

February 2011 Newsletter



Photo taken from the first WDHC hunt of the season

Committee Members David Wickham and Jean Bywater at the front, Chris Zahner seen on far right

Committee Members

| | | | |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
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WDHC 2011 Fixture List

13th Feb Mock Hunt

Kennel Farm 10:30 for 11:00
£15 members £25 visitors

20th Feb Mock Hunt

Church Farm 10:30 for 11:00
£15 members £25 visitors

13th Mar Mock Hunt Clinic

Warren Barn Farm
£10 members £20 visitors

19th Mar Farmers Dinner Dance

Selsdon Park Hotel

27th Mar Beginners Mock Hunt

Warren Barn Farm
£10 members £20 visitors

10th Apr Hunter Trials

Warren Barn Farm

17th Apr Easter Show Jumping

Warren Barn Farm

2nd May Charity Pleasure Ride

Warren Barn Farm

15th May Eventer's Challenge

Warren Barn Farm

5th June Annual Show

7th Aug Dressage

Warren Barn Farm

TEAM 2011 Fixture List

3rd April WDHC Teams Show Jumping

Friendly at Eaglesfield

10th July Horse Trials Qualifier

@ Borde Hill Juniors & Seniors

16th July Riding Clubs Senior Teams Jumping

Kent County Show @ Detling

30th July Show & Style Jumping Qualifier

@ Felbridge Juniors & Seniors

31st July Longines Royal International

Horse Show Riding Clubs Teams of Three Jumping @ Hickstead Juniors & Seniors

Date TBC Oct Area 10 Festival of Hunter Eventers Challenge Qualifier

@ Lodge Farm Juniors & Seniors

13th Nov Dartford & District Team Jumping

@ Eaglesfield Juniors & Seniors

Date TBC Area 10 Novice Indoor Show Jumping Qualifier

@ Ardingly Juniors & Seniors

Contact Jean if interested in Teams on 07766 313850 – Well in advance please – not the day before 😊

Welcome to February 2011 Edition of the Club's Newsletter

Greetings to you all. Firstly, apologies for the delay between this Newsletter and the last, which found its way onto our Website in late November. I was working away in Cumbria, Chris had man flu which meant getting stuff on the web was slow and then there was the weather !! And to have a newsletter, you really need some news, either past or up coming, but the theme throughout Nov and Dec was Snow and Frozen ground, with club events, mostly Mock Hunts being cancelled, including the Boxing Day one which has now been re-scheduled to run on the 13th February, so dig out your tinsel and antlers !

The good news is, fingers crossed we have got back to running events and the evenings are getting lighter . Let's get February out the way and look forward to a busy competitive year with our horses and ponies.

The bad news, due to the weather over the past two years we have lost rather a lot of Mock Hunts, which has reduced our income and funds in the bank. At the AGM it was proposed that the subsidising of the team events would be suspended for 6 months and the situation regarding subsidy pending review of club funds. This proposal was adopted. However, Jean has built up a strong team ethos and we hope this measure will have no impact on our teams and the enjoyment of team members and supporters. It does mean that July will be an expensive month as nearly all the team events appear to be in this month.

Facebook – for those of you who are unaware, the club has a Facebook page which can be accessed via our website. Both the website and Facebook are great ways of keeping up to date with the latest news in the club.

Photos – Carolyn has been providing me photos for the newsletter, so I hope you enjoy this new look newsletter and we thought we would have a Photo/s of the month page. So if you have great photo that really needs to be shared then please email it to me.

We have lots of events coming up, please do try and support them and spread the word to your yard. If you do not plan to ride/compete, please do consider offering to help by ringing the organiser. Competitions need helpers, both on the day before setting up, on the day and equipment needs to be cleared away.

Happy Riding

Mary

ANNUAL FARMERS DINNER & DANCE

SELSDON PARK HOTEL

19TH MARCH 2011

£40 per head

Due to popular demand I have booked the Selsdon Park Hotel for the Annual Farmers Dinner & Dance! The tickets will remain the same price as last year at £40 per head, so if you would like to come please do make sure that you contact either me early (contact details below) to avoid disappointment.

We will be having a 3 course meal and as last year it will be a set menu with an alternative option for Vegetarians. It seems to work best this way and gets us on the dance floor quicker!!! Talking of which, I have also booked the same band who excelled themselves once again last year. They played an excellent range of music and the dance floor was packed all night!

I have got an extension on the time too so we will be able to carry on dancing the night away until 1am! Whether I will be able to remember it will be another matter!!!

Don't forget that there will also be a special deal on room prices, so if you want to make a weekend of it, to use the Heath Club Facilities etc, do contact the Hotel on 020 8657 8811.

