

From the Horse's Mouth



A Newsletter for the Supporting Riders of the Light Cavalry HAC

March 2008

Stable Notes

Hello again and welcome to new Supporting Riders.

We are happy to report that all the horses continue in good health. However, Guinness is on light duties because of back issues. Caroline is keen to find a good rider who might wish to loan or part-loan Amos. This is important, as Amos is not a horse for an inexperienced rider and therefore it is difficult for him to earn his keep at Flemish Farm. It is hard when commercial decisions have to override your attachment for a horse, but it may well be that Amos falls into the "use him or lose him" category. On the plus side, Caroline has found another rider who is willing to share some of the loaner costs. So, if you would like to consider a part-loan of a wonderful horse please contact Caroline directly.

The date of the John Palmer Cup and Pyramid Trophy competition has been announced. It will be held at Flemish Farm on Sunday 13th April. More details overleaf.

As I write eight members of the Light Cavalry HAC are visiting India as guests of The President's Bodyguard in Delhi. Regular readers of The Horse's Mouth will remember that several members of that regiment visited England to participate in the Uniformed Services Show in October. The Uniformed Services Show is a show-jumping competition held annually at the King's Troop barracks in St John's Wood and is organised by the Light Cavalry HAC. The next issue of the Horse's Mouth should contain a report on this visit.

Finally, a plea to all Supporting Riders: the standard of grooming and tacking up could be much improved. All riders are reminded that it is your job to groom and tack up your horse. When you make your plans to ride, please arrive in sufficient time to prepare your horse. If you do not know where the grooming equipment is or what tack to use please ask a member of staff or another Supporting Rider. It is not the job of the staff to prepare your horse but they will be most happy to provide advice and assist where necessary. If you have invited friends to ride, please make sure that they prepare their horse to a standard befitting a premier military establishment!

Contact Details : Flemish Farm

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Forthcoming Events: 2008

March

16th March Light Cavalry Troop Hack will restrict horse availability for Supporting Riders

23rd March: Windsor Park Equestrian Club Training Day

April

13th April John Palmer Cup and Pyramid Trophy

17th-20th April: Annual Light Cavalry Camp at Flemish Farm. Horse availability will be restricted for Supporting Riders on 19th and 20th April

May

4-5th May : Chiltern 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 Armoury House

June

15th June Queens Cup at Smiths Lawn Polo

22nd June Royal Windsor Cup Polo Guard Smiths Lawn

July

24th July: Annual Light Cavalry Dinner at Armoury House

27th July : Cartier Polo

Why is it that a woman will ignore homicidal tendencies in a horse, but will be furious at a man for leaving a toilet seat up?

(a perplexed man)



John Palmer Cup and Pyramid Trophy

Well now you know the dressage tests (Prelim 1 and Novice 25) and have dusted off that show jacket, it's time to read those comments from the judge and get practicing for the John Palmer Cup and Pyramid Trophy Competition on 13th April. The format of the competition is the same as the Combined Training Day except there are no combined scores—just winners of the dressage and jumping competitions. The Pyramid trophy can only be won by the highest placed HAC Saddle Club associate member—but that does not mean that the Supporting Riders of the Light Cavalry should not aim for the ribbons!

The history of the trophies are as follows. The John Palmer Cup was presented by the late John Palmer, Saddle Club member and the first Serjeant Major of the Light Cavalry. He was a keen horseman until an injury stopped him from continuing. He died a couple of years ago and the Light Cavalry formed a Guard of Honour at his memorial service in Surrey. When the Light Cavalry premises are completed, in Armoury House, John's sister Margaret (a portrait artist) will present a portrait she did of John to the Light Cavalry.

The Pyramid Trophy was presented to the Saddle Club in 1979 by Reg Howe, (Officer Commanding Light Cavalry HAC), to mark the end of his Saddle Club chairmanship. This trophy is a "sister trophy" to the Sphinx Trophy. The Sphinx is presented each year at the end of the King's Troop Ride to a member of the HAC. No doubt the crossword compilers amongst us are spotting a link between sphinx and pyramid!

Combined Training Day

Well done to everyone who participated or competed on Sunday March 2nd at the Combined Training Day. There are so many people to thank for making it such a fun day. Special thanks to Caroline and her team for organising the event, providing the preparatory teaching and for patiently listening to all the pre-show nerves! . Also thanks to our judge Sarah and her scorer Beverley Cressman who worked so hard on the day. Fiona Charman did an excellent job organising the raffle and the delicious barbequed food. All the money collected on the day goes directly to the care of our horses and I am happy to announce that over £53 was raised. Also, who could forget the beautiful Sofia (aged 4yrs) who gave out the rosettes and curtsied at each presentation! We are happy to report that there was only one faller on the day—and he sustained no injuries.

The Dressage results are as follows :

Prelim Dressage

- 1st Ashish on Sox
- 2nd Annie on Sox
- 3rd Robin on Sox

Novice Dressage

- 1st Annie on Sox
- 2nd Fiona on Shirley
- 3rd John on Richard

The Combined Dressage/Jumping scores are as follows:

Prelim Combined

- 1st Annie on Sox
- 2nd Ashish on Sox
- 3rd Mike on Bleu

Novice Combined

- 1st Annie on Sox
- 2nd Fiona on Shirley
- 3rd Debbie on Hattie



Annie on Sox

There was a really friendly spirit at the event and a special well done to any riders who had never competed before. We would encourage everyone to participate in the next competition on April 13th, as you learn so much from the comments of the judge and you get such a great sense of accomplishment when it is all over!

At the show David Court of CourtonCamera, a professional wedding photographer took many pictures. Debbie Pengelly has a CD of these photographs and we are trying to figure out the best way that they can be viewed. Overleaf a taster of his photographs.

Calling all Volunteers!

We need your help! Are you available to help at the Polo Guards on either 15th, or 22nd June or 27th July? The help that is required is that you will be available for the day to groom a horse, tack it up in military tack, help look after the horses at Smith's Lawn and then help untack the horses on their return to Flemish Farm. (No riding is required). Those who have "done a Polo Guard" before can reassure you that there is a great team spirit amongst the helpers - and it is quite fun to be at Smith's Lawn as one of the insiders instead of the paying public. Caroline will organise some free instruction on how to put on the military tack in the months preceding the events. At this stage, it would be useful for her to know if and which days you could make yourself available. Please email Caroline at haclc@aol.com.

Combined Training Day

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