



NEWSLETTER

June 2015

From the Chair.....

Hello all,

Already we are half way through the summer and the evenings will start drawing in! Cannot believe how quickly time flies.

Many of our members have been out and about- some of their photos appear later, and I'm sure most of you are making the most of our relatively fine weather to get out hacking, showing, jumping or simply enjoying quality time with your equines.

It is, of course, the season where we need to be vigilant for the dreaded laminitis (I have become an expert over the years), and also issues such as sweetitch due to the influx of flies and gnats. Ragwort is already spreading quickly- make sure you check your fields for this weed- it is a shame that it is the foodplant of certain insects, but it is a killer to horses and needs to be rooted out!

I am intending to spend some time in the next few weeks backing Frodo, the naughtiest pony on the planet, as he clearly needs to do some work....and practise loading Truffle, the newest member of the team. And, of course, there are so many shows to choose from! It is brilliant to hear how well Linda's Lemon Tarts are doing in their Team Quest- keep up the good work folks, and despite various injuries at camp, there fortunately were not too many long term injuries- hope you feel 100% soon Laura. Jane has organised a table at Anthony's charity ball- he is a fabulous instructor, and we hope he raises lots of money for his charity- and that they all have a great time doing so!

Hope you all have a fun filled couple of months.....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

'Old Lady Pony Camp - 2015'

Having been nominated to write this year's camp diary, as a word of warning for anyone thinking of coming next year, do not leave the sitting room at camp in the evening otherwise you too will be nominated !!!!! (thanks Gang!!) Also sorry Julian as our only male in the group you are part of the 'old lady camp' crew.

Well I am sure you are all expecting this story to start on Fridays evening after a horrendous drive to Stockland Lovell (3 hours to go 65 miles). But my camp adventure starts in December/ January when Linda comes to the club meeting and Tess and I mug her for the camp application form. My excitement is not complete until I hand Linda my completed form and deposit and then I breathe a sigh of relief I have a place..... now the countdown starts.

Over the next 6 months I squirrel away the rest of the money, and I would normally start a strenuous exercise regime involving carrying large bags with tons of clothes I will never wear. Improve my upper body strength with lifting heavy bottles (they do get lighter the more I do as the liquid (usually beer) evaporates !!!!!). The countdown continues with packing and repacking my bag watching the weather forecast, then repacking my bag again to include clothes for rain, sun, wind and snow. I have a motto similar to the girl guides be prepared, my motto is if in doubt take everything! Why is it there is always one item I really needed and did not take? Answers on a postcard and returned to next club meeting. I am not as organised as Tess who has a list of all her stuff for camp which she uses each year.

Camp this year was different for me, I lost my amazing horse Glittering Clover (Gary) last year and Booked camp in the hope I would have something to ride. I now have Vincenzo Emerald (Emms) who had just had her 6th Birthday the week before camp. My usual excitement for camp was tinged with a little trepidation as we are both a work in progress in our ability and relationship. Camp has been an amazing bonding experience and she was an absolute star, supported by the amazing support team of the VHPRC.

When is she ever going to talk about camp you ask !!!! Well here goes.

Friday

When I arrived a calm horse exited the trailer went into her stable and she waited for all her new friends to arrive, Julian and Linda were next. Julian was a star and made us all tea and I brought the Lemon Drizzle cake. When Tess and Rowena arrived I pestered them like a child at Christmas, can we go out yet?..... can we go out yet?. Having worn them down, we tacked up and went for a ride around the cross country course. Grey skies howling wind not the best time to expose a new horse to her first water feature but she was amazing with Tess's Bert leading us through and then Rowena's Purdy. Thanks guys that was a major breakthrough. I did a couple of jumps and we moved on across wide open plains where lions, tigers and bears and all manner of scary animals live. My brave Emms survived and came back a foot taller, 1 year wiser and I was more relaxed and ready to take on the adventures camp would throw at us. The rest of the camp posse arrived. We had an amazing meal of pie, mash and veg with brownie fruit and ice cream (food is very important on camp). We then drank some liquid nectar and sat upstairs in the sitting room recanting tails of old camps to the new bucks who joined us this year. The booze flowed, the laughter grew and we all became a group focused on one goal... having fun.

