

ISIS DRESSAGE GROUP NEWSLETTER

ISIS TRAINING CLINICS

SERENA PINCUS - Please phone Dedi Leech on 01869 - 350300 to find out when Serena will be coming to Heathfield next.

DANIEL GREENWOOD - Dan's next clinic will be on Friday September 5th at Grange Farm. The cost is £35, which offers a discount for Isis members. Please contact Jane McWilliam, preferably by email (see contact details in committee members' box on page 7) for details and to book.

LORNA GEORGE - Lorna comes to Hill Farm, Witney, each week. The cost is £25 for a minimum of 45 minutes, plus £10 for hire of the school. Please phone Caroline Ogden on 07867 – 520762 for further details.

SUCCESS FOR ISIS AT THE BRC QUALIFIERS!

DRESSAGE TO MUSIC, COTSWOLD RDA CENTRE, CHELTENHAM, JULY 5TH.

We made a good start to the summer qualifiers. This year, five riders rode seven tests between them, our highest number of competitors so far in this increasingly-popular form of dressage. **Sarah Morgan** and Small Fortune, competing for the first time since last autumn, and only a couple of months after the birth of her son, won the Novice With Points section on a score of 135. **Sally-Anne Barton** placed 5th on Blakes Thicket in the Novice Without Points section with 129, despite his very spooky behaviour in that frightening indoor school (he was horrified by a large picture of a skeleton riding a horse!), with **Janine Allen Robertson** hot on his heels in 6th on 127.5 with Millie B Magic, at her first freestyle competition.

In the Elementary FS, Sarah came second with 176 and Sally-Anne was 6th on 159.5. Our two other riders both competing to music for the very first time, **Seanin Gilmore** (Barney Ahern) and **Tammie Norton** (Ballymax), both rode good tests and were close behind the winners.

NOVICE DRESSAGE QUALIFIER, MANOR FARM, LONGNEY, JULY 13TH.

Wow - what a day! A roller-coaster mix of triumph and disaster.

We had entered two full senior teams and a junior team of three for this competition, and none of the eleven members had ever ridden in an Isis BRC team before. Problems started before the day, with one entrant suddenly realizing that her horse's vaccination certificate would not pass muster by the rigorous BRC standards; **Suzanne Morgan** very kindly stood in at short notice. Then **Katy Ward**'s pony went lame, and as there are currently only five junior Isis members we could not replace her, leaving **Clare Newstead** and **Jenny Lithgow** to ride as individuals. (Many thanks to **Mrs Lithgow** for so kindly giving Clare, her pony and her mother a lift to the competition.) At the last minute, **Debbie Mason** had to drop out when Solly went lame, and **Linda Sammons** very nobly offered to ride her first dressage test on her new horse, Rhapsody, bought from the late Debbie Smith shortly before her death. Then weather conditions necessitated a change of venue – although less spacious, Manor Farm provided good grass surfaces and just about enough parking space, though the warm-up area was over-crowded at times.

On the way to the competition, two riders' vehicles broke down – sadly, we were unable to help **Gill Howells**, but a gold star award to **Paul, Lindsey Stribling**'s partner, for rescuing **Sue Newman** and Davina from someone's front garden after she also broke down. Apparently her rescue policy covered the lorry but not the horse! She did really well, especially considering that she had only a couple of minutes to warm-up Davina before her test. Arena 2 was jinxed - both of our breakdowns and the one from the West Oxfordshire team were competing there!

All the Isis riders rode well, and seemed to enjoy their day, and we came back with lots of lovely rosettes! The Isis Belles just missed qualifying as a team, but for the first time we will be sending Novice riders to the Championships. As the overall standard was very high this year, this is a real achievement.

Janine Robertson was an absolute star – it seems that Millie can't put a hoof wrong this year - and specially well done to Linda, who rode a super test. Rhapsody's canter work was outstanding. Both juniors went really well, and **Ginny Halliwell**'s young horse looked stunning. Sue did so well, with no time to ride in, and Suzanne rode a lovely test with her nice horse. Lindsey and **Alison Rivers** rode really well - both have more difficult horses!

