

From the Horse's Mouth

February 2011



A Newsletter for
The Supporting Riders of the Light Cavalry HAC

Stable Notes

Happy New Year to all the Supporting Riders!

First let us acknowledge the dedication that Kelly, Lauren and Caroline showed in the cold weather of December. They did a marvellous job (as ever!) looking after the horses. despite the freezing conditions, which saw all the pipes freeze at Flemish Farm. The horses came back from their winter break having put on weight and they all look fit and healthy—no mean feat at this time of year!

We have much to look forward to in 2011, January has seen the arrival of two new horses— Sam and Dan—full details overleaf. We can make plans for preparing for the Combined Training Competition on March 6th. Caroline has added some extra jumping lessons on Saturdays so book early if you are planning to enter the show jumping! Don't forget those dressage/flatwork lessons either—after all it is a Combined competition! Although the Great Park is only accessible on the roads and tracks we are lucky to enjoy this marvellous open space so close to the stables. Do make sure that you are on Caroline's mailing list or our Facebook page as she sometimes puts on special offers for hacking out—particularly if you can ride during the week.

Finally, do plan to come and cheer the Light Cavalry HAC on at their many parades and displays throughout 2011. Charles Gillow's account of the Light Cavalry's visit to Hurtpury College will give you a taste of the thrills (and spills) of putting on a display. If you can volunteer your time to help as a volunteer (unfortunately you have to be a Member of the Light Cavalry HAC to ride in a display) speak to Charles or Caroline. It is such a proud moment to see the horse you normally ride, turned out immaculately and on display for the public at large!

Dates for your Diary : 2011

March 6th	Combined Training Competition
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

Welcome to Trooper Sam : by Julie Percival

When you are next at Flemish Farm please take time to introduce yourself to one of the new boys - Sam (registered name Sabu). He is a 14 year old, 16.2 hh bright bay Irish Gelding jointly owned by Team Percival and Joy Montgomery. He has settled in very quickly playing with his water and scoffing all his hay the moment some is put in his stable. He is inquisitive and likes to sniff anyone and anything new. Sam is quite sensitive around his ears and does not like reins being thrown over his head. Sam has been out in the Park, he is very forward going and enjoys power-walking. Sam is getting accustomed to working in the school; he has taken part in a troop ride, working well in a half section with Leo.

Sam came from a hunting family, where he was used as a hunt secretary's mount. Sam likes children & dogs, and enjoys jumping & dressage.



Welcome to Recruit Dan : by Caroline Quested



Dan is on trial with us for 3 months with a view to buy. All 17"3hh of him arrived on Saturday.

He immediately settled in and munched away on his hay. For the last 3 years he has been show jumping with his owner, Hayley, who is off to university, and really doesn't want to sell him. A few tears were shed on Saturday.

On Sunday he went out into the Park and was very relaxed about everything, even the funny moving gates!

Today he was schooled by Lauren and Kelly who both couldn't wait to give him a go. Once again he was well behaved.

Dan is quite unfit so won't be ridden by Supporting Riders for a few weeks, but I'm sure he will be very popular once he starts.

Hartpury College : EHOA Extravaganza : by Charles Gillow



Steve Walsh flying through the air on Leo!

On Sunday 9th January, the Light Cavalry display team participated in an event in aid of the Army Widows Association at Hartpury College near Gloucester. The organiser, Cathy Butler is a member of the Event Horse Owners Association Board and has been responsible for setting up training clinics in the South West of England for the past few years. These clinics normally involve individuals taking their own horses to well-known eventers and trainers who then provide tuition on all three of the eventing disciplines. In the last couple of years they have been supported by the likes of Lucy Wiegiersma, Richard Waygood and William Fox-Pitt to mention just a few.

This year, Cathy thought that it might be interesting to include in the annual programme a lecture/demonstration by some of these top riders and trainers. From that rather modest beginning emerged the "EHOA Extravaganza". The programme included a dressage display, with a test to music by Gemma Green, GB European medal winner. Richard Waygood teamed up with Matt Ryan, Olympic Eventing Gold Medalist, Lucy Wiegiersma, British Team Event Rider, and Laura Collett, Junior GB Team member, to demonstrate flatwork and jumping with their top event horses.

