



Cambridge University **Riding Club**

Club Newsletter Lent Term, March 2014

Dear members,

It's been a very busy term for CURC with a whole host of events on offer and excellent turn-outs to all. It's great to see so many of you making the most of what the Club has to offer! There have been some fantastic results from the riding teams, with both qualifying to represent Cambridge at the BUCS regional finals in April. If they manage to win this they'll go through to the national final with a chance to win the national title! 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 the Easter vacation.

Springhill Gymkhana – 15th January 2014

The first event of term was the gymkhana held at Springhill Stables which saw a great day of Pony Club style mounted games on a variety of horses and ponies. Nine members took part and had a blast competing against each other in a number of challenging races, one of which included collecting eggs (plastic ones, thankfully) from 'nests' at one end of the school and then dropping them in buckets at the other end until they had all been transferred, with the aim being to do this as fast as possible. Another was the 'tortoise and hare' race which entailed galloping to one end of the school and then walking back as quickly as you were able without breaking the walk. It was discovered that small ponies were great at galloping the first part but didn't have the length of stride necessary to walk back the quickest!



Competitors galloping home for a victory!

A great day was had by all and was finished off with a picnic lunch in Fiona's new gallery, courtesy of Hettie Winsor and Tamsin Spelman's efficiency!

We're also happy to announce that Fiona has had a baby girl, Emilia, both of whom are doing well. No doubt some of you will be meeting the new arrival at Springhill when you're up for lessons!



A great turnout at Springhill's gymkhana – thanks to all those for taking part!

Harriet Turton Talk – 30th January 2014

One of CURC's social events this term took shape in the form of a talk at Girton College by Harriet Turton – a local event rider aiming to make a name for herself in this challenging discipline. Harriet is very passionate about what she does and, supported by her husband James, competes in affiliated British Eventing (BE) competitions on a regular basis with a string of horses she trains herself. Having come from a non-horsey family, Harriet has made a concerted effort to get to the level she's at today and aims to compete at Badminton in the future. She was a very articulate and enthusiastic speaker, telling members about her current horses and giving insightful information on eventing as a sport and the lifestyle of a competitive rider.



Harriet Turton – a local event rider who came to speak to CURC in January (<http://www.hteventing.com/>)

All those who attended got to discover what competitive riding entails and had the opportunity to ask Harriet and James about any aspect of eventing. Refreshments were provided by Hannah Clifford, who also organised the event itself, and who is planning another talk by event rider, Sara Horrell, for 2nd May next term. These events are a great opportunity for members to find out more about competitive riding and how riders go about pursuing the sport as a profession.

Teams

Both teams have had a very busy term, drawing their mini BUCS league matches to a close and competing against Oxford for the annual highly anticipated Varsity match. The final BUCS league results for both teams are shown below:

First Team

Home: Team 2nd (Steph Willis 4th and Ginny Fellows 7th)

UEA: Team 1st (Clark Glasgow 1st, Ginny Fellows 3rd, Alice Watson 4th and Steph Willis 6th)

Essex: Team 2nd (Clark Glasgow 4th, Steph Willis 5th)

Writtle: Team 2nd (Steph Willis 4th)



Clark Glasgow in the dressage phase against Essex in mid-January

Second Team

RVC: Team 2nd (Ollie Coombe-Tennant 1st, Bridget Hipwell 5th)

Writtle: Team 1st (Ali Simon 1st, Mary Tivey 2nd, Lottie Buttar 3rd and Bridget Hipwell 6th)

Home: Team 1st (Ollie Coombe-Tennant 1st, Ali Simon 2nd and Lottie Buttar 4th)

UEA: Team 1st (Ollie Coombe-Tennant 1st, Lottie Buttar 2nd, Alice Strang-Steel 5th and Ali Simon 6th)

Overall, both teams finished top in their sections and have qualified for the regional competition of the BUCS league. The first team competes at Warwickshire College on 2nd April and the second team compete at the same venue on 16th April – good luck to both!

