



Essendon & Epping Forest Dressage Group

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www.eefdg.org.uk

Letter from the Chair

It is hard to believe but we are close to finishing our first year as EEFDG. Every comment that I have heard so far has been positive about the merger and rumours abound that other clubs may follow suite, nice to know that we have led the way. Topics under current discussion include the membership fee for 2009-10 (the membership year commences on 14th September), a joining fee for new members or anyone who does not renew within 2 months.

The club's first AGM is to be scheduled for early 2010 when the accounts will be available. Whilst we all recognise that AGMs are rarely well supported, it is your opportunity to say what you think, what you like & what you would like to see improved in the running of the club. We also would like to encourage a regular influx of new ideas & thoughts on the committee so are always looking for people who can take on a role to help make the club run at an optimum level. We have endeavored to maximise the number of people on the committee so that no-one is expected to give up an unreasonable amount of time - we are particularly looking for more computer literate help with newsletter & secretarial work and also more practical help at shows.

We will be awarding the trophies for the summer & winter leagues at a members meeting during the first leg of the winter league- details to follow.

The other brilliant news is the results from our first British Riding Club Area 7 summer qualifiers - see below for the full results but I am delighted to announce that all 6 juniors and 2 of our senior riders qualified for the finals which will be at Lincoln and Addington (music) later in the year. All of the team managers, Emma, Donna and Rachel have worked well together in their first year as Team managers. It is a job that can be quite daunting with people often being reluctant to put themselves forwards and I hope that for future competitions (there is a winter qualifier and also a friendly autumn competition at Norton Heath) more people will offer their services to ride for the teams - do not wait to be asked - let them know you would be willing to be considered and look out on the website and newsletter for competition information.

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It was rather disappointing that only one person came forwards to help out at the Area competition and he wasn't even a member (thank you Mark who volunteered via Louise Clark) which meant that Emma Wakefield had to combine the role of afternoon steward with team management and riding on the day (and making an unscheduled but I hear rather impressive unscheduled dismount before bouncing back to win the class by a large margin!) and I ended up as scorer for over 9 hours (but we did get the team results out in record time). At least our riders and Mums were willing to give help on the day with Alison and Carly Woodgate sticking score sheets together and Rachel Roberts collecting sheets when there were no runners around, unlike some of the clubs who just seemed to create more work! But it would be nice next year if we could produce a few more helpers - that way you get to see just what happens at these events.

The Summer clinics have been generally well supported. We would like to have your feedback on the range of trainers offered, the price you would be prepared to pay for a one off clinic, who you would like us to approach and how often you expect to be offered them. Currently we only run the summer clinics but we are open to suggestions if you are prepared to support them.

Similarly, the summer shows are running at the expected level. They are designed to be low key and to encourage you to have a go. The Championship will be held in 27 September and that will allow you to qualify on the day for the Championship classes. And then we are back into the Winter season again - how quickly these things come around!

Wishing you all a happy, sunny and successful Summer

Kim Ratcliffe

Chair

Team News

Following on from our success in the new club's first team event at Woodlands earlier in the year, we had some fantastic results at the Area Qualifier at Lordsbridge Arena last weekend.

Our junior teams literally 'swept the board' with convincing wins in both the junior riding test team (Carly Woodgate individually 5th, Natalie Roberts 4th, Georgia Antoniou 3rd and Sophie Bryan) and junior dressage team (Georgia - individually 1st, Carly - 2nd, Sophie and Ashley Silk-Jones) so both teams qualify for the Championships at Lincoln. In addition, Natalie Roberts qualified individually in the novice dressage as her 4th position was the highest place not in a qualifying team. The other, much younger, team members Sophie Bryan and Ashley Silk-Jones also rode great tests. What an experience the Championships will be for the riders, especially the youngest ones, Ashley and Sophie!

We also had some great results in the music qualifiers with Louise Clark winning both the novice with points and elementary sections, and Rachel Kellet and Tracy Clark getting placed in their classes.

The senior teams did not fare so well, but Emma Wakefield won her novice section and so qualified as an individual for the championships.

Jackie Silk has very kindly offered us the use of Brook Farm for team training leading up to the Championships, and we are planning to run a total of 4 sessions – 2 for the dressage team and 2 for the riding test team – to work on test riding and ring craft. These sessions will be taken by Kim Ratcliffe and Emma Wakefield, and the Club will pay a proportion of the fees. Dates as yet to be finalised.

Members Success

Our website www.eefdg.org has updated information and news on members' successes and other events in the area as well as results and upcoming news - let us have news of your successes and qualifications to add to the list.

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Richard Spooner Liaison Officer BRC

I write this a week later, having got over last weekend at Lordsbridge. I can only say I hope you enjoyed the weekend as much as I did. I wish to say thank you and there are too many to mention everyone who helped over the 2 days. It was hot but you all did a great job. I would also like to thank all the committee members who worked their socks off to get the weekend off the ground because without them the whole event would not have taken place. I would also like to thank Zoe from Royal Wood for sorting out the rounders, twister and other games for those who stayed over night. I was not there in the evening but I am informed by many people that they had a great time. I was also told by many others that they had heard about the games and wished they had stayed.

