



Cambridge University **Riding Club**

Club Newsletter Easter Term, June 2013

Dear members,

We do hope that you have enjoyed riding with CURC this year, and that you feel as though you have improved as riders and have got to know other equestrian enthusiasts throughout Cambridge. I am writing this newsletter to firstly introduce myself as new CURC President for the 2013/14 term and to touch upon what we have achieved as a society this academic year, and what to expect from the Club when you return for Michaelmas in October. This is the first newsletter of its kind, and we hope to distribute one every term from now on, enabling you all to keep up to date with Club activities at you leisure.

New committee

I am delighted to be heading the new CURC committee as President for the next academic year and am pleased to be working with such an enthusiastic team. The new committee for next year is as follows:

President: Beth Jones (Queens')
Team Captain: Alice Watson (Fitzwilliam)
Junior Treasurer: Georgia Vann (Queens')
Secretary: Hannah Clifford (Girton)
Lesson Coordinator: Trisna Tungadi (Newnham)
Novice Representative: Henrietta Winsor (Queens')
Social Secretary: Tamsin Spelman (Queens')
Webmaster: Elizabeth Campion (Newnham)

We aim to deliver on what you, as members, want so please do not hesitate to contact any of us throughout the summer and upcoming academic year.

Summary of this year's activities

2012/13 has been a busy year for CURC. For advanced riders, dressage and show jumping Cuppers were well attended at Hilltop, and we hope to encourage even more participation in these next year. Lessons at Hilltop have been virtually full all year, which has been great to see.



Happy participants in show jumping Cuppers at Hilltop in April. L-R: Stephanie Ng, Rachel Meunier, Lindsey Tate, Beth Jones, Georgia Vann, Nicola Heckeberg, Tess Foxcroft, Trisna Tungadi, Kate Horan, Anoeska Van de Moosdijk.

Novice lessons at Springhill Stables have been popular this year, and the Gymkhana hosted in November was a great success, with many riders having a lot of fun with the horses, and getting to know other riding club members in the process.

Turn outs to social events have also been encouraging, and we intend on increasing the number of horsey and non-horsey events on offer next year.



Beckie Hunt looking elegant riding side-saddle astride George at the College of West Anglia side-saddle taster session in April

The Club's riding teams have had mixed results. The first team unfortunately failed to qualify for BUCS regionals, but pulled out a strong win over Oxford in this year's Varsity competition.

Excitingly, this was the first year that a second riding team was formed (headed by Alice Watson) and it was very pleasing to see them perform so well. The team had great success in March at The Royal Veterinary College Inter University Dressage Championship held at Trent Park Equestrian Centre in London where they won overall – a fabulous initial result. Unfortunately Oxford came out on top in the seconds Varsity match but we have high hopes for the second team next year.



The victorious second team at RVC Inter-University Dressage. L-R: Nicola Heckeberg, Hannah Clifford, Fiona Macklin, Alice Watson

We are also very proud of Nicola Heckeberg, who qualified as an individual to compete for Cambridge at the BUCS regional competition, held in Warwickshire, despite just missing out on being chosen for the national competition. We wish her all the best, as she leaves Cambridge this year to return back home to Germany.

Plans for next academic year

Many members appeared at the Club’s AGM, held in week 2, to vote for new committee members and a reformed constitution, which was approved. We aim to make the constitution available on the Club website so that members are aware of the changes, which transform the Club for the better, especially in terms of team proceedings.

The Club faced financial concern earlier on this term, as the Sports Syndicate failed to award us any further grant money to fund the Club’s new second riding team. We all felt passionate about supporting a second team after their success so far and especially as the new constitution states that a second team should be put forward to represent Cambridge further at events, and thus made a great effort to find the money required to do so.

As a result, membership fees for next year are as follows (all of which are subject to change):

Forecasted membership fees 2013/14:	<u>New prices (per member)</u>
1 term recreational	£10
2 terms recreational	£15
3 terms recreational	£18
Staff/alumni, 3 terms	£28
BUCS competing	£36

It is my desire for the new committee to source new avenues of income from sponsors and alumni, as the Club receives the bulk of its income from the Sports Syndicate. We do not want lack of funds to prevent the Club from expanding and developing.

With this in mind, we have entered the second team into next year's BUCS championships (in addition to the first team), which we think will be great for the Club and its riders as this will provide an opportunity for those with ability, but less competition experience, to represent CURC. At this stage we think it unlikely that a second team Varsity match can go ahead, but are keeping open minded about obtaining future sponsors.

With additional funds, it would be possible to further cover transport costs to Hilltop and Springhill competitions, as we wish to encourage more spectator support at these events and to improve familiarity between Hilltop and Springhill riders, help fund training sessions for team riders at Hilltop and subsidise trips to Newmarket races and other high profile equestrian events for members.

Conclusion

We hope that you have found this newsletter informative, and that you will continue to ride with CURC next year. If you have any thoughts on anything raised by this newsletter, please contact me (Beth Jones) via email (balj2@cam.ac.uk) as I am keen to hear them.

Finally, I wish to thank everyone for their participation in CURC events throughout the year. It has been a pleasure to ride with and get to know so many like-minded horse enthusiasts, and I hope to meet even more of you next year. Best wishes for a pleasant summer vacation, filled with lots of riding!



Beth Jones

CURC President 2013/14