

Ride Together ~ Train Together ~ Compete Together ~ Have Fun Together



South Wiltshire Riding Club

Affiliated to the British Horse Society

Founded in 1985

December 2015



Merry Christmas to all our Members



This has been a fantastic year for the club but we are ending on one sad note, our acting Chairman Judy, has decided to stand down from the committee to concentrate on home and family life next year. We thank Judy for all her hard work since stepping into the breach following the tragic loss of Mads earlier this year. Donna Boyd has bravely agreed to be Chairman and has been shadowing Judy to find out more about what is involved

Judy has been a fabulous and dedicated Chairman and an inspiration to us all. Her knowledge and dedication to SWRC is second to none and although no longer Chairman or on the committee Judy is still going to be a very active member.

Chairman's Report

Today the sun is shining, the grass is growing at speed and the horses are revelling in their green pasture. It's hard to believe that Christmas (and its attendant panic!) is nearly upon us, and I'd like to wish all members, supporters and friends of SWRC a very, very Happy Christmas and a Peaceful, Happy and Healthy 2016.

2015 has been a very encouraging year for the club with junior and senior teams dashing off here and there, instruction in all disciplines continuing at a pace, a great Junior Show, one of the best AGMs in years and more recently a fun and festive Christmas Show.

As those of you were at the AGM will know, I am standing down from the committee and would like to thank all those who have agreed to continue guiding SWRC through the coming years. Sarah Mitchell-Shepperd, Jan Mitchell, Laura Roberts, Donna Boyd, Alice Stone and Sheri Start. A huge thank you, to each and every one of you, for all your hard work and dedication. It has certainly paid off with a membership that has doubled in the last year and continues to grow, and I wish SWRC every possible success for the future. It's a great club!

AGM

What a fantastic and well supported AGM we had this year. Special thanks goes to Alice for finding such a fantastic venue at Bird and Carter www.birdandcarter.co.uk, the food was delicious and the space perfect for our needs. It was good to see old and new members and the room had such a buzz with everybody chatting and swapping ideas and looking forward to 2016. Here are a few of the key points from the evening.

Membership is now almost 70 and still growing.

Treasurer's report was positive and in the black - always a good thing!

Instruction. A very big 'Thank You' to Di Burgess and Sarah Mitchell –Sheppard our fabulous instructors, who will also be very busy next year training and selecting for teams as well as the normal instruction.

Clothing. A selection of SWRC clothing was on display and modelled by many of the members who have already purchased items. The clothing is excellent value and really gives a team spirit when worn for competitions.

Numnahs. We are also hoping to add Numnahs to buy when competing in teams, design and price yet to be decided. Sarah Mitchell Sheppard of SMS Equestrian has very kindly offered to sponsor the Junior teams and buy their team numnahs to include the SMS logo.

Trophies. Donna has devised a points system for everyone to work towards throughout the year, to gain a prestigious trophy to be awarded at the AGM. Keith will also give a photo to each trophy winner, so although they may return their trophy at the end of the year they will have a fabulous mounted photo as a memento.

The committee was reinstated and thanked but if anyone would like to join the committee there is always a welcome! This can be a junior or senior member.

Sarah gave an excellent team report which covered 2014/15.

Last but not least, a very big thank you to everyone who came to the AGM and to all members who have helped or participated in any way over the year.

Thank you to Lottie Green who is going to arrange a talk in the near future from the Hampshire Animal Rescue Team.



A big 'thank you' to Amy Knight of Knights Equestrian for running her excellent Pilates clinics which help horse and rider. These clinics are very popular and many of our members are walking and riding taller and straighter, thanks to her expertise. Details of her clinics are on her FB page and the SWRC website. Classes will be starting again in the New Year and you are advised to book early.

Senior Team News

At the AGM Sarah gave a comprehensive report outlining the teams and placings we have entered over the year. Well done to everyone who took part in a team or entering as an individual. One or two senior teams entered every BRC qualifier with many good team and individual placings.

Team Members: Shuna Cameron, Aloysia Daros, Sheri Start, Emma Smith, Donna Boyd, Alice Stone, Jo Glanvill, Karen Shearing, Ruth Dresman, Chad Rowson, Kate Parr, Lottie Sutcliffe, Sarah M-S, Laura Downer, Alex Plank and Roy Southey.

