

From the Horse's Mouth



A Newsletter for the Supporting Riders of the Light Cavalry HAC

March 2010

Stable Notes

Hello again and welcome to our new Supporting Riders!

I think I speak for all Supporting Riders about our gratitude and admiration for Lauren and Kelly for looking after our horses so well in this frightful weather. Despite the snow, ice, and severe cold they have kept smiling and are doing a great job. Well done guys!

Just one note from Caroline this month, please keep your eye on the time when you go out for a hack. It is very important to stay within the allotted time, particularly at the weekends when the horses usually have 3 riders each day. If you think you will be late back, please phone Flemish Farm so that we are aware if there has been an accident or if you are lost. This is why it is vitally important to enter your mobile phone number in the book before you are going out on a hack and let someone know where you intend to ride.

On Sunday 21st March Caroline has organised two escorted hacks, details below: .

10am Ideal for those who would like to hack in the Park with a member of the Flemish Farm staff as an escort....This will be an excellent chance to familiarise yourself with the layout of the Park and the various rules to be obeyed. (You must be of a standard to hack—Caroline will advise!)

1.30pm - Pub ride...will include drink and nibbles at the pub.

Although I have not much to report on our activities this month, I would draw your attention to the Light Supper which has been arranged for the Supporting Riders at Armoury House, the Regimental Headquarters of the Honourable Artillery Company. Rennie Simon, our Officer Commanding wanted to give Supporting Riders a chance to see the Dismounted Troop practice and then have a light supper in these historic surroundings as a way of thanking us for our continued support and hard work. Please do bring your partner but do book early as places are limited to 30.

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Forthcoming Events: 2010

April

- 7th Supporting Riders Light Supper at Armoury House
11th HAC Saddle Club Combined Training Day
25th Annual Inspection

May

- 9th HAC Saddle Club John Palmer Cup and Pyramid Trophy competition
13th-17th Windsor Horse Show (we'll be there to watch you Louise!)
18th HAC Open Evening, Armoury House

June

- 5th-6th Hurlingham Polo, skill at arms display
10th-12th South of England Show, skill at arms display
13th Queen's Cup, Polo Guard, Smith's Lawn
20th Royal Windsor, Polo Guard, Smith's Lawn

July

- 4th Alton Show, skill at arms display
10th Help for Heroes, sponsored ride in Windsor Great Park
22nd Light Cavalry Annual Dinner at Armoury House
25th Cartier International, Polo Guard, Smith's Lawn
31st Chiltern Open Air Museum, Skill at Arms display



**A rabbi, a nun, and a horse walk into a bar,
bartender says,
"What is this, some kind of joke?"**

A Hunting Excerpt : by Debbie Pengelly

It appears pink coats with fake fur hoods are the latest in fashion for the serious anti hunting brigade this season!

Charles Gillow very kindly gave Jane McGill, Malcolm Johnston and myself a lift to the meet from Larkhill, driving behind the RA horse-box carrying our hirelings for the day.

We noticed that we were being followed by a police car. I was wearing my bright pink coat due to the severe weather and seated in the back. Eventually the police put on their blue lights and pulled us over. Charles stepping out of the car dressed in full hunting gear was asked if he was an anti.

Charles as always is very polite but I think under the surface he was not very amused. But, it is good to know the police are keeping an eye on us and I'm happy to report we had a very good day's hunting, despite the field losing the huntsman and hounds!



A picture of the car and occupants (excluding me in my coat), although I notice my picnic basket also has a matching pink trim).

Photograph by kind permission of Debbie Pengelly

News from the Riding Master: Charles Gillow



Charles Gillow has agreed to provide Supporting Riders with regular update on the Light Cavalry's activities. To introduce Charles to those who do not know him:

Charles was appointed Riding Master of the Light Cavalry in mid 2009. He is responsible for oversight of Flemish Farm and organising the mounted activities of the Light Cavalry. His regular mount is Bob (aka Rommel) who arrived from King's Troop nearly a year ago and who Charles uses for parades and skill at arms displays.

The Light Cavalry has another busy year ahead, starting on April 25th with the Annual Inspection. This has been moved from September to align us with the reviews conducted by the General Officer Commanding London District of the King's Troop, RHA and the Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment. The logic is to provide confirmation that the units are ready for the season ahead. Those who were Supporting Riders in 2004 will remember that The Queen inspected the Light Cavalry in April (and gave us our Royal Warrant); this year we will be inspected by Prince Michael of Kent.