It is a fantastic night and judging by the comments that I receive afterwards, I anticipate a high demand for tickets this time so if you would like to book a ticket for the evening or a table (max 10 per table) please contact:

Kim Deakin:

Tel – 07949 385341 or 020 8651 2481

I look forward to hearing from you.....soon!!!!

Mock Hunt Clinic Held on Sunday 23rd January 2011 at Warren Barn

This was the second clinic we have held (first one being last September before the beginners Mock Hunt). This time we held two classes the first went off at 10.30 with Nick Fuller as Master with John Wickham his able bodied assistant along with Chris London as Hound and Louise Williams as our resident fox.

We had 8 people booked in and all turned up full of enthusiasm and a little bit of apprehension, this was quickly put to one side when Nick explained the layout of the day and they set off at a steady pace, until they all had a blast up Green Hill, all seemed to settle really well, and continued to go around various parts of the valley, working on what Nick had told them and conquering a lot of the jumps and obstacles on the way, including the water complex. Lots of smiling faces came back after about an hour and half, some looking really pleased with themselves, which is more than warranted. I spoke to a few afterwards, and were keen to put their new found knowledge to good use the following weekend and ensuing hunts.

The second class set off at 12 noon with Michaela as Master with Chris London as assistant. Mary Gee was hound and again Louise was our fox. This class was mixed with experienced riders and youngsters, and soon became apparent that it would be best to split the group up, with Chris, Louise and Mary taking the more experienced group off, and within a short space of time everything Louise and Chris served up to them they all ably followed, including , fan water complex etc.. it was a joy to watch. Michaela then took the youngsters, even though very nervous and a few tears after falling off. With Michaela inspiring them, the more they did the more confident they become, with cheers and bellows when jumping the fences (sometimes it was from the riders but most of time it was from the cheering parents and friends that came to support them).

Overall it was a very relaxed day and we tried to cater for all abilities, however, it seemed to me that the more they were out there having a go, being in the thick of it, the better it all became for the individuals. This was very apparent with both classes and the varying abilities.

We are holding out last clinic for the year Sunday 13th March 2011. This is two weeks before our last beginner's mock hunt of the season, so if you are tempted we would love to see you.

See you on the 13th three classes 10.30, 12 and 1.3pm To book a place phone me on 01883 652028

Bob Kirk

PS. if you are concerned about how your horse or pony will go, please don't feel that you will be judged, that is one thing that we won't do. We are all here to help you to get a footing into the fun of hunting, all the masters have been hunting for many years and have a wealth of experience there to help you .But don't forget they had to start somewhere too!!

What a Day! – Mock Hunting at Warren Barn 30 Jan

After what seemed an eternity, we could finally meet for a day's hunting, and what a day it turned out to be. Between 70 to 80 riders turned up at Warren Barn for our January Beginners Mock Hunt, and at times it seemed there were almost as many foot followers.



Gemeni Cunningham **was** beautifully turned out as usual on her pony Smokey Joe, and she (again) took one of our Best Turned Out Prizes. Naomi Earthrawl on Rustic Charm, who was hunting with us for the first time, took the other. But the whole field looked a picture, as the Carlos' photographs on the Visualise website testify.

Gemeni Cunningham and her pony Smokey Joe take a fall at the first hedge

The ground was firm, the day was cold but sunny, and for Mock Hunting, you don't have to worry about scent. Louise Squires, on Oscar jumping brilliantly, was our fox and led the field off at a steady pace, closely followed by half a dozen hounds in our bright yellow builders' tabards – we couldn't find the normal ones – and Michala Blackburn our Huntsman. Then came the Field, led by Nick Fuller, with Mike Potts, resplendent in tailcoat and top hat, yours truly and our new Field Master, Chris London, bringing up the rear. Chris is a great addition to the Mastership and we all hope he's around for a long time to come.



Just setting off



Sarah coming off Paddy



Clare riding Giles - his first time out hunting..

We kicked on to the tyres at the bottom of Green Hill, and had our first faller, but she was up again shortly and, after a welcoming drink at the first stop at the top of the hill, enjoyed the rest of the day without a hitch. At one point we apparently had five people on the ground at the same

time, but our (new) paramedic and a first aider had nothing serious to do but dust off the riders and see them mounted again.



*Amy Tickner on her 13.2 pony showing how to jump the (optional) 5.5 foot drop hedge
and Mike Potts showing how not to*

The winter sun is glorious at Warren Barn, touching our heads as we climbed the hills and warming our backs as we swept down the valleys. All in all, a brilliant day!

*Two first time hunters.. Mick riding Paddy and Richard riding Sparks
Junior team member Josie riding Romeo
He has had major colic surgery last year and hers and his first ever hunt*

We've slotted in another Mock Hunt on 13th February, at Kennel Farm – the Meet there was cancelled in November because of the weather – and the following week we're at Church Farm. We've another Mock Hunt Clinic on the 13th March before our final Beginners Mock Hunt at Warren Barn on 27th March. Hopefully the weather at the end of the season will be kinder to us than the beginning and we can all enjoy a thumping climax to the season. Kick On!





