

From the Horse's Mouth

December 2010/January 2011

A Newsletter for
The Supporting Riders of the Light Cavalry HAC



Stable Notes

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all the Supporting Riders!

The horses are now enjoying a week's holiday after what has been an extremely busy November and December. On Thursday 13th November all the horses participated in the Lord Mayor's Show where the Light Cavalry HAC Mounted Troop accompanied the Lady Mayoress in her coach on the parade through the streets of the City of London. The Light Cavalry Dismounted Troop formed a guard to welcome the Lord Mayor and his retinue at the Law Courts. The Supporting Riders volunteers start the day at 4am at the stables, preparing and loading the horses for the big day. Their sterling work continues until the horses are unloaded and put to bed back at Flemish Farm. Truly a long and tiring day for which all volunteers who gave of their time, Caroline, Lauren and Kelly must be warmly thanked.

On December 1st –5th most of the horses went up to Earl's Court to perform at the British Military Show. Caroline and Charles have provided full reports and I'm sure you'll enjoy reading them. On December 11th Supporting Riders, the Light Cavalry, friends and family met for the Christmas Dinner held at the Bisley Hut on 11th December. Then on December 19th we had to postpone the Christmas Show because the road up to Flemish was blocked with snow and ice.

Finally, December saw the retirement of Amos. On Thursday 16th December he left Flemish Farm to go and live with Louise Brown (former groom at Flemish Farm) up in Cheshire. Despite the snow and ice his journey there went without a hitch and Louise tells me he is settling in well at his new stables and already is making new friends. He will of course be sadly missed by all at Flemish—however, there is no doubt that he will be loved and cosseted in his new life.

Flemish Farm is now closed until December 27th when we will open again for hacks. Lessons will commence again on 3rd January 2011. Caroline will be monitoring emails and phone messages so why not plan to work off those mince-pies with a New Year hack!

Dates for your Diary : 2011

May 17th	HAC Open Evening, Armoury House
June 12th	The Queen's Cup, Smith's Lawn, Light Cavalry Polo Guard
June 19th	The Royal Windsor Cup, Smith's Lawn, Light Cavalry Polo Guard
July 21st	Light Cavalry Annual Dinner at Armoury House
July 24th	Cartier International Day

Should you wish to contribute to the Flemish Farm Staff Christmas Fund, please send a cheque (made payable to Light Cavalry HAC - but please write on the back that it is for the Staff Christmas Fund) to Charles Gillow c/o Flemish Farm, High Standing Hill, Windsor Berks SL42LD

British Horse Society : Caroline Quested



For the last five decades, the British Horse Society has been running a scheme for the approval of riding schools and other equine establishments throughout the British Isles and world wide which provides riders and horse owners with peace of mind. Each establishment on the Approved List has been inspected by a highly experienced representative of The British Horse Society, who looks carefully at the level of instruction available to clients, the on-site facilities and equipment, and the standards of safety, horse care and management.

Approved Establishment Being a British Horse Society Approved Establishment means having horse welfare along with client safety and satisfaction as priorities, being insured for public liability and complying with the latest health and safety legislation.

On the 3rd November the Light Cavalry stables at Flemish Farm had their first ever assessment by a representative of the British Horse Society, Bob Weatherley. His first port of call was the indoor school and he was very impressed. We then went off to the tack room and feed room.

All the tack was checked and in the feed room the feed board was checked along with the feed we use. We then went off to check the fields. Next he checked all the horses and whilst doing this he checked the beds and stables. Bob then watched a one hour lesson where I taught six total beginners. The horses behaved beautifully. Finally it was off to the office and the paperwork side of the yard. First aid certificates, the safety manual, the accident book etc. were all checked. The horses' paperwork, vaccinations, worming etc. were all thoroughly reviewed.

After an inspection lasting three hours I was informed that we had passed with flying colours and that Bob was very happy with everything he had seen. Indeed, he said he would be recommending that we be awarded a **Highly Commended** grading.

