

**WE NEED A
LOGO**



Essendon & Epping Forest Dressage Group

SEPTEMBER 8, 2008

VOLUME 1, NUMBER 1

A *big* welcome to
the newest Riding
club

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Welcome from Kim and Heather

Welcome to the first newsletter for the newly combined Essendon & Epping Forest Dressage Group (and how easily does that name slip off the tongue! The two committees have been working very hard all summer (particularly Debbie Walmsley who has been cracking the whip to keep us all on schedule), and now we are ready to launch the winter programme which will comprise 12 days of competition and a clinic.

We are hoping for a seamless transition from the old clubs to the new Super Club and hope that you will all be able to join us for the Inaugural show on 5th October. We will be running ordinary competitive classes plus training classes designed to encourage you to "have a go" at the next level without the risk of incurring penalties that will stop you competing at your normal level. As if that wasn't enough -the highest scoring rider in each of the training classes will receive a class ticket to enable them to compete in a class at an affiliated show of their choice (hopefully one of ours!).

The new committee will be made up of virtually all of the former committee members of the 2 clubs. Kim Ratcliffe will take on the role of Chair and Heather Lonsdale as Vice Chair. There is an article later on in the newsletter which introduces all the committee members and their roles.

You will have all seen the letters setting out why your committees decided that a merger was beneficial for both clubs. This is essentially a pooling of resources to produce a club with stronger finances, a larger committee and a larger membership but essentially with the same aims and ambitions, namely to develop the most successful dressage club in the area (and possibly unrivalled in the country!).

For the former Epping Forest Dressage Group Members, the major new benefit will be the support and backing of British Riding Clubs. When you receive your BRC membership cards you will see that there are many benefits including a regular free magazine, membership discounts - including reductions on BHS Le Trec entry fees, free membership of Spillers Diamond Club, 10% off Extremely Equestrian Holidays and 5% of Rug Wash cleaning.

Every year there are a number of competitions, and whilst the club will be focusing on the Dressage competitions we would be delighted to hear from any members interested in competing at show jumping or hunter trials. There is also the Quadrille competition the final of which is at Olympia. EDRC have not put forwards a team for many years but if any of you feel that way inclined then we would be delighted to support you all the way!

In addition there will be several Training shows which are designed to encourage combinations to "have a go" at the next level with the added incentive of BD Class tickets on offer, together with even more trophies.

For the former Essendon Members, the major benefit is the increased number of shows including a summer series, more of the training shows that have been so popular, a Championship show that is open to anyone placed in the first 3 in every class in the league as well as even more trophies to go for. There will also be a return to affiliated shows that have been missing from the Essendon schedules for a couple of years, all of which will include music qualifiers.

Despite only fielding 7 riders at the BRC Area 7 Dressage qualifiers at Cottenham, we have secured 2 places in the finals that will be held at Lincoln at the beginning of September. For the second year running we were successful in the Medium class with Emma Wakefield and the charismatic Hiskulet securing a win whilst Emma Satterley and the mercurial Willoughby taking an individual place in the Open Novice class. We are also able to report more success in the Area Dressage to Music qualifiers which were held at Milton Keynes 23 August with the finals at Addington later in this newsletter.

Sadly, after two years of a very steep learning process, Team Managers Graham and Isabelle Izzard are stepping down from the committee for personal reasons. We have very much appreciated their excellent work and know that they will support Nicky Gates who will be taking over the role in the future. We have requested that, from January, we change areas from 7 to 8 which will put us into the Essex region and we will be looking for members to commit to riding for us from 1st April next year (anyone who has ridden for a club since 1st April 2008 is not eligible to ride for anyone else until then). If you would like to be considered for the honour of riding for the team please tell Nicky.

So with a very positive committee behind us we look forwards to this Inaugural winter season of the newly merged SUPERCLUB, long may Essendon & Epping Forest Dressage Group reign!

Kim Ratcliffe

Chair

Heather Lonsdale

Vice Chair

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Introducing the New Committee

These are exciting times and the combined Committee would like to welcome you all to the new Club. A great deal of work has been going on behind the scenes to be ready for our first Winter Series.

The Committee has decided how we will work together in our first year until our first AGM when we hope Members will vote us in! Below are some short biographies to introduce our new committee to you.....

Kim Ratcliffe - Chairman

Previous Chairman for EDRC - I was formerly a City banker but left the rat race to take up coaching (both equestrian and human) full time. I am also a List 1 dressage judge and BD pyramid trainer and enjoy the occasional stints commentating at Hickstead and at the National championships. I have a 31 year old horse, Farmer - known to his friends as the Yellow Peril (although he's chestnut) - and who is now very happily retired and enjoying the easy life. I have since taken up 2 new hobbies- scuba diving and singing - though not at the same time! We are always looking for willing volunteers to join the committee - no experience just a good sense of humour required.