Helpers: Judy Nathan, Alice Stone, Sheri Start, Grace & Lynn Reed, Alisdar, Jan Mitchell, Sarah M-S, Tallulah Green, Georgie and Laura. Special thanks to Joel Orman and Lizzie Proctor who have helped at nearly every event and aren't even members – thank you! Karen Shearing also gets a special mention as she was our designated helper at The Festival of the Horse at Aston Le Walls.

Instruction: Regular lessons at Manor Farm Teffont with Di and Sarah are very well attended and cover Flatwork, Pole work and Showjumping, with trips to Downlands, Tenantry and Bovington for XC training.

SWRC Competition's. All the competitions we ran through the year were well attended, with usually a mad rush before the final entry date which did cause a bit of a headache for Judy! Have a Go Dressage proved very popular and gave people a chance to practice their test and be judged without having the pressure of a competition. Show Jumping at Warminster was also very popular and we were blessed with good weather for most of the events.

We are very lucky to have such excellent instructors in Di Burgess and Sarah M-S who are going to collaborate in choosing and training the teams next year. Everyone is excited about the coming 2016 season and Sarah and Di are sure we can put in some strong teams, so if you want to be considered for a team place and training next year please speak to Sarah or any of the committee members.

Please check the website for up to date information on all BRC and SWRC competitions.



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Sarah M-S has been watching too much Countdown and secretly wants to be Carol Vorderman, so here is her 2015 countdown of SWRC. So much work went into this that it could not be missed out of the newsletter! Thank you Sarah.

South Wilts Riding Club 2015 in numbers

- ✚ 1 club + 64 members
- ✚ 65 multiplied by 2 regular instructors
- ✚ 130 divided by the qualifiers & championships declined
- ✚ 32.5 + the amount of qualifiers attended
- ✚ 39.5 multiplied by the 27 helpers across all area events
- ✚ 1,066.5 plus 6 dedicated committee members
- ✚ 1,072.5 multiplied by the championships attended
- ✚ 2,145 takeaway the 8 team top 10 results
- ✚ 2,137 takeaway number of qualifiers attended where no rosettes were achieved
- ✚ 2,137 minus the total amount of lessons organised by Alice Stone and taught by Sarah M-S
- ✚ 2,088 plus the total amount of competitions run by SWRC
- ✚ 2,096 takeaway 1 committed club chair
- ✚ 2,095 takeaway total amount of team area entries over the year
- ✚ 2,029 takeaway the 6 remaining lessons available this year
- ✚ 2,023 takeaway the 12 classes at our Christmas show
- ✚ 2,011 plus the 4 members qualifying for Championships this year

- ✚ = 2015

Junior team News

The Juniors are instructed and trained by Sarah M-S. They have put in strong teams at Bovington XC, Sparsholt Dressage and Crofton Combined Training. They are the future champions of SWRC and train extremely hard. Regular instruction takes place at Teffont, SMS and Squalls Farm in Ansty.

We are very lucky as a club to have junior members and to be able to field such strong teams at shows. They are all very supportive and encouraging to each other and are such a credit to Sarah and SWRC. The summer show at Teffont was a great success despite the melting heat!

The dressage at Sparsholt was particularly nerve wracking but they managed to battle through their nerves and put in a strong performance, sadly not in the ribbons this time.

Team Members: Tallulah Green, Theo Avgherinos, Bertie Large, Lucy Downer, Chloe Haskell, Grace Reed, Rosie Bacon.

SMS will sponsor the junior team next year and their numnah's will bear the SMS logo as well as SWRC.



Spotlight on Member and New Chairman – Donna Boyd

I learnt to ride when I was 10 and instantly knew it was all I wanted to do as a career. I went to college as soon as I could to do my BHSAI and after that went straight into a job with show horses and ponies. Over the years I have worked with all sorts of horses from polo ponies and racehorses to stud work and dressage horses.

I joined the riding club around 17-18 years ago. At the time I was very inexperienced in competitive riding and also very nervous. Hard to believe now!!! Over the years, with the encouragement and training that the riding club offers I have gone from strength to strength.

I have competed in many team qualifiers over the years and been Lucky enough to represent the South Wilts in 5 Championships - 3 Horse trials championships, 1 Dressage championships and a combined training championship. I have also competed and been placed in 4 BD championships.

This year for the first time I took part in the pairs' dressage to music qualifier at Crofton Manor. My pair was Sarah Mitchell-Sheppard who rode Liz Ampairees Lords Bidding and I rode my lovely horse Rinus Star (AKA Fred). The connection being that they are both ex racehorses and would therefore move in a similar way. There were a few (minor) issues.

