

# From the Horse's Mouth



## A Newsletter for The Supporting Riders of the Light Cavalry HAC

### Stable Notes

Hello again everyone, and welcome to our new members.

The most important event since I last wrote was HM the Queen's inspection of the Light Cavalry of the HAC in April. Christopher Robinson has kindly written about the day and Tony Price has contributed the photographs.

May I also thank everyone who contributed to the Christmas fund. We are happy to report that Paul now has a washing machine thanks to all your generous donations. He is still keen to lay his hands on a number of items: a functional tumble-drier, spare tack and particularly would love to know if anyone can make the use of a horsebox available to transport horses to shows this summer?

Another important piece of news is Rebecca (Bex) is getting married to Herman on 18th September and may we wish them a super day and every happiness in the future!

As for our horses we have a number of new arrivals lent by Her Majesty and Capt. R. Howe. Also, as I'm sure you are

aware, our lovely Apollo is now enjoying semi-retirement at Pinnocks Wood.

Paul has asked me to point out that as well as his demonstrations Tony Lomas is available to give individual tuition on the last Wednesday of every month. Also a final plea—if you do commit to attend one of Tony's lectures please let Paul know if you can't make it. We had a very disappointing attendance last Friday despite many people committing to attend.

Finally, look out for some new merchandise appearing at Flemish Farm, fleeces, t-shirts etc on a cavalry theme.

I like thunder and  
I like rain  
And open fires and roaring flames  
But if the thunder is in my brain  
I like to be on-horseback

by **Mike Oldfield**  
from the album "Ommadawn"

### Forthcoming Events : 2004

**Sunday 13th June:** Smiths Lawn Polo, Queen's Cup

**Sunday 20th June:** Smiths Lawn Polo, Royal Windsor Cup

**Sunday 25th July:** Smiths Lawn Polo, Car-tier Championship

**Thursday 15th July:** Annual Dinner and Ladies Night at Armoury House

**Friday 20th August:** Tony Lomas demonstration (also 19th November)

**Saturday 9th October:** Uniformed Services Show, St John's Wood. The Light Cavalry have taken over responsibility for this event. If you would like to volunteer for the day please phone Capt. R. Howe (Reg) on : 01 344 620725

June 2004

Issue Number 8

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#### Flemish Farm

#### Contact details:

Manager & Instructor:

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## New Members

A very warm welcome to our new members who joined since the last issue:

Mona Andearson  
Sara Anderson  
Oliver Bean  
Susanna Burrows  
Rachel Harris  
Diane Mclvor  
Shinji Moroto  
Rae Scott  
Clare Russell  
John Wood

Also we would like to welcome members of the First Aid Nursing Yeomanry as our first affiliate unit. Their members completed a short riding course and had a "passing out" in May.



## Light Cavalry Driving Group

For those of you interested in the magnificent wagon now under cover at Flemish farm it is a GS wagon owned by John Butler, who has recently re-joined the HAC Light Cavalry. Since we have two horses—Greenwich and Concorde who go very well in harness it is proposed to form a group who wish to develop their driving skills.

I have included a picture of Roy Barwick and his team saluting the Queen on April 20th, to show you how it should be done and hopefully to whet your appetite for more!

There is already a small band of Light Cavalry members who have expressed enthusiasm. We have a good pool of knowledge about driving skill and this is a marvellous opportunity. If you would like to join in, please contact Capt. R. Howe (Reg) on 01 344 620725 for further information on when the group will meet.



Cpl. Barwick accompanied by Tpr. Cattermole in fine style

## Side Saddle

This magnificent picture of Sadie Hartley on Armada is enough to tempt the most obstinate air-chair rider back into the saddle! Nigel Armstrong-Flemming, a stalwart supporter and benefactor of the Light Cavalry, has kindly donated a cup and thrown down the challenge for a side-saddle competition. The date for this has yet to be fixed, but it has been suggested that the first competition comprise of team event between the Ladies of the Saddle Club and the Lady Associates of the Light Cavalry, each team to be of four riders, best three to count. The emphasis will be on turn out, dressage, style and pace and team co-ordination.

First of course we need to form a team and get some training in! On Friday 23rd July, Claire Lewis five times side-saddle rider of the year will be giving a lecture/demonstration at Flemish Farm. We would welcome riders of all levels who either aspire to these skills or wish to continue their instruction in side saddle. The long term aim is to re-introduce teams for musical rides from the ladies side-saddle and the Light Cavalry to give displays in the local area.

Please do come and join us at Flemish Farm on 23rd July. The time is 7pm for 7.30pm both ladies and gentlemen are welcome. The cost is £10 per person and includes a glass of wine or refreshments.

Please send a cheque made out to "Light Cavalry, HAC" and send it to :

Mrs Sadie Hartley, Naphill House, Hunts Hill Lane, Naphill, High Wycombe, Bucks HP 14 4RL



I would like to thank Fiona Charman for contributing this piece:

Whilst history focuses on the role of men and their horses in battle, the role of women in support of their men at war is less well documented.

Troops were often out of the country for years at a time and if women were kept out of the army altogether, few men would have enlisted. So it became common practice for the fairer sex to accompany their men on campaigns - Officers took their ladies, sergeants took their wives and troopers took their women!

As well as giving moral support, women acted as nurses, tending wounds and comforting the dying, they cleaned and maintained uniforms, cooked and in some cases, even advanced right into action on horseback with their men.

