
WDHC NEWSLETTER

Based at Warren Barn Farm, Slines Oak Road, Woldingham, Surrey, CR3 7HN

www.wdhc.org.uk



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Welcome to this September's edition of the club's newsletter

Dear Members

Autumn is upon us, and although the nights are drawing in, we can look forward to Hunter Trials, Festival of the Horse Qualifier, our Mock Hunts and Winter Show Jumping. Not to mention clipping, mucking out, finding the wellies, increased feed bills for those of us who have been able to keep our horses and ponies out at grass this summer, etc. But horses are an addiction that is hard to kick especially on a sunny Autumn morning with a slight frost on the ground, do we really want to go to work or school, or do we wish we were hacking out?

We have a full programme set for the upcoming membership year, see next page for details. Our membership year ends at the end of September, so to continue to enjoy discounted rates and benefits, do not forget to renew your membership.

Members Benefits

- ❖ Reduced Entry Fees for All WDHC Events
- ❖ Half Price Caps for all the Beginners Mock Hunts and £10 off our Mock Hunt
- ❖ The chance to hunt with the Old Surrey and Burstow Hunt for £25 compared to the usual £90
- ❖ Priority Booking and Reduced Prices for all our Clinics
- ❖ Free use of Ring Two Show Jumps throughout the Summer
- ❖ The opportunity to represent WDHC at all BRC National Competitions (Team and Individual)
- ❖ Use of Warren Barn Farm Hunter Trial Course for just £10 a go compared to £15 for Non Members
- ❖ Price reduction for sandschool bookings at Warren Barn Farm
- ❖ The chance to compete for members only trophies
- ❖ Make new friends at our social events (AGM/Disco, Annual Dinner and Dance)
- ❖ Free First Aid cover at our events
- ❖ BRC Third Party Liability Insurance at BRC Events
- ❖ Discounts from many of our sponsors
- ❖ Quarterly Rider Magazine

A plea for the newsletter, if you have an advert or news/picture of you and horse please send them to me care of the club email address, the newsletter is lacking photos!

We look forward to you renewing your membership and seeing you next year.

Mary
01322 383572

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FIXTURES FOR THE NEXT YEAR

26th September 2010	Beginners Mock Hunt - Warren Barn Farm
3rd October 2010	Hunter Trials - Warren Barn Farm
10th October 2010	WDHC Teams - FOTH Qualifier XC at Lodge Farm
31st October 2010	Halloween Show Jumping - Warren Barn Farm
28th November 2010	Mock Hunt - Kennel Farm
12th December 2010	Christmas Show Jumping - Warren Barn Farm
26th December 2010	Boxing Day Mock Hunt - Bull Common
23rd January 2011	Mock Hunt Clinic - Warren Barn Farm
30th January 2011	Beginners Mock Hunt - Warren Barn Farm
20th or 27th February 2011	Mock Hunt - Church Farm
13th March 2011	Mock Hunt Clinic - Warren Barn Farm
19th March 2011	Farmers Dinner Dance - Selsdon Park Hotel
27th March 2011	Beginners Mock Hunt - Warren Barn Farm
3rd April 2011	WDHC Teams – Show Jumping Friendly at Eaglesfield
10th April 2011	Hunter Trials - Warren Barn Farm
17th April 2011	Easter Show Jumping - Warren Barn Farm
2nd May 2011	Charity Pleasure Ride - Warren Barn Farm
15th May 2011	Eventer's Challenge - Warren Barn Farm
5th June 2011	Annual Show - Warren Barn Farm
10th July 2011	Eventer's Challenge - Warren Barn Farm
14th August 2011	Dressage - Warren Barn Farm

THE HUNTING SEASON BECKONS

The days are drawing in, the nights are getting colder and yellows are appearing on the once green trees. We may still get an Indian Summer of sorts, but winter is drawing in, and that means the hunting season is upon us! For the club, we have our first Mock Hunt at Warren Barn on 26th September. For those who've never hunted, this will be a

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grand introduction; for those who have, our Beginners Mock Hunt will provide an excellent start to what we all hope will be a long and happy season.

