

From the Horse's Mouth



A Newsletter for the Supporting Riders of the Light Cavalry HAC

February 2008

Stable Notes

Hello again and welcome to our new Supporting Riders!

Message from Reg Howe, Officer Commanding Light Cavalry HAC,

STAFF CHRISTMAS FUND

I have received letters of thanks from Caroline, Kerri and Louise thanking those members of the Light Cavalry and Supporting Riders who contributed to our Staff Christmas Fund. All three of our ladies were delighted to receive these very welcome monetary gifts which, they assure me, have been put to very good use. May I add my acknowledgement of this generosity on the part of our members and Supporting Riders and also note that many of the contributions came from our Dis-mounted Troop.

We are happy to announce that there will be a combined training day which involves a dressage and jumping competition on Sunday 2nd of March starting at 10am. Please reserve your place by calling the Flemish Farm stables. Do also invite friends and family to come and watch and cheer you on!

To help you prepare for this event, Clare Russell has kindly agreed to put on two new group courses comprising one lesson a week for three weeks. The two courses will commence on Saturday February 16th. The jumping course 'Jumping Clear' will be at 2pm and 'Planning and Riding a good Dressage test' at 3pm. These are likely to be extremely popular, so I would advise riders to sign up for these as soon as possible. The cost to Supporting Riders is £75 for three lessons.

Finally, please note that **the Drinks Party/Slide Show at Armoury House on the 29th February has had to be postponed.** We will let you know the new date as soon as we can arrange one.

Contact Details : Flemish Farm

Manager and Chief Instructor

Caroline Quested

Louise Brown

Kerri Cox

Military Instructors

Paul Allison

Danny Kendall

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Forthcoming Events: 2008

February

29th February : Drinks Party and slide show at Armoury House: **POSTPONED**

March

2nd March : Combined Training Day

23rd March: Windsor Park Equestrian Club Training Day

April

17th-20th April: Annual Camp at Flemish Farm.

May

4-5th May : Chiltern Open Air Museum: Skill at Arms Display

8th-11th May: Royal Windsor Horse Show

11th May: Skill at Arms display Ampton Race course

20th May : HAC Open Evening: 5.30-8pm at Armoury House, City Road, London

TBC John Palmer Cup and Pyramid Trophy (either May or June)

June

15th June Queens Cup at Smiths Lawn Polo

22nd June Royal Windsor Cup Polo Guard Smiths Lawn

July

27th July : Cartier Polo

There is nothing like a rattling ride for curing melancholy!

- Pared



A plea for photos and submissions!



The Supporting Riders of the Light Cavalry HAC are an interesting bunch (and in most cases could not be accused of being shy or bashful either!) I know that many of you have equestrian stories and experiences which would be of great interest to fellow Supporting riders. Even if you are not a budding journalist I know that a picture of any of our horses (no matter how out-of-focus) is always welcome. We will happily print all (legal) material! Please send this to me, Kate Robinson at mrsrw1h@yahoo.co.uk.

In the meantime, for all Ebony lovers, here is a picture of her taken before her participation in the Combined Training Day last year with her proud owner -(the editor!)

Combined Training Day— Advice

The Combined Training Day on Sunday March 2nd will start at 10am and usually goes on to about 2-3pm in the afternoon depending on the availability of horses and the number of competitors. The competition involves two dressage classes (Preliminary and Novice) and two jumping classes with jumps at 2feet and 3feet high). Caroline will shortly announce by email which dressage tests will be used, and a notice will go up at Flemish Farm. If you are not sure which tests to enter please ask Caroline's advice.

The winner of the competition is determined by adding together the combined scores of your dressage and jumping tests. If jumping or dressage is not your forte, you are welcome just to enter yourself for just one section.

Once you have entered to compete, and we would encourage everyone to have-a-go!, Caroline will advise you of your timings. She will try to accommodate any timing constraints you have. Please arrive at least half an hour before you are due to ride as you will need to groom and tack up your horse. If you need any help do ask either one of the Flemish Farm staff or a friendly Supporting rider as they will be happy to assist! After your dressage test or jumping round please return your horse to the correct stable, untack and replace their rugs as advised by the Flemish Farm staff.

You will be given some time before competing to warm your horse up in the school. Although smartness of dress does not win you any extra points, most people wear a hacking jacket, shirt and tie and boots. For the jumping rounds, you are encouraged to wear a body protector. The editor would advise that you take some time to learn the dressage test. You may have the course read out to you as you do the test— if you wish. Booking some lessons with Caroline or Clare to work through some of the trickier transitions would obviously be a bonus.

As there are usually a number of friends and family who come to watch, we would encourage you to bring along some food and drink. We usually lay out a table and fill the large hot water urn so that all can share in tea and coffee and other food that people may bring along. Do encourage your own family and friends to come and cheer you on. There is no cost to come and watch!

Finally may I wish everyone a fun and safe day—and of course, the very best of luck!

Traditions of the Honourable Artillery Company



Right To Bear Arms In The City Of London:

The HAC is one of several regiments that enjoys the privilege of marching through the City of London with drums beating, colours flying and bayonets fixed. The custom dates from the 17th Century or earlier and was intended to encourage recruitment. It was formally confirmed by the Lord Mayor of London as a regimental privilege in 1924.

Regimental Fire (The Toast):

When toasting or cheering another member of the Company, members are accustomed to give 'Regimental Fire'. This takes the form of a ninefold shout of the word Zay accompanied by sideways movements of the right hand culminating in an upward movement on the last and loudest shout. The origin is unknown but it is thought that it might stem from the movements required to ignite a grenade or from 18th Century toast drinking. Another interpretation is that, in times gone by, three cheers (or "zays") were given for good chaps. If anyone was a particularly good chap, which all members of the HAC undoubtedly are, they were given 3 times 3 cheers; hence 9 "zays". Guests who are not members of the Company are toasted with Silent Fire; here the first 8 "zays" are silent with a shout only on the 9th.

(Source: www.hac.org.uk)

Denzil makes the National Head-lines!

Denzil made national head-lines this week (28th January) by managing to set off the fire alarm at Flemish Farm . This wildly inaccurate report is re-produced from the Sun's "Cyber Court Circular", by Jamie Pyatt

Blaze alert by Queen's horse



Denzil.... alarm

FIRE engines raced to stables housing the Queen's polo ponies after an alarm was set off – by one of her horses.

Officers had feared a repeat of a £300,000 inferno which destroyed the buildings in 1996. But when fire-fighters arrived they found retired Army horse Denzil banging his head against the alarm. He had reached over his stable door, broken the glass window and activated the emergency button.

Flemish Farm, near Windsor Castle in Berkshire, is leased from the Queen by the Guards Polo Club. The buildings were rebuilt at a cost of £300,000 after burning down 11 years ago. The disaster came four years after a £42million blaze at the Castle.

A royal insider said: "Denzil will still get his sugar lumps – he was only being playful.

"The Queen would have been most relieved that on this occasion it was only a false alarm."

Denzil, formerly part of Kings Troop of the Royal Artillery, has performed ceremonial duties and is now used to train soldiers to ride.

The alarm is to be resited.

