



NEWSLETTER

April 2015

From the Chair.....

Hello all,

Spring is here!! The lighter mornings and evenings are so wonderful after seeing to the ponies in the dark for so long. And despite the wind and rain (and even snow for some), the flowers are starting to bloom in the hedgerows and the birds are grabbing all the furminated hair from the muckheap!

The show season is starting for some- good luck to everyone who enjoys that discipline. If you show jump, event or dressage, have a good season also. And happy hackers- keep visible and safe on the roads- there have been some near misses already locally.

And a huge 'good luck' to everyone involved in Linda's dressage Team Quest- Linda, Rebecca, Julian and Gill have already entered their first competition. We will look forward to hearing how they all do.

The dressage championships will be completed at the end of the month- many thanks to Laura who has worked so hard to make it a fabulous series, as well as managing the BRC competitions. The next major event (Championship Show) for the club seems to be ages away, but it will be upon us before we know it. We need helpers on the day, so if you can offer some time we will be most grateful, and of course, if you or anyone you know can sponsor a class, please let Rowena or myself know asap- we are in the process of getting the schedule finalised so would like to get sponsors names in there before printing.

Hope to see many of you at the next meeting - Jane works very hard to engage interesting speakers for us every month- it would be great to see as many of you there as possible!

Ros & the little people

VHPRC OPEN SHOW
& VETERAN CHAMPIONSHIPS
20th SEPT 2015
LEYLAND COURT

WE ARE SEEKING SPONSORS

If you can help, or know someone who can, please get in touch

We hold our meetings on the first Wednesday of the month

FABULOUS FOOD!

Rose & Crown,

68 Parkfield Road, Pucklechurch, Bristol, BS16 9PS

Bringing Up Baby

Our March speaker was Molly Flood and her father Malcolm. They came to tell us their story about bringing up an orphan foal after their brood mare was found dead in the field after giving birth during the night.

Their family are from Clevedon and they breed horses, approx one per year, on their 14 acres of land. They have one stallion who runs with his mares until weaning time. Steffi was a mare that had been the 'perfect mother' and had never had any trouble foaling. All the herd are thoroughbreds who live out most of the year.

When Malcolm found Steffi in the field, the foal had clearly managed to feed himself from her on the floor, so he had had her colostrum. There was no sign of distress near the mare, so it was not clear how or why she had died. They were in a quandary what to do, so they started to phone around for advice. Lizzie Milton, who was asked to come and take away Steffi, refused to shoot the foal as he appeared so strong. They called someone at Mendip Stud as the Foal Bank could not help, and they were advised to buy an emergency foal kit- milk, bottles etc. They also had to get the foal into a stable, literally manhandling him from the field as he was too tired to move.

The milk they were advised to buy was hugely expensive and would have cost £1500 in 6 months, which was too expensive, so more research and enquiry led them to using a cheaper option which was suitable for a range of animals. Eventually they settled for a milk produced for lambs (although they did consider getting some nanny goats which have been used successfully in the US). The foal, Dodge, found it difficult to stand and drink at first as he had been lying on the ground when he had first drunk from his mother. He had to be fed every 2 hours, with Malcolm staying in a caravan to do the night shift, Molly early mornings and evenings and her mum during the day. He drank 1 litre in 10 minutes.

At 10 days old, he had to be allowed into the school as he was running around the stable and he needed company. The first time out he wouldn't move away, circling them, and they were worried about the stallion not accepting him, or the herd.

He was a big foal and his behaviour quickly became quite challenging, as he was not with his mother who would have taught him how to behave. To reduce the human interaction, he was taught quite early on to drink from a bucket on the gate. Leading him was also a problem- he had to go on a lunge rope and be taught to accept the pressure in order for them to gain better control, by gradually shortening it. He had no fear of humans, so when he saw any he would scream and run to them, which was alarming in view of his size.

He was given a cow as a companion, but wouldn't play with him, but he made friends over the fence with Sunshine, an older horse who had had to be separated from the herd as he was too rough. Dodge made submissive motions and started to realise he was a horse. Eventually they went in together and Sunshine looked after him, teaching him manners, kicking him when he was fed up with him.