The pace quickens in May with an even higher profile Royal event in London and a display at the HAC's Open Evening. In June, we will be displaying again at the Polo in the Park event in Fulham (two days) and at the South of England Show (three days) as well providing guards on two Sundays at Smith's Lawn. In July we will be displaying at the Alton Show and the Chiltern Open Air Museum (two days) as well as providing a guard at Cartier International at Smith's Lawn. This year's Light Cavalry Annual Dinner will be held at Armoury House on 22 July.

We are hoping to launch a cadets' show jumping in September as a qualifier for their participation in the Uniformed Services Show in October. Otherwise, September and October look relatively quiet; however, we will be training hard for our part a reinstated Tournament to be held at Earls Court 2-3 December. The plans for this are developing fast and we will be riding alongside the Household Cavalry and the King's Troop in a series of activities including a mock battle, an escort for "Queen Victoria" and a skill at arms demonstration. All very exciting and challenging!

We are very excited to be bringing on new horses including Caspar and Sidney (who will be arriving soon). We have also been joined by five new recruits who passed out from the Cavalry Course in January and are busy getting uniform together for the season ahead.

We look forward to seeing anyone who can join us for an informal evening at Armoury House on 7th April and of course for the Annual Dinner in July.

Meanwhile, may I say, on behalf of the Commanding Officer and all ranks of the Light Cavalry, a huge thank you to you all for the many ways you keep the Light Cavalry on the hoof, not only by exercising and caring for the horses and providing help in mounting our parades and displays but also in countless other ways. Your support is very much appreciated. Here's to a busy and successful 2010!

Charles Gillow

LIGHT CAVALRY HAC

Light Supper: Wednesday 7th April



Please come and join us in the Medal Room at Armoury House for a drink and light supper to see the Light Cavalry HAC Dismounted Troop on parade.

Rennie Simon, Officer Commanding Light Cavalry HAC, has arranged for a light supper to thank Supporting Riders for their continuing support and to give us the opportunity to visit the magnificent Regimental Headquarters, Armoury House, in a relaxed setting. This should be a fun evening, please do not delay to book, as places are limited to 30 people.

Family and friends are welcome to attend. However, we must stress that because of security you must reserve and pay for your place(s) ahead of time. Free parking is available, but you will need to let us know the registration, make and model of your vehicle.

There is a dress code. Gentlemen should wear a jacket and tie, and ladies should be dressed smartly. Jeans or trainers are not acceptable. Please also remember to turn off your mobile.

The supper party will start at 7.00pm (and finish at about 9-9.30pm).

Armoury House is located on City Road, just north of Finsbury Square in the City. Nearest Tubes: Liv-

Light Supper Application; Wednesday 7th April

From : Tel No.....

Riding Club (if other than Supporting Rider, Light Cavalry HAC)

To : Graham Oxenham, 26 Maryside, Slough, Berkshire SL3 7ET

Please reserve (.....) places at £7 per head for the Light Supper

Guests :(please include rank and decorations)

.....

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

My car registration is Make Model

NB : Unfortunately we cannot offer the facility to "pay at the door", if you book and unforeseen circumstances mean that you cannot make the dinner, please talk to Rennie Simon

Guest Teachers at Flemish Farm

The feedback from the lessons with guest teachers seems so positive that I thought it would be interesting to share some of our experiences. I'm sorry I couldn't review everyone—but do feel free to submit your comments and I will try to include them in the next issue:

Caroline Larsson who has been riding with Lesley writes,

"Lesley has that wonderful knack of providing constructive criticism while at the same time highlighting the positives and really bringing out the best in each rider. She's very perceptive and encouraging and I always come out of her lessons feeling energised and excited about my riding. She pays a lot of attention to detail and makes you work hard yet I don't feel tired after her lessons. I'm guessing that this may have something to do with her "less is more" attitude. Finally, I think her focus on the importance of correct posture has really improved my own riding a lot and I now feel more confident about being able to take it to the next level at some point in the near future."



