

# From the Horse's Mouth



A Newsletter for the Supporting Riders of the Light Cavalry HAC

November 2007

## Stable Notes

Welcome to our new riders and hello again to all the supporting riders! With the help of Fiona Charman, I am hoping to produce a newsletter each month to help spread the news about the Honourable Artillery Company, the Light Cavalry HAC, and events and activities at Flemish Farm.

First, the news on Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD). On going to press, the last known outbreak of FMD occurred on 1st October. On 21st October DEFRA changed the status of its control zones, unfortunately, Flemish Farm is still within the surveillance zone and our restrictions continue. Thus we are still operating under strict rules and may not take our horses out of a carefully designated area. The Windsor Estate, (of which Flemish Farm is a part) will be doing everything possible to protect their herds of rare breed cattle and the large population of deer and therefore your co-operation is essential. For full information on FMD and Blue Tongue please consult the DEFRA website. Fortunately the Supporting Riders still have access to Flemish Farm and riding lessons are taking place in the indoor school. The horses are coping surprisingly well in the circumstances and there are a variety of lessons and activities for them and us to enjoy, including flat-work, show-jumping, military equitation and skill at arms. As soon as DEFRA lift their restrictions you will be alerted by e-mail.

We would like to send a welcome to two groups of riders who have recently started riding at Flemish Farm. The Horse Rangers have started riding on Monday evenings and Wellington College, who are learning military equitation on Wednesday afternoons.

As for our horses: Denzil is finally coming back into work after a long period of lameness. He received a further set-back last month with a puncture wound to his leg caused by larking about in the field. I hear from Kerri that the first time he was ridden it was a bit hairy. He was full of beans and decided to show everyone he could still reach Mach 10 if he felt like it! As for Amos who has also been out of work for some time, the vet has diagnosed "kissing spines", which is a condition where two vertebrae are too close together causing pain and discomfort often manifested by bucking or not being able to canter very well. This will require careful maintenance, but lovers of the "hairy footed one" will be pleased to learn that he is back in work. Also, we must congratulate Vincent Savolainen on becoming the adopted father of Larry, if you also would like to loan a horse at Flemish Farm please contact Caroline for further details.

Finally, we love photographs! Please send any photographs you have of your riding activities, particularly if they are of our horses and we will print them in a "Hello!" section at the back of the next newsletter.

## Contact Details : Flemish Farm

**Manager and Chief Instructor**  
Caroline Quested

Louise Brown  
Kerri Cox

**Military Instructors**  
Paul Allison

**Newsletter Editor:**  
Kate Robinson and Fiona Charman  
mrsrw1h@yahoo.co.uk

**Tel:** 01753 622291  
**Website:** [www.lchac.org.uk](http://www.lchac.org.uk)

## Forthcoming Events: 2007

### NOVEMBER

#### **Saturday, 10th November : Lord Mayor's Show**

Please see the article on page 3 for full details. The Lord Mayor's show is free and is a wonderful parade of pageantry and performance. Just consult the website [www.lordmayorsshow.org](http://www.lordmayorsshow.org) and work out a good place to stand. Don't miss the fireworks at 5pm and be sure to give a cheer as the HAC, the Pikemen and (of course!) the Light Cavalry go by.

### DECEMBER

#### **Saturday 8th December : Light Cavalry Christmas Party at the Bisley Hut**

For those who have not attended a Christmas Party at the Bisley Hut perhaps I'd better give you some background. Bisley in Surrey is the "premier shooting centre" in the UK. A number of rifle associations are based there and, as a consequence, the army uses the facilities extensively. The Honourable Artillery Company's shooting pavilion or clubhouse at Bisley Camp near Brookwood in Surrey is familiarly known to members of the Company as 'The Bisley Hut'. The pavilion was built in 1928 on land leased from the National Rifle Association. Replacing a far less grand building that had been purchased by the HAC in 1904, it was designed by the architect Burrough De Carle Jackson (1889-1968), who had served with the Company during the First World War. The HAC pavilion is considered by many to be one of the finest buildings at Bisley Camp. The Christmas Party starts with mulled wine, is followed by a traditional Christmas dinner, which in turn is followed by toasts and sometimes the odd song or recitation. It is a wonderful opportunity to dress up and meet riding friends in a convivial atmosphere. The cost is £38 per person and application form can be found on page 4. Please book early to avoid disappointment.

