficult living in a city at this time. This has inevitably caused us to look to different ways of tending to our precious horses many sharing duties and often struggling to exercise them.

The BRC sent out a notification re the cancellation of all RC activities until June 30th. This has meant a cancellation of our 2 day event at the end of May and the Princethorpe dressage planned for 27/28th June. Also the loss of our instructional rides and pole work etc. We await a decision in June as to whether we can resume our activities.



In the hope that the restrictions may be lifted and looking forward, we have been in consultation with Princethorpe and discussed the possibility of re-scheduling our events. Unfortunately we are not able to stage the 2 day later in 2020. We thank all of you who had offered to help and have a date of May 29th 30th 2021 for your diaries. Our main sponsors, The Wigley Group and Howkins & Harrison, (who were very disappointed) are looking forward to continuing their support in 2021, great news.

If the restrictions are lifted we are proposing to run the Dressage at Princethorpe, provisional date Sat August 15th. We will send out schedules after June 30th (date of review) Our current feeling is that should the Lincoln Championships be going ahead we can run as the qualifier, if not we shall run as a RC competition so that you have the

opportunity of a day out.

Meanwhile keep well and let's hope that we shall be able to renew our club activities in time for the next Newsletter.

Wendy B

Novice and Intermediate SJ qualifier 2020

Many thanks to Solihull RC for hosting this year's qualifier, and congratulations to all those who have qualified for the championships, due to Storm Dennis, the dates had to be re arranged but fortunately the majority of our riders were still able to compete.

The junior classes and senior 70 cm were moved to Sunday 23rd February where Stoneleigh entered just one team, thank you to Claire for stepping in at the last minute to complete the team, the new single phase scoring in the second round caused a few problems for both the judges and the riders to begin with, but Stoneleigh had mixed fortunes, Amy rode two brilliant rounds to finish on 0 penalties and just 1 second behind the winner in the jump off section to come 2nd this should qualify her for the National Championships at Arena UK in March. Liz had an unfortunate fall, but luckily finished with just a few bruises and no serious injuries and Margaret and Claire picked up a few penalties to leave our team 4th in the overall team result.

Amy Barker – Sierra Tiquila Silver

Liz Cooper – Anaka

Margaret Hughes – Hattie

Claire Taylor Reeves – SLM Frankie

The following Sunday 1st March was the turn of the rest of our senior riders, with two teams and one individual in the 80cm, one team and one individual in 90cm and Lucy Horner having a go at the 100cm for points.

80cm Teams

Stoneleigh Village

ANNIE CHOMA - HENRI DE BOISTRON

RACHEL WHITEHALL - LLANARTH GRAND DESIGN

LISA DAVIES - BONMAHON SHAKER

ANNA BANCROFT PRESLEY

Stoneleigh Abbey

NAOMI CROSS - HARBERWAIN CHEROKEE

JO MARSTON - ECHRIN

MARGARET HUGHES - WOLFERLOW ST JOE

BUD JACKSON - BARNEY'S TURN

Great double clear rounds for Jo Marston, Annie Choma and Lisa Davis, with a final placing of 4th individually for Jo, with Annie and Lisa just outside the placings. Our Abbey team tied on a final score of 0 penalties with 4 other teams but finished in 3rd place on time. Well done Di George who competed as an individual just rolling a couple of poles, their best result to date.

Our 90 cm team

MARISA ALLRIGHT - LINALI OLYMPIC DRUM

KAREN BENNETT - STAR

NAOMI CROSS - CONNOR

LUCY HORNER - TOUREEN SAM

Marisa rode two clear rounds to finish on 0 penalties in 36.27 to take 5th place individually, with the team just outside the placings with 16 faults. Emma Pepper rode as an individual and finished with just 6 penalties.

Lucy decided to have a go at the 100cm class, as riders are now allowed to compete at two heights, and although not placed put in a very credible performance.

Well done everyone, as this goes to press, we are now on lockdown and all equines events have been cancelled until at least 30th June, sadly Amy will not be contesting the 70cm novice championship at Arena UK, but it is still an amazing achievement to have qualified.