Most club members probably ride more in the summer, and with less daylight and worse weather it can sometimes be difficult just to keep your horse fit in the winter. The hills at Warren Barn demand a beast with some stamina, so what follows is a digest of what we reported before in this newsletter, which may prove helpful. The best thing, if at all possible, is to keep them out as much as possible. A horse that is stabled day and night needs much more riding to stay fit than one which is out all day. If they're out for most of the day at least, working him reasonably hard twice a week should keep him fit enough for the Mock Hunts. You could even get away with riding one day a week. The golden rule is to start slow and finish slow. So walk out for ten or fifteen minutes and you can trot for an hour, even up hills. But then you need to walk him back for long enough for him to stop sweating and for his heartbeat to get back to normal. That will take at least ten minutes and possibly fifteen. The fitter and stronger he gets, the more you can push, assuming of course that you're feeding him accordingly.

Because every horse is different, it's impossible to have hard and fast rules. If you lack the experience to judge for yourself, and haven't anyone close by to keep an eye out, here's an approximate regime which might be helpful.

Walk out for ten minutes, trot for ten, walk for five and then trot and canter for ten more minutes. Walk for five. If you have access to them, popping over a couple of jumps adds to the variety, and will help both you and the horse. Repeat the elements each ride for as long as you have time. Alternating paces is very useful, as is trotting or walking uphill (and fortunately there are plenty of opportunities for that around here). We're also blessed with excellent off road riding, so take advantage of it. But road work is very useful too, both for fitness, and to maintain the horse's behaviour in traffic. Many experts believe that a horse gets just as much benefit from walking on metalled roads as he does from trotting, and suffers less from impact strain. There is also a widely held view that walking out on the roads is actually more beneficial in getting a horse fit than trotting on soft fields, providing a hard even surface on which the horse can build up muscle power. Road work has other benefits too; you need to keep alert for hazards and that helps to keep the horse focussed on what he's doing.

Always finish, if possible, with at least ten minutes walking home. If he's still very sweaty, and it's impossible to walk some more, try and wash your horse down with warm water and dry off as much as possible before rugging up.

If you have access to a ménage as well - lucky you, but don't overdo the schooling, or rather, don't neglect the cross country if you want the horse to be calm when hunting. The more often you can go out in a group and gallop about under control across the country, the better off you'll be out hunting. Horses always behave differently in groups, and they can be different animals out of school.

As with most things, variety is the spice of life, and will certainly stop your horse from getting bored. Flatwork, show jumping and cross country all mixed up will help the horse to be fit and calm for hunting. Similarly, riding out alone and in small and large

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groups along country tracks and metalled roads, through woods and fields, negotiating gates, underpasses, bridges and so on, coming up close to cows and combine harvesters all help to prepare your horse for a safe and fun day out with the Mock Hunt.

Bear in mind that an averagely fit horse can trot around Warren Barn for an hour and hardly get a sweat up. That's what you should be aiming for but it simply may not be achievable given your time or facilities. Don't worry. For our Mock Hunts, the horses need to be reasonably fit, but they're not competing in the Cheltenham Gold Cup. There's plenty of time to rest between lines, and if you feel the horse is a bit tired after two or three lines, simply miss out most or all of the rest of the jumps.

If you are going to work your horse at all hard in the winter it's probably essential they are partly or fully clipped. But then obviously make sure they're well rugged up standing out in the field or in the stable. If it's very warm, or the horse gets stressed, he'll sweat, but normally if you're out alone exercising and the horse gets all lathered up, he's probably not quite fit enough for the work you're doing.

David Wickham

Beginners Mock Hunt General Info

Mock Hunts-Your First Time Out

Something to know if its your first time out. If you haven't been before don't worry just let one of the Masters know and they will keep an eye on you or you can stay with them for support.

The ranges from £10 members to £25 non-members although Beginners Mock Hunts will be cheaper but check website for this if you're worried. Payment is called a cap and is taken on the day so no advance payments needed, just turn up.

If you are a novice or riding a novice horse you should wear a green ribbon if your horse is likely to kick wear a red ribbon.

All our jumps are optional at Warren Barn with a few on other hunts that may not be although they will not normally be any bigger than about 3ft.

