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Newsletter March 2010

Welcome

Welcome to all our members. I hope you are all enjoying the spring weather? What a difference from a month ago! Once again we had another busy month in terms of area 5 events. The club was well represented at the Royal Windsor qualifier held at Moreton Morrell where we certainly held our own against the other teams.

April appears to be just as busy. We have two more Riding Club competitions, one of which is a qualifier and there is a jumping lesson taking place at Pittern Hill Stables and a flat Lesson at Moyfield Riding School.

Upcoming Area 5 Events

The following riding club events are taking place over the next couple of months. All those who are interested in taking part please contact Wendy Skrypczuk (07530 651744 or email: wendy@ettingtonkinetonrc.co.uk)

Please can you let Wendy know ASAP if you want to compete in the Hunter Trial qualifier at Milton Keynes as the entry has to be in 3 weeks prior to the competition.

Date	Event	Venue	Type
Sunday 11 th April	BHS TREC	Onley Grounds Equestrian Complex	
Friday 16 th April	Jumping Lesson	Pittern Hill Stables	Club Event
Sunday 18th April	Festival of the Horse Challenge	Milton Keynes E C (Buckingham RC)	Qualifier
Saturday 24th April	Riding Test & Style Jumping - Juniors & Seniors	Princethorpe School (Stoneleigh)	Qualifier
Friday 30 th April	Flat Lesson	Moyfield Riding School	Club Event
Sunday 9 th May	Dressage Riding Test	Rye Hill (Cherwell Valley RC)	Points
Sunday 16 th May	EPKRC Dressage Show + RWHS Qualifier	Riding Club Show Ground (Armscote)	Club Event + Qualifier
Wed-Sun 12-16 th May	Royal Windsor Horse Show	Windsor	Championship
Friday 21 st May	Flat Lesson	Moreton Morrell	Club Event
Sat-Sun 29-30 th May	Two Day Event	Offchurch (Stoneleigh RC)	Points

RWHS Dressage Qualifier

This took place at Moreton Morrell. The club put four riders forward for this qualifier. They were Emma Payne riding Sweet Satisfaction, Stephanie Mitchell riding Lady Phoenix, Sarah-Jayne Mathews riding Winter Whisper and Mike Turner riding Lady Tipperary. Everyone rode a good test, scoring well and Emma won the first round qualifier and went forward to the second round where she finished 3rd overall. Great job Emma! Each member also competed in other non-riding club dressage tests. Sarah & Winter Whisper finished 5th in the prelim 7. In the Novice 25 test Steph & Phoenix finished 5th, Vanessa Jenson & Court Jester finished 4th and Emma & 'Sweetie' won. Emma also rode her other horse Torrison, but was unplaced with him. But to be fair to 'Torrie', because of the times allowed he only had 10mins to warm up. So to score as well as he did was pretty good. Well done to everyone who took part.

Club Lessons

There two lessons this month. A jumping lesson on the 16th at Pittern Hill stables and a Flat Lesson on the 30th at Moyfield Riding School. All those who are interested please contact Claire Walton (jumping lesson) 07906 069946 or claire@ettingtonkintonrc.co.uk and Mike Turner (flat lesson) 07956 429517 or mike@ettingtonkintonrc.co.uk as soon as possible.

New Members

E.P.K.R.C. would like to welcome new member Juliet Clarke. Hopefully it won't be too long before Juliet is competing for the club. Good luck for the upcoming year.

Table Top Sale (Update)

This event is taking place on the Thursday 20th of MAY at Newbold-on-Stour village hall. Start time 6:30pm. For all those who are interested in selling items at the sale please contact Mike (07956 429517) or email mike@ettingtonkintonrc.co.uk.

Costs include:

Table hire £ 5

Entrance to the event £ 1

Tea, coffees, snacks available

The 2012 Olympics- are you going?

By Jo Sowley

For the vast majority, any aspirations to go to the Olympics will be as a spectator rather than a competitor - but don't let that put you off! With the 2012 Olympics looming, I was fortunate in being invited to attend a tour of Greenwich Park conducted by Tim Haddaway the Equestrian Competition Manager, to be shown where the equestrian parts of the Olympics will be held.

There's been a lot of controversy surrounding the choice of Greenwich; we're used to seeing our cross country courses in the rolling acres surrounding stately homes - not in the inner city, but when we approached the site of the equestrian arena behind the stately columns of the Queen's House, there is nothing lacking in the impact and fantastic first impressions.

The cross country course will take place in the Park beyond, which is a beautiful green space with considerable undulations so while the course won't be the longest, it will no doubt be challenging.

The benefits of using Greenwich are multiple. To me, it is of fundamental importance that equestrian sports continue to be part of the Olympic Games; not being able to locate them within the heart of the Games give opponents a good argument for removing equestrian sports from future games. Greenwich is 20 minutes from the main Olympic Village, so the competitors will be in the heart of the action - not in a different country as was effectively the case with the equestrian element of the Beijing Olympics being held in Hong Kong for reasons of disease control.

The existing buildings can be used to house support staff and the press and are cost effective compared with the need to provide temporary housing if the event had been held at Windsor for example. The grooms will have accommodation in an adjacent conference complex - 4* accommodation for those who invariably have the longest hours! The horses will be in temporary stabling - no difference there - but within sight of the groom's building, so very close.

Another key factor is that the Modern Pentathlon equestrian element can also be held in the Park. These athletes have to complete all five events in one day - if the main equestrian events were outside of London, separate riding facilities would have to be provided at additional expense. At Greenwich, the pentathletes can be brought down and do their riding in the stadium and their run and shoot around the Park - again making use of the beautiful surroundings but not over such a challenging course as the horses!

Lack of "legacy" has also been cited as a disadvantage to Greenwich. I feel that the advantage in showcasing top equestrian sport in our capital, making it easily accessible and inspirational is more important than leaving a white elephant in the form of impractical buildings and facilities. Many of the cross country fences will be portable - so can be used elsewhere again. The temporary arena surface is already being earmarked by various equestrian centres or pony clubs to be used to either top up existing or use for new arenas. We already have a good number of top equestrian centres around the country - I don't feel we need another in London with issues of access, congestion charge etc which prevents it from being a practical venue for future events. Local initiatives are taking place to raise the profile of riding for local children and increase participation - a much better legacy in my view.

I've heard a lot of feedback about the lack of space for spectators - 75,000 people is the estimated number for cross country day and the stadium will seat 23,000 for the other events. True, this is less than the number that turn up for Badminton and Burghley - but how many of them go for the horses and how many for the shopping and beer tents?

It's not uncommon for people to go shopping at the big events and watch the horse bit on the TV when they get home! The Olympics won't have the same shopping opportunities - this is all about the sport.

Inevitably there will be disappointed people who don't get tickets - but it's the Olympics and we should all want to go. I, for one, will be putting my name down and am looking forward to a great occasion.

And Finally...

From the pen of Sir Clement Freud

The horse was going easily, several lengths in the lead coming to the four-furlong marker when he was struck by a side of smoked salmon, making him stumble and get overtaken.

The jockey settled him and regained the lead when, a furlong and a half from the line, the horse was hit by a roast turkey, veered to the right and lost his position.

He was coming back into the race when a plum pudding knocked him sideways and he featured in a photo finish, which went against him.

The stewards called in the jockey and asked him to explain his erratic riding ... and he replied "I was badly hampered".

Cheers Everyone

Mike