



# HooFing Around

October 2016

## Chairmans Report

Well our first birthday party has been and gone and what a fantastic year it has been! For my part it has been an absolute pleasure to have been part of this progressive, positive and friendly club. Without doubt, it goes to show that there is a need for a riding club like EMRC.

This years camp was a personal highlight and I loved watching our members grow in confidence with their horses—long may it continue!

My role as Chairman has been pretty easy really, given the amazing team around me. I would like to thank Jo, Hannah, Anne and Sarah Fogden and to welcome Anna Morris, Sarah Clarke and Maxine Golledge who have all recently joined the crazy gang that is your committee. Please do give them your support at events where you can—they all work very hard for you!

I would also like to thank people outside the committee that are really important to the smooth running of the club. Brian the landlord of The Bell at Leigh on Mendip is a great support to us letting us have our meetings and social events at the pub. And particularly to Geoff, Jo's partner without whom we would not have a website or a regular newsletter—thank you so much.

Finally—thank you to you, our members, for making this club what it is—The Best in the West!

Happy riding everyone!

**Sam**

## Clinics

The following clinics are all being held at Kingfisher Equestrian, Hornblotton:

Saturday 22nd October—Show Jumping  
Saturday 29th October—Flatwork  
Saturday 12th November—Poles for Dressage  
Saturday 19th November—Show Jumping  
Saturday 26th November—Flatwork  
Saturday 3rd December—Show Jumping  
Saturday 17th December—Poles for Dressage

*Mendip Bridleways and ByWays Association present  
“An Evening with Richard Maxwell”  
Tuesday 18th October*

*At Kingfisher Equestrian, Hornblotton, BA7 7PS  
Max will address everyday issues including barging, loading, spooking, napping and a whole lot more  
Places limited to 200—booking recommended  
Tickets available from [gjones@mbba.org.uk](mailto:gjones@mbba.org.uk)  
Full details at [www.mbba.org.uk](http://www.mbba.org.uk)*

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# U Hoofing Around

**Trec Practise Day**

**By Sandi Leach**

Having returned to riding after more than a 20 year break and only having had my horse for a few months, I had been teetering on the edge of joining the riding club, a bit nervous about committing myself. However, after reading the write ups on the last newsletter, the friendliness and support that came across encouraged me to bite the bullet and sign up for the Trec Practise Day.

We arrived at Anne's and the horses were soon enjoying lovely full hay nets in her stables while we helped ourselves to tea and coffee.



Jo introduced us all and Karen talked us through the three different elements of Trec and showed us how to mark up our map for the route that Anne had planned for us to follow.

We split into two groups, one doing the obstacles first, whilst myself, Claire and Mary set out on the orienteering bit. Reading a map on horseback was interesting but we found our way and had a lovely ride around the quiet lanes and bridleways surrounding Anne's farm.

It was then our turn to tackle the obstacles Karen had set up. Each one was designed to reflect things that your horse may meet out hacking or in life in general. She took us through them one by one giving the horses plenty of time to become comfortable and relaxed with each one. On a fairly windy day the bunting proved to be a bit of a challenge but by the end all three of us were able to pass it by in an orderly manner!

We ended by each doing the full course, marked by Karen but at no time did we feel intimated or tested and it was great to see the horses cope with each element and both horse and rider gain confidence.

We ended with the MA which is control of paces and involves cantering as slowly as possible for a set distance followed by an active walk back without breaking pace, which is harder than it sounds!

All finished the horses returned to their stables and hay and we enjoyed a fantastic lunch.

As our first tentative step into the riding club it was a really enjoyable day and I would encourage anyone feeling like I did and not quite brave enough to have a go, to just do it! You'll have fun, meet lovely people and soon be signing up for the next event!



