



Chobham and District News Brief – October 2019

Welcome to the October CDRC news brief, updating you on what is coming up and our past events. If you do not wish to receive these emails, please contact us via Chobhamrc@gmail.com so you can be removed from the mailing list.

You can also use that email address to send us feedback or to contact any member of the committee with questions or suggestions.

Welcome to New Members

We would like to welcome new members Francesca Davies, Annabelle Hadden-Wight, Helen Edwards, Michelle and Aaron Lewis and Julie Johnson to CDRC. We hope to see you at many of our upcoming events.

Events for our Members

15 September - Show jumping lesson with James Emblem

There were 7 lessons with James varying in height. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the lesson, with a variety of areas worked on. There was only one small miscommunication during the day which saw Katie Hawker and Magic part ways briefly. I am pleased to say neither was injured and they continued to have a very productive lesson.

Our thanks to James and Marci for organising. There are more lessons with James planned, please see details below.

21 September - Team of 3 Dressage at Bookham

Three members ventured out to the Bookham Riding Club Field for the 'Team of 3 Dressage Friendly', kindly sponsored by Lomond Classical Riding Centre. It was a lovely sunny day and the weather held out for the whole day. The team consisted of Caroline Shrubbs, Alice Scott and Sue Childs. Each of us had to ride a different test at a different level and the scores are then combined to see where we were placed overall. We all rode a warm up test of prelim 2 and came away with some great results. Sue was placed 1st, Alice 3rd and Caroline 5th which was a lovely confidence boost ahead of the 3 tests which went towards our team event. In the Intro Caroline was placed 3rd, Alice came 4th and Sue came 2nd. Everyone rode really lovely tests and the team came 2nd overall. Looking forward to attending next year's competition!

If you're interested in taking part in team events please don't hesitate to contact Liz Hillier-Sinclair (Team Manager).

22 September - TREC Lessons at Westcroft Park

On Sunday 22 September we organised a TREC lessons to give members a chance to try something new. Liz Beddows from TREC4ALL came along to Westcroft Park Polo Club to teach 15 members over the course of the day. Liz brought along 8 different obstacles which you would usually find in an arena TREC competition:

1. Low branches (riding under poles on a frame, height adjusted depending on the horses height)
2. S bend (bending through poles on the ground)
3. Bending poles
4. Bridge (a piece of wood on the floor)
5. Ridden Corridor (riding through two poles and not straying from the designated area)
6. Neck Rein (navigating round two cones while only neck reining)
7. Led corridor (same as ridden corridor but the rider is on foot)
8. Mount (mounting in a designated area without the horse wandering off)

Each lesson starts with an explanation of each of the obstacles and a practice to ensure all the horses are comfortable and confident with what they are being asked. Then at the end all the obstacles are linked together. The first lesson started with the Sarah, Fiona, Gill and Jane. Fiona and Sarah have previous TREC experience and set the bar by easily cantering through the bending poles, showing off with some very elegant flying changes. Gill and Maggie completed their first flying changes while practicing on the bending poles. As they finished off with going through the course the heavens opened. Then it was Caroline, Sophie, Julia and Diana's turn to get soaked and have some fun. Diana's horse was slightly nervous about what he was being asked but by the end of the lesson they were confidently completing each of the obstacles at the end of the lesson. The third lesson consisted of Sonja, Niki and Molly. The final lesson was made up of Richard, Claud, Joanne and Helen. Richard's horse hadn't been off of the yard in 3 years, so he was nearly double his height when he got off the trailer. Luckily, he settled into the lesson which meant he was able to fit under the low branches despite being 18hh!

Everyone had a compressed version of Liz's mounting talk as it was obvious that most horses tended to wander off when attempting the mounting block. It's definitely something to be worked on if you have a horse that moves off when you mount. A horse that stands still is a safe horse and then hopefully they will stand no matter what the situation is be it on the yard or out on a hack.

Thank you so much to Liz for teaching and to Westcoft Park Polo Club for hosting. Sorry to those who we weren't able to fit in! We are looking at running some more in the spring! Good luck to all Members taking part in the TREC4ALL competition at Merrist Wood on 5th October!

Saturday 28 September – Polework with Jade Hyatt

Another completely full day for Jade with lessons all day. This polework clinic seemed to be the most complicated we have seen so far. There seemed to be poles everywhere enabling a multitude of different patterns to be ridden.

Everyone got so much from the lesson and it was lovely to see riders grow in confidence and the horses looked like they loved every minute - especially Jane Tolefree on Roz who managed a unique bunny hop over the poles and Gill Wood and Maggie who got rather over excited at the prospect of a potential jump.

Massive thanks to Jade for a full day with 21 participants, especially since she is still suffering with a bad back. We hope you continue to get fighting fit in the coming weeks before we are next there for training.

Again, there were great comments and videos on our Facebook so go have a look and get inspired to join in the next one.

Sunday 29 September- Dressage with discussion with Suzanne Holt

The idea of the 'dressage with discussion' is to ride through a test of your choice and have comments made as if it were a real competition. Suzanne, who is a listed judge and has trained and ridden up to Grand Prix, would then go through the elements of the test which could be improved before completing the test again.

The weather on the Sunday was looking pretty ominous and at 0830 the heavens opened and if you were not under cover you were guaranteed to be extremely wet. Luckily as the first rider, Alice Scott, arrived it stopped raining, although it didn't look like we would stay dry for long.

