



Essendon & Epping Forest Dressage Group

Newsletter

AUGUST 14, 2010

WWW.EEFDG.ORG

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Letter from the Chair

As usual the weather is affecting everyone with so little rain that the ground is hard and I've heard of several horses being injured in their fields galloping around on the hard rutty ground. Lordsbridge did a brilliant job of preparing the grass arenas for the area RC qualifiers-taking as much care over the going as they did in South Africa for the World Cup!

We are delighted with the results from the area competitions with Nora Ekelund has qualified as an individual for the Novice finals at Lincoln and Rachel Kellett & Laura Vandervleit have qualified at Novice & elementary Music finals at Aintree . The next team event is the friendly at Norton Heath in October so we hope that many of you will be keen to compete there.

We are also working towards the RC winter qualifiers which take place in February and have their finals at Hartpury in Gloucester and also incorporate the Riding Test classes which have their finals at Royal Windsor. We will be running Riding test classes in the winter series this year to give everyone practise and confidence in these tests. Remember that the winter series gives you both the opportunity to qualify for the Winter Championships and also to amass points for the winter leagues which offer trophies to riders who compete in at least 3 of the 4 league rounds - you have to be a member to earn league points so it's important that you get your membership renewed before the show or your points won't count.

The summer series is progressing well - there is a final opportunity to qualify on Wednesday 25th August and the Championship will take place on 19th September. The shows are designed to be low key and relaxed and give confidence to new combinations and to encourage more established combinations to try out at higher levels.

As well as riding test classes we will be offering Music classes at both Preliminary & Intro level in the Winter League series The clinics have been very well subscribed this summer(see below) and we are considering a further Dressage to Music clinic in the Autumn depending on the level of interest. We will also be running a Test & Train Clinic (see below) in December to get training from experienced judges to help you improve your test riding.

Your committee takes the welfare of horses and riders very seriously so we have an appointed Welfare Officer in Martine Lambert. We have a

number of trained first aiders and the club will be training up a number of other committee members in first aid in the autumn to ensure that we always have a trained person at shows.

Having maintained membership fees at very low levels since before the merger, we are making a small increase of £1 per member (a higher increase will be made for non email correspondence due to increased postal costs). Remember that you need to be a member to enjoy the very low entry fees (non member fees will have a larger increase this year) and also to be eligible for any trophies both for points or Championships- also to help the membership secretary please get your renewals in as early as possible
Wishing you all a great summer

Kim Ratcliffe

Member News

Congratulations to Nora Ekuland, Laura Vandervleit and Rachel Kellett who will all be representing the Club at Riding Club finals this autumn

Louise Clark and Emma Wakefield went all the way to Hartpury to support the Dressage Extravaganza run in aid of Great Ormond Street Hospital. Louise scored over 71% to be placed 2nd in the Advanced Medium Music, Emma rode her first ever dressage to music tests (after hurriedly arranging a session with Kim Ratcliffe less than a month beforehand) and achieved an impressive 65% in the Prix St Georges Music (nothing like starting at the top!) with the evergreen Hiskulet and then (with input from a motorway service station with Kim & suggestions from Louise) achieved a super 67.6% and 3rd place in the Intermediare 1. The show earned a super £21000 for GOSH.

Pat Perkins, Rachel Kellett and Jacquie Field have all qualified for Chiltern & Thames Rider dressage finals and Pat has also qualified for the showing finals

Louise Clark also competed at the Sparsholt affiliated Dressage festival and again scored over 70% in the Medium & Advanced Medium Music classes coming 3rd & 2nd respectively and achieving high placings in several others classes from Medium to Advanced over the weekend

Several members have qualified for BD Summer regional championships including Alyson Parker at Elementary level and many more members have qualified for Area festivals at all levels.

Ria Bjecko Cowley has come 8th in the Senior Prelim final at the Trailblazers championship after coming 4th on the first day of the finals and was 2nd in one of the senior novice consolation classes on the second day. Rachel Roberts scored a massive 71% on the first day & came 2nd to qualify for the finals .

Please let Rachel Kellett or Kim Ratcliffe know about your successes, qualifications etc at Dressage or any Equestrian discipline.

Team report

The Club has had another successful summer in Area Qualifiers, with 3 of our members on their way to National Championships.

At the Area Liaison event at Lordsbridge on 10th July we sent a total of 3 teams and 2 individuals. It was a very long, very hot day that didn't always run smoothly, but everyone pulled together and we finished with some very credible results.

The Junior team came 6th and consisted of Ria Bejko-Cowlbeck, Amy Adamthwaite, Jodie Richter and new member Georgia Durban (riding Jodie's old pony!). They all rode lovely tests, with Georgia scoring 58%, Jodie 58.8%, Amy coming 9th in her arena with 65%, and Ria scoring a very good 67.7% and coming 3rd in hers. Ria also rode as an individual in the Riding Test class and again came 3rd, this time with 65.5%.

The Senior Riding Test team finished just out of the placings in 7th place which was a good effort seeing as they were riding as a team of 3, the 4th member Michelle Loy having been taken very ill with food poisoning that morning. I hope you have made a speedy and full recovery Michelle. The 3 remaining team members were Clare Williams, Rachel Roberts and Nora Ekelund, who was riding a borrowed horse as her own had gone lame in the week before the event.