*Our Newest Master
Chris London*

Manners Please!

This is a polite reminder that I would like members to mind their P's and Q's while at WDHC events.

I know sometimes the odd one slips out but there is no excuses for foul mouths in front of other members and the public.

This club has a good reputation and we would like to keep it this way!

Micky

Bonfleur Cross Country Course

Bonfleur Cross Country Course, Linton, Nr. Maidstone has quickly developed into to one of the best schooling facilities in Kent. Over the last year much time has been invested in new obstacles; the biggest addition being the new water complex. The water complex was finished during the summer of 2010 and will be open from March 2011. With multiple routes through it we have endeavoured to simulate many of the tests found whilst competing as well as having a large area to splash in and out. Further to this we have added over 10 new portables and another coffin to the course over a natural stream.

The course is open 7 days a week; obstacles range from 1 foot 6 to 3 foot 6. The course has over 70 fences including plenty of combinations, banks, drops, ditches and water. The course is well suited for tuition with large parts in view from one position.

There is a charge of £20 per horse and booking is required. If you are interested in using the course for club schooling sessions please get in touch for more details.

Oli Pascall on 07976 138120

<http://www.bonfleurcrosscountrycourse.co.uk/>

10th April 2011 Hunter Trials

Mini Pairs, Mini, Novice, Novice Pairs & Intermediate

Trophy to winner; rosettes to 10th Place

Special Rosette to the highest placed WDHC member in each class

Class 1 Mini Pairs 9.30 Approx. 2'3"

One pair . Horse & rider combination not to have been placed 1st, 2nd or 3rd at any Hunter Trial in the last 3 years.

Class 2 Mini To follow Approx. 2'3"

Horse & rider combination not to have been placed 1st, 2nd or 3rd at any Hunter Trial 2'6" & above.

There will be a break at lunch time of approx 20 minutes while the course is raised and Fence Judges take a breather

Class 3 Novice To follow Approx 2'9" but not before 12.00

Horse & rider combination not to have been placed 1st to 3rd at any Hunter Trial 3'0" & above.

Class 4 Novice Pairs To follow Approx 2'9" - Open to all
Class to be run over the novice course.



Mary on Dillon - Oct 2010 HTs

Class 5 Intermediate To follow Approx 3'0" - Open to all

HT Entry Fee: Members £12

Classes 2, 3 & 5 Non-Members £18

HT Pairs: Members £15

Class 1 & 4 Mixed £20

Non Members £25

First Aid: £3 for Non-Members (WDHC Members Free)

Bib Deposit: Paper numbers given. Bring own number bib or £10 deposit - Send as separate deposit cheque

FULL SCHEDULE CAN BE DOWNLOADED FROM WEBSITE OR BY SENDING SAE

WDHC Hunter Trials Secretary

22 Meycroft 20 Bourne Way, Hayes, Kent BR2 7HB

ENQUIRES OR OFFERS OF HELP TO

Shelly McCoy

07816 790628

shelley_mccoy@hotmail.co.uk

**17th April 2011 Easter Show Jumping
Bottom Hole, Minimus, Novice, Intermediate & Feature Classes**

Trophy to winner; rosettes to 6th Place
HC Riders welcome subject to spaces

All Double Clears in classes 2, 3 and 4 qualify for the Cricklands Summer League Finals (at the time of publishing this schedule, the date is yet to be confirmed). If you qualify, please speak to the Secretary to obtain a qualification card.

See www.cricklands.com Class 1 Hello Sunshine Bottom Hole Jumping

robert riding duke... he came second in bottom hole ... first time riding the pony

9:30 am Not to have won at 2' or above.

Class 1 will have an extra prize for best Easter fancy dress!

Class 2 2' – 2'3 Easter Bunny Minimus

To follow Not to have won at 2'6" or above.

Class 3 2'3- 2'6" Green Shoots Novice

To follow Not to have won at 2'9" or above.

Class 4 2'6"- 2'9" Painted Easter Egg Intermediate

To Follow Not to have won money at BSJA.

Class 5 Feature Class – The Spring Puissance Challenge

To Follow Open to all. See website for full details www.wdhc.org.uk

Entry Fee:

Members £6

Non-Members £8

Late Entry Fee on the day £2



FULL SCHEDULE CAN BE DOWNLOADED FROM WEBSITE OR BY SENDING SAE
WDHC SJ Secretary
44 High Street, Old Oxted, Surrey RH8 9LP

ENQUIRES OR OFFERS OF HELP TO

CHRIS 07909 988417 enquiries@wdhc.org.uk



Left – Micky riding Jack at the Xmas SJ

Right Robyn riding Manny at the Xmas Sj

