

Scottish Dressage Group – Newsletter Summer 2016

Competition Update

Thank you to everyone who has attended our summer league shows. Entries at every evening were full! We now move onto our winter series, with the first full daytime show on Sunday 2 October at Cousland Park. As always we need volunteers to steward, write for judges and score to make these events a success. While it is good to see familiar faces returning to help, it is a condition of membership that each member must help out at least one event per year. Please check your diaries and let us know if there is a particular date you would like to help with over the winter months, a reminder of the dates is listed below:

- Sunday 2nd October
- Sunday 6th November
- Sunday 4th December
- Sunday 5th February
 - Sunday 5th March
 - Sunday 2nd April

After listening to member feedback, and some confusion with entries for open and restricted sections in the intro and prelim classes, we have altered the rules slightly to start from the first winter league show. Previously, the rules applied to the horse and rider combination when entering the class. Going forward the rules of entry will be based on rider ability, therefore leaving the restricted sections for truly novice riders starting out in the sport. The new entry requirements are as follows:

- Intro Restricted – Open to riders who have not competed at prelim level or above before on any horse.
- Intro Open – Open to all riders.
- Prelim Restricted – Open to riders who have not competed at novice level or above before on any horse.
- Prelim Open – Open to all riders.

We hope that this clears up any confusion regarding Open and Restricted Sections. Please also note that you cannot enter both intro and prelim classes as a restricted rider. These rules will be amended on the entry schedule for the October show which will be distributed shortly.

British Riding Clubs Intermediate Novice Winter Dressage Qualifiers

We are now looking for riders at prelim and novice level to represent SDG at the above qualifiers to be held at SNEC on Sunday 9th October. This can be as part of a team or on an individual basis. The schedule is now available from BRC, please see [here](#). If you wish to participate email Claire at Clairexwx@hotmail.com by 12.00 Thursday 15th September, who will then provide further entry details. Please ensure both yourself and your horse are eligible before entering, by reading rules G5, 6 and 7 of the BRC rulebook – see [here](#).

Training Update

The 2 day Sue Petty clinic scheduled for 16 and 17th September is now full and now has a waiting list. If you wish to add your name to this, please call Hazel on 07773788891. This has proved extremely popular, and so we are now already looking to schedule in another clinic with Sue over the winter months.

We hope to run a training day in a 20x60m arena at Cousland over the winter. We know from speaking to some of you at shows that not everyone has access to a schooling area this size to practice long arena tests in. We hope to include some 20x60m tests in the winter series in the new year, so this would be a great opportunity to have a test run beforehand. More details to follow.

Pilates for Dressage

Following on from her classroom workshops, Angie Blackwell ran a very successful on horse pilates clinic at Cousland Park at the end of July. 10 members took part in a mixture of group and private sessions and the feedback was great. As well as the members who took part, several members also came along to watch the sessions and were shocked at the difference that a few changes to rider's position, made to horse's way of going.

We have now been lucky enough to secure Angie to run a demo for us on Wednesday 12 October, 7pm at Cousland Park. The content will be based on the influence the riders position has on the horse and you do not need any previous pilates experience to come along and learn something new. We have some very brave members bringing their horses along as guinea pigs. Tickets will be £5 for members and £7 for non-members, payable on the night. Angie is finalising promotional material with more details, and this will be sent around members when ready. Please spread the word to help make the night a success!

Finally, we also hope to hold an Intermediate Pilates for Dressage course as a follow up to the beginner's course held at the start of the summer. This would be suited to those who attended the previous course or riders that already have some pilates experience. We hope to hold this on a weekday evening at Ormiston Community Centre. Please email Claire at Clairexwx@hotmail.com to register your interest. Once we have sufficient numbers we can liaise with Angie about available dates and times to suit the group.

SDG Committee Update

This month we say goodbye to SDG committee members Ros Kirkman and Margaret Parker. We would like to take this opportunity to thank both ladies for the commitment and hard work that they have put into the club over the past few years.

Ros, who was previously the club chair, has kindly agreed to continue running the club website for us. As a regular judge at SDG shows we hope to still see her around regularly. Margaret had previously taken on the role of competition secretary, stepping down from this role in April this year. Her experience in this area has proved invaluable to the club, and like Ros she will be greatly missed.

We also, however, welcome two new committee members to SDG – Kayreen Jones and Martha Green. Both will be helping the rest of the committee to organise shows, training, social events, preparing show schedules and taking entries. If this sounds like something you would be interested in let us know! We are always looking for new committee members to help keep the club running as smoothly as possible. We try to keep most of our communication via email and meet up as a group around 4 times per year, although no one is expected to attend every meeting. We welcome any members considering joining the committee along to the next meeting to see what it's all about before making any commitment.

The current committee members are:

- Chairperson – Hazel Hunter
- Membership Secretary – Sheila Rodgers
- Treasurer – Carol Woods
- Team events and newsletter – Claire Scott
- Social Media – Martha Green
- Judy Douglas Miller
- Kayreen Jones