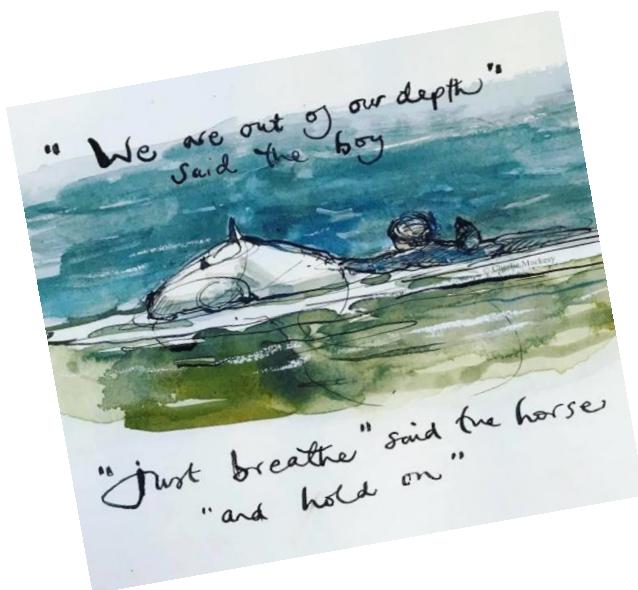


Amy and Tara

ARENA EVENTING CHAMPIONSHIPS

The 14th / 15th March saw the BRC Horsequest Arena Eventing Championships take place at Aston le Walls, the last BRC event to take place before the closure of all riding club events. Margaret Hughes on her little pony Hattie (aka Poppy) had previously qualified for the mixed 70cm class at Dallas Burston the previous October. Margaret rode a super round just knocking a pole in the SJ phase and the dreaded joker at the end to get 10 faults with a few time penalties.

Well done



Tuesday Evening Instructional Rides

Stoneleigh Riding Club's claim to fame could be that we had 3 flat lessons about 4 hours before the BRC edict saying all must cease!

Well, that's about it.

Hopefully see you all on 21st July for evening BBQ and dressage.

Stay virus free. Hopefully we'll be allowed to continue hacking.

Marion

Member's winter talk

Back in February, which seems a long time ago now, when we still had the freedom of movement, Katrina Jackson from Spring Paddock vets came and joined us for our winter talk.

Those that attended found out about the importance of regular equine dental checks, what to look for and what problems our horses can face. Having covered some of the preventions and solutions to these problems Katrina then told us all about Equine Acupuncture. This was new information for all of us and was extremely enlightening.

Thank you again to Katrina for taking the time to come and do this talk for us.

Thank you also to those members that did manage to attend. As a club we host an evening talk annual in February as a chance for members to have a catch and learn something new. It is disappointing for the committee and the speaker when numbers are low.

If you have a subject you want us to cover please let a committee member know. In the past we have done rider fitness including Pilates and physio, horse fitness including getting ready for the eventing seasons, and numerous veterinary subjects. We are open to anything so please let us know what you would like.

Up beat update!

I just wanted to give you all an update so that you know that during this enforced downtime there is still a lot of background work going on so that as soon as we are able to we can be back up and running.

We have to keep in line with British Riding Club Advice (which is government lead) when it comes to hosting events and training as our insurance becomes invalid if we act against it. However, personally I am using this time to collate ideas and lesson plans (yes I am that bored) so there will plenty to get you back up and ready to compete.

If any of you on Facebook follow the RDA National Training page you will see a weekly Friday update on exercises you can do at home either with your horse if you are still riding/working them or with your dogs and children in the garden (yes I am that sad).

I am also collating resources together for work and Pony Club which means I am coming across a lot of online courses and webinars to continue learning, a lot of these are now being offered with a discount or free. (See details of the FEI Campus e-learning site below)

For those of you who are working from home and struggling to stay away from the biscuit drawer (yes that is me) then there are lots of online work out videos, Pilate/yoga sessions. I hate exercise but have found some Joe Wicks 15 minute HIIT sessions which I am managing to do most days. A lot of people are taking their sessions on line so check because your normal yoga session maybe available via YouTube or Zoom!