Results:

Prelim 13 - Isis Belles 3rd

Sue Newman	Davina	150	10th
Janine Robertson	Millie B Magic	176	1st
Lindsey Stribling	The Proper Charlie	140	19th

Ginny Halliwell	Golden Promise	170	1st
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Isis Babes

11th

Suzanne Morgan	Francesca	157	4th
Linda Sammons	Rhapsody	163	2nd
Alison Rivers	Tango	140	19 th

Juniors

Jenny Lithgow	Sky	161	2nd	(P 13)
Clare Newstead	Ellare Flare Molly	173	4th	(N 20)

Riding Test 6

Sue Newman	Davina	132	6th
Janine Robertson	Millie B Magic	144	1st
Lindsey Stribling	The Proper Charlie	119	17th
Clare Newstead	Ellare Flare Molly	139	2nd
Jenny Lithgow	Sky	120	11th

Riding Test 8

Janine Robertson	Millie B Magic	148	1st
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Arena-winners Janine and Ginny have qualified for Lincoln, as also have Linda and Jenny, subject to confirmation from HQ, as the winners in their arenas were members of winning teams.

Sue Newman writes about her day:

This is to thank you for all you did to keep me in the competition yesterday. What a day!

When my box broke down halfway to the venue, I resigned myself to the fact that that was it, and that I would not be able to get there. But I hadn't reckoned on the determination of the rest of the team! My heartfelt thanks go to Paul for driving all the way back and rescuing me and my friend Fiona, plus horse and all essentials from the car park of a house on a busy main road. Thanks to Lindsey for vacating her box for a couple of hours with all she needed for the

competition so that Paul could fetch me. Thanks also to you for reorganising my times and persuading the dressage judge to hang on for me.

When we arrived, it must have taken less than five minutes to get Davina off the box, tacked up and me into the saddle. Paul, Lindsey and Fiona all did their bit to get me to the arena in the fastest possible time. Paul tied my number on, and I was off up the track at a very determined trot.

As you know, I only had time to do a couple of circles before entering the arena. On coming out of the Prelim, someone quickly changed my number as I had to go straight into Arena 5 for the Riding Test. When I had finished, I was in a bit of a daze, and couldn't really remember much about doing them! I must have been back at the horsebox again about 20 minutes after I had arrived, having done both tests!!! My poor mare took everything in her stride, was so cool and calm about it all, and had done everything I had asked of her. I was so proud of her - she is only six and this is her first year of competition.

Paul and Lindsay were kind enough to drive us back home again after the competition – so thanks also go to Charlie for accommodating a strange mare in his box!

I only joined Isis this year, and this was our first team competition. I very much hope it won't be our last! Yesterday demonstrated how important teamwork can be, especially when you have the right team behind you!

Thanks again to everyone. - Sue

OPEN DRESSAGE QUALIFIER, WEST LITTLETON DOWN, JULY 20TH.

Isis repeated last year's success, winning the competition again by a large margin. Two of last year's team, **Sally-Anne Barton** and **Sarah Morgan**, were joined by **Sarah Howard** and **Tammie Norton**, and we had a lovely day – the venue is ideal, being an enormous field with decent grass-cover, and the weather was pleasant. Competition was stiff, and there were lots of teams in contention, but our riders all performed superbly. We would have won even without discarding a score.

Sarah Howard and Lochinvar produced a lovely loose test for 7th place in the strong Novice 20 arena, while Sarah Morgan and Small Fortune's very accurate and fluent Novice 27 gained them 3rd place, beaten by a couple of very big-moving warmbloods. Sally-Anne Barton and Blakes

Thicket were quite outstanding in Novice 30 for first place, and, to round the day off, Tammie and Ballymax produced a soft, forward Elementary 48, despite being watched by their team-mates, to win the class. The Isis final score of 5 left them way ahead of the second team, who finished on 13.

Unfortunately, Sarah Howard won't be able to take part in the Championship final at Lincoln on September 6th – 7th as she will be in Hong Kong with husband Cris, who will be commentating at the Paralympic Games. Can't really argue with that!

Hala Bentley

NEWS OF OUR MEMBERS

Congratulations to **Sally-Anne Barton** and **Blakes Thicket** who have qualified for the Preliminary National Championship in their first season of affiliated competition. They placed second in the Regional Championship at The College, Keysoe, with 68.8%. Best of luck on September 21st, Sally-Anne!

A PLEA FROM BD

Dedi Leech, previously chairman of the Isis committee, and now BD Members' Representative for the Central region, is helping to compile a data base of people in our area willing to volunteer to help at affiliated dressage shows. As we move towards 2012, it's clearly important that a list of competent volunteers should be available. If you are willing to be included, please email Dedi at catering4occasions@hotmail.com with details of your experience (eg at what levels you have written) and what you enjoy doing – BD needs writers, stewards, scorers, sheet collectors and people to be involved with hospitality.