Heather Lonsdale – Vice Chairman

I have been Chairman of EFDG since 1991, with a break for three years when we moved away but I remained on the Committee. I am married to Mike, and ride my horse Onassis at Medium/Advanced Medium Affiliated Level. However most people remember me with Tom (RIP) my charismatic Grey.

I first got interested in Dressage in my teenage years when I decided to school Apollo in the hope I would jump show jumps in the correct order and got hooked. During the day I work as a Business Manager of an Engineering Company in Harlow, Essex.

Laura Vanderveit – Winter League Secretary

I have been on the committee of EFDG for approximately 12 years and have been show secretary for 10 of those years. I have 2 horses - Burywood Briar now 22 years and only retired from competition last May and we competed up to med affiliated. I bred my other horse Burywood Chess, from Burywood Briar. Chess is now 6 years old and we currently competing at affiliated novice. I am freelance hairdresser, happily married to long suffering husband Chris oh and we have 2 dogs. Somehow I never had the chance to fit in children!!

Debbie Walmsley – Club Secretary

Hello everyone – my day job involves a daily grind of commuting to and from London where I work as an Assistant Company Secretary. However, I have to remain focused as the day job enables me to keep the love of my life, Spritzer. I was a typical horse mad child – and rode from the age of 5. However I did not get my own horse, Spritzer until I was 42!!! He is therefore very special and fulfills a lifetime ambition. The two of us have a bash at everything – dressage, jumping, hunting but our main aim is just to enjoy ourselves. However over the last year or so my interest in dressage has increased and we have recently affiliated with British Dressage so I am looking forward to seeing what we can achieve together. 😊

Avril de Solla – Joint Treasurer

Previously Treasurer for EDRC, Avril pays all the bills and expenses, keeps the books up to date, completes a monthly bank reconciliation and an annual trial balance for submission to the auditors. Her "day job" is a civil servant, working for the Inland Revenue where she has been since leaving school. She has a New Forest mare on whom she competes at Preliminary/Novice level, working Elementary at home, and whom she also shows in ridden Mountain and Moorland classes. Avril is also a List 6 judge.

Lesley Harrison – Joint Treasurer

Previously Treasurer for EFDG, I continue to look after the EFDG accounts, I have been a member I think for 3 years now, but don't often compete as my horse, Alize, has health problems (back and spavins) and usually manages to throw a sickie if he hears about any events which he might be entered for!

I work as a bookkeeper/office administrator for various companies ranging from architects to a small charity.

Naomi Kember – Clinics

A latecomer to riding and horse ownership when she and Malcolm decided their four children were having too much fun on horses without them. Now proud owners of Carlsberg and Kim's comeback mount Fungi.

Carlsberg will be making his Freestyle debut this season and Fungi is looking forward to taking Kim to Music Semis at Patchetts and Area Festival Champs at Hartpury next year.

Tim and Alastair are also members of EDRC and provide fun time for the horses taking them to the gallops, jumping and on faster hacks as well as being available to compete.

Naomi is always happy to receive suggestions for future clinics and feedback about previous ones.

Katie Dartnell – PR/Marketing/Website

I have officially been a committee member for only the past year but as my mum has been on the EFDG committee since the very beginning I have been drafted in to help at shows since the age of about 7!

My Role within the club is PR and Advertising alongside Lisa Perez and Marina Harley. Together we are responsible for the schedules, adverts, flyers and Show write-ups etc. We will also be helping to develop the new EFDG Website alongside Heather Lonsdale.

As well as being a part of the committee I also regularly compete my 9yr old Danish Warmblood Akaers Amigo. We are currently competing at Medium and represent the BYRDS Eastern region in team events at 'A' squad level.

Lisa Perez – PR/Marketing/Website

I am a 23 year old graduate drama student currently doing a masters in psychology, and have been taken under the wing of the riders at Burywood livery where I shared and now own my first horse called Breeze. She was backed at the yard as a 3 year old and is now a 20 year old veteran who acts like a youngster, teaching her owner the lesson of a good seat and that patience can go a long way!

Other members of the committee are:

Marine Harley – PR/Marketing/Website

Gill Walker – Points and Trophies

Sharon Creek – Points and Trophies

Sheila Martin – Assistance with EFDG Accounts

Kay Symons – BRC Area Rep/Membership

Joyce Adams - Membership

Nicky Gates – BRC Teams/Judges

Denise Dartnell - Rosettes

Alison Harvey - Music

Julia Halpin – Valued Helper

We will introduce more biographies in our next newsletter – please feel free to contact a member of the Committee – their contact details are at the end of the newsletter.