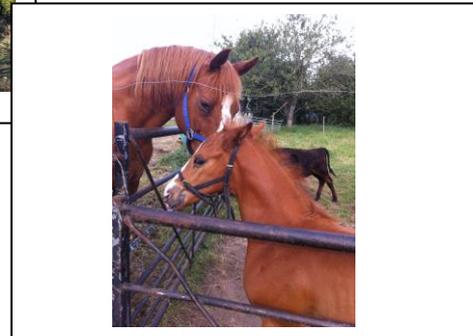
At 6 months, Dodge had his last bucket of milk. He is now nearly 8 months old and still makes sucking noises. He has stud nuts morning and evening. Dodge now ties up and has his feet picked out. He has stopped nibbling and leads well. However he gets upset if his routine is broken.

During the winter he lived with his brother Kelly but hopefully when he gets older he will go out with rest of the herd.

Both Molly and Malcolm stated how rewarding this experience has been, even after a long career with horses, and were extremely grateful to those that had supported and advised them. It was a difficult time and it is perhaps surprising how little information there is in this country around bringing up orphan foals. We hope they have a rewarding career with him.



Dodge continued.....



Course Building

On the 9th January, myself, Jane, Charlotte and Gill started a six week basic course building course up at West Wilts E.C with Adrian House who is a level 4 designer. These are fortnightly sessions for approx. 2 ½ hours on a Friday evening running until the 20th March.

It's proving to be very interesting and we are learning a great deal. I am sure it will benefit us all in the future. Adrian has so many stories!! Course building at riding club level up to Hickstead and Badminton XC level -you can only imagine how interesting it all is.

There is so much to learn and no matter which way you're involved with horses this is very beneficial and well worth taking advantage of. This was offered through the riding club at a small fee and has been worth every penny!! When you see these opportunities I urge you to become involved!

Thanks for reading

Debbie Vickery



Tent Pegging

Our April speaker was Sam Goss, who came to tell us about tent pegging, something that sounded very intriguing! The term 'Tentpegging' refers not to the ability to pin down the guy lines on an 18 x 24 tent as fast as possible, but to the cavalry sport of removing wooden 'tent pegs' from the back of a galloping horse from the ground using a sword or lance.

The origins of the sport can be traced back around 2,500 years to the time when Asian armies relied on their skill with the lance. There are many apocryphal stories where the origin is stated as the practice of disabling enemy war elephants by spearing their toe nails, or the removal of tent pegs in an enemy encampment as the first wave of an attack. What is far more probable is that cavalry men, when training in camp would have had an abundance of wooden tent pegs to use as makeshift targets on which to demonstrate their skills with the lance at a full gallop. Human nature would soon develop this display of skill into a very competitive game.

By the First World War the elements of the sport were well established as competition disciplines, together with the additional development of the Sword Lance and Revolver discipline. Surviving rules for the sport reflect its military origins: Regulation swords, lances, revolvers and even saddlery were standard requirements.

After the Second World War, several experienced mounted cavalrymen were discharged from service and found themselves employed in various Mounted Police units around the UK. The value of tent pegging to the development and testing of a riders skills remains as great as ever, as any experienced horseman who tries tent pegging for the first time can testify. Hence the Mounted Police became regular competitors on the Tentpegging circuit, with regular competitors still participating to this day.

Towards the end of the last century the sport had declined in the numbers of participants, just as the armed forces' remaining mounted units reduced in size and increased in workload. The Mounted Police units also stopped competing on their service horses as a result of a mixture of political correctness and penny pinching.

Civilians dabbled in the sport both before and after the Second World War, however no great developments came from this at the time, however several civilians did learn to peg, either in riding schools run by ex-cavalrymen, or as part of mounted re-enactment activities.

The British Tentpegging Association was formed in the 1990's. Its formation has allowed civilian riders to compete alongside their Army counterparts. This organisation represents both military and civilian in one combined national governing body. In recent years teams representing Great Britain have consisted of both soldiers and civilians.