Warren Barn in Woldingham is ideal for Beginners as its run on one large farm so easy to find your way home if you do retire early i.e. throw a shoe, toilet break, horse not fit enough etc. The postcode for farm is CR3 7HN (just in case you have a Sat Nav). We have toilet facilities at Warren Barn but no refreshments so remember to bring your own (a hip flask comes in handy). Although you will always get the opportunity to have some mulled wine to warm you up before the off.

Talking of warming up make sure you are adequately dressed for the weather winter hunting can be really cold especially at the top of the Downs so wear plenty of layers and bring a hot drink for afterwards.

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You must wear correct headwear and be turned out neatly i.e. show jacket or hacking jacket, riding boots, beige or white jodhpurs. We also have a prize for the best turned out so well worth the effort of plaiting up and wearing a hair net (where applicable). Also we advise you to wear back protectors as with any event with horses but this is not compulsory. We do also have a paramedic that follows us on our beginner mock hunts, just in case.

Generally mock hunts starts at 10.30 for 11.00 but check website or phone if in doubt i.e. due to weather conditions. Although the weather or ground has to be seriously bad before a meet is cancelled so don't worry.

The Mock Hunts involve a fox who wears a red jumper who will know a predetermined trail and will interpret a foxes nature (where possible) and we will have hounds which are counted in couples (pairs i.e. 2 and a half couples 3 hounds) and will be chosen by the number in the field (people riding) with priority to members of WDHC and their jumping ability. I will be looking for hounds to follow the fox (good riders who can jump without a lead) and the field (riders) stay behind the Field Master who then dictates the route and pace of the hunt which is done for your own safety and others when riding unknown country.

Have a look at our website www.wdhc.org.uk or Visualise www.visualise.uk.com and you will be able to see some action shots!

Foot followers can also come along and we can point them in the direction of the best places to stand although they may want to bring some binoculars.

Visualise will try and attend most of our events so you can purchase a lovely picture after the event too.

Any enquiries on the Mock Hunts should ring

David Wickham 01883 654 867

Mike Potts 01883 627 405

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Membership Renewal

It is that time of year again. Membership renewals are now due. Included in the news letter are new membership forms and a reminder of what you get for your membership fees. Also I am about to leave the position of membership secretary after many years of doing this job, but I will still be helping on the committee. Jo Matthews has kindly volunteered to take over this position so please note the change of address on the membership form!

Helen

Thank you Helen for all your hard work over the the years as Membership Secretary

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Mid Winter Preparation

As Summer appears to be well and truly over and we have fast forwarded into Autumn with only Winter to look forward to I thought just to cheer everyone up I would note my feelings on the absolute joy of looking after a Horse in Winter.

Poo Picking

You accept that you need a chisel to get it up off the ground

When picking in the dark with a torch or under the lights of the school it becomes impossible to differentiate between frozen poo and frozen clods of sand or earth at this point you become paranoid that there is something horribly wrong with your horse as it is poeing so much. Remembering that Google is your friend you make the mistake of Googling too much poo this gives you something else to worry about see watering and turnout below.

Some of the more strange liveries actually make "oh it looks quite pretty" at the frost covered diamond sparking mounds of poo

After 20 minutes you pray for a fresh one as at least it will warm your hands up!

Watering

At the first sign of frost the highly expensive automatic watering system will freeze up this necessitates a long walk up to the house as this is the only part of the pipe system that is not frozen .

Your horse (now used to the highly expensive automatic watering system) will now either be terrified of the bucket in its stall or tip it over causing a curling rink effect in the barn and chuck the bucket over the door at your head as you skid past.

Out of desperation and in a Eureka moment you pour water into the feeding trough only to forget what you have done 4 hours later and serve your horse muesli and Lucerne Grass soup.

You also become aware of just how much your horse is drinking in gallons, out of interest Google the "normal amount for a 17hh warmblood" this of course gives you something else to worry about. See Poo Picking above and turnout below..

Rugging

What was once so easy (medium weight turnout 24/7) now becomes very complicated, do you go into a heavyweight turnout and a heavy weight stable blanket, stick with the medium weight TO and put a medium weight stable underneath, where does fleece come into the equation, is wool better, neck cover only when out or in as well. You make the mistake of not only googling what rug weight for minus 36 degrees but you also post a question on a Horse Forum this starts the Inevitable knock fight of over rugging under rugging and some poor soul will become forced into saying My horse my choice so naff off! You start to wish for the days of Jute Rugs and Witney Blankets and no other choice!