If you would like to volunteer to help on the committee please contact any member – all help and contributions are greatly valued.

We sincerely hope you will enjoy your new Club and we will strive to exceed your expectations!

The Committee



Websites

We are planning to launch the new website by the Autumn, however, in the meantime the existing websites will both be updated to keep you informed

www.efdg.org and www.essendonrc.co.uk

New LOGO Competition

Are you creative? We need a new logo for the Club. All we ask is that it should reflect the fact that we are a Dressage Group – but it can be as creative and individual as you can be.

The Committee will decide the winner by majority vote.

A bottle of Champagne and a free entry to one class in our Winter Series awaits the winner - Oh and their mark on all of our publications!

Entries should be emailed or posted by 30th September 2008 to:

hlonsdale@efdg.org - Heather Lonsdale, Brooklands, Broad Green, Steeple Bumpstead, Suffolk CB9 7BW

Olympic Report

By a Dressage Anorak

What a fabulous time we've had with the Olympic Dressage I don't remember coverage ever being as good as this – press the red button and the full competitions were shown without editing and with Commentary from Jennie Loriston Clarke throughout. I have copied it all to DVD much to Mike's (long suffering Husband) dismay.

I was so proud of Team GB when Emma Hindle performed her Team test finishing in fourth position, right up there in the middle of all those great names of Dressage. What a pity Lancet appeared to feel the heat and humidity in the Grand Prix Special which was the first part towards the individual medal, finishing 9th did not reflect their standing in the field but got Emma a ticket to ride in the KUR. Their performance in the KUR was inspirational, both the technical and artistic impression. Team GB finished 6th and Emma Hindle finished 7th Individually - that has to be our best result ever and now we have 2012 right on our doorstep – who wants to reserve a coach ticket now?!

On a personal note there were some heartening moments for this sad old anorak, Satchmos rapid reverse when he stood on his hind foot is reminiscent of some movements Onassis and I have performed in front of the Judge and the Eventing Dressage introduced some 'High School' movements in the free walk and flying changes in places not required – got those tea shirts too!!

Music Success at BRC Qualifying Show

Louise Clark and Kim Ratcliffe represented the club(s) on 23 August at the BRC Area Qualifying show held at Milton Keynes in the Music classes. Kim won the Novice on 76.1% , Louise was 2nd, 1% behind. Kim was also 2nd on 70.4% in the elementary, again Louise was only 1% behind her. Unfortunately due to late withdrawals by other teams only 1st and 2nd place qualified in the Novice and only 1st place qualified in the elementary. Well one to Kim and Louise for qualifying for the dressage to music novice area championship. The Championship show is scheduled to be held on 5th October at Addington which unfortunately means they will miss the Inaugural show but the committee and the Club wish you both every success and we will be reporting on how they went in the next newsletter.

Qualifying for Winter League

Points will be awarded to the top ten positions on a reducing scale of 10 – 1 e.g. first placed will be awarded 10 points, second place will be awarded 9 points.

Points will only be awarded to members of the Riding club

Any non members placed 1st – 10th – their points will be ignored

There will be a cup for the combination who have amassed the highest number of points during the league for each class

Qualifying for the Championship Show

All riders placed 1st, 2nd and 3rd and gaining over 55% will automatically be eligible to enter the Championship Show, during the course of the league if any rider placed 1st, 2nd or 3rd has already qualified, the qualification will automatically be passed down to the next rider yet to qualify and who has attained a score of 55% or over.

Format of Winter League

For each class in the championship show cups will be awarded to the combination coming first and second overall in the class, the highest placed junior and the combination to have amassed the most number of points

Each of the winners for each of the classes will automatically be entered into the ride off for the Supreme Champion at the end of the day. Champions will be asked to ride a test at their winning level (e.g. prelim champion will ride a prelim test, Medium champion will ride a medium test etc) and each combination will be scored on a percentage basis. The combination with the highest percentage at the end of the class will be awarded Supreme Champion.

Affiliated shows

Epping Forest Dressage Group has during the Winter months run four to six affiliated competitions with British Dressage. The idea was to be able to offer members an opportunity to try an affiliated competition within a familiar surrounding with organisers they knew. An additional benefit has been the income it has given the Club which has enabled us to subsidise training days, clinics and demonstrations.

We have awarded class tickets throughout the Winter to successful members to give them membership to British Dressage for the day and to use the class ticket at any Affiliated Competition but certainly they were welcomed at our Affiliated shows.