Saturday

My ritual for Saturday has been unchanged for 8 years (yes this was our 8th camp - I think that makes us a veteran!). Tess and I get up about 5.20am we have a cup of tea and toast and muck out the horses, then tack up and go for a gentle hack around the fields. This is one of my favourite times. Blue skies, no roads and the gentle sound of the birds and then a rabbit runs out of a hedges across your path, S**t. Then breakfast full fry up with more tea and toast, this is not food but BALLAST!

My first camp lesson with my new horse starts. It is a jump lesson with Anthony. I give a brief explanation about what happened to Gary and my new horse and the lesson starts. Poles, 3 strides between each, then crosses, then straights amazing we are jumping at camp and she is a star. My group is fantastic Hazel, Julian, Kerrie and Chloe. There is some real stickability in this group and Kerrie was amazing with her horse who just wanted to make the most of camp by doing everything twice or even three times !!!!!. Hazel provided the entertainment with chat-back and full on blond moments (camp would not be the same without her.... I must make a mention of Kovo who Hazel borrowed from Karen a couple of days before camp because Ted was broken. Karen has worked so hard on this horse and he did both Karen and Hazel Proud). We did several rounds and finished with a brush fence to get us prepared for the cross country after lunch. The brush was about 80-90 cm and Emms initial reaction was 'Bugger off' but we presented a second time with determination and we were in orbit, legs tucked up clearing by a mile. So proud of her. Laura kindly took some footage of me on my video camera which I am so grateful for. Still haven't seen it yet though.

In true camp style Hazel and I grabbed a quick drink and went to watch the group on the Cross country. Wow Teresa, Sharon and Chloe were absolute stars their horses stunning and beautiful jumping like a dream. Then there were 2 young horses with Louise and Laura working hard on presenting to jumps. Laura got her horse over one jump with true grit and determination. They progressed to the water and started to walk through. Laura's Dale bravely walked on. Louise's horse felt the water needed to be taking more seriously and decided to leap in (well sat Louise) we thought that was our excitement for camp.

Dale had other ideas and out of nowhere by the water he spooked, did some hopping and bucking and then took Laura through a small tree which eventually unseated her (all caught on camera by Jo who had come down for the day to film Laura). Laura was on the ground motionless and time stopped for a moment, then we heard her groan and Hazel, Jo Anthony and myself stepped in to check on her. Not to dwell on this situation after some checks we called an ambulance. 2 ½ hours later !!!!! and many phone calls to Ambulance control, some cut off or timed out an ambulance eventually arrived there was also an air ambulance on route (like buses you wait for ages then they all turn up at once). The ambulance crew assessed Laura, called off the air ambulance and then we all worked together with the ambulance crew to log roll Laura on to the board and then the stretcher. The Ambulance crew were amazing. All this caught on camera by her excellent friends!!!! So there will be evidence for future newsletters. Jo went with Laura to A&E and sent us constant updates. She was discharged at 7.00pm after observations and Caroline and Linda went to the hospital to pick her up. There were 2 other people who made impressive exits from their horses but that is their story to tell, but no other major incidents.

The evening gathering in the sitting room was riotous. Linda and Debs were giggling and this became infectious, we all joined in the entertainment and there was so much food and sweets passed around. I think it was about 11.45 when we all left, sides hurting, bellies bursting and heads chilled by the alcohol and good company.

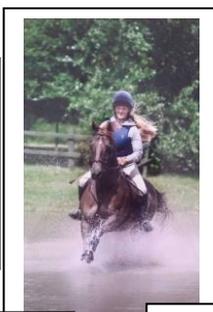
Sunday

Even with the late finish on Saturday, Tess and I were up and out first thing in the morning. I walked through the water feature as today was my day on the Cross country. This was another beautiful day and following breakfast I tacked up and went down to meet Anthony for the Cross country lesson. An amazing lesson. Chloe's horse flew over everything, Hazel and Kovo were close behind, but my best buddy is Kerri and her little star who gave me a lead down the steps and out over the jump and a special thanks to Hazel and Kovo for taking me over the ditch.

