

June 2011
Issue 4



BRIDGEWATER RIDING CLUB

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June already!

Hey all,

Here we are kicking on through the season and it's already June! We are getting geared up toward the second half of the season now, and have been busily organizing the prizes, rosettes and sashes for the North West Show Jumping Finals, the North West Working Hunter Finals and the Blue Chip Showing Finals. They all look absolutely stunning, and I am proud to say that no

competitor will go home without a rosette and prize of the medal/ trophy/ commemorative badge variety. We like to make a fuss of our competitors! So I wish all of you the best of luck in qualifying for these fab finals. I promise you will NOT be disappointed.

We will be having some new jumps arriving before the finals (had my design head on again), and I look

forward to seeing you try them out...

Get those pre-entries in, and see you on show day!!

Ruth

Chairman

07979031619

ruth@pacificsales.co.uk

August Training Day

As you are aware, we unfortunately had to cancel our June Fun Day, due to lack of entries. Looking back, we had just had a show and our Lynn Russell clinic, so perhaps it was a little too much all at once for you?

Well we will concentrate now on our training day on August 13th. We will still be doing clear round, gymkhana games, dressage and the clinics, but with it being just 2 weeks before our show jumping and workers finals, it's a great opportunity to perfect your turns and practice your strides before the big day! Not to mention that the Blue Chip Showing Finals are 3 weeks after that, so why not use our showing clinics to add a professional sparkle to your turnout and ringcraft?

I can announce that taking the workers clinics that day will be **Jo Callwood**, who is the current **HOYS Working Hunter Champion!** A huge opportunity for you to gain fascinating insight into what it takes to make a champion. I'm currently working on the showing and show jumping details, and will announce as soon as I can confirm.

The dressage tests will be Intro B, Prelim 12 and Novice 24. If there is enough interest we will consider doing an Elementary test too! I will update the entry form, but if you want to book your places for either clinic or dressage, you can use the Fun Day form that was in your last newsletter or on the website.

Qualifiers at the June show include Beaver Hall, Equifest, the NWSJC, NWWHC and the Blue Chip North West Showing Championships.

The show is a Medal Show, so all our first place winners will receive a medal along with their rosette.

Another superstar clinic announcement...

Always helpful as a club, I'm delighted to lend an advertising hand to one of our members, Lisa Durant.

She and her friend Aly are organising a cross country clinic with none other than eventing legend **Lucinda Green** (I know, right?!)!

The date is Wednesday 17th August and is at Smallwood Livery. The price is £125, the clinic is 2 hours long and consists of 40 minutes on technique, and the remaining time out on the cross country course.

I'm sure I don't need to stress just how great a horsewoman Lucinda is, she remains the only person to have won Badminton Horse Trials 6 times, on 6 different horses!

If you want to book a space, please contact Lisa on 07725 226362 or Aly on 07725 373113, or email them on xcountryclinic@hotmail.co.uk



Speaking of eventing, big congrats go to committee member Lynn Salmon, as her home bred Abbeygate Frederik won the BEGO class recently at Brand Hall in Shropshire! Lynn is really pleased with Fred and his rider, Ty Cassells. Well done!!



Junior Newsletter

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.bridgewaterridingclub.com

www.facebook.com/bridgewaterridingclub

Hello juniors!!!

We're all really excited about the coming championships and are even beginning to think about Presentation Night... Will we have trophies? Will we win a huge rosette? What will I wear?!

There are 3 shows with points left this season, so we hope that you are really working hard to get your best results and will be rewarded with a position in the overall points table in each class. It's always a great achievement and we are proud the juniors are

showing the way for all us young riders!!

The quiz this month is a great crossword, and the prize is a fab set of bandages, so get those entries in!

Good luck at the show...



**Sophie, Megan,
Rebecca, Jade,
Josh and
Matthew**

See below for
Charlie and
Poppy's plaiting
guide!!!!!!

Charlie and Poppy have been very busy going to shows this month, and have been having a good time. Unfortunately staying neat and clean is not one of Charlie's strong points, and by the time they got to the last show, he had managed to 'tidy' his own hair and had rubbed his plaits on the wall of the trailer! Ruth had to try her best to make them neat again, but it's very difficult when a pony is determined not to keep his plaits in! Poppy just rolled her eyes and suggested we do a guide to perfect plaiting, so here it is!

A guide to Perfect Plaits

1. Before plaiting make sure your pony's mane is pulled so that it is still long enough to plait and easy to handle, and laid to the off-side. Gather your plaiting bands, comb, scissors, needles and plaiting thread. Have them to hand but nowhere close enough for your pony to knock them over. Searching a bed for needles is not a good idea!
2. Look at your pony's mane and decide whether the plaits need to be pushed up onto the crest to create the appearance of topline. Cresty necks should have small plaits set low down. For a long neck you need fewer larger plaits, and more plaits for a short neck.
3. Spray in one of the products available for plaiting (e.g. Quick Braid or Easy Plait) before you begin to plait, this helps you to hold the mane firmly with extra grip, and helps tie in stray hairs.
4. With a metal mane comb divide the main into equal bunches, securing them with elastic bands.
5. Starting at the top of the mane, plait down each section, securing with an elastic band. It is important that you plait tightly as possible to create finer sleeker plaits. If you lose your grip on the mane spray in more product and you will soon be back on track.
6. Once the plait has been secured, roll (not fold) the plait to the top of the neck and push the needle through from the underside to the top. Make sure to guide the needle through the middle of the plait. Once the needle has gone through the plait once, go back down through the centre of the plait and once again back through to the top and cut away the excess thread.
7. You should now have a perfectly round plait. Many people make the mistake of stitching around the plait, but the aim is to hide the thread.
8. Work your way down the neck and leave the forelock until last.
9. Depending on how good you are at plaiting, French braiding the forelock adds a truly professional look but can take some time to master.
10. Once happy with your plaits smooth down any loose ends and stray hairs with a highlighter gel (available from tack shops). This is great for adding extra definition to the plaits as well as producing a glistening finish when used on the eyes, muzzle, ears and dock - a truly versatile finish.
11. Whether plaiting up on the eve of the event or on the actual day it is advisable to keep your plaits covered and protected with a garment that is comfortable for your pony and durable for your plaits. There are many lycra hoods on the market that ensure your plaits will stay pristine and laid. They have large eye and ear holes that fit over your pony's face and neck keeping plaits intact, clean and smart. Make sure that you fit the hood over the top of the rug to ensure freedom of movement during travelling and overnight. The hood will add condition and shine to the coat and lay the plaits too.
12. After the event, in order to promote and protect your pony's mane, remove the plaits immediately, taking care not to snip away the hair, rather than the thread. A stitch unpicker is ideal as it leaves less straggly bits and makes it easier to plait next time!