For the Senior Open Dressage we were back up to fielding a full team of 4, as Richard Warren-Rogers was luckily on site to ride as an individual and stepped in to make the team up. Thank you Richard! This time it was Clare Williams who had the bad luck; with her lovely mare feeling the effects of the hard ground Clare retired leaving us with a team of 3 again. Richard scored 58.5% - a good result considering he only saw the test that morning. Rachel Roberts came 5th in her arena with 61.7%, but our star of the day was Nora Ekelund who had really got to grips with her borrowed ride for the second test and scored an incredible 68.8% to win her section from the front as she was first to go too! So Nora has qualified as an individual for the National Riding Club Championships being held at Lincoln in September.

Our final representative at Lordsbridge was Rachel Roberts riding in the individual Medium qualifier on her lovely older horse Rapidash. They put in their usual solid performance to 60.3% and finish 4th.

Two weeks later it was the Area Dressage to Music qualifier, this time being held at Sparrows Hill in Newport. We had various people drop out and in the end only two brave souls went forth. They were Rachel Kellett and Laura Vandervleit. But they proved it is quality that counts not quantity with some excellent results.

Sparrows Hill is an excellent venue and it was a beautiful day for the music qualifier. It was a real shame though that more clubs had not got involved.

Rachel Kellett entered the Prelim FS (no Music), as a warm up and was happy with 64.7% as a mark and a red rosette as the only one in the class. Rachel then qualified in the Novice (no points) Music on 66.1 % and Laura Vandervliet was second in the Novice (with BD points) on 68.1 % and then qualified in the Elementary music on 64.4%

A huge thank you to everybody who rode for us in teams or as individuals this year. For such a small club to have representatives at the National Championships is a great achievement, and huge congratulations to Nora, Rachel and Laura. We wish you all the luck in the world for your respective finals.

Clinic reports

This year's clinics were very popular. Inger Bryant and Kim Ratcliffe's were full to overflowing, and all riders reported a positive experience. (See Jacquie's report for Alison Kenward's music clinic below). It is always an education and a pleasure to watch these sessions as the trainers are happy to work with riders and horses of all levels of experience.

We welcome feedback from those who attended this summer, and suggestions as to any other trainers members would like to be invited to hold a clinic next year. Look out for the Test and Train Day on 5th December, details of which will be on the website in due course.

Naomi Kember

A foot tapping session!

For years I have thought about having a go at dressage to music "DTM", but never got round to sorting it out. I know I'm not the only one who has sat at home with a video and the CD player and thought how nicely that piece of music fits the pace but then putting a routine and music together for competition is a completely different story!

The Alison Kenward dressage to music clinic that EEFDG put on was an ideal starter. On a gloriously hot June day I arrived at Woodlands with two horses to work on a floor plan as the beginning of my DTM career. Alison made the clinic very interesting and not so daunting, was very complimentary and looked to highlight the movements your horse is good at and to try to disguise the not so good ones! Alison commented "If you do this moving away from the judge their view isn't quite so good" (I'll remember that for other tests!!) Having viewed the paces of the horse and included all the set movements we rode through the floor plan and it was then videoed from start to finish.

Leaving the session armed with my floorplan and video the next step is to send this off to my chosen music company who will send sample pieces of music per pace. Then I get to annoy everyone at my yard (apologies everyone in advance, I know it's not going to be everyone's cup of tea!) by playing the demo music over and over and over again to see which I like and which the "boys" like, apparently they will let me know if they don't like it!! Then the big test, we have to put it all together and go out and compete with it. EEFDG are one of the few clubs that run music classes but it looks like they are making a bit of a come back. Don't forget that the Chiltern and Thames Championships now have a freestyle music class but you have to qualify in a regular non-music BD test.

I know that not everyone is lucky enough to have a sound system at their yard, let alone a 20 x 60 arena so Alison has said she could run a DTM performance workshop for those who want to practice their music and get a little help tweaking their routines. Would anyone be interested in a DTM clinic later in the year?

Jacquie Field

Lecture/Demo with Jill Day

The club is pleased to announce that Jill Day has kindly agreed to run a lecture demo for us on 17 October at Woodlands. This will be from 2-4pm and will concentrate on how to move from unaffiliated to affiliated competition and also moving up the levels.

The main focus will be on prelim-elementary combinations.

Tickets in advance are £10 for members and £15 for non members. If any left they will be sold on the door with a £2 late fee.

Tickets are available from Rachel Kellett, rachel@bowervale.wanadoo.co.uk
15 Bower Vale, Epping, CM16 7AS cheques payable to EFDG

Results

All the latest results can be found on the website, by either clicking on the link before or going to the results section of the website:

<http://eefdg.org/results.html>

This includes a list of who has qualified for the championship show.

Keep checking the results section on the website as it is updated very quickly after each show.

Classifieds

Saddle for sale

Ideal Event VSD 17.5" MW/W Havana

2.5 years old, bought and fitted by Anthony Batchelor. Very good condition. Very good general purpose saddle.

£450 ono

Contact Rachel on 07773 787 484 or rachel@bowervale.wanadoo.co.uk

Can be brought to club shows to try.

Forthcoming Dates at Woodlands

DATE	EVENT
Wed 25 th August 2010	Summer series
Sun 12 th September 2010	Summer Championships
Sun 3 October 2010	Winter series
Sun 17 October 2010	Jill Day lecture/demo
Weds 27 th October 2010	Affiliated
Sun 7 November 2010	Winter Series
Weds 17 th November 2010	Affiliated
Sunday 30 January 2011	Winter series
Sunday 6 March 2011	Winter series
Sunday 24 th April 2011	Championship