#### **Sunday 23rd December Christmas Show**

It is time to show off all that hard work you have been putting in during your lessons this Autumn!

The show will comprise: two clear round show-jumping competitions, one with two foot jumps the other at three; there will be a top score competition with jumps at varying heights; a musical ride and pony club games. To sign up there is a sheet on the notice-board in the office at Flemish Farm or call Caroline, Louise or Kerri. Do invite friends and family to come and watch. It would be wonderful if you would also contribute some food to share but please let Caroline know what you are bringing so we don't end up with 500 mince pies!

## Honourable Artillery Company

The Honourable Artillery Company was incorporated by Royal Charter in 1537 by King Henry VIII. Regiments of the Company have fought with distinction in both World Wars and its current Regiment, which forms part of the Territorial Army, has a demanding and exciting role. The HAC Regiment, which is part of the Allied Command Europe Rapid Reaction Corps, has had some 85 of its officers and soldiers mobilised for operations in Iraq over the last 2 years. The Regiment also provides Guards of Honour for members of the Royal Family and for visiting Heads of State or Commonwealth Prime Ministers who visit the City. There are normally two State Visits per year and on each occasion the Lord Mayor holds a banquet in the visitor's honour. In 1924, when the regular detachment from the Royal Artillery stationed at HM Tower of London was disbanded, the HAC took over the task of firing the salutes from this Royal Fortress.

When members of the HAC Regiment have completed their term of service with the Territorial Army but wish, in some way, to continue to serve in an organisation of a military character they have the option, provided they remain as members of the Company, to join the Company of Pikemen & Musketeers or the Light Cavalry. The Light Cavalry is a voluntary, unpaid ceremonial unit of the Company. It was formed in 1979 and 25 years later received a Royal Warrant from HM The Queen. The Light Cavalry differs from the Pikemen & Musketeers in that it is open to persons either actively serving, or who have previously served, in the armed forces, as well as Veteran members of the Company. The Light Cavalry fulfils a ceremonial role with the added glamour of mounted soldiers.

However the Light Cavalry believe that their primary role is to recruit into and support the HAC Regiment, that is, those soldiers actively serving in the Territorial Army. If you or a friend or family member have an interest in joining the Regiment please telephone Reg Howe, Officer Commanding the Light Cavalry Honourable Artillery Company on : 07708494018, [reg@brookhouse25.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:reg@brookhouse25.fsnet.co.uk)

Information for this article has been taken directly from the HAC website : <http://www.hac.org.uk>

## The Lord Mayor's Show 2007

This year the Lord Mayor's Show is on 10th November and begins at 11am at Mansion House in the City of London. For full information and advice please consult [www.lordmayorsshow.org](http://www.lordmayorsshow.org).

The Lord Mayor's Show is the most important event in the Light Cavalry's calendar. Traditionally the Light Cavalry HAC forms the escort to the Lady Mayoress in the parade. In years without FMD, we turn out between 20-25 horses to escort the Lady Mayoress's carriage and the dismounted troop form a guard at the Law Courts to welcome the dignitaries when they halt for lunch. The Lady Mayoress this year is Theresa Lewis who was introduced to her escort (the Light Cavalry) at our Ladies Night dinner in July.

Because of FMD restrictions, this year the plan is to provide an escort of 6 cavalymen on foot to escort the carriage, with 4 privately owned horses (who are not subject to FMD restrictions) following behind the coach.

