



ETTRICK FOREST RIDERS ASSOCIATION NEWS

August/September 2018

Hello Everyone,

Hope this latest newsletter finds everyone well and that you have all had a successful summer with your horses/ponies! With the thought of winter creeping ever closer, there's still time to enter the dressage and showjumping competitions in the form of our winter leagues. Please remember to renew your memberships though before you enter!

CPR/INFORMATION EVENING:

A huge thank you must go to Sarah Brodie for organising the CPR Information Evening which was held in Ashkirk Village Hall in August. Members found it extremely informative and eye opening! Thanks very much Sarah!

CLOTHING:

Club Clothing is now available to purchase at a very reasonably price too! Orders can be placed via the order form which can be sent directly to Sarah Brodie or by completing an order through club entries:



Soft shell jacket - Navy - £35

Gilet - Navy - £25

Polo Shirt - White or Navy - £15

Faux Fur Pom Pom Hat - Navy - £10

For sizes please see the order form. 😊



NAF Five Star National Horse Trials Championships:

After qualifying at Alnwick Ford equestrian centre in the 90 class, Team Nash consisting of rider Jo Swanston, groom Seonaid Valentine, ever supportive mum Gail Swanston and the main man himself Gransha Lad (Nash) made the journey to Swalcliffe Equestrian centre near

Banbury in Oxfordshire for the NAF 5* Horse Trials Championships on the 4th and 5th of August 2018

The weather was exceptionally kind to us which made camping onsite much more enjoyable and Nash settled well into his onsite stabling like he'd been doing it for years. Big thankyou to Sam Liptrott at Dodson and Horrell for supporting us with hayledge and feed for this event.

After dressage I was very pleased with the test we had done. In preparation for the champs we had lessons with Anne Miller which made a huge difference to the way I handled riding the test and improved Nash's way of going that I will continue with in the future. I was slightly disappointed with our mark of 38.5 but we were sitting top half in the table and the standard of competition was very high!

The Showjumping later that afternoon caused a few issues with quite a lot of poles down over the 90 sections but Nash was on top of this game and jumped clear inside the time, pulling like a wee train which gave me confidence for the next days cross country in the hot weather.

Sunday came with 29 degrees of sunshine! I was a bit wary as we have never went cross country in that kind of heat but my worry was short lived as we set off. Having walked the course 4 times and thinking it was up to height, had some technical lines and related distances this really was the experience of a lifetime. A slip on the flat half way round the course meant an unfortunate rider unseating but thankfully we were allowed to continue after I remounted as Nash stayed on his feet and complete the course. The course consisted of 2 water complexes one with a step into the water (but there was an alternative without the step) a rail ditch rail combination, 2 doubles on the turn and a couple of strategically placed skinnies to name a few but the course rode beautifully. The ground was exceptionally well maintained and even though we didn't get to take part in the steeple chase or roads and tracks this year it really didn't feel like we missed out.



**August
2018**

Even though the result on paper wasn't as good as we had hoped we had an amazing weekend! Massive thankyou to everyone at EFRA in particular Anne Miller and Seonaid, but also Sarah Brodie, Joyce Grigor, and Krista Ainslie for their help in prepping us. Thanks also to Hawick Auto Care who support us all year round and allow us to take part in eventing and to my fantastic family who are there when the going is good and not so good!

I truly hope I get another opportunity to compete at champs again in the near future as an individual or in a team. It was a fabulous experience and I hope others would enjoy it as much as we did. Get your names down!

Jo Swanston

ROR RIDING CLUB CHALLENGE

Congratulations to Amy Brown and Croft Allure who have won the EFRA Riding Club Challenge this year for gaining the most points over the 3 events in which this runs. The cup will be presented at the AGM on Thursday 25th October. ☺



ROR SUBSIDIES FOR TRAINING ORGANISED BY EFRA:

ROR have agreed to subsidise training sessions organised by EFRA, including David Gatherer and Sarah Rodger. To claim your subsidy of £10 per training session please send your name, your horse's racing number and their ROR number to Sandra Smith-Maxwell. (Your horse does not need to be competition registered.)

