



Cambridge University **Riding Club**

Club Newsletter

Michaelmas Term, December 2013

Dear members,

A warm welcome to our new members and welcome back to our established ones! Congratulations on getting through the first term of the 2013-14 academic year. Hopefully you have managed to spend a few hours riding amongst all the work that Michaelmas has thrown at you! This has been a busy term for the Club and we hope that you have enjoyed the activities that have been on offer. This newsletter will briefly run through what the society has been up to this term and set the scene for what you can look forward to when you return after Christmas.

Societies' Fair

The year started off with a bang with CURC recruiting many new keen riders at the CUSU Societies' Fair held at Kelsey Kerridge Sports Centre at the start of October. Over 150 people expressed an interest in the club and we had a successful membership squash where 108 of you either took out or renewed your CURC membership. It's great to have such a large number of riding enthusiasts scattered around Cambridge!

Lessons

Lesson attendance has been exceptionally high this term with Hilltop lessons in particular often being oversubscribed. Springhill has also been popular with so many beginner riders wanting to attend lessons that it is planned to expand the number of these on offer next term.

Teams

A large number of riders trialled for the first and second teams on 21st October at Hilltop. The standard of riding was excellent and deciding the teams was by no means easy as a result. Thank you to everyone who took part and/or helped out on the day as it was great to have so many good riders to choose from! The Club now boasts two strong teams as detailed below:

First team:

Alice Watson (Fitzwilliam)
Clark Glasgow (Downing)
Ginny Fellows (Sidney Sussex)
Stephanie Willis (Pembroke)

Second team:

Alice Strang Steel (Emmanuel)

Oliver Coombe-Tennant (Selwyn)
Alice Simon (Fitzwilliam)
Bridget Hipwell (Trinity Hall)

Reserves:

Helena Gostelow (Queens')
Elsa Durieux (Trinity)

Both teams have been training hard over the past month and their efforts paid off with the first team coming a close second to Writtle College in their first BUCS match of the season held at Hilltop on 27th November, with Steph Willis taking individual 4th place. The second team claimed second place by one point, with Oliver Coombe-Tennant winning the individual title and Bridget Hipwell individual 5th place at their first BUCS match on the same date held by the Royal Veterinary College. These are great results for both teams - long may their successes continue next term!



Stephanie Willis completing the dressage phase of the first team BUCS competition on Lala at Hilltop

Dressage Cuppers

On 24th November Hilltop hosted the annual CURC dressage Cuppers which had a record level of attendance with eighteen participants, making for a very interesting competition! With a choice of Prelim, Novice or Elementary test to ride, the contest catered for a range of abilities and provided a diverse day of riding to watch and chat over. Despite it being rather chilly, everyone enjoyed themselves and learnt a lot from the experience. Many thanks to those team members who came along to comment on riders' tests at the dressage clinic held at Hilltop two weeks prior to Cuppers. Congratulations to 'Team Newnham and Co.' (Trisna Tungadi, Penelope Yan, Tess Foxcroft & Hayley Brodrick) who won the day and a special well done to those who rode the highest scoring tests in each of the categories: Lindsey Tate (Elementary), Hayley Brodrick (Novice) and Tamsin Spelman (Prelim).



A successful dressage Cuppers competition: L-R: Caroline Appleby, Kate Horan, Hayley Brodrick, Penelope Yan, Emily Greathead, Lindsey Tate, Trisna Tungadi, Beth Jones, Tess Foxcroft, Tamsin Spelman, Julia Combs

A big thank you to the judge and her scribe and those who drove members to Hilltop on the day; the event wouldn't have been possible without you!

Socials

The Club has had a busy schedule of social events this term, with a Pizza Express meal kicking off proceedings, regular pub meets and a Fitzwilliam formal to end the term and celebrate its successes. We've really enjoyed getting to know you all and hope that you keep making it out to events in the future to meet more riders in Cambridge and talk horses!



Riding Club formal at Fitzwilliam college on 28th November: L-R – CURC's reserved table(!), Trisna Tungadi, Laurence Ferland

Plans for next term

The wheels are in motion to organise a gymkhana at Springhill for all riders, regardless of ability, for the start of next term. We're planning on running a range of fun Pony Club-esque games (youtube them!) and mixing you all around as much as possible so that you can get to know each other and shout yourselves hoarse (no pun intended)! Springhill have recently opened up a new viewing gallery which we hope to use afterwards as a venue for a little food buffet to recharge your batteries after an eventful morning of games!

Jumping Cuppers will be taking place at Hilltop later on in the term where riders jump a course of jumps of either 70 cm, 75 cm or 90 cm height and get scored in the traditional way and on their style of riding. This always proves to be a nail biting event!

The teams have their next set(s) of BUCS matches next term and will be training regularly at Hilltop in preparation. We have high hopes for them!

Social events will also continue in a similar vein to this term and we hope to incorporate some more riding specific activities such as polo and/or side saddle taster sessions for those interested. Wait and see what happens!

Conclusion

In a nutshell, this is what CURC have been up to this term. The committee has had great fun coordinating everything and meeting you all over the past eight weeks. I do hope that you have enjoyed this year's activities so far and that you'll keep riding with us regularly next term. If you have any thoughts or queries, please contact me (Beth Jones) via email (balj2@cam.ac.uk), or any other committee member (<http://www.srcf.ucam.org/curiding/the-committee/>), and we will do our best to help you out.

All that's left to say is that we wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy new year! Don't work too hard and have plenty of riding breaks – we'll see you bright and fresh next term for more CURC antics!

CURC is looking for new club sponsors. If you know of any interested companies please contact Beth Jones – balj2@cam.ac.uk



Beth Jones

CURC President 2013/14