The Light Cavalry team gave a skill at arms demonstration involving lance and sword work against pegs, rings, cabbages and dummies. The display was supported by a ground party laying out the targets and providing trumpet calls. As part of the demonstration, we handed over three of the horses to two professional jockeys and an eventer so they could have a go at tent pegging.

The afternoon's events were rounded off by a knock out jumping competition involving teams of event riders, show jumpers, jockeys and the Light Cavalry. After a fast and furious competition involving mirror image jumping the Light Cavalry team came a respectable third, behind the show jumpers and eventers, and just beating the jockeys. A lot of fun was had by all the riders and the audience clearly enjoyed a varied and exciting afternoon with many thrills and a few spills!

First and foremost the aim was to fill the arena for an entertaining afternoon with a variety of riders, rarely seen under one roof. But at the same time the EHOA managed to raise £6,000 for a really worthwhile cause in the Army Widows' Association. It was all rather surreal to be competing against professionals but it was all for a good cause and we gave it our best shot. The accompanying photo of Leo, ridden by Steve Welsh, shows one of our own jumping for all he was worth and as a result giving Dickie Waygood a run for his money!

The Light Cavalry riders were Catherine Smith, Gareth Thomas, Steve Welsh and Charles Gillow. The horses were the Light Cavalry's Leo and Bob and Gareth's Ciara and Sally. The team was supported by Caroline Quested and Kelly Smart, Dan Batsch, Tony Philpott, John Cookson and Brian Read.

Combined Training Competition : Sunday 6th March

We have changed the format of our annual CT competition day this year in the hope of encouraging some more of you to have a go. In addition to the combined training competition, there will be a British Riding Clubs Test class. The riding test is judged on the rider's ability rather than the performance of the horse. The judge will be looking at your position and the correct application and effectiveness of the aids and the harmony of horse and rider.

The combined training class tests both your dressage and jumping skills. It comprises a dressage test followed by a jumping round. Each element is judged individually and then the combined scores determine the winner.

If you have never competed before this is a great chance to try you hand in a fun and relaxed atmosphere. This competition is a great opportunity to practice for the John Palmer Cup and Pyramid Trophy competitions on 8th May.

To help you practice and polish up your skills, book some lessons beforehand at Flemish Farm where you will be given the opportunity to practice the tests and jumping.

Classes

	<u>Entry Fee</u>
Class 1 British Riding Clubs Novice riding test 11 (2010)	£10
Class 2 Combined Training – Novice 32 (2002) and 3ft show jumping	£20
Class 3 Novice 32 (2002) (dressage only)	£10
Class 4 Show jumping – 2' 3"	£10

The competition starts at 9.00 am (please ensure you arrive at least half an hour before your allocated dressage time to prepare your horse),

To enter please call Caroline at Flemish Farm – Tel: 01753 622291. Places are limited so book early! Caroline can provide test details or otherwise email jan.glen@o2.co.uk.

Spectators are welcome so do come along and cheer on the competitors.

Refreshments will be available.



Light Cavalry HAC: Horse of the Month : by Caroline Quested

A HORSE CALLED BOB

Rommel, otherwise known as Bob, arrived at the Light Cavalry stables on the 7th April 2009. He had been with Kings Troop RHA and had been cast due to his dislike to heavy traffic which resulted in him colliding with cars and guns and also his lack of pace in the musical drive.

He arrived at Flemish Farm with his mane hogged and looking quite pleased to see no traffic!! Bob immediately settled into life with the Light Cavalry. He has proved to be a very good parade horse, not caring if his up front or in the ranks. He has also become a star with the tent pegging displays, where nothing fazes him.

On the lesson and hacking side he once again showed his worth and has become one of the most reliable horses. If you have been to any of our shows you will have seen Bob come alive at the show jumping and win first place in quite a few classes.

There is one down side to Bob and that is his stable manners. He is grumpy to tack up, groom, put rugs on and has to be heavily sedated to clip. If he has a cut then we have to trick him to be able to clean it and you only get one chance!! But we wouldn't have him any other way. We can put up with all of the above as he is such a gentleman when you are on board.



A horse called Bob



Light Cavalry Calendars

Light Cavalry Calendars 2011!

Now only £5 each

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 £5 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:

Name _____

Address:

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

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