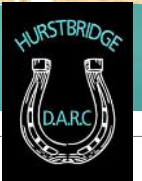




Hurstbridge DARC Newsletter

AUGUST 2016



Club Calendar

Midweek rallies run every Wednesday.

- 6 Aug - Saturday Rally
- 7 Aug - Pony Club Rally
- 20 Aug - Saturday Rally
- 11 Sep - HDARC Showjumping Day

Contacts

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RALLY COORDINATORS

Wednesday:

Melissa Dawson
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Lisa Utting
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News In Brief

Bon Voyage Kim

A big thank you and happy travels to our President, Kim Allison who is heading off early this month to study overseas for 10 months. We wish you all the best in your endeavors and look forward to your return (to actually ride) next year ;)

Our current Secretary, Sharlene Wright will step in as acting President until a new one is determined at the clubs AGM in November.

Interested in the Committee?

As mentioned above, the clubs AGM will be held in early November this year and along with a new President to be determined, there will also be vacancies for general committee members.

The committee now asks that you consider becoming part of the committee, including taking on the role of President. Yes, there's meetings to attend and work to do, but you do it with a group of like-minded dedicated committee members and you make a valuable contribution to the club, so it is a very rewarding experience!

To assist with a smooth transition, we ask interested members to contact Sharlene (0425 780 978) or another committee member to discuss what is involved and how to proceed.

Arena Harrowing - August Roster

- 1st - Mark Smith
- 8th - Robyn Sholly
- 15th - Lee Shelford
- 22nd - Miranda Schreiber
- 29th - Penny Scott

For those that have not harrowed before, you do not need a 4WD. The harrows are beside the arena and you do not need to move the jumps.

Grounds Etiquette

With numerous complaints being passed to the committee, here is a quick reminder about using the grounds and member conduct - on and off your horse:

- Pick up your horses poo. If your horse makes a mess in the arena, yards, driveway etc, you clean it up. There are small shovels hanging on the yards and manure piles for this purpose.
- Be respectful of other riders who may be on a green, anxious or just generally grumpy horse. Don't lunge your horse inside or beside the arena if others are riding. When riding, allow plenty of room for other riders, particularly when changing rein.
- Never leave a horse unattended at club, even if you only plan to leave for a short while. It is not safe for any members that may be at club or come to club to have to deal with a horse that may be stressed.

Thanks for your continued co-operation :)



Official Reports - June

Committee Report

- There has been a great response to the Working Equitation sessions that Trish has been running and committee have agreed to purchase some equipment for use by the club for this discipline, particularly those items that are heavy to maneuver.
- The Midweek Dressage day was a successful event although the use of the dressage arenas and new markers highlighted the lack of a suitable trailer to transport this equipment. We have looked at some examples of purpose built trailers that accommodate our equipment, including a storage area for the markers which will limit damage, and are now obtaining costings for a trailer. We will also look at replacing the door on the old shed to make easier use of our storage spaces. If there are things that you think the club should invest in please do let us know.
- Plans continue for a shade sail outside the canteen area and we will be looking at the possibility of installing another permanent seating area.
- We have now purchased a large good quality arena rake and will be asking members to volunteer for instruction and use to start with as we work through how often we should harrow with the equipment and build our knowledge base of how best to use it. There is still a few rumblings regarding the amount of sand on the top arena although to be fair there are also favourable comments. To try and settle the matter we have considered laser levelling, removing some sand, adding dust suppressants and feel that the best way forward is to seek the opinion of a qualified and experienced arena builder to review the arena surface and base and offer advice on what if any, measures should be taken to maintain the arena.
- Although the sprinkler discussions were finished at the last meeting with the cost too high and the workability a problem, there was a further and final discussion at committee with a report on council requirements at the request of a member. Any sprinkler proposal requires a council permit (with plans submitted), a commercial contractor with appropriate insurance coverage and as PC holds the lease for the grounds, the application will need to be made by PC. ARC and PC now have plans to meet on a regular basis at committee level and the issue will be handed over to PC.

Presidents Report

A very busy month at club with two very successful events now done and dusted. Thanks go to Andrea Barton and the Midweek Dressage sub-committee Amanda Stark, Jo McIlroy-Smith and Sandi Cornell for a well- run event; a Hurstbridge Dressage Day is always highly regarded by competitors and you exceeded those high expectations. Thanks also to Robyn Sholly, ably assisted by Belinda Males and Seffronia Oakes for running the inaugural car boot sale and making it a well-attended and financially successful event into the bargain, with people already looking forward to next year.

There is a high level of disquiet in our community at the moment regarding proposed amendments that Nillumbik want to make to private property overlays and all of us as horse owners and riders in the shire should have an awareness of the issues. As expected with any issue that arouses strong emotions there is currently a lot of information and misinformation circulating, so if you haven't already please take a look at the Nillumbik Horse Action group

(NHAG) FB page (started by our own Cath Giles) for balanced and clear commentary.