Varsity

This year's Varsity competition against Oxford took place on Oxford turf at Hall Place Equestrian Centre on 7th March. Despite fierce competition, the first team narrowly missed out on a light blue victory by a measly 9 penalties but produced fantastic individual results of Alice Watson 1st, Ginny Fellows 3rd and Steph Willis 4th.

This was the first time that a Varsity match had ever taken place between second riding teams and Cambridge won comfortably whilst boasting a 1-2-3 in the form of Ali Simon in 1st, Alice Strang-Steel in 2nd and Bridget Hipwell in 3rd.



The sun was shining at this year's Varsity match! From L-R: Clark Glasgow, Ginny Fellows, Ollie Coombe-Tennant, Alice Strang-Steel, Alice Watson, Ali Simon, Bridget Hipwell, Steph Willis

If you would like more information on how the teams performed at their BUCS matches and at Varsity then have a look at the CURC website for match reports: <https://www.srcf.ucam.org/curiding/the-team/bucs-matches/>

RDSVS Competition – 15th February

Alice Strang-Steel, Hannah Clifford, Ginny Fellows and Mary Tivey competed for Cambridge University Vet School at the Royal Dick School of Veterinary Studies (RDSVS) Horse Society International Riding Competition in Edinburgh in mid-February. An international friendly competition between vet schools, this year Cambridge triumphed by winning the event overall by a 60 penalty margin! Individual dressage results saw Hannah Clifford take 1st place and Alice Strang-Steel take 2nd, and individual show jumping placed Alice Strang-Steel 2nd, Mary Tivey 3rd and Ginny Fellows 4th. Well done to the vets!



Alice Strang-Steel jumping for Cambridge at the RDSVS competition in February

For the complete report please look here: <https://www.srcf.ucam.org/curiding/the-club/competitions-archive/rdsvs-competition-report-2014/>



Cambridge vets were victorious in Edinburgh! L-R: Alice Strang-Steel, Hannah Clifford, Mary Tivey, Ginny Fellows

End of term formal at Girton – 6th March

We hope those of you who joined us at Girton for the CURC end of term formal enjoyed yourselves and the food on what proved to be a very pleasant evening! About twenty members successfully made the trek out to Girton and partook in a delicious formal whilst having a good horsey natter!



The CURC table at the Girton end of term formal



Some of the attendees at the CURC Girton formal – L-R: Tamsin Spelman, Emily Greathead, Luisa Moretto, Hannah Clifford, Hettie Winsor, Beth Jones, Georgia Vann, Trisna Tungadi, Penelope Yan

Novice Dressage Competition – 14th March

Springhill hosted a dressage competition for the beginner and novice riders at the end of term. Fiona designed two tests (one walk, trot and another walk, trot & canter) that aimed to challenge all riders but not stretch anyone beyond their ability. Eight participants produced a heated contest with Kirsty Jones coming out on top, followed by Tamsin Spelman in 2nd place, Rosie Brandreth in 3rd, Caitlin Mayes 4th, Leanne Philpot 5th and Ellie Crouch 6th. All riders enjoyed a day of sunshine and horses and came together after the competition to enjoy a picnic lunch.



Caitlin Mayes riding her test on Marley

Many thanks to Fiona for judging the tests, and to Tamsin Spelman for organising the lunches and prizes as well as those who drove riders to Springhill – congratulations to all those who competed!



