

Scottish Dressage Group Newsletter January 2014

Dates for your diary

Club competitions: 2 Feb, 2 March and 6 April

Sue Petty Training Days and Test Riding: 14 – 16 March

BHS Horsebox and Trailer Safety Day: Saturday 29 March 9am – 3pm

Catherine Eardley Dressage to Music Training: Various dates (see below)

Please note that the planned Dressage to Music competition, to be held on 6 April, has now been postponed until after the Dressage to Music training. It is likely a new date will be fixed for late summer or early autumn.

BHS Horsebox and Trailer Safety Day: Saturday 29 March 2014 - 9am -3pm **Venue: David Lloyd Newhaven, Edinburgh**

Do not miss this event, even if you do not have a horsebox or trailer.

The information provided by the three speakers (one is a former DEFRA Inspector) will be very useful, even if you are just a car driver.

- Did you know your driving licence has an expiry date?
- Did you know it is an offence not to notify the DVLA if you change address?
- Did you know you can be fined up to £5k if you do not carry 'the original copy' of your horse's passport with you at all times when you are transporting your horse?
- Do you know how much your vehicle weighs when fully loaded?

A horse box and a car and trailer for the DEFRA officer to carry out his 'off the record' vehicle inspection is required on the day. This will enable everyone to see for themselves what is involved when vehicles are inspected. The vehicles will be parked in the venue car park immediately outside, and permission has been obtained for this to take place.

SDG would very much appreciate any member who would be willing to bring their vehicle with them for this 'off the record' (honest!) inspection to contact Hazel Hunter (07773 788 891) at their earliest convenience in order to firm up arrangements. This is a crucial part of the presentation. The driver of these vehicles will receive free admission to this event.

Refreshments have been arranged with coffee/tea upon arrival (£1.25 per cup), as well as fresh scones (charge £1.50 each) and more coffee/tea at the mid-morning break. Please make sure you have change! An honesty box will be provided for payment for refreshments and scones. It will also be possible to purchase food downstairs in the club cafe.

Entry fee for this event is **£10.00 for SDG members and £15.00 for non-members.**

Due to numbers attending being strictly limited, please send your name and fee to Jacky Chalmers (12 Ravelrig Park, Balerno, Midlothian EH14 7DL) to confirm your space at this training session. Bookings must be received by 28 February 2014 and will be taken on a first come basis.

Dressage to Music Training and Preparation for Competition
Provisional dates: 5/6 April, 19/20 April, 17/18 May, 31 May/1 June
Venue: Nether Hartside, Oxton, Berwickshire, TD2 6PU

Catherine Eardley has kindly offered to host a clinic for SDG members at a discounted rate.

The format for a dressage to music clinic is:-

Saturday:

10am start. Riders arrive before 10am to settle their horses in stables and at 10am they have coffee and buns. Catherine then determines what each rider likes and dislikes in terms of music and discusses what each horse is like. Everyone then tacks up and rides together in the indoor school. Catherine finds a walk, trot and canter for each combination, with everyone getting involved to check what works. After the horses are settled back in their stable, over a nice lunch Catherine will talk about choreography and discuss what is required at the levels people are riding, as well as what other movements are allowable and how to maximise a horse's good points. Everyone then designs their own floorplan with help. In the afternoon everyone rides individually to have their floorplan timed, tweaked as necessary and then videoed for Catherine to get the timings - everyone participates as while one is riding, one is warming up, one timing, one videoing, one calling the test etc. At the end of the day horses are skipped out, fed and put to bed and those going home leave while anyone staying comes over to the house. Catherine prepares all the CDs on the Saturday evening so it is a lot of work for her!

Sunday:

Horses are fed and mucked out and yard swept before a 10am start. At 10am all have coffee and buns and play each person's music, then each person rides through their floorplan to their music until they are confident. Catherine will help to get the movements right and improve the way of going. Either Catherine can then video their test, or they can ride again after lunch to have it filmed. After a nice relaxing lunch in the house, all riding and videoing is completed. At the end of the day everyone is given a pack with their CD, their paperwork finalised ready for signing and sending to BD (if required) as well as the notes to read through to learn more about what the judge is looking for. A couple of days later Catherine will email each rider a link to a YouTube video of them riding their test to the music so they can see what needs working on before they go out and compete!