There is unanimous support to continue this practice within the merged club.

The first three Affiliated Schedules are enclosed with this newsletter. They are in the name of EFDG as the submission dates for these schedules preceded the Club merger. However, EFDG members are all entitled to the reduced entry fee stated on the schedule.

The next schedule to be submitted is the 29th April, this schedule has not been submitted yet, when it is it will be in the new name of the merged Club.

We will be awarding class tickets throughout the winter, however, should you not win one then a class ticket can be purchased directly from British Dressage and be submitted at our Affiliated competitions.

We do sincerely hope you will give them a try if you have any aspiration to compete at affiliated level, the committee will be there on the day to help you.

BD Class Tickets

The committee will be awarding class tickets to the combination achieving the highest overall % at each level of the training classes. This will enable a non BD registered horse and rider to compete at an affiliated show. The Club will be running four affiliated shows this year. If you win a class ticket you will still need to pay the entry fee but you will not need to purchase a separate BD class ticket. All class tickets will be entered into the restricted section of your chosen class. You may also do a prelim in the open section without a ticket or being registered. It is also possible to do the music classes as a music member but you need to register with BD for a cost of £15.

For dates and affiliated show schedules please visit our website at www.efdg.org or email lauravandervleit@talktalk.net for more information.

Results of the EFDG 4th Show held Wednesday 20th August 2008

Class 1 Prelim 14 Judge Joan Turner **3 Junior ran / 5 Senior ran**

	Rider	Horse	Score	Col	%	Q
1 st J	Sinaed Lennon	Magic Flute	143	50	59.6	✓
2 nd J	Rebecca Pieropan	Fletcher	138	48	57.5	✓
Jnr	Emma Dixon	Huggy Bear	130	44	54.2	
1 st	Karen Latham	Jake	155	54	64.6	✓
2 nd	Shayleen James	Chanro	147	48	61.3	✓
3 rd	Emma Townrow	Charlie	142	48	59.2	✓
	Cathy Rideout	Minnie	139	48	57.9	✓
	Liz Green	Prince	135	48	56.3	✓

Class2 Novice 28 Judge Joan Turner **1 Junior ran / 11 Senior ran**

	Rider	Horse	Score	Col	%	Q
1 st J	Abbey Winch	Charlie Bear	139	50	57.9	✓
1 st	Liz Green	Egegardens Landstar	167	58	69.6	✓
2 nd	Natalie Hawkins	Burywood Chess	165	58	68.8	✓
3 rd	Kevin Shepherd	Jake	160	56	66.7	✓
4 th	Michelle Winch	Guy Fawkes	156	52	65.0	✓
	Heather Raynor	Broadstone Arrow	155	56	64.6	✓
	Dawn Rowley	Billy	153	54	63.8	✓
	Linda Bailey	McFlintock	153	52	63.8	✓
	Sharon Creek	Chantelle	152	54	63.3	✓
	Denise Aley	Crystal Ice	151	52	62.9	
	Finoula O'Brian	Charlie	146	50	60.8	
	Julia Halpin	Gryzwac	140	50	58.3	

Class 3 Elementary 41 Judge Joan Turner **8 Senior ran**

	Rider	Horse	Score	Col	%	Q
1 st	Anna Bottici-Manis	Etoil 42	170	56	68.0	✓
2 nd	Kate Johns	Rhine Clover	170	54	68.0	✓
3 rd	Liz Green	Edgegardens Landstar	164	54	65.6	✓
	Laura Vandervleit	Burywood Chess	163	54	65.2	✓
	Heather Raynor	Broadstone Arrow	160	52	64.0	✓
	Dawn Rowley	Billy	159	52	63.6	✓
	Denise Aley	Crystal Ice	155	50	62.0	✓
	Jacqui Linsdale	Warwick	148	48	59.2	✓

Class 4 Medium 63 Judge Joan Turner **2 Senior ran**

	Rider	Horse	Score	Col	%	Q
1 st	Katie Dartnell	Akears Amigo	211	60	72.8	✓
2 nd	Heather Raynor	Broadstone Arrow	170	50	58.6	✓

WHO TO CONTACT

Please feel free to contact a member of the committee for more information

Chairman: Kim Ratcliffe - addie37@hotmail.com
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BRC Area Rep/Membership: Kay Symons - tizzy.symons@yahoo.co.uk
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Membership: Joyce Adams
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BRC Teams/ Judges: Nicky Gates - nickygates@talktalk.net
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ESSENDON & EPPING FOREST DRESSAGE GROUP

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We're on the Web!

www.efdg.org and www.essendonrc.co.uk