Sure, there's some sunny sky days, but no matter how you spin it winter is almost on our doorstep. My new puppy has a wardrobe of rugs already and the ponies have new rugs while I am still wearing old jumpers of course. This year I have vowed to leave the Shetland naked to avoid the butterball that I unwrap from his rug at the end of every winter and then need to lock up all spring, although the frosty mornings may see him rugged before too long. I know we have some members that are new to horse ownership and rugging can be a source of confusion and worry for many of us so please feel free to share your tips or suggestions by email, newsletter or FB.

Stay warm, sitting on a 500 kg warm-blooded animal should help!

Kim

Official Reports - July

Committee Report

A quiet committee meeting in near arctic conditions with continuing progress on some ongoing projects.

- PC have given their ok for us to install a shade sail near the canteen window so that should be installed in time for summer; the amount of shade won't be huge late in the day however it will provide some welcome relief.
- Our super new harrows have been collected and we have an eager team of volunteers waiting to learn how to use them; our arenas won't know themselves!



- We unfortunately have had to cancel this year's Xmas in July due to low numbers. We will look at trying this again last year however feedback is always welcome. We are

aware that among some members a night at Bridges isn't high on their dining top ten list, however there are many valid reasons to support Bridges including location, space and the use of their grounds for overflow parking on our events.

- The popularity of Trish K's Working Equitation sessions continues to rise and Trish is in the process of arranging



some equipment for purchase to support these sessions.

- We are looking at trailer options to ensure that the dressage arenas and markers can be stored and transported more effectively than the current trailer.
- We still have 2 events to run this membership year so please keep the days free to help and compete!

Presidents Report

In a couple of weeks I will be heading to North Carolina. Although I will be happy to head into the last weeks of their summer, the downside is that I will have to get through another winter while everyone enjoys our summer.

As I watch my Shetland eating hay and the big horse's leftovers whilst wearing a winter rug, I am curious about how much rugging I will see in the snowy winter conditions when I am there and I suspect my Shetland might not be so pampered next winter.

The reins have now been handed over to Sharlene Wright who will be acting President for the remainder of the membership year. Sharlene will enjoy the

support that I have from our fellow committee members and our club members.

I will be in contact remotely and have made numerous copies of the hours log and other important club info across a multitude of storage devices so please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any queries.

I have enjoyed my time in the role and am looking forward to seeing a few new faces on the committee next year, and of course to coming back next year and actually riding!

Thanks for being a great club to be a part of.

Kim

Main Arena

Many of you will be aware that there has been a few concerns expressed regarding the top arena at our club.

By way of background, when the current committee started in November 2014, there were many, many members that expressed a view that the top arena was too hard and in desperate need of new sand; instructors had also commented on the need for sand.

We proceeded on that basis and sought quotes and sand.

You will appreciate that the cost is considerable and we were fortunate to have the labour and time to source the material donated to the club. Those members with their own arenas will know that the 'Yea River Sand' (the original sand at the club) has not been available for some years now and that it is nigh on impossible to get a washed sand for arenas. The sand that is available does have a higher clay content than washed river sand. It is this clay content that has contributed to the concerns riders have had. The clay will wash through the sand through the natural process of rain and work, however the dry spring and summer of 2015/2016 has not helped.

The committee has listened to concerns and discussed the issue at length over the past months to try to determine if there is in fact an issue and if so, what steps can be taken.

You will recall that we looked at installing sprinklers, however the cost is going to run close to \$10,000 and will still require members to physically move them. Simple rainbird type sprinklers and heavy duty hoses will be a cheaper alternative.

We have asked our instructors for their opinion and the response has been that the sand is not too deep,

but the arena does need regular harrowing for the amount of traffic it experiences. We have implemented a weekly harrow roster to improve the surface, which shares the load across 120 members with a drive around the arena only required once in 2 years.

We have also ordered a large purpose built arena rake that will allow for proper edging and aerating and have a number of members ready to learn how to use these.

We have now sought and received 'expert advice' from the contractor that installed the arena.

There is not too much sand on the arena. Clay has made its way through the sand and settled on the base and this will wash through over time with rain and regular harrowing; we cannot over-harrow the arena. The use of an arena rake with tines will be ideal, so our new rake will be perfect! Bob also checked the drainage of the arena and the fall is still at the degree it needs to be and the arena is draining how it needs to. The only suggestion to improve the speed of drainage is to drill a number of holes in the plinth boards at certain places but this is certainly not critical.

So, hopefully this answers people's queries. We do appreciate that not all horses are alike and that there are some horses that do not do their best work on the top arena and some members will prefer the lower arena. We can assure you however that we have established that the arena is in good condition, the sand depth is fine and we have a solid plan for ongoing maintenance.

Please don't hesitate to a committee member if you would like to discuss the issue.