Both Emms and I had an amazing time, we have bonded and now want to take on the world, (that may be the drink talking). There is always a buzz at the end of camp of laughter, fun, achievements but for me this year it was a sense of support and comradery. The trip back was good, all are safely gathered in with Rowena giving me the final count that Laura and her horse were brought home safely. I have only one complaint with all that exercise how did I gain 6 lbs!!!! in 3 days (it couldn't be the 3 big meals a day, afternoon tea and cake, all the booze and sweets and crisps in the evening??)

This is my parting thought for anyone who may be thinking about coming on camp, it is a brilliant experience with super people who support and encourage you and give you a gentle push to go that bit further. If you are interested you will need to join a queue behind Tess and myself and see you all next year.

Jackie Mathers and Emms my little superstar VHPRC camp June 2015



Photos shamelessly stolen from facebook! ☺



Steamhorse



Our June speaker (due to Badminton, we did not have one in May) was 'Steamhorse'. This is a re-enactment group masterminded by Teejay and Tom, both of whom not only ride in a huge variety of costumes for pageants, but also demonstrate how jousting is performed and perform trick/ stunt riding displays. They produce and train their own horses- currently a Spanish horse and a Welsh D.

They use cavalry saddles, or Spanish saddles if performing medieval displays as they are similar in style to the original, whereas cavalry saddles are unchanged from those in WW1. Training has to include getting the horses used to carry armour (mucking out is done wearing helmets for example), and the saddles have bells attached. They need to be bombproof! Gradually all the bits of armour are added until the horse is used to the weight which can weigh up to 3 ½ stones in addition to the rider. Costs of armour can vary between £300- £54,000!

150 people approximately in the UK earn their living by jousting and re-enactments. Interestingly, 50% of them cannot ride properly, including Tom! Horses have to get used to all the noise of battle and are not offered praise. They are taken into battle initially with experienced horses. They are taught to neck rein (English style) as the rider needs a spare arm to wield swords and carry shields. They learn to ride with a paired horse without pushing too close, building up to performing a 'wheel' manoeuvre. They have to learn to approach a large number of people (infantry) and know that a path or gap will open up in order for them go through, gradually building up the speed until they can do this at full gallop.

Some set pieces include: 'Run down' which is where an enemy is run down by the horse. This needs considerable training as it is effectively against a horse's nature to do this. 'Attack' is where a horse rears up and the rider and horse attack a n enemy with a shield. The man on the ground has to give the correct 'signal' with the shield.

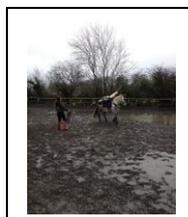
The group also perform trick riding and provide lessons, starting on a barrel horse. The first movement is the vault on. All lessons are taught on the lunge. Movements have to be quick between tricks and these are actually the riskiest moments. Most re-enactment horses go hunting in the winter to keep them fit. They also do horseboarding.

Steamhorse have performed not only in historical re-enactments and pageants, but also in films and military tournaments. They perform carbine displays with short rifles and also do tentpegging. The historical periods range from the Romans (where they ride without stirrups) through medieval eras to WW1 and WW2, both male and female roles, astride and sidesaddle. They also provide horse and carriage for wedding days- they really are versatile!

If you want to find out more, contact them at 07975647077, or email Steamhorse@rocketmail.com
Their website (currently still under construction) is www.steamhorse.wix.com/steamhorse
They also have a facebook page.



Claire Phipps has had some lessons! -



DIARY DATES

July- Faye Cary 'Prince Fluffy Kareem' charity
August- Terri Hill....zebras
Sept- Dengie and nutrition
Oct- Fire Brigade

Also coming up....Your Horse Live visit (contact Rowena if interested)

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%

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

Showing out and about

Some of our members have been showing this season- hopefully more to come ☺



Sue Fews' Rolo @
Three Counties
Also qual for RIHS



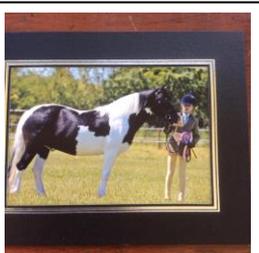
Sue Fews' Tobago
with Emma Spencer @
Syston



Ros Steward & Windwillow
Phoenix Fire @ Bath &
Borders



Chloe Little &
Charles @ Bath &
West
Also qual for Cherif



Sue Fews' Aladin @
Syston



Jess Hawes &
Peach
@ Three Counties



Ros & Phoenix
@
Three Counties



Caroline Taylor &
Percy @ Royal
Windsor



And winning his
SSADLclass at
North Somerset



Jess Hawes & Peach @
Bath & West
Also qual for TOYS

Please send your photos, whatever you do with your equines.....