It is quite a full on weekend but also good fun and sociable. Catherine normally charges £130 per person for the weekend which includes lunch on both days and overnight stay for horses. Dinner bed and breakfast can be included for £25 extra (limited to her 4 spare rooms). **For SDG the charge is reduced to £110.** It is exceptionally good value as there are those who advertise in BD magazine who charge upwards of £75 just to do a CD from a video you send them! Due to the time it takes during the day and also the time it takes to do the CDs in the evening, Catherine can take a maximum of 8 on a weekend, and sets a minimum of 6.

Dates available at the moment are, 5/6 April, 19/20 April, 17/18 May, 31 May/1 June but these can change as Catherine gets other clients and bookings. Please send your name and **booking deposit of £10** to Jacky Chalmers (12 Ravelrig Park, Balerno, Midlothian EH14 7DL) to confirm your space at this training session. If the date you wish becomes no longer available, your deposit will be returned immediately.

New Tests for 2014

British Dressage has introduced new tests for 2014. SDG intend using the new P17 later in the year. You have been warned!

Training

Sue Petty will be teaching at Cousland Park 14 and 15 March 2014. She will also be judging a Dressage Test Day on Sunday 16 March. This is an excellent opportunity for members to benefit from Sue's experience as a List 1 Judge and Trainer. For more information, please contact Judy Douglas Miller (0131 449 3972).

Pilates Evenings (2 taster sessions 2013)

Although not all the spaces were taken up, those attending thoroughly enjoyed the experience to such a degree discussions took place about continuing the classes as a group in the future. The instructor was excellent and everyone got something positive from the experience. After both sessions discussions took place in the neighbouring wine bar. It was thirsty work!

Dressage to Music Arena Day

Consideration is also being given to the possibility of an Arena Day Experience at Cousland being arranged, with a 20x60 arena set up for this purpose. Watch this space!

Veterans Horse Championship

This has been renamed Senior Horse Championship. The committee is presently investigating the latest information in this connection and will report back to members in due course. SDG are also considering holding their own Veteran Horse Championship and awarding a trophy for this. We will keep you informed of our progress with this.

Club Constitution

Work has taken place to update our club constitution. The final draft is being circulated to committee members and as soon as this exercise is completed, the final version will be put onto the club website.

Tony Westbury, Sports Psychologist

Due to popular demand by members, the committee are looking at the possibility of arranging more training days and lectures with Tony. Delay in finalising this is due to the club striving to obtain the most advantageous financial deal on what is very expensive training both in time and cost. Progress will be advised in due course.

SDG Teams

Anyone interested in being part of our club teams should contact Aimee Gardner (07969 313199) who is responsible for SDG training and coaching. This interest may be as a rider or even as a team chef d'equipe, an essential part of the organisation. Riding Club Team competitions this year are being held at SNEC, West Lothian.

2014 - SDG is 50 years old!

How would you like to celebrate this amazing milestone in the history of our club? Let a committee member know your ideas and suggestions, and they will be discussed at the next committee meeting.

Booking Form

Event: BHS Horsebox and Trailer Safety Day
Date: Saturday 29 March 2014 - 9am -3pm
Venue: David Lloyd Centre Newhaven

Fee: £10.00 for members
£15.00 for non-members

Cheques to be made out to SDG

Closing date: Friday 28 February 2014

Event Organiser: Hazel Hunter

Mobile: 07773 788891

Booking: Fees to be sent to:

Mrs Jacky Chalmers

12 Ravelrig Park

Balerno

Midlothian EH14 7DL

Mobile: 07711 297684

BHS Horsebox and Trailer Safety		Saturday 29 March 2014 - 9am -3pm	
Name:		Email:	
Address:		Mobile:	
Fee enclosed:	Member(s) @ £10		
	Non-member(s) @ £15		
	Total:		