The Lord Mayor's show is also the time when most of the Supporting Riders get together to volunteer to help get the Light Cavalry's show on the road!. This can mean anything from the those stalwart men and women who get the horses groomed and boxed up at 5.30 in the morning in Windsor, to the waiting masses of volunteers at Armoury House. Once the tacking up and mounting up is completed here, it is a mad dash for the Law Courts where the Light Cavalry dismount to give the horses a break. Then it is another dash, back to Armoury House to meet the horses, untack them, load horses and equipment back onto the boxes for the long ride back to Flemish Farm. As a past volunteer, I can affirm that while it is hard work, (which can be stressful at times! - and sometimes unglamorous as I can attest, as a past wielder of the shovel and bucket!), it is a great day and there is a sense of pride and achievement especially in our very clever and brave horses!

It will be sad to miss the event this year, but to all the volunteers, I look forward to seeing you at the Polo Guards next Spring/Summer or at the Lord Mayor's Show 2008!

**You can have my boyfriend, But stay away from my horse.**  
(a wise woman)



## Clare Russell's Teaching Programme

Clare Russell has been holding a number of three week courses at Flemish Farm this Autumn. The first was **Beginning Schooling** which covered how to warm your horse up and how to bring them to work in an outline. Both Sam and Nicole who signed up for this course worked extremely hard and Clare tells me that they well deserved the excellent results they achieved with Richard and Ebony.

The **Gymnastic Jumping** course began on Saturday 20th October , and so far there has only been one lesson in which Pam and Louise rode Oz and Guinness. They started on jumping grids and apparently both riders got their horses energised and engaged. Well Done!

Clare has two further three week courses in the pipe-line : a **Beginners Jumping** and **Indoor Cross Country**. Clare assures me that she will not be cutting down any trees or digging a water-jump in the indoor school for the Cross Country course. Apparently it is technique that is key!

All the courses are held on Sunday afternoon and if you would like to sign up for these two new courses (Beginners Jumping and Indoor Cross Country) please telephone Flemish Farm . The price for a set of 3 lessons is £75 and sound to me like an excellent Christmas present!

# Application for the Light Cavalry HAC Christmas Party : Saturday 8th December 2007

We would encourage everyone reading this to sign up as soon as possible to the Light Cavalry HAC Christmas Party at the Bisley Hut. Family and friends are most welcome.

Ladies (who are not serving members of the Armed Forces and therefore do not have Mess Dress), regularly ask what they should wear on these occasions. My best advice is long evening dress although cocktail dresses pass muster! As it is December I would also advise taking a wrap for inside and a warm coat for arriving and leaving.

For those wishing to provide short entertainment (poems, songs, etc) please telephone master of ceremonies Rennie Simon on 01 304 823 686

Please arrive at 7.00 for 7.30 (carriages between 11pm and 11.30pm)

## DIRECTIONS:

### By Car

The Post Code is : GU24 0NY

a map can be printed from the HAC website :

<http://www.hac.org.uk/html/corporate-private-events-venue/venues-at-the-hac/hac-shooting-lodge-bisley/getting-to-the-hac-shooting-lodge/>

From London take the M3 south (or the M25 to the M3), take exit 3 towards Guildford (A322) and follow signs to Bisley. Turn right onto Queens Road and then right into Kingsway at the National Rifle Association (NRA) ground. Once on the grounds, turn left into Elcho Road and follow road to the HAC Shooting Lodge on the left. There is plentiful free parking at the Lodge

### By Rail

The closest station is Brookwood Station which is on London Waterloo main line Taxis are generally available at station.



To : Rennie Simon Coleman's Cottage, West Langdon, Kent CT15 5HQ

To be held at the Bisley Hut, (address) on Saturday 8th December 7.00pm for 7.30pm. Dress is Mess Kit, Black tie and commensurate for ladies

Please reserve (...) places at £38 per head including wines for the Light Cavalry Ladies Night Dinner.

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

.....

.....

.....

From: ..... Tel No.....

I enclose a cheque made out to **Light Cavalry HAC** for £.....







Reg's Angels!



Charles and Bleu  
take the field