Vincent Savolainen, Larry's owner, has had regular lessons with Gary Houlton and writes,

"After a few lessons with Gary last year I was persuaded to take part in a dressage competition at Smith's Lawn run by the Windsor Park Equestrian Club. I have to admit it took one competition and then I was hooked! Before meeting Gary, I did not realise dressage could be such fun for both horse and rider. It is important to me that Larry enjoys life—as a happy horse is a willing horse. I have continued to have regular lessons with Gary and it is really rewarding to see how we are improving over time. ... Needless to say, I am avidly awaiting the start of the summer dressage season at Smith's Lawn!"

Photo of Larry—contemplating glory at Smith's Lawn in 2010! (photo : V. Savolainen)



Photo of Shirley—enjoying a few moments at the pub! (photo : Fiona Charmann)

Fiona Charman writes about Clare Russell and Graeme Innes,

"Recently, Shirley and I have been regular riders on Clare Russell's lessons on a Monday night. Clare oozes enthusiasm for teaching and this seems to transfer to us too! She offers varied lesson plans including both flatwork and jumping and gives great tips to improve not only our style and riding, (much needed by me), but also exercises that Shirley and I can work on during the rest of the week. She teaches at a more basic level at 19.30 for those who want to develop flatwork or jumping and at a more progressive level at 20.30. I find the slightly later starting times on a Monday advantageous for those of us coming from London, as it seems to avoid the bulk of the 'rush hour' traffic. (On the way home, it is usually a clear fast run through too!)

Graeme Innes, El from the King's Troop comes to Flemish Farm on a Saturday, once a month, to teach four lessons for different levels of jumping skills. He is a seasoned and passionate show jumper himself and I find his easy manner is great for my still occasional lack of nerve (not Shirley of course). He also exudes a love of teaching which is very motivational for the rider. He has a great ability to assess new riders and horses quickly and effectively and is a great confidence giver as he will always work within each person's capability. Each lesson progresses from the last with a gradual work-up to a different interesting exercise to improve the phases of jumping and our rhythm and style."

Flemish Farm : Group Classes Information

NEW EXCITING GROUP LESSONS AVAILABLE WITH THE LIGHT CAVALRY AT FLEMISH FARM

We have organised a number of guest teachers for Supporting Riders. Lessons take place on Saturdays. Below a brief resume of each teacher and the dates when they will be teaching.

Jan Glen – Jan has a lot of experience with three day eventing horses. The lessons will be based on jumping and bringing in cross country elements too. There will be a 9.00am novice group (you must be able to walk, trot and canter) 10.00am intermediate group and 11.00am advance group available. Cost £30 per rider

Lesley Wilson – Lesley is a physiotherapist by day and will be bringing elements of this into the lessons. This is perfect for those of you that have issues with your positions that are based around old injuries. Lesley is also very good with nervous riders. There will be a 9.00am private lesson, 10.00am novice group and 11.00am intermediate group available. Cost £30 per rider and £42 for private.

Graham Innes – Graham is the chief instructor at Kings Troop and will be doing show jumping clinics. We have already held one and it was fully booked within 2 days! There will be 10.00am novice group lesson, 11.00am Intermediate group lesson, 1.00pm Advance group lesson and 2.00pm Advance Group lesson available. Cost will be £35 per rider.

Gary Hoult – Gary is an established dressage rider and has been teaching a few of our riders already. These lessons are ideal for those of you that want to learn more about what is going on underneath you and improve your flat work skills. The lessons will only have two riders in so places will be very limited. There will be a 1.00pm Introduction to dressage lesson. 2.00pm Introduction to lateral work lesson and 3.00pm intermediate dressage lesson. Cost £45 per rider

I will still be teaching on the weekends that we do not have these guest instructors. We have our regular instructors Clare Russell on a Monday night and Rebecca Friend on a Tuesday night and if any of you fancy giving military riding a go then we also have Danny Kendal on Thursday nights.

Dates for 2010

Jan Glen – 6th March/10th April/1st May/5th June/3rd July/7th August/ 4th Sept/2nd Oct/6th Nov/4th Dec

Lesley Wilson – 14th March/28th March/4th April/18th July/5th Sept/12th Sept/21st Nov

Graham Innes – 27th March

Gary Hoult – 20th March/17th April/15th May/19th June/ 17th July/28th August/ 18th Sept/16th Oct/20th Nov/11th Dec

Clare Russell – 3rd April/15th May/26th June/11th Sept/20th Nov

Contact Caroline On 01753 622291 or haclc@aol.com to book in