This does not commit you to anything; it's just a measure of your willingness help, and any information you give will be treated as strictly confidential. BD are looking at ways to standardise the treatment of volunteers and maybe provide some training.

ISIS SHOWS 2008 Dates for your diary

Sun. September 21 st	Rosehill	RC Novice Team Challenge
Sat. October 11 th	Hill Farm, Witney	prelim classes
Sun. October 12 th	Hill Farm, Witney	novice to medium classes

Get your entries in now for the show at Rosehill – it's all on surfaces, the venue is lovely, and there are lots of good prizes – it's sponsored by Central Horse News and there are junior and senior qualifiers for their valuable Stylish Rider Awards as well as many other prizes.

And, looking ahead, our Christmas show this year is to be held at possibly the best, cleanest, warmest venue you'll ever visit –if you haven't been to Home Farm you're in for a treat. Don't miss it!

The Skunk Memorial Trophy



Skunk was my horse of a lifetime, he was my sun my moon my stars and the love of my life. Because of him I wanted to be a better person - that is still a work in progress.

I purchased Skunk late November 1993.

Back then I was much slimmer and braver and was looking for a nice TBx to do some RC eventing on. Everything I had looked at until I saw Skunk had me running a mile, so I bought him thinking he'd do for six months or so until I found what I *really wanted*, turned out he was what I really wanted. He got under my skin and into my heart where he will remain forever.

I called him Skunk because he was a piebald with minimal white body markings; he had a white splodge on his neck and a white patch on his bum and a white tail. Thus when you looked at him from behind it looked like the white stripe of a skunk. It was only many years later that a work colleague pointed out that skunk was also the name for a strain of cannabis.

Those first four years we did everything together a bit of dressage, mini ODEs, a mini three day event and small show jumps and we spent hours hacking up on the Ridgeway.

Sadly in June 1997 Skunk went lame and was off work for two long years. In June 1999 he came sound and by this point I had three horses so advertised for a sharer. A lovely lady called Sally rode him and took him out and about. Sadly he went lame again in 2001 so was back in and out of work. It was only in 2003 thanks to the help of a very good chartered veterinary physiotherapist (Kathryn Kirby) and a fantastic saddle fitter Lavinia Mitchell, that the final piece of the jigsaw my vet and I had been searching for regarding his soundness issues finally slotted into place.

Skunk was so much fun to be around and just seeing his lovely face instantly turned a bad day into a good day.

I lost Skunk in September 2006 to post operative ileus following colic surgery. When I lost him a light went out in my life. He really was 'the one' and there isn't a day that goes by where I don't think about him.

So in his memory there will be an annual trophy presented at the AGM for the horse aged sixteen or over gaining the most points at Isis competitions.

Alexis Haines

COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2008

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ADVERTS

FOR SALE

Ideal VSD Saddle 17.5", Wide fit, brown, bearing strap fitted to stop movement. vgc
£250 ovno

Ideal, Highland and Cob (H&C) VSD Saddle 17.5" Wide fit, brown, Excellent
condition. £475 ovno

Dressage saddle by Kay Humphries/Barry Swain supplied by Norton and Newby
17.5", Wide plus (can be altered to fit by maker) brown with brown serge ½ panels, large
knee rolls which can be positioned for best rider position. Excellent condition £700 ovno

All have been lovingly cared for and used on a 15hh cob. Please call 07775 581089
or email tobytrotters@btopenworld.com for more details or pictures

Double Bridle Bits

Weymouth KK 140 mm with aurigan mouthpiece and stainless steel cheeks

Bradoon KK ultra 145 mm with aurigan mouthpiece and stainless steel cheeks

Both from Inches and hardly ever used - £218 new, accept £100!

Black Albion Dressage Saddle Style Ultra - Wide - 17.5 inch £200

For more info contact **Tor Smith** on **07813 265538** or tor21.smith@btinternet.com

Cornbury Livery Yard

Under new management.

At Waterman's Stables we welcome all types of horse owners who seek a friendly quiet yard to enjoy their horse riding.

Located on the beautiful Cornbury Park Estate, close to Charlbury in Oxfordshire, Waterman's Stables is a small private DIY livery yard with stabling for up to 20 horses, superb grazing, indoor and outdoor manege and fabulous off-road riding in the Wychwood Forest. Price per horse per month - £140.00 for stabling.

Contact Jenny: 07753 123 100
or Lauren : 07808 613 287