Wednesday Rally Program

	9:00 am	10:00am	11:00am	12:00pm
WEDNESDAY 13TH JULY 2016			Duty: Cath Giles	
Dale Murie		Flatwork L 3/2	Flatwork L 5/4	
Tanja van Bokhoven		Flatwork L 3/2	Flatwork L 5/4	
Robbie Allen		Showjumping L 3/2	Showjumping L 5/4	
WEDNESDAY 20TH JULY 2016			Duty: Sherri Morley	
Dale Murie		Flatwork L 3/2	Flatwork L 5/4	
Kirsten Beard-Adams		Flatwork L 3/2	Flatwork L5/4	
WEDNESDAY 27TH JULY 2016			Duty: Julia Gibson	
Tanja van Bokhoven		Flatwork L 3/2	Flatwork L 5/4	
Jenny Sheppard	Showjumping L 3/2	Showjumping L 4	Showjumping L 5	
WEDNESDAY 3RD AUGUST 2016			Duty: TBA	
Dale Murie		Flatwork L 3/2	Flatwork L 5/4	
Viv Axton		Flatwork L 3/2	Flatwork L5/4	
WEDNESDAY 10TH AUGUST 2016			Duty: TBA	
Vanessa Canning	Flatwork L 3/2	Showjumping L 3/2	Flatwork L5/4	Showjumping L5/4
Dale Murie		Flatwork L 3/2	Flatwork L 5/4	
WEDNESDAY 17TH AUGUST 2016			Duty: TBA	
Dale Murie		Flatwork L 3/2	Flatwork L 5/4	
Kirsten Beard-Adams		Flatwork L 3/2	Flatwork L5/4	
Robbie Allen		Showjumping L 3/2	Showjumping L 5/4	
WEDNESDAY 24TH AUGUST 2016			Duty: TBA	
Dale Murie		Flatwork L 3/2	Flatwork L 5/4	
Tanja van Bokhoven		Flatwork L 3/2	Flatwork L 5/4	
WEDNESDAY 31ST AUGUST 2016			Duty: TBA	
Viv Axton		Flatwork L 3/2	Flatwork L5/4	
Jenny Sheppard	Showjumping L 3/2	Showjumping L 4	Showjumping L 5	
WEDNESDAY 7TH SEPTEMBER 2016			Duty: TBA	
Dale Murie		Flatwork L 3/2	Flatwork L 5/4	
Kirsten Beard-Adams		Flatwork L 3/2	Flatwork L5/4	
WEDNESDAY 14TH SEPTEMBER 2016			Duty: TBA	
Viv Axton		Flatwork L 3/2	Flatwork L5/4	
Robbie Allen		Showjumping L 3/2	Showjumping L 5/4	



Wednesday Rallies

Hello Everyone,

Hope you are managing to keep warm. Hope your horses are all well.

Something to note: Vanessa Canning is having a baby (first one) and will be taking some time off once that little person arrives. Wednesday, 10th August is the last time for this year that she will be instructing at our club. We hope to see Vanessa back instructing at our club, some time next year.

Viv Axton is away in Germany from 8th July to 28th July, so we will not be seeing Viv at rally until August.

I am working on the duty roster at the moment, so will send that out separately.

Mel

Rally Information

Each lesson is \$25 and payments can be made either online before the rally or cash on the day.

Online Payments

Account name: Hurstbridge & District Adult Riding

BSB: 633000 Account number: 112585229

Please have the reference as your surname then first initial and date, eg. "Smith T 15/2"

Payments must be made before the rally and you need to tick your name off the rally sheet on the day to say you have paid online.

Cash on the day

We will still offer cash payments on the day of the rally as per usual, however please observe the following rules:

- pay for your rally before you ride
- remember to bring the correct amount (i.e. \$25) and do not expect to get change
- put your payment along with a completed payment slip in **one** envelope per rider

Bookings: Email melissa@ech.com.au and include your level and preference. Cancellations must be made by Sunday 8.00pm prior to the Wednesday rally or you are obligated to pay for your lesson. For booking enquiries &/ or cancellations, call Melissa - 0439 080 861

Duty Roster: Duty requires setting up, packing up, providing morning tea and looking after instructors. Members rostered on should make contact to agree how to share the duties. If you are unable to do your rostered duty, please arrange a swap with another member and notify Melissa of changes.

Wednesday Rally Coordinator: Melissa Dawson E: melissa@ech.com.au P:0439 080 861

Saturday Rallies

Rally Date	Instructor/s
6 August	Carly Reid (flat/jump/poles/ground work) Felicity Yuncken (flat)
20 August	Dale Muire (flat) Lisa Bray (flat/jump/poles)
3 September	XC at Yarra Glen & Rally at Hurstbidge (instructor TBA)
18 June	Dale Muire (flat) Lisa Bray (flat/jump/poles)

Rally Information

Each lesson is \$25 and payments can be made either online before the rally or cash on the day.

Online Payments

Account name: Hurstbridge & District Adult Riding
BSB: 633000 Account number: 112585229

Please have the reference as your surname then first initial and date, eg. "Smith T 15/2"

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- remember to bring the correct amount (i.e. \$25) and do not expect to get change
- put your payment along with a completed payment slip in one envelope per rider

Bookings: Email lisaathome@gmail.com and include your level and preference. Cancellations must be made by Wednesday 8.00pm prior to the Saturday rally or you are obligated to pay for your lesson. For booking enquiries &/or cancellations, call Lisa on 0411 027 656 .

Saturday Rally Coordinator: Lisa Utting E: lisaathome@gmail.com P:0411 027 656