Contemporary developments have also seen wooden pegs replaced by softer plastic coreboard, or even cardboard: a change which no longer requires the rider to use the momentum of the horse and a locked arm to hit the peg, simulating an enemy, hard enough to do him mortal harm. Pegs can range from 2" at normal competitions, but internationally they are 1" wide! They also have to collect rings using a lance as well, so accuracy and a good eye are definitely important!

Sam started to take part in tentpegging when she had an eventer Sammy who, after retirement, needed something to keep him engaged. Having been to Oman where she met some people from Hartpury, she saw her first tentpegging competition at a racetrack. When abroad, competitors have to ride horses from the host nation, with little or no time to get to know them. Sizes range from ponies (14hh) to 16hh plus, regardless of the size of the rider.

When she returned back to the UK, she got on to a course where she had to practise on a wooden horse until she had learned the correct drill. Eventually, mounted on Sammy, she then had to train him to move forwards in a straight line, whilst leaning to the right -hand-side with a lance. They started at walk, then trot, and should then have moved into canter, but Sammy decided he would rather gallop. Although he stayed straight, it took a lot more practise to get the peg! Competitors also have to jump whilst doing various parts of the sequence.

Sam showed us the drill, first with the lance, then the sword and gun (though we had to imagine the gun!) Each weapon has a specific sequence of moves. Competitions in the UK are mainly marked by accuracy and style, but internationally they also mark speed as well. Competitions can be single, paired or in teams of 4. One of the most well known countries competing is South Africa, and Australia, Pakistan and India are also very keen. Lances are made either of bamboo or fibreglass and adapted by competitors.

It was a fascinating talk about an unusual sport which is, in the main, open to all types of horses and ponies. Sam is available for training and we may well be arranging for an exhibition at Camp, where I'm sure unmounted participants will be allowed to watch.

If you want to find out more there is a very good website at <http://www.britishtentpegging.com/>

DIARY DATES

19th April dressage champs at Woodfield
May- quiz and fun & games
June- Lena Sperring- retired show jumper
5-7th June Camp

Dressage Riders Show Jumpers Eventers

If you would be interested in competing for the club at area competitions, please contact Laura Hayden, Team Co-ordinator.

Tack Shop Club Member Discounts

Did you know you are entitled to special discounts at local tack shops ? Think of all that money you can save ! Here is a summary of just some of the discounts available and the contact details:

Chris Puddy : <http://puddys.co.uk/saddlery/>

- Discount 10%

Wadswick Countrystore:

<http://www.wadswick.co.uk/> - Discount 5%

Patrick Pinkers:

<http://www.patrickpinker.com/?id=296> –

Discount 10%

Pointings: <http://www.pointings-saddlery.com>

– Discount 10%

It is also worth asking if you visit other tack shops, remember always take your membership card with you ! Please note these discounts do seem to be rather selective and some items are excluded, unfortunately this includes saddles.

Please keep checking the website for up-to-date news regarding speakers and rallies –

www.vhprc.co.uk

Any articles/ photos to Ros at rossteward@hotmail.co.uk

Ann Fay has advised us of some events coming up in the area:

- **Free Training- Riding on the Highway**
Woodfield Stables Sunday 26th April
Contact Sue Fews 01179373718
Oakfield Stables Sunday 31st May
Contact Gill Storrs 01454 772920
Oakleaze Farm Saturday 27th June
Contact Sue Rich 01179 864726
Gatcombe Farm Sunday 26th July
Contact Penny James 07565 818661
- **Karen Whiston Dismounted Workshops (£20 per session)**
@ South Bristol Sports Centre, West Town Lane, BS14 9EA
contact Sarah Biggs 07824 365033 or shbiggs@hotmail.co.uk
'A Deeper Seat' Tues 12th May 7-9 pm
'Stability in the Saddle' Tues 16th June 7-9 pm
- **Retraining of Racehorses Talk**
@ Saltford Hall, Wedmore Rd, Saltford, BS31 3BY
Weds 20th May 7-8 pm £5 pp must be booked in advance
Contact Jacky Beard, 07910474619 or ji.beard@virgin.net



Tentpegging Pictures



Who Am I????

