

# HOOFPRINTS

The Newsletter of the Fife Riding Club



March 2011

## Welcome to the first Newsletter of 2011.

The snow & ice played havoc with our winter programme but the good news is that, finally, we DID manage to run Winter Dressage last weekend when a good number of members made it to the Club Field and enjoyed a relaxed day's competition. It might have been freezing but at least it was dry. Our thanks to **Shona & Aileen** for organising this event, to our judges, **Judy Taylor & Heather Carstairs**, scorer **Bob** plus to our **helpers before and on the day**. Special thanks to the **Hendersons** whose lorry unexpectedly doubled up as the catering van. (the mugs of coffee were much appreciated).

Further good news – the toilet has been replaced following a visit from our local yobs. If you stay in Glenrothes please keep an eye out for trouble and report anything suspicious to Glenrothes Police Station immediately. There are some things we can't do without!

Our training at Howe CC has continued over the winter. Unfortunately attendances have been poor some nights, despite Jenny's best efforts to get places filled. The bad news for

the club is that we get charged by Howe even if the lessons are not filled. Hiring indoor arenas is expensive and we are not a charity. Next years committee may well have to look at suspending training altogether over parts of the winter unless the riders who say they want this training actually turn up. As they say, use it or lose it! If you want to take part in remaining lessons, please contact **Jenny** on 07967094218

**Top BD trainer, Catherine Eardley** has also been teaching at the club field over the winter. She is getting quite a following. What's more, she had no qualms about standing out in a snowstorm while dispensing wisdom to those hardy souls who peeked out their windows on 6<sup>th</sup> February and – seeing a blizzard outside, relaxed in the certain knowledge that the dressage training would surely be cancelled – only to have a text from the organiser with the good news that Catherine **never** cancels. Still, once you're wet, you're wet. They breed 'em tough in Fife! Anyone interested in taking part in these lessons should have a word with **Gillian** on 07825648948

For those members who prefer more comfortable surroundings, there is always **Horse Welfare training**, currently being hosted in **Shona's** front room- and proving very popular, too. Apparently she bakes all her own cakes. We hear that lots of

homework is being handed out – which must have taken some folk back a **very** long way.....It'll be EXAMS next!, jings.

Even more training! Did you know that we have to have registered first aiders before we can run anything? The good news is that most of your committee are already registered. The certificates however are only valid for three years so a good number of the current committee will be doing a refresher course in early March to keep us compliant with BRC guidelines. It's a comfort to know that most of the committee will soon be fully certified.

**AREA 22 Camp** – a lot of you tried to get into the Area camp but very few got a place. Rumour - unsubstantiated, of course - has it that people who had agreed to help with the organisation got preferential treatment. Surely not! Never mind, FRC will be running our own camp at the end of the summer – watch this space.

#### **CLUB FIELD UPDATE**

As you know, we have not been able to use the small field for some time, courtesy our old friends at Scottish Water. The good news is they have nearly finished. If you have been down lately you might have noticed that the temporary fencing has come down and new fencing has gone up. The stones have been lifted and the grass has been cut. More works are planned once the weather improves, so hopefully we will have full use in the summer.

As far as the main field is concerned members need to remember a couple of things. Firstly, if the ground is wet and the grass is soggy, do not park on it. Use the hardstanding or better still park at the foot of the drive (shut the gate on the drive for safety) – at least that way you might manage to get your trailer/lorry out without ruining the ground (who was the numptie that had to get towed out by a passing tractor??). Secondly, remember you must check with **Susan** before using the field. This is a requirement under the Bye-Laws. Susan keeps a diary of who is using the field on any given day and she will be able to advise if it is free. Thirdly, the combination on the padlock is due to be changed. This is a regular occurrence as it is the best way of

making sure that only paid up members are able to use our facilities. Finally please leave the field the way you find it; if you take jumps out please put them to the side afterwards. If anything gets broken, we need to know so again, leave a message with Susan on 07706009161.