Lemon Tarts

As many of you might be aware, Linda Knight has organised a team of friends (and members of course) to be in her BD Team Quest dressage team: Linda, Julian, Deb, Charlotte, Rebecca, Gill and Rachel. They decided to call themselves the Lemon Tarts (not sure what Julian thinks about that) and we have been following their progress, both through club updates and also facebook.....

Here's how it started:

Linda Knight

25 April ·

Lovely day at Summerhouse with [Rebecca Jones](#) and [Julian Minchin](#) but unfortunately minus [Gill Hutchings](#) who broke down on the way. First outing for the Lemon Tarts team quest against stiff opposition. Pleased with Bertha 's 61.2% but not sure if we got any team points. Lots to work on.

Gill Hutchings

25 April ·

Sorry to team lemon tarts as I failed to get to summerhouse this morn, car decided to boil up thank goodness I was able to pull into services, when I lifted bonnet I got a really good facial! Poor Neil had the job of towing horse box home with me nagging you're going too fast, slower on the roundabouts and use the gears to brake! But really very grateful! Thank you Neil!

Julian Minchin

25 April ·

BD Team Quest at summerhouse Eqc Lemon tarts!!!!



Deb Vickery with Gill Hutchings and 2 others

2 May ·

The lemon tarts this morning at west wils, fourth position as team great scores from 62% up to a whopping 73% well done all xx



Gill Hutchings ·

Team lemon tarts well done girls!

Linda Knight

2 May ·

Well done Team Lemon Tarts. A good 4th today with Gill getting a 2nd and prize money! Well ridden all of you.

Gill Hutchings

9 May ·

Lemon Tarts did good today well done Linda & Julian, oh & me! Even tho I nearly left the arena more than once, those flower pots are just too much! Stupid Highland!

Linda Knight

17 May ·

Bertha sporting her Lemon Tart hairdo. She doesn't look that impressed!! At least it stayed in this week.



Linda Knight

17 May ·

Lovely afternoon with fellow Lemon tarts [Gill Hutchings](#) , [Deb Vickery](#) and [Charlotte Alford](#) at Burrows Court. Just out of the rosettes today but my score is gradually going up. Well done Gill 4th and Charlotte 2nd and team 6th. 5 more team points

So far the Lemon Tarts have amassed 24 points between them and are in 25th place out of 42- keep it up folks 😊

A Rare Breed

Having recently seen one at the North Somerset show, I was curious to find out why we don't see more of these Heavy Horses. The Suffolk Horse, also known as the Suffolk Punch, is the oldest breed of heavy horses in Britain and dates back to the 16th century. They are always chestnut in colour and stand between 16.1 hh and 17.2 hh. They were bred for working the land rather than pulling a carriage, and are famed for their powerful, arching necks, short, strong legs and excellent temperaments.

All can trace their ancestry back to a sole stallion, unnamed, known simply as Crisp's horse (f. 1768). It was not the first horse of the breed however; at the time all the other male lines had died out. The breed was mentioned in Britannia (William Camden) published in 1586.

The breed was developed in the Norfolk and Suffolk areas by farmers who needed a horse that had strength and stamina coupled with excellent temperament. Used on the land, they were rarely sold on, so the bloodlines were kept pure. The first recorded export was to Canada in 1865, and they were exported to America from the 1880s to start breeding programmes. The American Suffolk Horse Association was founded in 1907. By 1908 they were being exported to Europe, Australia, New Zealand and Argentina.

The Suffolk Horse Society was founded in 1877. By the time of WW1 the horse was a popular workhorse and continued so until WW2 when increased need for food production and farm mechanisation caused the numbers to decline extremely rapidly. By 1966 only 9 foals were registered with the Society.