Remember we are in this together so if you are feeling a bit down or bored, don't sit and dwell on it, you won't be the only one so pick up the phone, drop someone a message, do a video call (via FaceTime, Facebook messenger, what's app), run around your garden or take some stupid selfies. It is important to keep our spirits high and to have a good laugh. If you are struggling to find something to laugh at drop me a message, my phone is full of videos of me making a fool out of myself.

And rest assured as soon as we can Stoneleigh Riding Club will be back out there offering so much for you to do you'll want a week in isolation to recover.

As well as running round my garden I have been using my new spare time for something a bit more useful as well!

I have found the FEI Campus website which is a free of charge e-learning platform.

Some of the horse care and management modules are good, others you might find a bit basic but always good to remind ourselves of these basics as complacency can lead to accidents!

There are many subjects and also some discipline modules (which I haven't looked at yet and if they cover FEI rules remember these can differ from RC rules)

Below is the link to the site, you will have to register but it is all free.

<https://campus.fei.org/>

Stay safe but keep learning everyone! ☺

Jo Hayward

Some FAQ's from BRC

Coronavirus FAQ's for British Riding Club Committees and Members V2 27.03.20

Please note, while this guidance is current at the point of publication, it may quickly be superseded following further government updates, or changes to the situation.

Q. What should I do if my horse is due a vaccination in the next few months and will any lapse of vaccinations affect me entering BRC events later in the year?

A. During this unprecedented time it is really important to follow the advice given by your vet. In respect of future BRC qualifiers and Championships, please rest assured that we will be understanding of any issues with regard to six monthly boosters not being given and 12 month boosters that may have been given later than they should have been due to vets cancelling routine appointments at this time. We will issue a further clarity as the situation develops.

Q. Can my riding club organise training or other activities that are non-competitive and will we be covered by the BRC insurance policy?

A. No. BRC have issued guidance stating that all BRC organised activities should cease with immediate effect until 30 June. If you were to run your BRC insurance could be compromised. The reason behind this is that in accordance with the government's advice, organised sports activities are non-essential. Therefore, we should be reducing travel and social interaction for non-essential activities and not adding extra pressure on the emergency services, should an accident occur.

Q. We have a committee meeting or AGM coming up. How can we go ahead with these?

A. If these can be managed virtually, then they could still go ahead. There are a number of online platforms that can be used for virtual meetings. These include: • Microsoft Teams • Zoom • Go to Meeting • Cisco Webex • Google Hangouts • House Party

If it is not possible to get enough participants to run these virtually, then the planned meeting / AGM should be postponed until later in the year. Remember to communicate this to all members, so that they are fully aware.

Q. Our club owns premises. Can individuals still hire the arena and use the facilities, one at a time?

A. No. Any type of sports ground falls under the government category of 'assembly and leisure premises', and so now must remain closed.

Q. Can I continue to travel to care for my horse?

A. Horse welfare is critical and grooms or the sole carer for a horse should travel to provide care for horses. Where horses are kept in livery, the BHS advises that horse owners respect the protocol put in place by the yard owner or manager and work as a team to agree a care plan for your horse(s).

Q. Can I continue to ride my own horse?

A. We are getting a lot of questions in relation to riding your horse, for which there are no specific government guidelines at present. We advise that it is not appropriate to put unnecessary pressure on the emergency services and everyone should make their own individual decision as to whether riding is necessary at this time.

Q. Can I continue to visit my instructor or have an instructor visit my yard to continue with my lessons?

The BHS advises that in line with government advice, no unnecessary travel takes place during this time. That would include travelling your horse for a lesson, or having an instructor come to you for this purpose.

