



BRIDGEWATER RIDING CLUB

Is it me or is the weather getting better?

2011 Committee

Club Officers

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Vice-Chairs – David
Pomphret & Vincent
Seddon
Secretary – Carol
Brougham
Assistant Secretary –
Rowena Sheldon
Treasurer – Helen Platt

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Marie Pomphret
Julie Horton
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Gillian Hanley
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Debbie Wing
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Sophie Horton
Jade Horton
Becky Gaskell
Megan Pomphret
Joshua Gerrard
Matthew Gerrard

Hi all,

As I write, the sun is shining and it's really beginning to feel like spring is here at last. It's really not far away from the first show on April 10th!!!! I hope you are all ready and the horses are all looking fantastic.

Can I PLEASE ask that if you have not yet sent your membership that you do so before the show? It's always really busy in the caravan on first show mornings, and if

you have already joined and pre-entered there will be no hold ups in the queue! Your membership form is attached, and the pre entry form also. And pre-entries save money. Go on, it makes sense. And it's so much easier and takes the stress away.

And, trying to corner the market, this year we will start the **North West Showing Finals**, to go with the show jumping

and working hunter finals. There will be something for everyone, so see below for details!

Get your entries in, and I'll see you on April 10th.

Ruth

Chairman

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Still a few places on the Lynn Russell Clinic!!!



There are a few places still available on our clinic with showing supremo Lynn Russell, so get yourselves booked in!! You really shouldn't miss this if showing is your thing, it's something few people ever get the chance to do. Each clinic will consist of 6 people and will last approximately an hour to an hour and a quarter.

Lynn will cover all bases, from tack & turnout to ringcraft and riding. Some of Lynn's many achievements: 6 times Champion at RIHS, 2 Championships at the Horse of the Year Show, 13 Championships with Draco 2005, 5 Championships with Polaris 2005 & 5 Championships with Polaris 2005.

We also hope to have goody bags for entrants from Lynn's sponsors. The clinics will be on Saturday May 21st at South View EC.

Spectators are welcome at £5 per ticket, and this will be strictly checked on the day! If you enter a clinic, you will automatically receive 2 tickets.

You'd be MAD to miss this. We have now opened it to the general public for entries, so if you don't want to miss out, send the attached form in! Any queries please contact Vinny on 07873805674.



Lynn Russell showing her outstanding cobs. Get those entries in for the chance to have a lesson with her!!!

SHOW DATES 2011

Details of this year's events:

Sunday 10th April Open Show

Sunday 24th April Open Show

Sunday 22nd May Open Show

Saturday 4th June – Fun day!

Sunday 26th June Open Show

Sunday 24th July Open Show

Saturday 13th August – Fun day!

Saturday 27th & Sunday 28th August

NORTH WEST SHOW JUMPING CHAMPIONSHIPS FINALS
NORTH WEST WORKING HUNTER CHAMPIONSHIPS FINALS

Saturday 17th September (New!!!)

The BLUE CHIP NORTH WEST SHOWING FINALS

Sunday 25th September

Perpetual Championship Trophy Show

All Open shows are either Medal or Trophy shows, and all will be qualifiers for various finals, to be confirmed but including our own NWSJ and NWWH and also the new NWSC, Midland Finals, Chaps, Traditional Gypsy Cob Association, Equifest and more.

Fun days will be as it says on the tin... Dressage competitions, gymkhana games, showing, show jumping and working hunter clinics.



NEW FOR 2011!!!

THE BLUE CHIP NORTH WEST SHOWING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Due to the fantastic results from the NW Show Jumping and NW Working Hunter Finals, we are introducing this year the Showing version! To be held on Saturday 17th September, riders from clubs all over the North West will qualify to compete. There are 64 championship classes, 9 section champions and the Supreme of Show championship.

We are very grateful to Blue Chip who are sponsoring the WHOLE EVENT!! That means Champ and Reserve in every class will get wonderful prizes from Blue Chip, and also 1st, 2nd and 3rd in all section champs PLUS great prizes for the Supreme. What a fantastic and generous offer from them!

At the finals there are classes for in hand & ridden showing, novelty classes, equitation and handy pony. Every class is a championship so Sashes to 1st and 2nd, plus placings to 8th and a rosette for every competitor. See the attached flyer for details, and good luck qualifying!!!!