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Having made the decision to layer you realise that your horse with his 3 layers is now looking like a bondage victim with all the surcingles, leg straps, neck straps and heavens knows what else. You wonder if they make Gimp Masks in W/B size but decide not to google it in case your OH finds your browsing history.

On the bright side the level of bite marks from the playful field companions goes down, best not to look too closely at the rugs though and start to tot up the repair costs.

Turnout

Your cat loving neighbour approaches you and says you are cruel putting those poor horses outside in the cold weather. This in spite of the fact the horse is wearing the equivalent of a 20 tog duvet and a mackintosh or has a coat that is more like thatch and enough blubber to see it through a nuclear winter. You remain cool calm and collected remembering that neighbourly relations need to be kept good and gently remind the mad old bint about the time she thought the poor horses were dead rather than sunbathing and how annoyed the police were at the emergency call.

You watch as your pride and joy gallops around bronching with his field pal over earth as hard as iron just waiting for the limping to begin, shouting stop it you silly arse has no effect....you start to Google "injuries caused from hard ground" but at least it gives you something else to worry about - See Poo picking and watering above.

Riding

Ahh who can resist the total and absolute joy of hacking through frost covered fields, looking at the beautiful frost covered trees and the frozen rivers and lakes.....On horse that has done nothing for weeks but stand rugged up, eating its head off and now it is outside wants to GOOOOO eyes on stalks, jogging and spooking at everything it sees, some things it believes it sees, and its own excitement farts, add some locals dressed in a selection of woolly hats, boots and maybe even killer walking poles and you have the recipe for a lovely relaxed ride NOT!

When your school finally thaws out you book a lesson. You wear, a thermal vest, t-shirt, thin jumper, thick jumper, and thick coat, gloves, thick socks and a woolly hat over your riding helmet, You wonder why suddenly you do not feel as flexible as you normally do.

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Clear Round Jumping

We would like to say a massive thank you to everyone who came along and supported our clear round evenings.

We've had a really good time running these and will definitely be running them again soon.

Our course designer has set some lovely courses for everyone to enjoy and some with some challenging turns and twists which have been very good. We have had quite a lot of feedback from them and everyone seems to have enjoyed themselves as well as getting their horses over some of our scariest jumps.

We have had a wide variety of people and horses attending from youngsters that have never even seen a course of jumps before, let alone a course of scary ones, very capable horses with riders who are still learning and children with all different abilities, to nervous riders and new ponies.

Some people have come every week, and the difference from week one to now is fantastic. Thanks everyone for coming and we will look forward to seeing you all at the Halloween jumping.



Caroline Jaycocks and Tracey Tickner

Warlingham & District Horse Club
AFFILIATED TO THE BRITISH HORSE SOCIETY
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL FORM

I wish to apply for election as an annual member of Warlingham & District Horse Club for the year ending 30th September 2011, and I agree to help or supply a helper on 2 occasions during my years' membership.

FULL NAME MR / MRS /MISS:
ADDRESS:
POST CODE:
TELEPHONE NUMBER:
EMAIL ADDRESS
SIGNATURE:
DATE

Please indicate if you would be happy to receive email information from the Horse Club eg. Schedules, news letters etc. Yes/No

<i>Please tick appropriate box</i>		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Full Riding Member	£30
<input type="checkbox"/>	Junior Member (aged 16 and under) Date of Birth.....	£22
<input type="checkbox"/>	Supporter / Non Riding Member	£10
<input type="checkbox"/>	Family Membership (Max 2 adults and 2 children)	£60
(Please list additional names with dates of birth for juniors)		
.....		
.....		
Cheques and Postal Orders should be made payable to <i>Warlingham & District Horse Club</i> and sent to: Jo Matthews, 68 Lagham Rd, South Godstone, Surrey, RH9 8HB		

Please indicate which event you would be prepared to help at, it is a condition of membership that you tick at least one (this can be a family member particularly in the case of junior members).		
Event	Preparation	On The Day
Hunter Trials October 2010		
Showjumping Winter 2010 / 2011		
Hunter Trials April 2011		
Charity Ride May 2011		
Eventer's Challenge May 2011		
Annual Show June 2011		
Eventer's Challenge July 2011		
Dressage August 2011		
Hunter Trials October 2011		

Do you have your own horse box / trailer? Yes/No

Would any one else in your family be willing to help? (i.e. parents of juniors)

.....