I would like to thank and congratulate all riders who took part, the atmosphere was great and very friendly. I would also like to say well done for the sporting attitude they had when competing. This was summed up to me by one rider, I will not name them but this person took the Riding Test and was stopped at the end by the judge who pointed out they were wearing spurs and had to be disqualified. The test was described by the judge as one of the best they had seen that day. The competitor and their mother spoke to me at long length but nothing could be done. Both persons then thanked me for the lovely day they had had and smiled throughout even when told the disqualification stood. To me, that is true sportmanship and people who wanted to enjoy the day no matter what the results. It was also nice that so many people thanked us for the weekend and stated how much they had enjoyed themselves.

We have been offered the venue for next year at the same price as we paid this year. I am asking for comments as we have to make a decision soon. From the conversation Lisa Maxen and I had with Malcolm, he will supply stables for anyone who wants them but we would have to give him at least 3 weeks notice which to me is fair. We have to tell BRC how many teams we are entering three weeks in advance and most clubs have an idea of who will be competing so telling him how many stables we require should not really be a problem.

I know we had some problems but they were all small things which we sorted out at the time. All of these can be put right with the planning for next year.

So, again, I congratulate everyone for making the weekend what it was. Please let me have your comments ASAP re should we book Lordsbridge for next year.

Good Luck to all those who are going to Lincoln.

Richard (Liaison Chairman).

Make an impression – professional music for your test

Elena Bottici is a musician and producer, with over fifteen years experience in the music industry and a passion for dressage. Using existing or original compositions / tracks, Elena is able to produce a music programme that matches your horses' way of going and that will help you produce a beautiful, rhythmic test.

Using professional music production and editing software, Elena can work from a video of your test, or, upon arrangement, she can visit your yard to consult with you and film your test to work out a music program customised to your specific requirements.

Music programmes start from just £60, for more information please contact: Elena Bottici +44 (0) 777 26 750 30

SUMMER CLINICS 2009

By Naomi Kember

The two clinics held so far with Inger Bryant have been well attended, and those who took part seem to have had a very positive experience. Unfortunately the one with Tahley Reeve Smith had to be cancelled as there were not enough places filled. This may well have been because the date clashed with the Riding Club Area Qualifiers. The Kim Ratcliffe clinic took place on 12th July.

I should be very pleased to receive any suggestions for trainers/formats for future clinics as they are run for the benefit of members and are non profit making.

In future preference for team membership will be given to those who attend clinics.

Forthcoming Show Dates

29th July Summer League

18th August Summer League - **show will be 4.00 pm to 8.00 pm**

6th September Affiliated Show

27th September Summer Championship - **show will be 10.00 am to 2.00 pm**

4th October 1st leg of Winter League

14th October Affiliated Show

8th November 2nd leg of Winter League

18th November Affiliated Show

Wanted For RDA

Caroline Dudley is a Group Instructor for West Norfolk Group - Riding for the Disabled and is also on the committee as a trustee. She writes;

"We are on the lookout for a weight-carrier. Must be up to 15 stone (walk and trot, not fast work at this weight) but also able to canter calmly in indoor and outdoor arena with riders up to 13 stone. Our ideal would be 15hh - 16.2hh, but if larger, that could be ok. We also need a 13.2hh pony, in either case a Mare or Gelding is equally acceptable.

The horse/pony needs to be: sound (we are NOT a repository for lame horses); preferably over 5 years, so has seen a little bit of life; kind in temperament; calm; able to live out 24/7 (albeit with rugs and field shelter); not croup high - as this makes it even harder for disabled riders to balance; able to accept sidewalkers; not crippled by sweet itch in summer; NOT given to bucking! Able to load on lorry/trailer without hassle; OK in traffic - although we do not ride on the road, the horse would be tied up on yard and we DO have tractors, etc. going past.

What can we offer in exchange for this paragon of virtue? A home for life. High standards of daily care. Regular shoeing/trimming/worming. No fast work (if fast work is not appropriate) - but hacking out with experienced riders including canter if the horse needs that.

A three month trial with view to purchase - and then - a bit of money - to be negotiated!

If any of you could help - that would be just wonderful- please email me @ c_dudley1@hotmail.com"

IMPROVE YOUR RIDING USING HYPNOTHERAPY - AREA 9 RIDING CLUBS LIAISON COMMITTEE

MONDAY 7th SEPTEMBER 7pm -9pm Civil Service Social Club, 1 Chadwick St.

Westminster, SW1P 2EP. Cost £15 per person (subsidised by LRCL Training Fund)

"A truly fascinating opportunity to gain a holistic view of yourself in a totally new light and to gain new skills that you will take with you and use time and time again."

Following the success of his recent Vauxhall City Farm workshop, we are pleased to welcome David Owen back to continue his performance coaching work to improve our riding ability. Whether you want to conquer a fear of speed, spooking or jumping, or just improve your competitive edge, this two hour workshop will help. David Owen is a performance coach who uses a range of techniques including hypnotherapy and NLP. He focuses on helping individuals identify and focus on obstacles and behaviours which hinder performance and target them towards improved performance.