In the nineteenth century it became the vogue for la-

dies of senior officers to attend military exercises and observe battles from a carriage or horseback dressed in an outfit that closely resembled the uniform of their husbands. One particular campaign where the ladies adopted this fashion was the Crimea, a notable example being Mrs d'Arblay, a British officer's wife who followed him throughout the campaign appearing resplendent in a "copy" of his uniform on many occasions.

The outfit worn here is a reproduction of a riding habit of 1865 when the full long skirt together with tight fitting military style basque and top hat with encircling veiling was popular. During the period of 1860 – 1891 when the Light Cavalry was an active unit of the HAC It would not have been unheard of for ladies of officers of the Light Cavalry to have been seen wearing such a habit in tribute to their men. In common with many other light cavalry units, the uniform is based on that of the Hungarian Hussars.

## The Queen's Inspection

On Tuesday April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2004, HM The Queen, Captain General of the Honourable Artillery Company, inspected the Light Cavalry HAC and presented them with a Royal Warrant in recognition of their 25 years of service to the Crown.

The Parade took place amid tight security, on the practice polo pitch at Flemish Farm, with only a limited number of immediate family members present. The Gun Troop of the HAC Active Unit, the Company of Pikemen and Musketeers HAC, and the Special Constabulary HAC, supported the Light Cavalry for the occasion.

The Parade was under the command of the Officer Commanding the Light Cavalry, Major Roy Sanders.

The Colonel Commandant HAC, General Sir Timothy Granville-Chapman KCB CBE ADC Gen, the Regimental Colonel HAC, Col. George R. Clarke TD, and the Commanding Officer HAC, Lt .Col Simon Garrett TD, greeted the Queen upon her arrival from Windsor Castle in a Range Rover carrying the Royal Standard, a vehicle appropriate to the soft turf after the heavy rains prior to the day.

The Band of the Light Division stood in for the Band of the HAC who were away on other duties.

The Parade followed the format of the Trooping of the Colour ceremony at Horse Guards. The Light Cavalry Mounted Troop formed up in open order on the parade ground. The Dismounted Troop formed up either side of the Saluting Base facing the parade ground.

After the arrival of HM The Queen and the playing of the National Anthem, Her Majesty transferred to a barouche pulled by two greys with two Royal Coachmen. This barouche is known as a "victoria" and is named for Queen Victoria. This carriage is in fact the one that Queen Victoria used to review her troops. Her Majesty then inspected the Mounted and Dismounted Troops of the Light Cavalry. The Queen then stepped up to the Saluting Base to take the salutes comprising a walk past, trot past, and a canter past by the Mounted Troop all of which took place without mishap and in great style. The Light Cavalry Wagonette driven by Wagon Master Cpl. Roy Barwick and his Assistant Tpr. Cattermole also paraded and saluted.

Following the canter past and the re-formation of the Mounted Troop on the parade ground, the Dismounted Troop marched forward to join the Mounted Troop. At this point The Queen presented the Royal Warrant to the Colonel Commandant who received it on behalf of the Light Cavalry.

Both Troops of the Light Cavalry advanced to the saluting base in Review Order, Major Roy Sanders then received permission from The Queen to march off.

The Queen met the riders with six of Her horses that were on parade. The grooms and volunteers of the Saddle Club HAC then took these and the remaining horses in hand while the Light Cavalry assembled in the Marquee for a formal photograph with The Queen. This was followed by a champagne reception during which The Queen met Members of the Light Cavalry and their wives.

The Queen departed between two lines of the Light Cavalry to "Three Cheers for the Captain General". The Queen appeared delighted – the next day being her birthday.



Officer commanding the Light Cavalry, Major Roy Sanders leads the troops !



The Mounted and Dismounted Troops put on a show!



# Annual Dinner and Ladies Night

It's that time of year again ! **IT'S TIME TO PARTY!**

We would encourage everyone to please come to the Annual Dinner on July 15th. It's a great opportunity to put on your finery, meet fellow riders and have a really good natter about things equine !

Do bring your "significant other" and possibly some friends who would enjoy the opportunity to experience the pomp and circumstance of visiting the Regimental Headquarters of one of the oldest regiments in the country.

Security is tight so we do ask everyone to bring id. Dress code is important! Since this always raises the most questions: most ladies wear long or three quarter length evening dresses. Some, usually those that can turn a fine fetlock, venture shorter but still maintain high mega-watt glamour! (Men have it easy, if they don't have mess-dress they should wear black tie!)

NB: At dinner there is to be no smoking before the loyal toast. Please advise your guests.



To : SQMS D. Jeffcoat, Frensham Hall, Woolmer Hill, Shottermill, Haslemere, Surrey GU27 1QA

Please let me have \_\_\_\_\_ tickets at £48.50 each for the Annual Dinner and Ladies Night at Armoury House, 7.15pm for 7.45pm in the Long Room on 15th July 2004.

DRESS : Mess kit or dinner jacket for gentlemen; ladies equivalent.

Tickets: £ \_\_\_\_\_

Donation to Flemish Farm Staff Fund £ \_\_\_\_\_

Total £ \_\_\_\_\_

From: .....

Address: .....

.....

Telephone Number: .....

Guests (please include rank/decorations): .....

.....

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Special dietary requirements: .....

.....

I enclose a cheque for £ \_\_\_\_\_ payable to Light Cavalry HAC