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Scroll down for the Junior newsletter!!!

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Hello to all Junior members!!!!

Not long now until the first show! Charlie our mascot now has a new friend, who has been called Poppy. Poppy and Charlie will be making appearances at the shows and they will be very much involved in our new show day competition for all junior members. The hunt is on... Charlie and Poppy will be hiding somewhere on the showground (they love to escape), and there will be a prize for the

lucky people who find them!

For all you handy pony competitors, we are going to have a championship competition during the new showing championship day in September to find the ultimate handy pony. So start practicing all those scary obstacles!

We have attached a quiz for you to do, so get your entries in to Carol

before the first show or hand them in at the caravan. The winner will be announced at lunch time at the first show, there will a great prize for the winner.

Hope to see you all soon!

Sophie, Megan,
Rebecca, Jade, Josh
and Matthew



The ponies learn a lesson!

Things are going well at the yard... Poppy has now moved into the same paddock as Charlie, and after some squealing and chasing around, have settled down to become friends (well, kind of). Charlie did try to assert his authority by biting Poppy, but she showed him she was NOT going to be bossed into a corner and turned and showed him her heels. Which gave him second thoughts and he left her alone! After watching them, our chairman Ruth left them alone to sort out their pecking order. All horses need to know their position in the herd, and the squealing and lashing out you see when new ponies are introduced is perfectly normal, even though it looks very dramatic. They rarely cause each other lasting

damage!

There was an unpleasant day where Jake, a pony in the field next door had to have a visit from the vet. This time of year, when the grass starts to grow like mad, is a bad time for a nasty condition called LAMINITIS. As a simple explanation, Laminitis is a painful condition of the feet. Any word ending in 'itis' means 'inflammation'. The laminae are inside the hoof, holding the pedal bone in place (basically, the bit that takes all the pony's weight). Although there are many reasons for this condition, the most common is too many sugars from rich grass, especially round little ponies!

Poor Jake. Both front feet were affected and it was like standing on hot coals. He was in the field leaning back on his back legs to relieve the pain in

his poor feet. His owner did the right thing by calling the vet straight away, as this can be very serious and even lead to the pony being put to sleep.

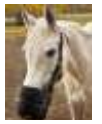
The signs are: Standing like Jake was, front feet poking out (see picture), shifting from side to side to relieve the pain in each foot, very strong pulses in the fetlocks, not wanting to move and even lying down and refusing to get up because it's so painful.

Jake had to come in to the stable immediately, onto a thick shavings bed. It's important to stop the pony moving too much as this can cause the pedal bone to move. The vet came and gave Jake anti inflammatory drugs which also help with the pain.

So now Jake will be in for at least 6 weeks, until he

is completely sound again. He will have to be watched for weight gain and have his grazing restricted (but never, never starve a pony with laminitis!). He has to wear a grazing mask. He will have to have high fibre feed, with no cereals, as there are a lot of the same sugars in cereal feeds that cause the condition in the first place. The Laminitis Trust are a group that can recommend suitable feeds at www.laminitis.org and have lots of advice.

Charlie and Poppy hope Jake will be well soon and want to ask you all to be careful with your ponies, keep them fit and exercised, and watch their weight! That way they can enjoy their spring and summer as much as you do!



WORDSEARCH COMPETITION

Either return to Carol with your entry form, or bring along on show day. The winner drawn out of all correct entries gets a great prize!!!

O	P	K	S	P	A	B	L	T	O
Z	I	R	A	U	T	R	I	H	N
T	E	N	U	O	L	E	O	G	A
K	N	N	T	R	O	X	A	I	G
S	L	E	I	M	L	O	D	E	E
T	X	A	B	L	E	E	R	W	R
A	I	D	O	R	T	N	O	R	Z
O	E	F	P	O	E	U	T	E	O
S	T	Q	E	U	D	V	O	V	N
L	I	G	N	V	S	U	O	O	D

FIND THESE WORDS

OATS

OVERBENT

OIL

OVERWEIGHT

OUTLINE

OINTMENT

OPEN

OXER

OAK

ONAGER

(a type of wild horse)