Q. Can my farrier still attend to my horse?

A. The British Farriers and Blacksmiths Association have advised their members, "Farriers provide a vital role in maintaining the welfare of many equines. It is our understanding that you may travel to work but please carefully consider if this is essential. Please adhere to the highest levels of biosecurity and be seen to

be adhering to them. We encourage you all to consider very carefully your movements and what you class as being essential."

Q. Is my horse at risk from COVID-19?

A. According to the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) the current spread of Covid-19 is a result of human-to-human transmission, and, to date, there is no evidence that companion animals can spread the disease. Therefore, there is no justification in taking measures against companion animals which may compromise their welfare.

Q. Does my club have insurance for the events we have had to cancel where costs have already been incurred?

A. You would only have insurance for your events if this is something that your club has arranged independently. Abandonment cover is costly, and BRC do insure some of the larger Championships, but this would not include your club activities. Also, abandonment cover is usually just for cancellation due to bad weather, and it does not cover cancelling because of disease.

Q. We had a venue booked for an event and had paid the deposit. They are not willing to give the deposit back. Is there anything we can do?

A. Do you have a contract with the venue which detailed cancellation costs? Sometimes, this would state a fee such as 50% to be paid if the event did not go ahead. It would certainly be a good idea to try to negotiate with the venue - perhaps they could keep a credit note for you to use in the future. We all need to try and work together to keep all our organisations going.

Q. What can we do instead to keep the momentum of the club going?

A. We would encourage committees to still meet virtually if possible. Keep planning for events after the 30 June as we would expect uptake to be high. Perhaps you could do a virtual quiz for members or judge some photo competitions or virtual awards. Take the time to write about your club and some recent activities and send that to us for publication in Rider. You could also think about taking some BHS Challenge Awards, members could use their time away from competition to study for the awards. Encourage teams to set up WhatsApp groups, you can discuss training tips and generally cheer each other up!

Q. I am struggling to continue to care for my horse due to the current situation. What can I do?

A. The health and welfare of your horse is your priority. If you have any concerns please contact your vet, yard manager or the BHS and we will do our best to assist you. You can contact us via telephone on 02476 840517 (calls may be recorded for monitoring purposes) or email us at welfare@bhs.org.uk.

Q. What can I be doing to help minimise risk of spreading the Coronavirus?

A. Whilst use of antibacterial products on all equipment may help maintain cleanliness and support biosecurity, not all products will specifically combat spread of Coronavirus. Continue to follow recommended approaches such as below

- Wash your hands more often than usual. Wash for at least 20 seconds using soap and hot water. Use hand sanitiser if that's all you have access to
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue, or with your sleeve if you don't have a tissue, and throw the tissue away immediately. Immediately wash your hands or use a hand sanitising gel
- be prepared to self-isolate – plan how it will impact on your day-to-day requirements
- Plan ahead for your situation, which might include alternative care for your horse if you need to self-isolate
- Use health services wisely
- Stay up-to-date with trusted sources of information such as <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

Q. Where can I find further information and support?

A. The BHS has further guidelines available here: <https://www.bhs.org.uk/advice-and-information/coronavirus-covid-19>

You will find advice for the following groups:

- Horse owners
- Yards, centres and schools
- Business owners

There is also a useful article on commonly asked questions on Horse & Hound here:
<https://www.horseandhound.co.uk/news/coronavirus-horse-riding-equestrian-businesses-grooms-riders-710146>

NEW MICROCHIP RULE

From 1st October 2018, all horses in England (not just those born since 2009) had to be microchipped by law. There has been a 2 year grace period, to give time to organise getting older horses' microchipped.

From 1st October 2020, it will be an enforceable law. After this date all horses attending a BRC qualifier or championship (regardless of where they reside) must be microchipped. If not they will be disqualified. Spot checks will be carried out.

Is your horse microchipped?



The
British
Horse
Society

New legislation means that all horses, ponies, donkeys and mules in Great Britain need to be microchipped. Failure to comply is an offence and could result in a fine.



Benefits of having your horse microchipped

Once your horse is microchipped, update your Passport Issuing Organisation (PIO) with the microchip number and they will upload the data to the Central Equine Database.

