



# Blackdown Mendip Riding Club

Newsletter



April 2018

**Hello everyone and welcome** to another year with Blackdown Mendip Riding Club. For those who haven't yet met me please allow me introduce myself. I started riding quite late in life and enjoy hacking out and taking part in low level competition as an individual at riding club, Area 12 and open events. My wife, Christine, is also a member and we possess a degree of intense rivalry when taking part in the same competition. I have been associated with BMRC since before the turn of the Century (No! not the 20th) after its inauguration in the early 1990's under our President Sally Busby. I learned that the club was formed with the intention of encouraging riders to develop their interest and skills in a friendly, supportive and fun environment. The fear of competition inhibited some riders, but taking part in members' days and day rallies helped build their confidence in a non-pressured environment. This ethos was proved well founded as evidenced by the increase in membership over the next 10 or so years.

The introduction of The Busby Trophy gave members something to aim for and also encouraged them to improve their riding skills via well-structured training sessions using very adept and supportive instructors, many of whom continue to offer their expertise to members.

I acknowledge that some of the original spirit of the club has waned over recent times and I'd like to see its return by encouraging members to take part in organised club competitions, events, rallies and social activities. I believe that any club will only survive through the active participation of its membership irrespective of their age or level of ability.

We have a relatively new committee who are learning as we go along so some mistakes will be made. The team works industriously for the benefit of everyone, however suggestions for activities or improvements are not uniquely ours so if you have any proposals for change or activities please let us know.

The committee is quite small so I would ask that anyone who might be interested in joining the committee or offering their services in assisting the club and members to progress to contact us and get involved.

Although I encourage members to take part in activities I am not suggesting that that you should suddenly become ultra-competitive with the aim of becoming the best. My aim is for the club to "help you become the best that you can be" and who knows where that may lead. On that note I would like to wish good luck to Ashley Edmond who joined the club as a junior a few years after I joined and I've observed her mature into a fantastic rider. She will take part in her first Badminton Event this year, wow from Blackdown to Badminton ..... watch this space!

To everyone else I wish you good luck in whatever you take part in.

*Mike*

Chair of BMRC

## Dates for your diaries...

27<sup>th</sup> May – Day Rally

3<sup>rd</sup> June – Members Day

1<sup>st</sup> July – Member's Day

23<sup>rd</sup> Sept – Day Rally

5<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> Oct - Camp

PLUS keep your eyes peeled for the date of our Winter Dressage Series at Badgworth Arena

## Want free lessons?

We can't run events without your help. To thank you for your help at events, we will provide you with vouchers that you can put towards lessons, camp and merchandise! To offer your help please contact:

[chair@blackdownmendiprc.co.uk](mailto:chair@blackdownmendiprc.co.uk)



# Club Questionnaire

Click the link:

<https://goo.gl/forms/sLLq6mge08pKD3I22>

**New committee, new members – new start!** We are sending out a questionnaire to ensure each member is listened to and the committee are meeting your needs. As a club, we want to encourage you to have a go at a bit of everything without any pressure; thus building your confidence up! We want you to have a go at our Day Rally's, Members Day's and get competition ready for our Winter Dressage Series starting in the Autumn. As well as providing our members with an abundance of lessons and camps – the club subsidises lessons meaning that lessons are much cheaper than if you were to organise them yourself. Even more reason to try something new and get booking!!

We are constantly looking to improve the club. We know everyone has different likes and interests.

Please help us and complete the quick online questionnaire so we can try and meet everyone's needs.

The more you fill out the more we improve, follow the link: <https://goo.gl/forms/sLLq6mge08pKD3I22>

# CAMP



Twice a year we run a residential camp. Camp is exciting and a brilliant way to socialise; meeting new members. Whether you are competing regularly or just want to go for a bit of fun we have a group for you. Our autumn camp this year is **Friday 5<sup>th</sup> October – Sunday 7<sup>th</sup>** and is being run at Stockland Lovell which boasts all weather arenas, vast cross country course, stables, tack rooms, showers and *heated* porticabins! All meals are provided, with straw and hay/haylage also included. Each day you will receive 2x 1.5hr lessons. Over the weekend you will have one flatwork lesson, one show jumping lessons and two cross country sessions. We will have amazing instructors and a photographer for the weekend; who will follow you through your camp journey. Those who attended our spring camp at Pontispool can vouch for how much fun camps are. Look out for the application form or to register your interest or ask any questions please email [camp@blackdownmendiprc.co.uk](mailto:camp@blackdownmendiprc.co.uk)

Can I just thank the 20 members that came to April's Pontispool camp. Saturday was sunny and brought thrills and spills. Evidence to follow with permission of the members. Saturday evening was lively again if you took videos please share on the Facebook group. Soggy Sunday didn't dampen the spirit and again some superb lessons with tired owners and ponies. My thanks go to instructors Clare Loney, Alaina Webster & Anna Gallie for teaching, Catherine Withers and Clare Parsons for you paperwork quiz organizing and of course Pontispool for having us.

Awards were giving to Gemma, Eva, Jackie, Portia and Nicky. Hope to see you all at Stockland Lovell. Again many thanks, Kim.

## Day Rally



Our Day Rally's give members the opportunity to have hour lessons of each of the three disciplines - flatwork, show jumping and cross-country. These are taught by our fabulous instructors. Members brought along picnics and chat at breaks in-between their lessons. If we get enough interest we will look to add TREC as an alternative for those members who prefer not to jump! Join us on the 27<sup>th</sup> of May and 23<sup>rd</sup> September! Email: [events@blackdownmendiprc.co.uk](mailto:events@blackdownmendiprc.co.uk)



## Members Day

Twice a year we run Members Day's. These competitions give members the opportunity to compete and test out their new skills they have learnt from all their lessons - earning points in each discipline. The junior and senior members with the most points are awarded with The Busby Trophy at the AGM in the autumn. Get practising – our first Member's Day is 3<sup>rd</sup> June.

[events@blackdownmendiprc.co.uk](mailto:events@blackdownmendiprc.co.uk)

Why not treat yourself to some Blackdown Mendip Riding Club Merchandise? Kim has been working hard to find quality clothing at reasonable prices with our logo embroidered on each item. Clothing includes hats, t-shirts, jumpers, fleeces, gilets, jodhpurs and much much more! Please contact [Merchandise@blackdownmendiprc.co.uk](mailto:Merchandise@blackdownmendiprc.co.uk) and keep your eyes peeled for pictures and information on our website.



Competitions are run throughout the year, giving members a chance to compete against other riding clubs. This can be individually or in a team. BMRC pay all the admin fees so you only pay entry fee. Take full advantage of these opportunities! Riding Club competitions vary from Walk and Trot Dressage to 1m Hunter Trials and therefore are aimed at all disciplines and riders of varying ability. It is about taking part and having fun. We welcome everyone. If you see something that takes your fancy, contact Hilary on [area12@blackdownmendiprc.co.uk](mailto:area12@blackdownmendiprc.co.uk) to register your interest. Check out the upcoming events:



## Vacancy!!

We are looking for a couple of members to join the committee. Are you friendly? Keen on horses? Helpful? Then you'll be perfect for the committee!

We meet once a month to discuss the latest news and organise events. There are many benefits to joining the committee including priority booking onto lessons before they are released! Email [chair@blackdownmendiprc.co.uk](mailto:chair@blackdownmendiprc.co.uk) for more information.