Despite breeding remaining steady, the breed has remained rare both in America and Britain. In 2014 just 32 foals were registered, just under the average of 36. It remains critical on the Rare Breeds Survival Trust Watchlist.



The Suffolk Punch Trust (opened in 2010) is a centre that is dedicated to the continuation of breeding these lovely horses. In Hollesley, Suffolk (near Ipswich) they have a huge heritage centre where people can visit and learn about the horses, their history, and meet some of them. Interestingly, the centre was originally linked to the Prison Service, who ran the Colony Stud. When farming was discontinued in 2000, the stud was put up for sale. The Suffolk Punch Trust was set up and had just 3 years to raise the funds to buy the stud and 188 acres of farmland. It is now a valuable tourist attraction, which in turn finances the breeding of these beautiful horses.

<http://suffolkpunchtrust.org/about> info@suffolkpunchtrust.org

The Suffolk Punch Trust, Woodbridge Walk, Hollesley, Suffolk IP12 3JR

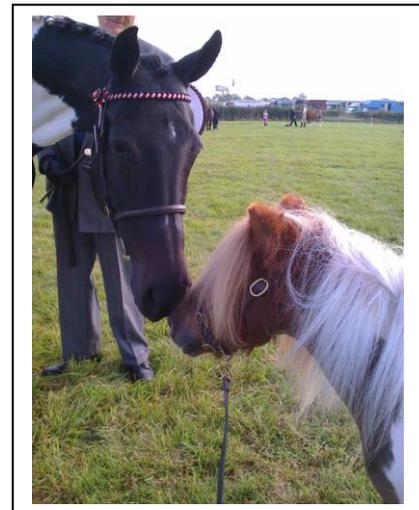


Qualifier Shows

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.

- 14/6/15 Cadnam, Hants
- 27/6/15 SWPA Cricklands
- 28/6/15 Berkeley South PC, Leyland Court
- 28/6/15 Cadnam, Hants
- 5/7/15 Congresbury
- 5/7/15 Springwater (Charmaine Teakel show)
- 11/7/15 Fairfield Farm College
- 12/7/15 Cadnam, Hants
- 12/7/15 SWPA Stretcholt
- 12/7/15 Emborough
- 18/7/15 Hardingham Mandeville, Yeovil
- 19/7/15 Ashton
- 19/7/15 Trowbridge & District @ Wadsworth
- 26/7/15 Severnvale RC, Leyland Court
- 2/8/15 Timsbury
- 12/8/15 Beaufort Hunt Supporters Club
- 16/8/15 Brinkworth
- 23/8/15 Avon & Borders WPCS Leyland Court
- 23/8/15 Cadnam, Hants
- 31/8/15 Berkeley show
- 5/9/15 Chew Stoke
- 6/9/15 Cadnam, Hants
- 2016 qualifier Cadnam 20/9/15



WE ARE SEEKING HELPERS

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



RAGWORT

There has been a great deal of publicity about Ragwort in recent years and the majority of horse owners should already be aware of the danger that this plant poses to their animals. Common Ragwort (*Senecio jacobaea*) contains pyrrolizidine alkaloids. These toxic compounds principally cause damage to the liver that often leads to death.

Horses are particularly susceptible to the effects of Ragwort but other grazing animals are also at risk and humans should take precautions (such as wearing gloves) when handling the plant. There is a commonly held belief that horses will not voluntarily eat Ragwort. It is true that most animals will avoid it, but it is not enough to rely on this – Ragwort should always be cleared from the pasture.

Where the sward is sparse and over-grazed, horses may consume Ragwort and it has been suggested that some animals may even develop an acquired taste for the plant. When cut or wilted (during hay or haylage making) Ragwort loses its bitter taste, but none of its toxicity. It becomes far more palatable and harder for the horse owner to spot, thus posing more of a danger.