By using the Central Equine Database at www.equineregister.co.uk you can:

- Check your horse's passport details using the National ChipChecker
- Quickly report your horse missing
- Check if a horse is legally for sale



Deadline for having your horse microchipped

The deadline will vary according to what part of the country you're in. Ensure your horse is microchipped before the relevant deadline listed below:

- England - 1 October 2020
- Wales - 12 February 2021
- Scotland - 28 March 2021

For more information visit bhs.org.uk/horsepassports



The British Horse Society is a Registered Charity Nos. 210504 and SC038516

To try and lift everyone's spirits at this very difficult time we are asking you to get scrolling through your old photos and enter our fantastic Facebook photo competition.



Let's remember happier times and have some fun! All pictures **MUST** be posted on the relevant BRC Facebook events pages, launching today 27 March. We have some great prizes up for grabs from our wonderful sponsors NAF, Natural VetCare and SEIB Insurance Brokers, and the winners of each category will feature in the next issue of Rider magazine. #BRCKeepingUsGoing

To enter, go to the relevant Photo Competition Event and post your picture, in the 'Discussion' section.....

The Categories:

- BRCA [NAF](#) Prettiest Mare
- BRCA [NAF](#) Handsomest Gelding
- BRCA [NAF](#) Golden Oldies
- BRCA [Natural VetCare](#) Who Let The Dogs Out
- BRCA [NAF](#) Best Mane/Tail
- BRCA [SEIB Insurance Brokers](#) Funniest Face
- BRCA [SEIB Insurance Brokers](#) Team Spirit
- BRCA [SEIB Insurance Brokers](#) Best View

T&C's: Open to 2020 BRC members only. Add your photos to the relevant 'event' on the BRC Facebook pages. Enter as many different photos and categories as you like. Remember to add your full name, your horses/dogs name and the name of your Riding Club alongside your picture. Any ridden pictures must have been taken prior to the recent Government Coronavirus restrictions.

Prizes provided in kind from our generous class sponsors NAF, Natural VetCare and SEIB Insurance Brokers. Entries close: Monday 13 April 2020

**** Some great news for anyone wanting to take part in the April
BRC NAF Interdressage League ****

If you've ever thought that you might like to have a go, now's the perfect time. Interdressage (www.interdressage.com) have added some new classes which are open to all BRC members and adhering to the current Government guidelines. You will be able to upload any previously videoed Dressage Test (BRC, BD, BE, PC) from Intro to Elementary level, and these will be marked as RIDERS TESTS. Your test will be constructively marked and some top tips for how to improve will be added to the bottom of your sheet that will be returned by email. The level of these tests is as follows: BD Intro (Interdressage Walk and Trot), BD Prelim (Interdressage Starter), Novice/Elementary (Interdressage Intermediate). All these tests will be £12.50 to enter. There will be monthly prize money for all classes, rosettes will be 'virtual' ones, and the highest placed BRC rider at the end of the Month will receive a fab NAF prize. They will be run under Interdressage rules and competition clothing is not required. Please go to this page to enter: www.interdressage.com/entry-tickets

There are some great In Hand classes running in April too.

PROVISIONAL AREA 5 CALENDAR 2020

Subject to competitions reopening

			VENUE	HOST CLUB
25 th / 26 th July 2020	Q	Style & SJ	Solihull	Solihull
2 nd August 2020	Q	DTM	Moreton Morrell	Moreton Morrell
15 th August 2020 (TBC)	Q	Junior / Senior Dressage & RT	Princethorpe	Stoneleigh RC
5 th / 6 th Sept 2020	C	National Championships	Lincolnshire Showground, Grange-de-Lings, Lincoln, Lincolnshire. LN2 2NAC	
27 th Sept 2020	P	Horse Trials	Moreton Morrell	Moreton Morrell
2 nd – 4 th Oct 2020	C	Dressage To Music / Quadrille Selection Trial	Addington Equestrian	
	C	Quadrille Final		