

**MAY 2017**

**SEVENOAKS RIDING CLUB**

**NEWSLETTER**

**www.sevenoaksrc.co.uk**

Hoofprints

**DON’T FORGET TO FOLLOW OUR WEBSITE FOR ALL UPDATES AND COMPETITION RESULTS. YOU CAN ALSO NOW FIND US ON FACEBOOK FOR THE LATEST NEWS AND VIEWS.**

Welcome to all our new members and thank you to everyone for paying your membership promptly, we look forward to seeing you all at our events throughout the summer.

Thank you to everyone who came along to help with the Redlands working party on Good Friday. By the end of the morning the whole place was looking great and ready for another busy season.

The new surface on the school held up really well through the winter, hopefully your horses are enjoying the improved going.

Martine has surveyed the cross country jumps and plans are afoot for a few modifications and hopefully a couple of new jumps.

If you use Redlands, please make sure that the gate are locked and droppings are removed from the school. If you have a spare five minutes and can rake in the edges of the school it would be much appreciated, there is a rake by the school gate. Please notify Sheila Reynolds if anything is damaged or dangerous. Sheila has noticed that some people are parking on the grass by the school, please only park on the hard standing by the main gate and a gentle reminder that dogs must be kept on leads at Redlands.

Our 2017 Omnibus Schedule is now available. We have distributed them to local feed merchants, tack shops etc. and it is on our web site. Contact any committee member if you have trouble finding a copy.

There are some clinics listed in the schedule but more dates will be added as the summer progresses, please keep an eye on the web site for details. We have tried to find a selection of different trainers. A clinic with a different instructor is a fun way of getting some different ideas for improving yourself and your horse as well as meeting other club members.

If anyone has any ideas of trainers that they would like clinics with, please let Ronnie Comfort or Sarah Crookenden know. We can only run trainings if enough people come and give it a go.

 We have now had 4 dressage sessions with Simon Laurens. These have proved to be very successful with everyone enjoying their lesson and saying that their improvement in performance and marks is all down to him. His popularity is increasing and he managed to fit 12 sessions on his last visit! For those of you who missed the original notice for him, Simon is a Paralympic gold medallist who now specializes in teaching and judging at grassroots level. He generally comes to SRC on the first Tuesday of the month. However, this can be subject to change due to pre-arranged judging commitments so it’s best to check the website or telephone Sarah Crookenden 01892 870349.

We organise competitions throughout the summer, which again this year includes the Area Dressage qualifier. All of these events need helpers, Please make sure that you have filled in your helpers form which came out with the membership form. Helping at events is good fun, it is a chance to meet people and see shows from the other side. For example, anyone interested in dressage can learn quite a lot from a session writing for a judge.

We have already had teams out competing this spring. The intermediate dressage team of Caroline Sheridan (Cavaradossi), Emma Whittington (Nemo), Anne Mills (Zachie) and Julie Hodgkinson (Wunder Boy) were first out of 14 teams at Blue Barn. Voirey Mitchell (CarnsdaleHero) won the senior novice.

A combined training team of Sarah Crookenden, Caroline Hagger and Emma Whittington won at Fellbridge with our other teams finishing in second and fifth , so a very successful day.

Well done to Kathy Wright who has qualified for the dressage to music final.

SRC enters teams at all levels in show jumping, dressage, riding tests and eventing, if you would like to have a go at riding for the club please contact June Burgess.

The riding club is active in trying to maintain and where possible extend our local bridleway network. Sheila Reynolds has been attending meetings about access to the Greensands commons (Sevenoaks, Fawlke etc). She was pleased to report at our last committee meeting that from a position where the council thought that there should be no riding on the commons, they have now asked her opinion regarding path surfaces and their suitability for horses. The commons have always legally been open for riders but councils were trying to restrict access, so keep using these off road alternatives. A big thank you to Sheila.

A definitive map of public rights of way will be produced in 2026. Any paths not recorded as bridleways by that date will never be able to be claimed as bridleways. If there are any paths that you think have a claim to be bridleways you need to contact the BHS with details, they are coordinating efforts to get riders as many paths as possible.

We have SRC gilets available, they are black, with our logo in gold, cost £30 to order please contact Sue Williams.

If you have any news or view that you would like to share in a future edition of Hoofprints please send it to suewilliamspc@googlemail.com

SRC COMMITTEE

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