To reserve a space email penniewickstead1@googlemail.com or call 07740 430929

Dressage Test Changes

Several new tests will be brought in on 1st January 2010, these will be Novice 24 (short arena) Novice 39 (long arena) & Elementary 45 (long arena) whilst Novice 25 and 26 and Elementary 48 will be deleted.

Etteridge Farm Showing Show - 14 June By Avril de Solla

As the old Essendon District RC had sponsored the Riding Horse class in previous years, it was agreed that the new Essendon & Epping Forest DG would continue to do so. As a result, members of the club could enter at a discounted rate.

Disappointed that I could not show my own New Forest pony, due to injury, our Chairman, Kim, kindly said I could take her 34 year old Merrow Farmer in the in-hand veteran class. I used to share Farmer, now a livery at Etteridge Farm, as a dressage school-master before I bought Rula, the pony, and so I was delighted to be asked to take him.

The day was warm and sunny, which meant I could confidently bath him without worrying about him catching a chill. I have done little with Farmer for the last 12 years, but all those memories of little bits of mischief came back as I was getting him ready - very carefully placing a front foot on the hose, waiting until I had reached the bottom of a plait, then taking a small step, just out of reach etc. My plaiting wasn't too brilliant - I think I must have had to do each one twice as they kept falling out. Eventually, and after fighting off horse-flies, he was bathed, plaited and groomed. Kim had left his old bridle out. I had forgotten he was ridden in a dropped nose-band - not quite the thing for the show ring. Fortunately, Rula's cavesson is cob size and just fitted him. After tarding myself up in my show gear, it was off to the ring.

Farmer hadn't been to a show for about 5-6 years (yes he was still competing dressage into his twenties!), let alone a show in his back garden, and he loved it. No lazy, dodgy 4-time rhythm/walk. He was really marching on and I was struggling to keep up with him! He also trotted up well, showing he had well recovered from a severe tendon injury 4 years ago, after which he was retired. I was pleased to see Kim had made it, after teaching, to see him in the ring.

We were eventually called in 9th. I was disappointed it was not higher, but the lumps and bumps over the years must have pushed him down the line. He did look very well for his age, though.

As usual, Debbie Wisbey, with Vicky Hill as secretary, both EEFDG members, had done a good job in producing well-run show.

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Summer Evening Dressage

Following the great success of the Winter Dressage League, the committee decided to run a series of unaffiliated dressage for the first time as an amalgamated club. Mrs Jenner very kindly agreed to let us use Woodlands as our venue. I expect most of you will remember that Epping Forest Dressage Group used to hold a Summer League at Sovereign Fields.

Three very successful evenings have already taken place. Run by Laura, Den and Katy, these dressage evenings are held in a very relaxed atmosphere that is intended to encourage riders to enter and have a go at higher levels. The shows are run in the outside arena and with the help of the good weather, have proved to be a great success.

The next dressage show is on the 29th July and the final one on the 19th August. The Summer Championship Show will be held on 27th September at Woodlands. Please note that you can still qualify on the day of the Championship. So please do come along and join in.

It is also very encouraging to know that as this club goes from strength to strength we have two sponsors for the Championship Show - Susan Young and Janet Moss, Many thanks Susan and Janet for your support. I also understand that we have the promise of more.

So please do come along and support your club and The Championship Show.

Good Luck from the PR team

www.eefdg.org

WHO TO CONTACT

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

Chairman: Kim Ratcliffe - addie37@hotmail.com
19 Churchgate, Cheshunt, Herts EN8 9NB - 01992 424319

Vice Chairman/Affiliated Shows: Heather Lonsdale - hlonsdale@efdg.org
Brooklands, Broad Green, Steeple Bumpstead Suffolk CB9 7BW - 07968 809591

Show Secretary: Laura Vandervleit - lauravandervleit@talktalk.net
4 The Poplars, Abridge, Essex RM4 1BB - 07533 825502

Secretary: Debbie Walmsley - debbie653@hotmail.com
5 Leat Close, Sawbridgeworth, Herts CM21 9LZ - 07740 818871

Treasurer: Avril de Solla - avril@desolla.freereserve.co.uk
1 Ambleside Crescent Enfield Middx EN3 7LZ - 07860 195083

Clinics: Naomi Kember - naomikember@hotmail.co.uk
54 Firs Lane London N21 3HX - 020 8360 6950

PR/Marketing: Marina Harley - peterandmarina@btinternet.com

Website: Liz Green - liz@72dotsperinch.co.uk

Membership: Kay Symons - tizzy.symons@yahoo.co.uk
61 St Georges Street, Enfield EN1 4TY - 0208 482 0390

BRC Teams: Emma Wakefield emma@ewakefield.fsbusiness.co.uk
Rachel Roberts rplroberts@live.co.uk
Donna Antoniou chantilly131@aol.com

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Email enquires
debbie653@hotmail.com
Or call **01992 814292**
We're on the Web!
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