Would you be willing to represent the club at British Riding Club Events?		YES / No
Show Jumping	Min Height Affiliated £.....	Max Height Unaffiliated £.....
Horse Trials	Min Height BHTA Points	Max Height
Dressage	Preliminary Novice Elementary	Dressage Points
Please enclose a copy of your horse's valid FLU Certificate.		
I confirm that I have not represented any other Riding Club in the last year.		
Signed:.....		Date:.....

Any other comments?

UPCOMING EVENTS

Full schedules may be found on the club website or SAE to 16 Morgan Drive, Greenhithe Kent, stating required Schedule

HUNTER TRAILS - Sunday 3rd October

VOLUNTEERS AND HELPERS NEEDED!

If you are free on Sunday 3rd October and not planning on taking part in any of the classes would you please consider Jump Judging for the day?
Lunch & refreshments are provided and a bottle of bubble or Vouchers will be awarded as a 'Thank You'

If you are free to help please contact Shelley on 07816 790 628

CLASSES

Trophy to winner; rosettes to 10th Place

Special Rosette to the highest placed WDHC member in each class

Class 1 Mini Pairs - approx. 2'3"

09.30 One pair of Horse & rider combination not to have been placed 1st, 2nd or 3rd at any Hunter Trial 2'6" & above, may be accompanied by a more experience horse and rider combination.

Class 2 Mini - approx. 2'3"

To follow Horse & rider combination not to have been placed 1st, 2nd or 3rd at any Hunter Trial 2'6" & above. Special Rosettes to all clear rounds in this class.

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

Class 4 Novice

To follow Approx 2'9"

But not to start Horse & rider combination not to have been placed 1st before 12:30 to 3rd at any Hunter Trial 3ft & above.

Class 5 Novice Teams of 3

Class to be run over the novice course all team members scores to count. This will be run on fastest clear round if ground conditions allow, if not will be run on a bogey time.

Class 5 Intermediate

To follow Approx 3'0"

Open to all

Closing Date: Entries close Wednesday prior to the event. Late entries: Subject to space, non-members subject to £2 late-entry fee.

HT Entry Fee: Members £12 Non-Members £18 – Classes 1, 3 & 4

HT Pairs: Both Members £15 – 1 member & 1 non member £20 – both non members £25 - Class 2

Teams of Three: All Members £22.50 – Mixed £30 – All non members £ 45

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

Medical Arm Bands are Compulsory for this event.

Dress: An approved riding hat to PAS 015, EN1384 or ASTM F1163 standard must be worn properly secured at all times whilst mounted.

NO FIXED PEAK HATS

Body Protectors to BETA 3 (Purple Label) standard, must be worn correctly fitted and properly secured for all cross country competitions

31st October 2010 Halloween Show Jumping

Warren Barn Farm

Bottom Hole, Minimus, Novice, Intermediate & Feature Classes

Trophy to winner; rosettes to 6th Place

HC Riders welcome subject to spaces

All Classes will be held in the sand school, with warm up on grass

All Double Clears in classes 2, 3 and 4 qualify for Winter League Finals in April 2011. If you qualify, please speak to the Secretary to obtain a qualification card.

For more information on Cricklands, visit www.cricklands.com

Classes

Class 1 Creepy Crawlies Bottom Hole Jumping

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

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

Class 2 2' – 2'3 Spooky Wooky Minimus

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

Class 3 2'3- 2'6" Scary Mary Novice

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

Class 4 2'6"- 2'9" Screaming Terror Intermediate

To Follow Not to have won money at BSJA.

Class 5 Feature Class – The Cursed Accumulator

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

Reminder: Clocks go back an hour on 30th October!

Secretary Contact Phone No: 07909 988417