This was a fantastic team effort from the staff and the Light Cavalry Riding Master, Charles Gillow. I am very proud to be a part of that team and as we are delighted to be able to send this good news to you, our Supporting Riders. In due course, you will see an "Approved Establishment" plaque displayed on the yard providing assurance to all who ride at Flemish Farm that the Light Cavalry not only meets the exacting standards of the BHS but is amongst the best in the country.

Amos : In retirement

We couldn't resist these pictures of Amos in his new home in Cheshire taken by Lou Brown. We wish him a long, happy and restful retirement!



British Military Show : Diary by Caroline Quested

As some of you may know the Light Cavalry appeared at the British Military Tournament alongside the Household Cavalry and King's Troop. This is an account of our week behind the scenes at Earls Court.

Tuesday 30th November

We spent the day getting the kit ready to be loaded. All was going well until a phone call from our transport informed us the horsebox was stuck in snow and would be unable to pick the horses on the Wednesday!! Frantic phone calls were made and we finally managed to get another box booked. A bit of a scary start!

Wednesday 1st December

We spent the day loading all the kit and the riders on to the lorries and moving into Earls Court. The horses were to follow later so we could get all the stables ready for them. Lauren and Kelly came with the horses and had a little trouble finding us as the driver didn't know where Earls Court was! The driver was talked in and eventually the horses arrived. Beds, feed room and tack room were all ready and waiting for them. The horses came off the box and didn't bat an eyelid at their new surroundings, they just wanted their dinner!! Once the horses were put to bed we discovered our dining area and the food was amazing and there was so much of it! After a long day we settled down into our army cot beds and tried to sleep. Let's just say we know who all the snorers are in the Light Cavalry!!

Thursday 2nd December

Our primary concern was getting the horses used to their surroundings, getting them into the arena and doing rehearsals. The first time in the arena was amazing as there were diggers and all sorts in there and after 10 minutes I stood in the middle of the arena helping the riders as if we were doing a lesson at home. The rehearsals went well and again the horses took everything in their stride. We were so proud of them.

Friday 3rd December

We had a technical rehearsal during the day and a dress rehearsal in the evening. Everyone was nervous but apart from the bagpipes causing a bit of a scare in the escort all went well. A few things were changed, including the bagpipes not marching towards us, which meant the dress rehearsal went smoothly. Myself, Lauren and Kelly were able to watch on a TV screen backstage. I have never felt so nervous watching our babies and the riders entering the arena.

Saturday 4th December

What can I say, the big one!! Two performances to a sold out arena! If I thought the nerves were bad on the Friday night, they were nothing compared to Saturday. The morning was fairly relaxed, the horses were taken for a walk and some lunged, then the grooming started. Before we knew it, we were tacking up and off the horses went. Once again the horses were fantastic and all went well. We had time for some dinner and then we started all over again for the evening. The atmosphere was electric in the arena and backstage. The horses picked up on this but in a good way. They were all enjoying what they were doing and couldn't wait to get in the arena. The clapping and cheering was that bit louder and everyone was on such a high when it finished.

Sunday 5th December

Things were a bit quieter and we (me and the girls) were able to watch our serials in the arena for the evening performance. This was so different from watching on the TV backstage. The nerves were still there but not quite as bad as Saturday. Watching our horses in the arena of Earls Court at the British Military Tournament has to be the proudest moment of my life. There was a tear in my eye.

