

HODGEMOOR RIDER

First Hodgemoor Dressage Challenge in great demand!

Potential entrants had to be turned away from what proved to be a very popular event. On three Thursday evenings in June, July and August, Oldefields Equestrian Centre allowed us to use their manège to hold this dressage challenge. There were two tests, devised by organiser Georgina Blair, with points accumulated over the three evenings. Each session had 25 riders. It poured with rain for the June date, so much so that the judge's car battery went flat with the wipers going full speed for 3 hours. Winners overall for the walk/trot

were Keri Bradshaw and Janet Blair, and for the walk/trot/canter Sally Dickinson, Georgina Blair and Charlie Witherington (photo above, reading her winning test notes). We'll do another dressage event soon. Not only does everyone seem to enjoy it a lot, but it also raised good money for the association: over £500!



Many thanks to Charlotte Perry, manager at Oldefields: one of the best moments was seeing Charlotte competing for the first time since her riding accident last year. Thanks also to judges Charlotte Brightman, Sacha Hamilton and Di Bovey.

October 2007

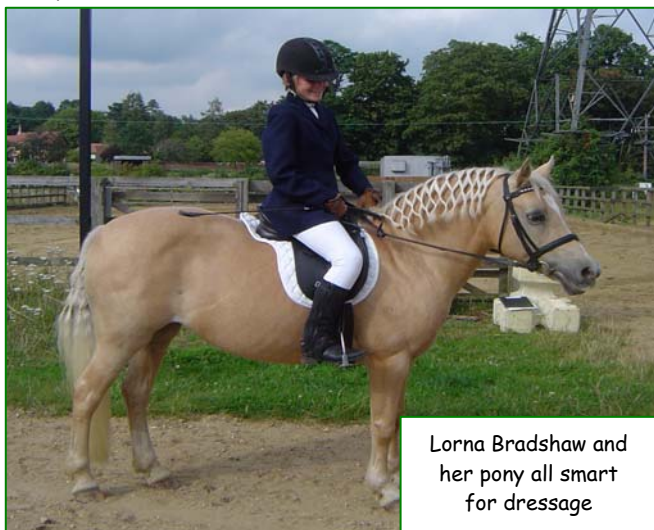
Dressage to Music boogies on down at Austens Farm

There were 12 of us to take part in this first attempt. None had done it before - Debbie Davies had never even done a dressage test before! But our judge Celina Dunlop was most impressed by the tremendous effort everyone had taken, and quite a crowd turned up to watch. Some of us took advantage of a last minute decision to "dress up" and attire ranged through various Spanish and Peruvian looks, to Yvonne Edwards on Harley (photo above) with her black leather trilby for "Mack the Knife". Rebecca Stephenson combined Peruvian panpipe music with colourful pampas attire (photo below). She and Emma Taylor (in a glittering waistcoat riding Hermione with gold ribbons threaded through mane and tail, and multi-coloured squares on her ample rump) showed us less experienced *dressagists* what to aim for. Celina gave us all good advice on how to do better next time, and, indeed, plans are afoot to have a Christmas event (but no Santa Clauses!).



Everyone who took part relished the challenge of the preparation. Many thanks to Sacha Hamilton for letting us use Austens, to Celina, and also to Georgina Blair for having the idea in the first place.

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Lorna Bradshaw and her pony all smart for dressage



AGM on Monday 22 October 8 pm

Very much hope you will come to the AGM. On the agenda is the plan is to introduce a permit system for riding in Hodgemoor Wood. A faithful core of around 100 members has supported the Association over the last 7 years. We must now persuade the other 200 or so riders based close by to support us too. This is an important issue and we need your input. The consultation paper in full and the AGM agenda are attached. If you can't make it, please send us your views and a vote.

Permit System for Hodgemoor

The Association has so far held back from a permit system. 7 years ago when the Association in its present form started work, the terrible state of the woods was such that riders really wanted to see an improvement. Now that the trails are so much better, many riders have forgotten what it used to be like and new riders coming into the area don't perhaps see the need to join the Association. They don't realise that riders might have been excluded from the woods altogether, and still could be if the trails are allowed to deteriorate again.

