

# From the Horse's Mouth



A Newsletter for the Supporting Riders of the Light Cavalry HAC

December 2007

## Stable Notes

Merry Christmas one and all! The season of merriment also brings with it short days and long cold nights which are a challenge not only for horse and rider but particularly for the hard working staff at Flemish Farm. Caroline, Kerri, Louise, Kirsty and little Kirsty do a magnificent job and I hope that all readers of this will join us to thank them for all their hard work and dedication over the past year. If you wish to contribute to the Flemish Farm staff fund please send a cheque made out to Light Cavalry HAC and referenced "Staff Christmas Fund" to Christopher Robinson, Chairman, Flemish Farm Management Committee, Suite B, 15 Portman Square, London W1H 6LJ.

Also we want to advise you that Danny Kendall, of the Household Cavalry, who has been teaching at Flemish Farm for over three years, now takes our military equitation lessons every Thursday evening. This comprises two classes: the 7.30 class which is skill at arms, and the 8.30 class which is more general military equitation skills. Although these sessions are aimed at members of the Light Cavalry, please do speak with Caroline if you would like to attend either class.

Now that the threat of F&M has receded and we are allowed back in the Park again, it is worthwhile reviewing some key points of etiquette. **Riding in Windsor Great Park is a privilege and not a right.** When in the Park you are representing the Light Cavalry and the Honourable Artillery Company. This means you should be dressed smartly and your horse well groomed (by you!).

- Park rules are to be obeyed and you should familiarise yourself with them before leaving. Obey signs, do not ride on the verges and keep to the horse tracks.
- Safety First. Take a mobile phone with you—with the stables number programmed in. If weather conditions are bad, for example; darkness, ice, fog or rain, curtail your ride. The safety of you and your horse is paramount. Slow down around other horses and pedestrians. All riders are required to wear high visibility safety vests.
- The fastest pace allowed in the Park is a **hand canter**. Your job is to exercise your horse responsibly. Allow time for your horse to warm up. On the way back, allow your horse to cool down, take a slow walk and allow the horse to stretch his neck.
- Keep an eye on the time. It is unfair on the horse, other riders and our stable staff to arrive back late. Your carelessness may mean your horse has to go without food or is too tired for his next rider. Do not leave your horse dirty or sweaty, always check his feet for stones and ask advice about how many rugs should be put on the horse afterwards. Leave your tack in a condition that you would like to find it.
- Remember your manners! Drivers who slow their cars for you should be thanked. Say good-morning to other riders and acknowledge foot pedestrians who get out of your way or leash their dogs.

It is a special privilege to be allowed to ride in the Park and your cooperation will ensure that all Supporting Riders of the Light Cavalry HAC will be able to continue to do so.

## Contact Details : Flemish Farm

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## Forthcoming Events: 2007

### 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 and is dedicated to those HAC men who fell in that conflict. 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.

#### **Wednesday 11th December: The Worshipful Company of Farriers Carol Service at St Stephen's, Walbrook**

The service starts at 6pm and any member of the supporting riders who works in central London would be most welcome to attend. The Farriers have organised refreshments afterwards (at a cost of £12 per head). If you wish to participate in refreshments please contact the editor on [mrsrw1h@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:mrsrw1h@yahoo.co.uk) and I will let you know further details. The Farriers Company is affiliated with the Light Cavalry and you will meet some familiar faces yodelling in the pews!

#### **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! Fiona Charman will be running a raffle and will be selling the first edition of the HAC Light Cavalry calendar. All proceeds will go towards the keep of our horses.

Who among us has not as a child asked Santa Claus to bring us a pony on Christmas Day?  
(a wistful woman)



## Honourable Artillery Company



The Coat of Arms of the Company is a Shield of Arms, Helm, Mantling and Crest, with, as Supporters, a Pikeman and a Musketeer and the motto 'Arma Pacis Fulcra'. Unlike other Regiments of the British Army, the HAC is incorporated and is therefore eligible to bear and use a Coat of Arms. The Grant of Arms, Crest and Supporters to the Company are believed to date from *circa* 1615 and the Coat of Arms appear as the frontispiece to a military manual published in 1629. In 1821 the Company received a formal grant to bear Arms from the King of Arms.

The motto of the HAC is 'Arma Pacis Fulcra', which can be loosely translated as 'Armed Strength for Peace'. It has probably been in use for at least three hundred years and can be seen on the earliest known reproduction of the Coat of Arms of the Company.

Armoury House in Finsbury, just north of the City of London and near to Old Street and Moorgate stations, has been the home of the Honourable Artillery Company since the central block was completed in 1735 on land the Company acquired in 1641. It is a Grade II\* listed building of special historic interest.  
(taken from [www.hac.org.uk](http://www.hac.org.uk))

## The Uniformed Services Show 2007

The Uniformed Services Show, a show-jumping competition organised by the Light Cavalry HAC, was first held in 1977 to celebrate Her Majesty's Silver Jubilee. The show was so successful that the event was repeated in 1978, 1979 and has carried on ever since. Only one year has been missed, 2002, when the King's Troop Head Quarters was turned into a fire station. Over the years the show has attracted competitors from the Armed Forces of France, Belgium, the Netherlands, Germany, Oman, Argentina, Brazil, the USA and Canada as well as competitors from the UK representing many units of our armed forces protecting Air, Land and Sea. This year we were honoured by a visit from a team representing the President's Body Guard of the Republic of India. They did very well coming 2<sup>nd</sup> out of 14 teams in the team competition, this was just behind a combined Gunner/Yeomanry Team made up of members of the Royal Horse Artillery and the First Aid Nursing Yeomanry. One of the members of the Indian team, Sajjan Kumar, was outright winner of the fault- and-out competition.

Once again, the friendly family atmosphere of the show prevailed. Indeed, at the dinner afterwards, held at Armoury House in the Long Room, Colonel Dominique Henerick of the French Reserve Forces, said that of all the units that took part that day the clear winner was friendship. Our Indian friends most generously presented a breath-taking sculpture to the Light Cavalry of a Sikh lancer at full tilt. This sculpture was inspired by a painting of a Sikh Lancer in action with the Allies in France during World War 1 and reminds everyone of the strong bond that exists between the UK and our equestrian brothers/sisters in India.



Reg Howe, Officer Commanding, Light Cavalry HAC, accepts the magnificent table-piece from Colonel Ali Adil Mahmoud, team captain and Commandant, The President's Bodyguard, India

This photograph was taken by Graham Ivory, Ivory Images. Phone 01737 763708, email [ivoryimages@aol.com](mailto:ivoryimages@aol.com), website [www.ivoryimages.com](http://www.ivoryimages.com). Please look at [www.lchac.org.uk](http://www.lchac.org.uk) for further photos taken on the day.

The sculpture now resides at the new Light Cavalry premises at Armoury House and will be on show at the next drinks party which is planned for 2008. Also on show at that event will be a painting of HRH the Princess Royal taking part in a charity race at Epsom recently presented to the Light Cavalry on loan by the Worshipful Company of Farriers.

# 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)

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

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





**Our boys strut their stuff at Cartier Polo :**

- Christopher Robinson working hard at PR
- Ashish Singh on Sox sits tall
- Charles Gillow on Bleu leaving Flemish Farm



These photographs was taken by Peter Zanata,  
Please look at [www.Lchac.org.uk](http://www.Lchac.org.uk) for further photos taken on the day.