The committee thought it might be fun to have a competition to guess the committee member from some, perhaps, unusual facts about them.....so here is the first contender.

- 1) I spent the first 6 years of my life in Iraq, courtesy of my parents working for an oil company
- 2) I used to be able to speak Arabic and Kurdish- now I can barely speak a word of either...though I can speak a bit of French
- 3) After deciding I wasn't clever enough to be a vet, I decided I would be a geologist and self studied Geology A level in a year (and passed)
- 4) I am currently part of a sketch book circle- getting back to my artistic roots!
- 5) I rode a 3 day eventer at my one and only Pony Club camp after the instructor swapped me and another girl (who had to ride my pony for the rest of the week, poor soul)
- 6) Having nearly drowned as a young child, I cannot swim under water, or jump/dive in
- 7) I played tenor recorder in a group and we were recorded by Radio Bristol in the Whiteladies Studios

So.....who am I? Write the name of the committee member you think it might be at the next club meeting and the one drawn out (provided it's correct of course) will win a prize 😊

Is it: Sue Fews, Jane Jones, Deb Vickery, Ally McKillop, Ros Steward, Renee Sawyer-Fry, Rebecca Jones, Laura Hayden, Rowena Moulding, Gill Hutchings or Linda Knight?





Qualifier Shows

The show season has already started (it gets earlier every year!)

These are the shows that have already offered to hold our qualifiers for the Veteran Championships in September- if anyone knows a show secretary that would hold qualifiers- please ask them to get in touch with Ros.

3/4/15 SWPA Okehampton

5/4/15 Roman Lodge

5/4/15 Brent Knoll RC

18/4/15 CHAPS SW Regional

3/5/15 SWPA Taunton

16/5/15 Avon & Borders WPCS West Wilts

17/5/15 DJL Open Show Keynsham

24/5/15 Cadnam, Hants

24/5/15 Bath & Bristol Borders, Springwater

7/6/15 Syston PC

14/6/15 Cadnam, Hants

27/6/15 SWPA Cricklads

28/6/15 Cadnam, Hants

5/7/15 Congresbury

11/7/15 Fairfield Farm College

12/7/15 Cadnam, Hants

12/7/15 SWPA Stretcholt

12/7/15 Emborough

2/8/15 Timsbury

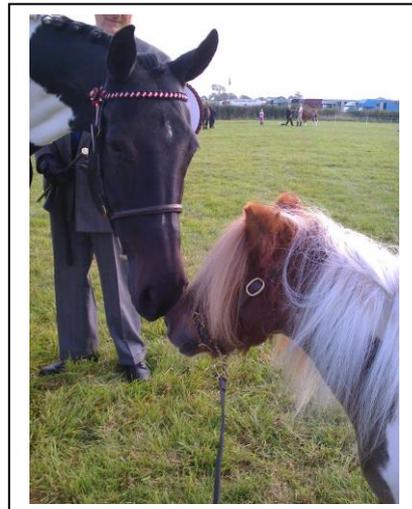
12/8/15 Beaufort Hunt Supporters Club

23/8/15 Avon & Borders WPCS Leyland Court

23/8/15 Cadnam, Hants

6/9/15 Cadnam, Hants

2016 qualifier Cadnam 20/9/15



ULCERS IN HORSES

I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN MY EXPERIENCE WITH TALLY, MY RISING 5 YR OLD. SHE HAS ALWAYS BEEN STRESSY, BUT I JUST ASSUMED THAT WAS HER NATURE, BUT WHEN WE STARTED HER BACK IN WORK LAST SUMMER IT WAS OBVIOUS THAT THIS WAS A VERY TEMPERAMENTAL PONY.

WHEN SHE WAS BEING RIDDEN SHE WOULDN'T ACCEPT THE LEG; ON THE RIGHT REIN, SHE WOULD COW KICK, BUCK, GRIND HER TEETH AND GENERALLY THROW HERSELF AROUND. SHE WAS OBVIOUSLY UNCOMFORTABLE. I HAD HER TEETH DONE, I HAD HER SADDLE CHECKED, I SPENT A FORTUNE HAVING HER BACK DONE. EVERYTIME IT WAS SOMETHING DIFFERENT- IN HER POLL, HER NECK, HER WITHERS, LOIN, HAMSTRINGS- YOU NAME IT, IT WOULD BE TIGHT. EVERY TIME WE THOUGHT SHE WAS SORTED, A FEW DAYS LATER WE WERE BACK TO SQUARE ONE.

