

From the Horse's Mouth



A Newsletter for the Supporting Riders of the Light Cavalry HAC

March 2009

Stable Notes

Hello again and welcome to our new Supporting Riders!

All the horses are well and thriving. Bleu has been brought slowly back into work and is looking extremely happy on it. Spring is on its way and, as anyone who has groomed our horses recently will know, they are shedding! The early Spring days are an excellent opportunity to get out into the Park for a hack. We have included on page 2 some guidelines for your behaviour in the Park to remind you of how to have a happy and safe time.

The efforts to find sponsors and donors for the re-surfacing of the indoor school have been progressing well. We are happy to report that, so far £13,500 has been pledged. We have received two very generous donations from the Lord Mayor of London and the HAC Saddle Club. This leaves only £5,000 yet to find. If anyone would like to make a donation this should be sent to the Officer Commanding HAC LC, Reg Howe at West Kidland Farm, Ash Mill, South Molton, Devon, EX36 4QU (cheques made payable to Light Cavalry HAC). Once the fund raising has been completed, the Light Cavalry will put up a board in the school listing all donors. If anyone has a bright idea about generating money for this excellent cause let us know!

We are also pleased to report that a lot of practising has been going on in preparation for the Combined Training Day on 22nd March. As the day approaches we anticipate there will be quite some pressure for school/teaching space at the weekends—so please book early to avoid disappointment. Also, if you have not yet signed up to compete—don't delay! To enter simply enter your name on the sheet on the office notice board at Flemish Farm. If you can't get there in person then please call Caroline to get your name down. We have included the details on the show that were in the last issue—which will give you all the information (confidence?) you need to compete.

As you may know, the Light Cavalry HAC has a close relationship with Bearwood College. Our own Catherine Smith is their CCF officer and they hold a cavalry course at Flemish Farm annually. At their annual NCO's dinner on February 27th they presented Reg Howe (Officer Commanding Light Cavalry HAC) with a token of goodwill in the form of a beautiful horse rug decorated with the Bearwood coat of arms. Reg, of course, was delighted to accept such a generous gift, as I'm sure will be the lucky horse who will use it through the cool Spring weather!

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Forthcoming Events: 2009

March

22nd Combined Training Day at Flemish Farm

April

24/25/26th Military Camp : the horses will not be available for lessons or rides to Supporting Riders on these days

May

10th John Palmer and Pyramid Trophy at Flemish Farm

19th HAC Open Day at Armoury House

June

14th Queens Cup Polo, Smiths Lawn : Light Cavalry HAC on Parade

21st Royal Windsor Cup, Smiths Lawn : Light Cavalry HAC on Parade

July

23rd Light Cavalry Annual Dinner

26th Cartier Polo, Smiths Lawn : Light Cavalry HAC on Parade

**All I pay my psychiatrist is the cost of feed and hay,
and he'll listen to me any day. ~Author Unknown**



Guidelines for Hacking in Windsor Great Park

Hacking in the Great Park is a privilege not a right.

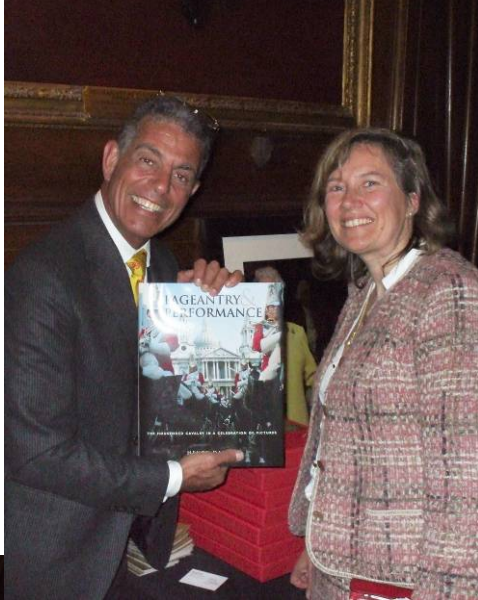
This privilege may be revoked at any time owing to poor behaviour by anyone at Flemish Farm.