Monday 6th December

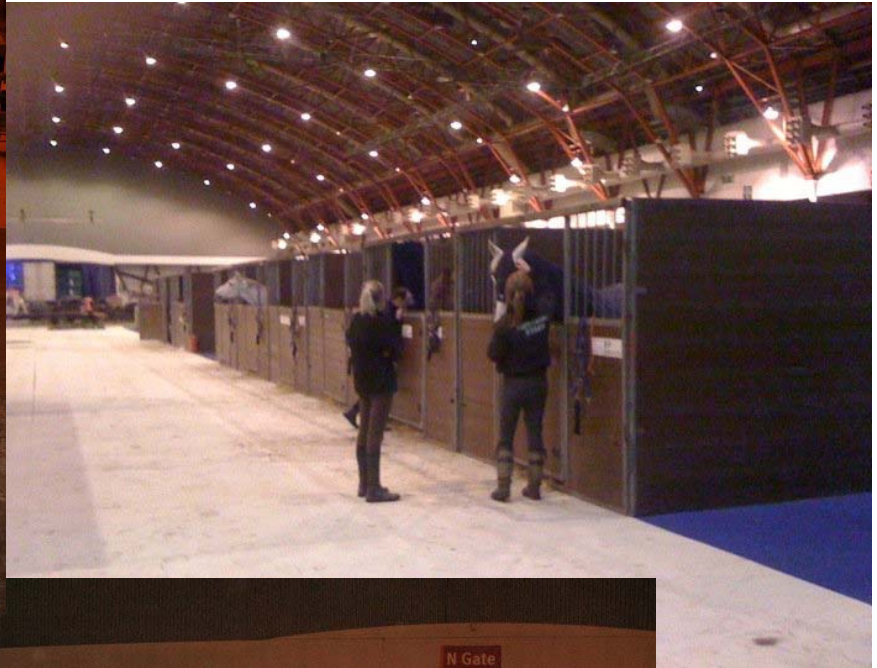
Time to go home. The horsebox turned up and we got the horses ready to load. While we were doing this Earls Court was being taken down around us. The Household Cavalry stables had been taken down and they were onto the King's Troops stables. The arena surface was being lifted into massive lorries and amongst all of this Bob decided he did not want to go home!!! Two hours later and Bob is still not on the lorry. The stable guys were waiting for us to go so our stables could be taken down. The lorries were having trouble getting in because of us so Plan B had to kick in. Plan B??? The only thing I could think of was for the box to go to the Household Cavalry barracks and to walk Bob there. This way we would be out of the way for Earls Court and help would be there to get Bob on the box. Contact was made with the Household Cavalry and they said by all means bring Bob over. So Kelly and myself headed off leading Bob through the streets of London, in just a head collar. We had Charles and Dan in a car in front of us. After a while we had to see the funny side as Bob was so good and was like a dog being taken for a walk. We did get some strange looks when we got to Hyde Park and asked for directions to Knightsbridge Barracks!! We took tourist photos of us and Bob outside Kensington Palace and the Royal Albert Hall. We really did start to get the giggles at this point. We eventually got to the barracks where manpower come out to help. So with all this manpower ready and waiting, what does Bob do?? Walks straight on the box. You have to love him!! Even after taking six hours to get home we were all still on a high. To top it off, later that night, we got told that we were rebooked for next year, this was greeted by all 3 of us yelling down the phone.

I would like to say a big thank you to Kelly, Lauren, Vincent, Dan and all our Light Cavalry riders for making it such an amazing week.

British Military Show

My only regret is that we don't have space for more images of the Show. Do visit the Light Cavalry website, or the Flemish Farm Facebook page to view them all.

Also please visit www.tournamentimages.com. If you wish to buy any of these images please contact Charles Gillow (gillow@talk21.com) as we can get a 25% discount for a bulk order!



Photographs taken from the Flemish Farm page on Facebook.



British Military Show : By Charles Gillow

Just over two years ago, the Light Cavalry was asked to participate in a new look tournament, in the spirit of the Royal Tournaments, the last of which was held in 1999. The British Military Tournament was to be presented by and raise funds for ABF, The Soldiers' Charity.

Early drafts of the script showed us escorting "Queen Victoria" and performing skill at arms alongside the Household Cavalry and the King's Troop. Soon we were asked to take on the role of Royalist Cavalry alongside the Company of Pikemen and Musketeers in a Civil War battle re-enactment as well as to participate in the finale!