#### **Post Script**

Following a bit of a "stushie" at the entrance drive, can drivers ensure that they give way to incoming vehicles? The drive is not wide enough for two and we do not recommend driving on the grass verge (have you seen how steep the bank is?). It is not possible to reverse safely back onto Western Avenue so if you are at the foot of the drive and someone else needs to come in, please let them come down to avoid a build up of traffic on the main road..

#### **CRAIGIE HUNTER TRIALS**

Yes, it's that time of years again! **Craigie Hunter Trials** will soon be upon us, on 17 April to be precise. Have you got your entry form? You can send a stamped addressed envelope to Linda Gove at 16 Aboyne Gdns, Kirkcaldy KY2 6EL or download your schedule from the website – [www.fife-riding-club.co.uk](http://www.fife-riding-club.co.uk). Don't delay! The April HT is always popular so don't hang about; get it posted off as soon as possible.

[Can last years trophy winners ensure their cups etc are returned in time for the competition? Please contact Linda Gove on 07740 027427 to confirm that trophies are en route or to make arrangements for their collection]

As ever we desperately need people to help out on the day, particularly as jump judges. You can do a half or whole day shift and we ply you with food & drink all day. Its great fun, especially if you bring a friend. It's not too taxing, even if you have never tried it before. If you would like to come along as a helper, please contact **Amy** on 07766130424 or else speak to **Linda** on 07740 027427 or any other committee member.

BUT FIRST we need to get the course ready. Our first work day will be on **Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> March** from about 10.00 onwards, **thereafter every weekend** – see website. Meet at the water jump. Wear old clothes and pack a picnic lunch. We really need as many people as possible to come along and get the track ready, so please lend a hand. It can be hard work but it's also a bit of a social outing and great fun. If you want to find out more, please contact **Andrew** on 07967655691 or Linda on 07740027427.

**Incidentally, there is still a chance to sponsor a fence or indeed a class at the competition.** Costs start from £20. [You could even do it in your horse's name!]. Or maybe you would like to donate some prizes? Do you know any organisation that might like to bring a stand along on the day? – For more information on any of the above, contact Linda on the above number as soon as possible.

#### **OTHER NEWS**

Fashion Show – this evening previously advertised for 26 March has been **cancelled**.

It is hoped to run a RACE NIGHT in April – watch website for details

**CROSS COUNTRY TRAINING** with Elizabeth Leslie – **Sunday 27 March** at Braeside of Lindores. Each group will last approx 90 mins. Members £30, non-members £35. More info – see website for application form

#### **CLUB FIELD OPENS**

The first of our Summer meetings will be on **WEDNESDAY 13<sup>th</sup> APRIL**. It's instruction (jumping and flatwork). Bookings to **Jenny** on 07967094218 (if you turn up unannounced we will do our best to fit you in but places are not guaranteed unless pre-booked). Remember, these much-subsidised lessons are for paid up FRC members only. The number of instructors depends on the number of places booked. If you have booked but do not appear, you will still be liable to pay the cost of the lesson.

For training meets riders should be neatly dressed. Club sweatshirts are acceptable.

Jodhpurs or breeches must be worn with suitable riding boots. Safety helmets are compulsory.

Some new members have been asking about what to wear at Wednesday night competitions. The answer is that for most competitions you should wear show dress i.e. show jacket with stock/tie or riding shirt, hard hat, light coloured jodhpurs or breeches and suitable riding boots. Chaps are not allowed. The exceptions are the Obedience Test where we don't mind sweatshirts being worn and the mini cross country where usual x/c gear is worn.

For Wednesday night training and competitions, riders should be warmed up for the beginning of the lesson. In dressage competitions the rider should check in with the ring steward about 20 minutes before the time of their tests. It is the steward's job to ensure that riders proceed into the ring on time. They may check your tack but ultimately it is up to the rider to ensure that they have the right tack on. If anyone needs advice on what tack to wear for what competition, they can contact the Club Secretary, **Liz** on 07970418333 or else go to the BRC website where there is loads of info about correct clothes tack etc. You will also get details of tests for 2011.

Most Wednesday night competitions are entries on the field; the exceptions are the dressage & riding test nights where each rider will have to pre-enter and get a specific time for each test.

***There's loads going on at Fife Riding Club – be part of the action!***