Alice competed her test, a medium, which on marking would have come out at about 60%. Suzanne then focussed on the shoulder in and half pass before concentrating on the canter and simple changes. Alice and Evie made such great progress and would have increased their mark by at least 8%. Next up was Sarah Leno on Casey who completed a novice test. Again, Suzanne marked the test and the score was again around 60%. Casey wasn't entirely focussed though the test, so Suzanne decided to work on being supple, having the correct bend and his attention. The difference between the beginning and the end was remarkable and Sarah left very happy.

Caroline and Enriqueta were next in and completed a very good Prelim test which would have scored about 70%. Suzanne then worked on Caroline being more confident applying her leg through the aids (Caroline has posted some great videos on Facebook of her lesson).

Julie Johnson was next in and completed an intro test. Again, this would have scored about 70% but Suzanne wanted to work on shortening the horse and create more power but not speed. Julie then competed her test again, being videoed for the e-dressage riding club league. We hope she scores highly as the test looked great.

Last in was Alice again on her young horse. Unfortunately, she wasn't very settled and took a very long time to calm down. Alice did an absolutely amazing job remaining calm and positive despite the horse not wanting to concentrate at all. Suzanne focussed on trying to keep the horse moving forward and gradually trying to get her concentration. The horse has the loveliest paces and movement and will be a force to be reckoned with when Alice can get her to focus on what she should be doing (and not what Des and Bryn were doing in the field!).

Thank you to Suzanne, everyone loved the lesson and took so much away. Suzanne is back again at the end of Oct for lessons so book in fast before it fills up.

Fantastic Francesca

Huge congratulations to Francesca Elliot who represented CDRC at the Cherwell Arena Eventing and came 2nd in the 100cm class. What an achievement, well done! Francesca has also qualified for the national final at Aston-le-Walls. We wish her all the best and look forward to hearing how she gets on.

Upcoming events

To book any of the lessons, please email Chobhamrc@gmail.com with '(date) lesson' in the subject line (i.e. 03 March lesson). Please note that payment for lessons may be taken in advance to secure your place.

Saturday 12 October - LAW Bitting Solutions - Knaphill

An opportunity to understand what bit suits your horse's conformation. Bring your horse along and have a 1 on 1 appointment to check your horse's bit with no obligation to buy.

Charges are £55 per horse. The bits in stock are Informed Designs bits and the snaffles range from £70 to £85 and the training/jumping/Weymouths are £85 to £100. Laura will also work with Myler bits and Bomber bits.

All the bits are designed to improve comfort, welfare and performance. A session can take up to an hour per horse. We look at the horse on the ground checking conformation and how the bridle fits, we check your current bit collection. We then see the horse ridden in its original bit then discuss what is happening and make any changes that are best for you and the horse.

If you would like to come and watch, please let us know so we can manage attendance.

To book please contact Liz on the riding club email.

Saturday 12 October – Show jumping lesson with James Emblem in Chobham

Individual lesson £30 or £25 each for a pair lesson.

James is a level 3 BS accredited SJ coach with vast training and competition experience.

James is happy teaching all levels and abilities.

Sunday 13 October – Orienteering on Chobham Common – cost £8

Starting from Langshot Equestrian Centre

To book please email us ASAP

Sunday 20 October – Beach Ride

A very early morning start, meeting at Hayling Island at 07:30am for up to two hours on the beach.

Cost £5. **THIS IS GOING AHEAD.** Rendezvous expected to be 08.30, full details to follow. Contact Liz.

Sunday 27 October – Flatwork lesson – Suzanne Holt in Knaphill

Individual lessons £25 for 45 minutes. £30 for non-members

Sunday 10 November – Polework – Jade Hyatt

Group lesson £15 each (groups of 3)

Monday 11 November – Area Quiz

If you would like to represent CDRC at an equine related area quiz we are looking to put forward a team of 3. The cost would be £5 per team member and the quiz will be held in Dorking starting at 19:30.

Please contact Liz if you are interested in attending (there are some rules about different level of qualifications for each team member).

Sunday 17 November -Flatwork lesson – Malcolm Hunt in Knaphill

Individual lessons £25 for 45 minutes. £30 for non-members

Sunday 24 November – Gridwork – Jade Hyatt in Knaphill

Group lesson £15 each (groups of 3)

Sunday 08 December- Flatwork lesson – Malcolm Hunt in Knaphill

Individual lessons £25 for 45 minutes. £30 for non-members

Area Events

If you are interested please email our wonderful team manager Liz (if you are interested in becoming a team manager, please also let us know).

Intro Dressage – 19 October at Priory: This is for Intro and Prelim tests as individuals

Novice Dressage – 23 November at Sands Farm: This is a team or individual competition, Prelim or Novice tests

Intermediate Dressage – 08 February at Sands Farm: This is a team or individual competition, Prelim, Novice and Elementary

Novice Show Jumping – 09 February at Sands Farm: This is a team or individual competition with fences at 70cm and 80cm

Intermediate Show Jumping - 07 March at Berkshire College of Agriculture: This is a team or individual competition with fences at 80cm, 90cm or 100cm

CDRC Committee

Chair – Sara Green

Treasurer – Nick Valvona

Teams & Training – Liz Hillier-Sinclair

Website & Communications - Paul Broadest-Dixon

Secretary – Amelia James

Membership – Claire Valvona

Area Liaison – Caroline Shrubbs

Ordinary member - Malcolm Hunt

Sarah Leno is the Club Safeguarding Officer.