By June 2009, the souvenir programme was in draft and we were beginning to make our plans for an event scheduled for June 2010; the date soon moved to December 2010, giving us welcome extra time to get ready. During the Autumn and Winter, we attended several meetings with the organisers to develop the schedule.

For the horses and riders, training started in earnest in early 2010. Within the scope of the facilities at Flemish Farm, we needed to work on accustoming the horses to explosions, gunfire, smoke, loud music, bagpipes, clapping, sword fights, cavalry charges etc. Some of our Supporting Riders very kindly helped with these bombproofing and training sessions. All of those who ride at Flemish Farm will have realised that the horses came to view certain corners of the manege with newfound suspicion!

For horses and riders alike the workup training was both enjoyable and stretching. In October, we were watched by Christopher Joll, the Show Director, and Richard Waygood, Equestrian Advisor. They confirmed that we were on track and gave us some very helpful tips. Though impressed by our carefully rehearsed box scissors manoeuvre for the simultaneous removal of four pegs from a tent they suggested the crowd might blink and miss it! Instead, we were to remove the pegs in series. The preparations for the Civil War battle and the escort were also judged to be good.

As the months to go reduced to weeks to go then days, everyone acknowledged being somewhat nervous at the prospect. However, we were working well as a team and the horses were clearly ready for the fray.

The BMT brought together all the best elements of the Royal Tournament, incorporating them into a new show for the 21st century telling the story of the British Army from the Civil War to the present day.

Our first appearance was in a Civil War battle scene alongside the HAC's Pikemen and Musketeers. At the far end of the arena, a troop of Household Cavalry charged us and were stopped in their tracks by a volley by eight musketeers. We then charged the opposing cavalry, engaged them in a short sword fight and pursued them from the arena. The Household Cavalry had been briefed to "be gentle with the old men" – after the first rehearsal, when our horses happily rode straight at them and our swordsmen held their own, things became rather more spirited! Later, four of us took part in the skill at arms serial alongside two King's Troop and four Household Cavalry. Our part in this was to collapse a tent by extracting four "pegs" at which point 'Tommy Atkins' emerged with Lenore Russell (HAC Active Unit). The escort for Queen Victoria was theoretically closer to our normal, more sedate role though the presence of the London Scottish pipers added an extra challenge during the rehearsals!

Throughout, the horses were everything we could have hoped for. They behaved well and quickly settled into the routine, putting up with alarming noises and sights as old pros. The team from Smarts Circus took a particular shine to Sidney who was a cool customer throughout, especially in the battle. Amos was rather full of beans at times and made for a memorable ride for Paul in the Civil War. Though Denzil took a day's rest he performed well, enjoyed himself and goes on to a well-earned retirement on a high note.

Leo happily was an easy ride in the tent pegging, unlike Sally who made Gareth work hard for his pegs. Larry and Benson, under the watchful eye of Vincent, performed well, though Larry did come back from the Civil War without his rider on one occasion! Bob saved his one bit of bad behaviour for our departure, insisting on being taken for a bit of sightseeing in Hyde Park! Overall, the best accolade we could ask for was Dickie Waygood's answer to the question "how are the horses doing?" – "perfect!"

We were supported in magnificent style by Caroline, Lauren, Kelly, Vincent and Dan. It was great to be watched over during the show by Joy Montgomery who was a steward. We were particularly grateful for all those Supporting Riders who were able to come to Earls Court and give us their support.

Everyone enjoyed the atmosphere and the crowds were fantastic. The team worked well together and maintained an outward appearance of calm despite the fast moving pace and a certain amount of nerves! We were given a big challenge and everyone rose to it.

The show raised several hundred thousand pounds for the ABF and was watched by about 50,000 people. The organisers intend to repeat the event next year and have already invited the Light Cavalry to participate.