The effects of Ragwort poisoning are cumulative – consuming small amounts over a long period of time is just as dangerous as consuming a large amount in a single session. When a horse eats Ragwort, the pyrrolizidine alkaloids it contains are absorbed into the body from the intestines. The alkaloids then pass to the liver, where they are metabolised to produce toxins that damage liver cells. When these cells die they are replaced by fibrous tissue and a point is eventually reached where there are not enough liver cells left to maintain liver function. By this time, liver failure is inevitable.

The clinical signs of Ragwort poisoning are not normally apparent until liver failure has occurred, and at this point there is usually little that can be done for the affected animal. The signs themselves are typical of liver failure and manifest themselves suddenly and without warning.

A key sign is that the horse will display bizarre or depressed behaviour. This is thought to be because the liver is no longer able to cleanse the blood of chemicals or toxins that may affect the brain.

Photosensitisation may also be seen and is the inflammation of unpigmented areas of skin when they are exposed to sunlight. Again, this is thought to be due to the liver's inability to remove toxins. Other signs include jaundice, weight loss and diarrhoea.

The control of Ragwort comes under two government acts, The Weeds Act (1959) and The Control of Ragwort Act (2003). Similar legislation exists under the devolved administrations. Under the latter named Act, Defra produced a Code of Practice, giving guidance on how to prevent the spread of Ragwort. This should be essential reading for all of those involved with horses and copies can either be ordered directly from Defra or from The British Horse Society.

Responsibility for controlling Ragwort rests with the occupier of the land on which it is growing. The Code of Practice, however, states that it is expected that all landowners, occupiers and managers will co-operate and take collective responsibility for ensuring that effective control of the spread of Ragwort is achieved.

The Code of Practice sets out three categories as guidelines for assessing the risk posed by Ragwort. Where Ragwort is present on land, the occupier should use these categories to determine the extent of action required:

High Risk:

Ragwort is present and flowering/seeding within 50m of land used for grazing by horses and other animals or land used for feed/forage production.

Medium Risk:

Ragwort is present within 50m to 100m of land used for grazing by horses and other animals or land used for feed/forage production.

Low Risk:

Ragwort, or the land on which it is present, is more than 100m from land used for grazing by horses and other animals or land used for feed/forage production.

No immediate action is required where the risk is low but, given the ability of the wind to disperse Ragwort seeds, it can be considered good practice to implement a control programme even on low risk sites.

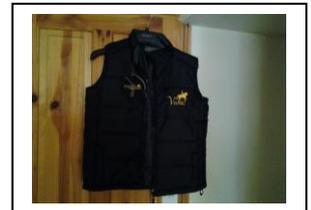
When the presence of Ragwort poses a high risk to horses, other livestock or the production of conserved forages, Defra will take enforcement action under The Weeds Act (1959). Before Defra take action, it is expected that an informal approach will be made to the landowner or occupier by the complainant. Should this fail to elicit remedial action, the relevant Defra Rural Development Service Office should be notified.

For further information, particularly regarding disposal of ragwort, please refer to the following webpage http://1stforsupplements.com/articles-library/managing-ragwort/?utm_source=1st+for+Supplements+%231&utm_campaign=f2d67a8144-ragwort_new_new_list_28_2_143_26_2015&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_23eae079d1-f2d67a8144-120481481

VHPRC Clothing

Are you aware of the range of clothing we sell?

Here are some of the lines. Deb Vickery will be happy to discuss your requirements at every monthly meeting (or by phone if you are unable to come). New lines always being sought.....



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 second contender.

I was born in the Midlands - although I don't have a midlands accent.

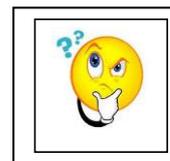
My middle name is Beverley.

My small claim to fame is that I was the South West under 14 Asymmetric Bars champion.

Once in a cookery lesson in school I forgot to light the gas oven and when I did it burnt my eyebrows off!

I never did tell my parents how I managed to stand on a nail which went straight through my wellies and my foot (I wasn't meant to play on building sites.)

This year I will be celebrating 37 years of marriage.



I didn't get my first horse until I was 42 years old.

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 Fewes, Jane Jones, Deb Vickery, Renee Sawyer-Fry, Rebecca Jones, Laura Hayden, Rowena Moulding, Gill Hutchings or Linda Knight? Last time the answer was.....Ros Steward!!