

HOOFPRINTS

The Newsletter of the Fife Riding Club



December 2010

Looks like we are in for a long, cold winter! The deep freeze brings extra problems for horse owners – more hard work to keep frozen pipes and water tanks clear of ice, lugging around more hay to snowbound fields, checking the electric fences haven't been taken down by snow, sliding about over an iced-up yard – just a lot more slog to ensure our horses are kept warm and well fed in these arctic conditions. For our four-legged friends, of course, it's a bit of a mixed blessing – it can't be much fun standing around in a field bereft of grass, but the haylage is lovely and, as long as they are well rugged up, they seem happy enough. They might not be getting out to the local jumping competitions or training, but maybe the riders mind that more than the horses. For them, it's a nice time to, dare I say, "chill out" after a busy season's competition. Sometimes a wee holiday works wonders!



Picture postcard scene at Club field

Looking back, the Club's AGM was held in October, attended, as ever, by a good number of members. It's great to know so many people take an interest in their club.

We have a few changes to committee. **Gail Bonthrone** and **John Embrey** decided to "hang up their boots" for now. Gail served two years while

John has been around for ever (or maybe it just seems like that). Both have made invaluable contribution to committee business and we must thank them both for their hard work on behalf of the club. In their place we welcome **Sarah Hutchison** and **Gillian Osler**. You may know both already as they are keen competitors and, indeed both represented FRC at last summers Area Qualifiers at Philorth. Having passed the "party test" at Area (don't ask) they seemed like natural contenders for committee, so we look forward to seeing them in action in the coming months. Our long-serving Treasurer, **Joe Smith** decided to stand down and has been replaced in that role by **Andrew Thomson**. Joe's contribution to the Club is well known to all and his financial reports are already legendary – so, no pressure, Andrew. Joe, however is not leaving as he is staying on as a committee member.

The AGM was possibly one of the quickest on record being done & dusted by 8.15pm! It was followed by the presentation of trophies and awards.

Sharron Ferrier won the Nursery Novice points with **Boris, Andrew Thomson & Pinn** pipped Lisa Allen & Jack for the Novice Points, **Jenny Cushnie & Diablo Sie** were the best in the Intermediate Points and the Open Points were won by **Kayleigh Wallace and Never a Dull Mo**. Sharron & Boris also won the Linklater Trophy for the best Overall Points. Interestingly, 5 of the best 10 riders in the overall points were from Nursery Novice or Novice classes. **Liz Campbell & Mac** won the Anderson Quaich for the best overall performance at the Members Show and the Vic Trophy was tied between **Medusa (Laura Rennie)** and **Pinn (Andrew Thomson & Linda Gove)**. This trophy is presented annually to the most improved horse. *Well done to all our winners!* Full results are on the Club website – www.fife-riding-club.co.uk

STAR TREKKERS

To round off our "summer" season we held a TREC weekend at the Club Field where Karen Waite of BHS Scotland put 14 riders through their paces. Saturday morning was all about map reading, rules & equipment, then riders were let loose on horseback to test their skills with map and compass after lunch (all came back, although at least two found a route that wasn't on the map!). Sunday was about the arena-based tests including "low branches", footbridge, banks, jumping, control of paces and many others. Everyone had great fun and a few were surprised to find they had a star in the making. Our thanks to all involved and to **Shona** for organising this weekend. Incidentally, the TREC people were so impressed by our facilities they asked if they could run a proper TREC competition from our field stage – so we may get the chance to put all that training into practice in a real competition at some stage.

OTHER NEWS

Winter training is well under way with regular meetings at Howe CC. Anyone interested should contact **Jenny** on 07967094218

In addition top BE trainer, **Catherine Eardley** has been holding dressage clinics at the Club Field at the weekends. She has proved popular and anyone interested should contact **Gillian** on 07825648948 to reserve a place.

Details on the above also on website

WINTER DRESSAGE LEAGUE

Ever the optimist, **Shona** has tried to run the winter dressage again but, true to form, the weather has beaten us and the first two were cancelled. (It's saving us a fortune in rosettes). She says she will still try to run the next two – we are taking bets now. As ever, keep an eye on the website for all the latest news.

HORSE WELFARE TRAINING

Shona must be a bit bored, what with having to cancel all these dressage things – so she's decided to organise training in welfare over the winter months. Details on website – or contact Shona direct on 07969551154

FACEBOOK

Committee are keen to try to improve ways of keeping members up to date with what's going on so FRC now has its own Facebook page – check it out for all the latest news and no doubt gossip..

REMINDER

Yes, it's that time of year again! – your annual subscription is due to be paid **NOW!** (unless you joined after 1st August). If you have not done so already, please send your cheque/PO (made out to Fife Riding Club) to Membership Secretary, **Liz Glasgow**, 296 Muirfield Drive, Glenrothes, **as soon as possible.**

Subs remain as before i.e. £35 for Riding Members, £25 for Associates & £10 for Non Riding members

One point that came up at the AGM was that some new members had not received their syllabuses etc after joining. There will be certain times of the year when the syllabus is not available e.g. at the end of the summer season. On top of this, Liz had big problems with her computer & printer last summer. If you recently joined the club but have not yet received your "welcome pack" (or have only got part of it), please contact Liz on 07970418333 and she will arrange to post out what you need. Ultimately the committee aim to have a lot of these bits & pieces put onto the website to save our costs but until then, we will still be sending out hard copies

AREA 22 NEWS

A couple of bits of news about Area 22. Firstly the rules relating to Flu vaccination jabs have been slightly relaxed for 2011 – a bit of common sense at last.

Secondly, – straight off the press – we can tell you that **Fife RC will be hosting the 2011 Area Qualifiers** for Dressage, Riding Test, Showjumping and Style Jumping. The competition will be held on the weekend of **2/3 July at Glenrothes**. Details to follow. This is a **BIG** event and committee hope that as many members will get involved in ensuring a successful two days competition for our rider members and our visitors.

ALSO, NEWS JUST IN!

The Area 22 Camp will be held between 13 - 15 May at Auchlishie, Kirriemuir and will include flatwork , jumping and cross country training plus evening entertainment. Limited to 50 places. Applications will only be accepted on or after 21 January. In the event of over-subscription, applications will close on 28 January and, if necessary, names will be balloted out and a waiting list will operate. More info on our website

DATES FOR 2011

The 2011 syllabus will be produced early in the New Year; meantime, here are our *provisional* dates for the main shows:

- April 17 -Spring Hunter Trials, Craigie
- May 8 - Open Showjumping Show
- May 22 -Open Dressage Show
- July 2/3 - Area 22 Qualifiers
- July 24 - Open Mini Cross Country
- August 7 - Open Showjumping Show
- Sept 18 - Autumn Hunter Trials, Craigie

[Please note these dates are still subject to confirmation]

As we draw to the end of another very successful year, it's a good time to look back. Here are a few reminders:



Team Jumping, Howe CC, early 2010



Busy lorry park



Gillian & Led Astray at the Turn Out competition



Pinn takes it all in....



Amy & Scottish Venture at Area Qualifiers



Laura Stenhouse also at Philorth Area Qualifiers



Lisa & Amy discuss team tactics



Teacher & pupils at clinic - Ros, Yvonne & Grizelda with Jane Gilchrist



This TREC lark is exhausting!





Cross Country Clinic, Ros & Chevy Blazer



Jasper & Shona demonstrate "low branches" at TREC weekend



Yvonne clears beehives by a mile!

AND FINALLY.....

As you can see we had a busy 2010.
Next year looks like being even busier - make sure
you are part of the action in 2011.

**Have a very merry Christmas and a successful
New Year!**