1. Obey the signs: As you enter the Park there is a white sign indicating whether you should keep to the roads and tracks only or if the whole Park is open.
2. Obey the wardens: If a warden directs you to take a certain route or action—this is not optional!
3. Do not ride on the mown verges. (They belong to the Queen and she likes to see them looking pristine!)
4. The fastest pace allowed is a hand canter. If you are caught galloping you will be fined £60.
5. Approach other horses (from the front or the rear) at the walk. If you wish to overtake other horses ask permission first.—Never trot or canter towards or away from other horses
6. Be polite to and patient with other users of the Park. Leave a lot of space between yourself and pedestrians—particularly the elderly, children or babies in prams/strollers. Thank motorists who slow down for your horse. Slow down and give a lot of space to deer.
7. Always slow down if there are people on the horse track—even if you “legally” have right of way.
8. No jumping is permitted in the Park
9. Take your mobile with you—make sure you have the Flemish Farm number programmed in. Change the ring-tone to silent. Do not take calls on your mobile while riding.
10. DRESS : When you are out in the Park you are representing the Light Cavalry. Please dress smartly. Long boots, pale jodhpurs, hacking jacket, shirt and tie are the preferred dress. Ladies' hair should be tied back or in a hair net. From a safety aspect you must wear a safety helmet to the current safety standard, European/ British (EN) and PAS 015 and you may also wish to wear a body protector. Bare arms, wellington boots and jeans are not acceptable wear in the Park.

Finally, (and not least) your horse should be well groomed before setting out into the Park! Exercise him responsibly and on your return allow plenty of time for him to cool down and relax.

Supporting Riders' Drinks Party: February 5th, 2009

It was lovely to see so many people at the Supporting Riders' drinks party in February. We are clearly a hardy bunch—a little bit of snow is as nothing to us when there is a chance to meet old friends (and new) over a glass of wine! Henry Dallal gave a very interesting talk about his work photographing horses and his slideshow of his photographs on the Indian Cavalry was magnificent. The photographs below were taken by Sandy Rogers—and if you want to see them in their full glory please go to www.lchac.org.uk and click on the "photo galleries" tab. Also, thanks to you the attendees, Henry Dallal, Renee Simons and his team of volunteers we returned a modest profit which will go towards the new surface in the school.



The Competitions at Flemish Farm:

During the Spring the HAC Saddle Club hold two competitions at Flemish Farm; on **March 22nd** we have the Combined Training Day, this is followed by the John Palmer and Pyramid Trophy held on **May 10th**. The Combined Training Day is designed to act as preparation for the big event held in early May! All Supporting Riders of the Light Cavalry are most welcome to enter the competition. Please be aware that the John Palmer Cup and the Pyramid Trophy themselves, can only be won by (the highest scoring) HAC Saddle Club member.

Both competitions follow broadly the same format:

Prelim Dressage (Prelim 12, 2005)
Novice Dressage (Novice 32, 2002)

Lunch (and a break for the horses)

Show Jumping over 2' course
Show Jumping over a 3' course

On March 22nd the competition will begin at 0930hrs

There is no need to compete in both dressage and jumping unless you want to —and you can choose at which level you wish to compete. So hopefully there will be a class for everyone! All Supporting Riders are encouraged to “give it a go” - our lovely judges are always very kind to us!

We tend to dress up ourselves (riding jacket, boots, stock or tie) and give our horses a good grooming (plaiting has been known!) and although this is not mandatory, it's a nice thing to do if you want to. If you do compete, you will be responsible for grooming, tacking up your horse, and returning it to the stable after your competition and making sure it is un-tacked and has enough rugs on. You will be given some time before competing to warm your horse up in the school. 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. If you wish you may have the course read out to you as you do the test. Booking some lessons with Caroline or the other teachers who visit Flemish Farm to work through some of the trickier transitions would obviously be a good way to prepare and practice.

To enter, place your name on the form which is on the notice board in the office. Nearer the day, Caroline will allocate horses to riders and produce a running order. On the day the running order is pinned to one of the doors of the riding school. Keep an eye on it and the time so that you are not rushed!

We encourage you to invite friends and family to come to watch and 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 to share. If you would like to bring some food to share please contact Fiona Charman who is co-ordinating this on charmanfma@aol.com. She is planning to have bacon and sausage rolls available to buy at the event as usual. There is no cost to come and watch!

At the Christmas Show, various people offered prizes for the raffle. Please contact me on mrsrw1h@yahoo.co.uk if you would like to offer a prize at either of the competitions. (Any money raised goes to the upkeep of our horses).

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