THEN SHE STARTED BOLTING ON THE ROADS; THIS WAS VERY DANGEROUS AND WORRYING. I BEGAN TO THINK THAT SHE HAD SOMETHING VERY VERY WRONG & THAT SHE WAS GOING TO HAVE TO BE PTS.

I READ A VERY INTERESTING ARTICLE ABOUT ULCERS IN HORSES ONE DAY AND A LOT OF THE SYMPTONS WERE EXACTLY THE SAME AS TALLYS. SO I DID SOME INVESTIGATING; WHAT A SUBJECT. THE UPSHOT WAS I DECIDED TO CHANGE HER FEED. SHE IS GIVEN HI FI LIGHT, BRAN, SPEEDI BEET, A GUT BALANCER, FENUGREEK SEEDS, LIMESTONE FLOUR & VERY IMPORTANT BICARB OF SODA ALSO GREEK YOGHURT IN FEED EVERY MORNING. SHE ALSO HAS ADLIB HAY. WITHIN 3 DAYS THE DIFFERENCE WAS REMARKABLE, IF SOMEBODY TOLD ME ABOUT THIS I WOULDN'T HAVE BELIEVED THEM. IT IS ALSO IMPORTANT THAT THEY HAVE A DOUBLE HANDFUL OF CHAFF BEFORE DOING ANY WORK, OR ANY STRESSFUL SITUATION; THIS APPARENTLY STOPS THE STOMACH ACID SPLASHING UP IN THE STOMACH.

WE ARE NOW SCHOOLING IN CIRCLES ON BOTH REINS, HAVE LESSONS, HACKING OUT SAFELY & HOPING TO GET OUT & ABOUT THIS YEAR. RIGHT CANTER LEAD IS STILL A PROBLEM BUT APPARENTLY THIS IS VERY COMMON.

IT WOULD TAKE TOO LONG TO EXPLAIN ABOUT ULCERS & IM NO EXPERT BUT IT IS THOUGHT THAT 90% OF RACE HORSES, 60% OF SPORT HORSES, 50% OF FOALS AND 30% OF LEISURE HORSES SUFFER WITH ULCERS.

ULCERS ARE DAMAGE DUE TO EXCESSIVE STOMACH ACID WHICH CAUSES DAMAGE, WHICH IN TURN CAN CAUSE GREAT DISCOMFORT, NOT TO MENTION BEHAVIOR PERFORMANCE PROBLEMS. POSSIBLE CAUSES INCLUDE DIET, TRAINING & EXERCISE, STRESS & ILLNESS, PSYCHOLOGICAL ISSUES AND/ OR MEDICATION.

ALSO THE WAY THE MODERN HORSE IS KEPT IS THOUGHT TO BE AN ADDED FACTOR.

I HAVEN'T HAD HER SCOPED BECAUSE I THINK SHE POSSIBLY HAS HIND GUT ULCERS & THEY CAN'T SCOPE THE HIND GUT. ALSO SHE ISN'T INSURED & THE TREATMENT IS UNBELIEVABLY EXPENSIVE, YOU CAN USE UP YOUR VET FEES IN A COUPLE OF MONTHS.

IT IS A VERY INTERESTING SUBJECT AND INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE ON THE INTERNET, THERE IS ALSO A VERY INFORMATIVE FRIENDY GROUP ON FACEBOOK CALLED HORCES WITH ULCERS. I THINK A LOT OF MARES WHO ARE CONSIDERD DIFFICULT POSSIBLY HAVE ULCERS.

I HOPE TALLY CONTINUES TO IMPROVE & I AM ABLE TO GET HER OUT & ABOUT THIS SUMMER. I ALSO HOPE THIS MAY HELP SOME OF YOU THAT MAY BE EXPERIENCING PROBLEMS.

JANE