The trails will, therefore, always need to be maintained, and this is costly. In addition, access to the woods needs urgently to be improved to get horses off our busy roads. Pressure must be made on all local riders to join.

his cart driven by Sue Hill-Venning's mother Margaret (above). And she deserved it as she was recently



awarded an MBE for all she has done to improve equestrian access. This included helping Hodgemoor, as she got the "Wickham Way" bridle-path into existence in August 2001. As a modest precursor to Brenda's official presentation at Buckingham Palace, we awarded Brenda Hodgemoor's biggest ever rosette. The photo above shows (L to R) Susie Bicknell, Brenda Wickham, Janet Blair and Miranda Souter. Fun and games meanwhile went on in the field. As it was the first fine evening for weeks, far more people turned up than expected and Susie and Marcus's fridge and deep freeze were quite empty by the end of the evening. Our photo shows Tim Taylor and Caroline Gilford competing for glory in the bending race.



Caitlin Mayo and her dressage rosette



Summer BBQ Honours Brenda Wickham

Brenda Wickham arrived in style for our summer BBQ, graciously carried by Bilbo Baggins and



The first Hodgemoor Business Forum 14 November, at the Memorial Centre, School Lane, Chalfont St Giles, 7 to 10 pm

This is a new event for the Association, so we hope lots of you will come. It's a chance to socialise with other members, get to know the local community, promote businesses and services and pick up an interesting bargain at the same time. In this way, we can raise our profile and gain support from locals other than just horse-riders. Those who take stands need not be members (£20 for members and £30 for non-members). Public entry will be free and there will be food and drink. Email or call Susie for details. Participants so far include:

- Photography and photo gifts - by Pete Glowski
 - Run your own internet shop with My Shop on the Web
 - Store rain off your own roof - Rainwaterharvesting.co.uk
 - Moroccan leather goods - catch the Marrakech Express
 - Fashions for him, her and the horse - Chalfont Saddlery
 - Silver Jewellery - by Chantico
 - Sports massage and therapy - Kangoo anti-impact Boots
 - Aloe Vera - organic health care - from Julia Tilley
 - Horse Sports Massage by Catriona McGarvie
 - Special offers from Pristine Ovens - Lesley Cornthwaite
- Help on the night would be great. Contact Susie.

£100 Donation to Hodgemoor

Sammy is a dear Lucas Terrier who had been living with Marcus and Susie since his owner sadly died last November. The right home had to be found as Sammy was not happy being bottom of the pecking order with the Bicknells' 3 bossy dachshunds. Luckily, Lu and Simon Thorton fell in love with him at the summer BBQ and he is now a very happy fellow living with them, and spends happy hours pottering around Manor Farm Livery Stables. They very generously donated £100 to Hodgemoor in Sammy's honour. Thank you! We could not resist the photo (right) of Sammy with Simon at the Blenheim Horse Trials.



Tackling Motorbikes in the Woods

We have had many reports of motorbikers in the wood and we continue to make an effort to stop them. They are dangerous to riders and walkers, spoil the trails and are often abusive to anyone who tries to stop them. We have consulted the police and they will try

to help. Can we urge you to keep the following details on your mobile. Whenever you see them, please call the police at once on 0845 8 505 505, press option 1 and then quote URN 495 of 19 September 2007. In this way all motorbike incidents in Hodgemoor will be logged on the same file, and both the police and ourselves can keep a record. If we can show the police that motor-bikers are now coming regularly, they will be more motivated to come out when we call. You can also call Marcus on 07748 111444 as showing a presence there is also a deterrent. Taking photos or noting details also helps. We would also like you to let Susie know at above email of all incidents.

Racehorse Strathclyde Before and After!

In the last newsletter, we promised before and after photos of Strathie, the ex-racehorse that Lesley Cornthwaite took on in February. Here they are! Six months on and Strathie has made tremendous progress! Lesley and Strathie took part in both the dressage challenge and the dressage to music, which is a great achievement.



Events over the Winter

Lana Craker will host another Dressage to Music event in her indoor school at Waylands just before Christmas. There may also be Dressage at Oldefields in late October and accompanied rides over to Penn, on demand. Watch the emails or the web site.