MEMBER NEWS

- *Good luck to Louise Clark, Sarah Page and Amy Brown who are off to Auchlishie to compete in the Saddle-Up Scottish Championships. Kick on ladies!*
- *A huge good luck to Caroline Redpath and her lovely Highland Stu who head down to HOYS next week to compete! Enjoy every minute Caroline! ☺*

Please let me know via pm or email if there is any news you'd like to share for the next newsletter. It doesn't have to be anything huge either - the small goals are just as important!! ☺

RIDDELL OPEN DRESSAGE AND COMBINED TRAINING:

We have run our Dressage and Combined Training competition at Riddell for many years now thanks to the generosity of Andrew & Virginia Grant.

This year we were lucky with the weather, although rain was forecast we just had a heavy drizzle at 9 a.m. and then no more. The ground at Bowismiln Haugh is excellent – being next to the river Ale it drains very well. It is a lovely setting in which to hold this event.

We had good entries, exactly the same as last year, and the competition was close with no more than 6% dividing the first and sixth in some of the dressage classes. On the Combined Training side Fyonnah Thomas had once again built an excellent course with faults being spread fairly evenly around. All results can be found on the EFRA website.



The Pitmeddan Wilco Salver, presented by Virginia Grant in memory of her super horse of the same name, is given to the horse and rider combination gaining the most points over the day. This year it has been won by Angela Barrowclough and Willow Glen who just pipped Kelly Mitchell and Clinton Van Stal Romano by one point. It will be presented at the AGM.

It just leaves me to thank all those who helped before, on and after the day – the clearing up squad, who turned out in the pouring rain, looked like ‘drookit rats’ by the time we finished! Thank you all we couldn’t manage without you.

Jackie Aglen

DRESSAGE AND WORKING HUNTER SHOW:

On Saturday the 1st of September, EFRA held a Dressage and Working Hunter Show at Kirksyde, Lindean by kind permission of Mr and Mrs G Anderson. It was great to have so many members and I’m sure some future members participate in this competition. Our Dressage classes were judged by Andrea McKenzie and Claire Botterell and our Working Hunter judges were Tony Hogarth and Michael Cregan. Another great course was built by Katie Jo Nixon which was made up of a large variety of jumps. Many thanks go out to

all the helpers from setting up, on the day and dismantling which was greatly appreciated.

Nicola Laing

ARENA EVENT @ TIMPENDEAN:

Our arena event took place on Saturday 22nd September and saw us welcome lots of new faces and lovely horses along to compete at Timpendean. Hopefully some of these people will become new members in the future. Full results can be found on the facebook page and website.

A big thank you needs to go to Anne Millar for allowing us the use of the excellent facilities at Timpendean, Fyonnah Thomas for building the showjumping course and last but not least, Innes Portable Fences for their lovely rosettes. Thank you to everyone who gave up their time to help out and allow the event to run. We hope everyone had a great time!

HELPERS:

If anyone is available to help, even for a couple of hours, at any of the dressage competitions then can you please get in touch with Nicola Laing as she still has some positions to fill. Remember these events cannot run without member volunteer support as well as competitors!

UP-COMING EVENTS:

Diary Dates: October/November

Monday 1st October - David Gatherer @ Timpendean

Sunday 7th October - Winter League Dressage (1) - Stable Life

Sunday 14th October - Winter League Showjumping (1) - Stable Life

Thursday 25th October - EFRA AGM - St Bowells Village Hall (Upper Hall) - 7.30pm

Sunday 28th October - Winter League Dressage (2) - Stable Life

I'll be looking for member contributions for the next edition of the newsletter, hopefully the end of October, so if anyone wishes to have anything included then please feel free to email it to me on khil053@hotmail.com. Thanks in advance. 😊