Novice dressage competitors – L-R: Ellie Crouch, Leanne Philpot, Tamsin Spelman, Nancy Hine, Kirsty Jones, Caitlin Mayes, Rosie Brandreth

Show Jumping Cuppers – 16th March

On 16th March Hilltop hosted the annual CURC show jumping Cuppers which involved a battle between Queens' and Newnham this year – with four riders from each college making up two teams. With a choice of 50 cm, 70 cm or 85 cm courses to jump, the contest catered for a range of abilities and provided an exciting afternoon of action. Fresh from the jumping clinic the weekend before – where Clark Glasgow and Alice Watson of the first team were present to give some experienced advice – all were ready to take the courses on for their colleges this time. The sun shone throughout which really made it feel like a summer's day and got everyone in a cheerful mood, including the horses! Congratulations to Queens' College who triumphed for the second year in a row (Beth Jones, Lindsey Tate, Lydia Sinnett-Smith & Tamsin Spelman) with a score of 318 points (highest score wins in this case) and to Newnham College who followed them (Ellie Parrott, Kirsty Jones, Caroline Appelby & Trisna Tungadi) on a score of 265 points. The most stylish jumping round was shared between Beth Jones and Lindsey Tate with a score of 112 points.



Sunshine and smiley faces at the jumping clinic on 9th March – L-R: Clark Glasgow, Beth Jones (on Bramble), Lindsey Tate, Georgia Vann (on Astra), Ellie Parrott, Kirsty Jones, Trisna Tungadi (on Holly), Lydia Sinnett-Smith, Caroline Appelby



Trisna Tungadi on Holly (left) and Beth Jones on Travao (right) flying round the 85 cm course – look at that sky!

As always, a big thank you to Sharon and her scribe and those who drove members to Hilltop on the day; the event wouldn't have been possible without you!



A successful day of show jumping! L-R: Trisna Tungadi, Ellie Parrott, Beth Jones, Lindsey Tate, Sharon Newbound, Lydia Sinnett-Smith, Tamsin Spelman, Kirsty Jones, Caroline Appelby

Plans for next term

With exams approaching, next term will inevitably be quieter but we still have a few events lined up for you all to put in your diaries. Firstly, the Club's Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be taking place in early May (try and keep this free!), where a new committee will be elected for the 2014-15 period. We are hoping to hold hustings at Queens' College and follow this with a formal so you can all have a bit of fun in amongst revision!

Committee positions for next year are as follows, along with the name and CRSID of who currently hold them:

President (Beth Jones, balj2)

First Team Captain (must have competed in a BUCS or Varsity match) (Alice Watson, ahw32)

Secretary (Hannah Clifford, hfc34)

Junior Treasurer (Georgia Vann, gcv22)

Lesson Coordinator (Trisna Tungadi, tdt24)

Novice Representative (Hettie Winsor, hrw39)

Social Secretary (Tamsin Spelman, tas46)

Webmaster (Elizabeth Campion, erac3)

If you would like to run for a position then please don't hesitate to get in contact with me (Beth Jones, balj2), sending me a short manifesto detailing who you are, why you want to run for a position and what ideas you have for the Club for next year by 25th April. Also, please get someone to nominate AND second you for a position – both people MUST currently be Club members. The same people cannot nominate and/or second candidates running for one position i.e. if two or more candidates run for President, they must get different members to nominate and second them. Don't hesitate to get in contact with any of the above to find out more about the roles – if you love riding with CURC chances are you'll be a great committee member!

The exact date and location of the AGM will be confirmed soon.

Lessons will continue as normal next term so you'll still be able to head out for a ride to break up revision! We're also thinking of offering two hour long hacks during May and early June at a price subsidised by the Club so you can get out of the Cambridge bubble and enjoy the nice weather.

Hannah Clifford is currently organising a talk by another local eventer, Sara Horrell, for 2nd May. If you would like to find out more about riding as a profession (something we'd all like to do!) then please come along. The venue for this is yet to be confirmed but we are hoping to provide pizza and refreshments and make it an evening do.

Conclusion

As you can see, CURC have been exceptionally busy this term! The committee has been kept on their toes organising these events and really appreciate the attendance shown at them all as it makes our work worthwhile when members enjoy what we offer.

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.

Happy Easter and we'll see you next term!



Beth Jones

CURC President 2013/14

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