# U Hoofing Around U

**Big Girl Pants**  
By Claire Steadman



Having recently joined the riding club, I decided it was time to get my Big Girl Pants on and try a show jumping clinic. I have only had my horse Amber since February and we are still getting to know each other. She is a 12 year old Welsh Section D and is a sweetheart although at times is a typical chestnut mare! I am a middle aged slightly menopausal somewhat nervous returnee to the world of horses and riding. It's an interesting combination and we decided that jumping might be our thing so we set off for Kingfisher with fear and excitement.

I was assured that Kim would look after me and

hopefully get rid of the "inner chimp" sitting on my shoulder telling me I couldn't do it. Sure enough she did. I had expected to trot over a lot of poles and perhaps attempt a very small jump at the end of the session. But lo and behold I managed a whole course of mixed poles and small jumps and even managed to approach a double at the end in canter. So ladies (and gents?) don't let your nerves hold you back . Give it a go and you might surprise yourselves—I certainly did and am almost looking forward to having another try soon. You even get a very welcome cup of tea afterwards and everyone is so supportive and encouraging. Jo suggested that we try Hickstead next and provided they put all the jumps at 1ft 6" I might be tempted!!



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**Independent Horse Vets**  
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[www.sclaterequine.co.uk](http://www.sclaterequine.co.uk)

My name is Peter Sclater and I would be more than happy to discuss the individual requirements of your horse so please do feel free to contact me or my assistant Kate McCarry.

# U Hoofing Around U

## The Mounted Treasure Hunt Day—A Man's Perspective! Carl Garratt

Pete Richards our Club Horse Transporter was actually our first male to join the Club, however, Carl Garratt joined with his wife Lesley and daughter Lottie so he is officially our first male rider! Carl took part in our Mounted Treasure Hunt at Hill Farm which was a fabulous day and he has kindly put together an article on his experience!



I really enjoyed my first experience of an event with the riding club, with our lovely Connemara gelding, Freddy.

After getting Freddy all spruced up and ready for the day, we walked round to Anna Morris's field to be picked up in the lorry by Pete – Freddy was very excited, as always, at the prospect of an adventure (he always wants to stop when we ride past Anna's field 'just in case'!).

I am competitive by nature, so took everything very seriously and the aim was to win! Anna and I set out on the horses and methodically worked through all the clues. I suspect I held Anna back a bit, having not ridden for some years, but I soon got back into the swing of it! All went well, except for one small hiccup when we decided to have a gentle canter across a field, but Freddy and Baraka had other ideas and thought it would be much more fun to gallop full pelt! After some persuasion we managed to get them to stop (reluctantly!).



I really enjoyed being a man in such an enthusiastic bunch of ladies. I felt really welcomed by everyone and hope in the future more men join the riding club and benefit from such a lovely day out.

On return, I joined all the girls (and Pete) for a social and some much needed refreshments, which were of a very high standard and finished the day perfectly.

# **U Hoofing Around U**

## **Annual Membership**

The Club's year runs from 1st January to 31st December each year and so for you to be considered a member of East Mendip Riding Club for the 2017 year and to be able to attend clinics and events, your annual membership fee needs to be with Jo Rossiter before 1<sup>st</sup> January 2017.

The membership fees will remain the same for 2017 and so for a senior (ie over the age of 18) rider the fee will remain at £22 per person. If there are two senior riders who live at the same address, the membership fee is £40.00. Membership fees for Non Members and Juniors (age 14 to 18) the fee is £15.00. We believe this represents really good value given the events and demonstrations we have put on for you this year.

Jo will write to you all around the beginning of December with full details of how you can pay to re-join and once your payment has been received you will receive a new membership card directly from British Riding Clubs.

For those of you who have joined after 1st October, a further fee is not payable for the 2017 year, however, you will still be issued with a new card from British Riding Clubs.

Please note our training clinics and most of our events are only open to our members so if you want to continue attending these, you will need to renew your membership before 1st January 2017.



Just to show owning a livery yard is not all plain sailing!

Our lovely committee member Anne Pearse has white-washed all her stables for the winter for her liveries and to make her yard look smart and tidy - taking her over three weeks!

Thank you Anne for all your hard work and support for EMRC - we really do appreciate it!