Firstly, Sarah and I live quite a long way from each other and we both have very busy schedules too, so practicing was difficult. In fact we actually only managed 2 practice sessions together and with the music.

Secondly, although the 2 horses are beautifully schooled (obviously!) being ex racers they both had quite strong opinions about the speed they wanted to go which didn't make it very easy to keep them side by side!!

On the day however we managed to keep together and get through the test with only one minor whoopsie. We managed to finish a very respectable 3rd, with less than 1% separating the top 3 pairs! It was definitely a fun and interesting new venture and I have loads of ideas for next year's attempt. Although maybe a little more practice next year would be a good thing!!

My aims for 2016 are to get Rinus Star out eventing at BE and to back and break in my 3 year old Andalusian Colt Lago Jalapeño.



Donna and Sarah concentrating very hard on 'keeping it together' in their DTM qualifier!



Donna and Fred in action.

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Helpers/Volunteers

This is an ideal opportunity for the newsletter nag! The only way we can attend all these fantastic events with our teams or individuals is to provide 'helpers'. We have to provide 2 helpers per show – no helpers no team.

We know how busy everyone is and time is very precious but any help that you give is very much appreciated and means your club will continue to thrive. We are devising a new system, so helpers will know well in advance where, when and who they will be working with.

Advantages of being a helper.

You can have all the fun and excitement of the event without the worry and pressure of actually competing!

All helpers gain points towards the new Maddy Southey Trophy - also see opposite.

Points for Helpers/Volunteers

Home Comps = 2 points

Area Qualifiers= 4 points

Championships=6 points

You can learn so much from watching and listening

You can sit and be an 'expert' on how you would have ridden it and done better - maybe!

Free tea/coffee and sometimes lunch is provided.

Basically without helpers there is no club, full stop. Helpers are the glue that keeps all riding clubs together



Points Mean Prizes

Apparently many moons ago SWRC awarded lovely Trophies to members who had gained the most points in home and away competitions. We haven't been able to do this for a couple of years because we had very few members entering our home competitions due to lack of members but this has now changed. So, Donna has hunted down all of these trophies and personally dusted and polished them in readiness to be awarded again next year at our AGM. Here is how it will work - you may have to read this a few times!

Home Competitions

A trophy will be awarded to the Senior and Junior with most points gained in a home dressage competition and combined training competition.

1 point for every class you take part in then points for placings as follows:-

1st = 12 points, 2nd = 10 points and so on to 6th place = 2 points

BRC Area Qualifiers

A trophy will be awarded to the Senior and Junior with the highest points gained in Qualifiers and Championships.

1 point for every class then points for placings:-

1st = 20 points, 2nd = 18 and down in two's to 10th place = 2 points

BRC Championships

5 points for every class then points for placings:-

1st = 30 points, 2nd = 26 points and down in fours to 10th place = 10 points

Maddy Southey Trophy new for 2016

This trophy is in memory of Maddy who would have been proud to award it to the member who has been the keenest, busiest and most helpful throughout the year.

Points are awarded every time you participate in a riding club activity. This means there are plenty of points to gain all year for being a generally 'good egg' and can be awarded to a Senior or Junior.

So get collecting and Good Luck everyone.

Xmas Show



And now, last but not least we come to the Xmas Show held last week. A big thank you to everyone who braved the very windy weather and turned out in force with horses, ponies and people bedecked in Christmas Jumpers and tinsel galore!



The Puissance was very exciting with Shuna Cameron on Huggy taking the red rosette.



Although not as exciting as the gymkhana games, I have never seen a sprout move quite as quickly!

Thank you Sarah for organising such a brilliant show.



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www.smsequestrian.co.uk

Committee Members 2015/16

Chairman	Donna Boyd	01380 488255	donnaboyd1@sky.com
Treasurer	Janice Mitchell	01722 714342	jembobuk@aol.com
Secretary/Team Entries	Janice Mitchell		
Training/Membership	Sarah Mitchell-Sheppard	07843603147	sarahmitch66@aol.com
First Aider/CPO	Sarah Mitchell-Sheppard		
Publicity	Laura Roberts	01747871367	deadtreeuk@aol.com
Newsletter/Website	Sheri Start	01722 330761	sheristart@hotmail.co.uk
Lesson Admin	Alice Stone	01747 871986	alice.stone6@icloud.com