The horses

Amos, Benson, Bob, Caspar, Denzil, Fritz, Larry, Leo, Sally, Sidney.

The riders

Stephen Aiano, Paul Allison, Jonathan Dawson, Antony Doggett, Laurie Evanson-Goddard, Charles Gillow, Malcolm Johnston, Dougie Mann, Catherine Smith, Gareth Thomas, Steve Welsh

Sadly, just as we were making final preparations, John Cookson had to withdraw from the team.

Lord Mayor's Show and Light Cavalry HAC Xmas Party



Photographs by:
Caroline Quedsted,
Fiona Charman
and (I believe!)
Andrew Thompson!

Pegasus Military Equitation Course



Air Cadets from Bedfordshire and Cambridgeshire complete the Pegasus Military Equitation Course

Air Cadets from 73 (Huntingdon), 115 (Peterborough), 1406 (Spalding), 2482 (Henlow) and 2484 (Bassingbourn) Squadrons have attended a course in Military Equitation. The course was run by the Light Cavalry Honourable Artillery Company (LCHAC) at their stables in Windsor Great Park. The Course, given the Pegasus title, covered practical and theory aspects of military equitation including sword and lance drills whilst mounted on cavalry horses.

A Passing Out Parade, attended by the parents, grandparents, Wing and Squadron Staff, was held on 31 October 2010. All who attended were impressed by the high standard of Military Equitation skills displayed by the cadets. An additional benefit of attending the course is that the skills development and physical activity can be utilised toward Duke of Edinburgh Awards.

Cdt Charlotte Johnson, age 15, of 2484 (Bassingbourn) Squadron stated *'The course and passing out parade were both very well run and not only taught me a lot about military riding but also gave me a lot of confidence. I really enjoyed this experience and hope that more courses like this are run in the future.'*

CI Julie Percival from 2482 (Henlow) Squadron ATC who organised the course stated *'Thanks to the Instructors and Staff of the Light Cavalry HAC this has been a first for the Air Training Corp, and a unique & different opportunity which we have been able to offer Cadets from across Bedfordshire and Cambridgeshire. Plans are already in hand to repeat the Course next year and develop the Cadet's new found skills further'*.

(Taken from a Press Release issued by Bedfordshire and Cambridgeshire Wing Air Training Corp)

Light Cavalry Calendars

Light Cavalry Calendars 2011!

Ideal Christmas pressies!

The professionally produced, full colour
2011 Light Cavalry calendar is now available!

You can purchase the calendars in a variety of ways.

1. At Flemish Farm from the Light Cavalry office (please ask the Light Cavalry staff)
2. At Lord Mayor's Show from the Light Cavalry
3. At the Light Cavalry Christmas Dinner at Bisley Hut on 11th December.

By post. Please make cheques payable to Fiona Charman and send it with the order form to the address below. Please add £1.00 for one calendar or £1.50 for two calendars to cover postage and packing. (Please allow 7-10 days for delivery). If you require more than 2 calendars, please add further £0.50 per calendar.

All proceeds go to the Light Cavalry.

If you have any queries please contact Fiona Charman on 07970 176411

To: Ms Fiona Charman, 4 Garrick Court, 31 Theatre Street, London, SW11 5ND

Please send me _____ calendar(s) at £10 each and add £0.75 for one calendar or £1.00 for two calendars to cover postage and packing (p&p). If you require **more than 2** please add a **further** £0.50 per calendar.

I enclose a cheque made payable to **Fiona Charman** for total £_____

From:

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Contact Us

Manager and Chief Instructor :
Stable Staff :

Caroline Quested
Lauren Elms
Kelly Smart

e: haclc@aol.com

Military Instructors :

Danny Kendall
Paul Alison
Rennie Simon

Officer Commanding, Light Cavalry HAC :

Newsletter Editor :

Kate Robinson

e: mrsrw1h@yahoo.co.uk

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