

MSRC Autumn Update 2020

Dear Members,

Well – who would have predicted this time last year what a mess we would find ourselves in during 2020. We are SO lucky to live in the South West, where so far the incidence of Covid-19 has been much lower than in some of our densely populated regions.

Most of us, too, will have had our own outside space to enjoy during the lockdown. I cannot imagine what life would have been like in a high rise flat with not even a balcony.

But – to Riding Club issues! Your committee have met, in the open air and socially distanced, and have tried to plough our way through the edicts from BRC.

You are probably thinking that your membership fees have been an expensive waste of money this year – so we would like to take this opportunity to explain to you that we really don't make a fortune at your expense. BRC had chosen this year to increase the affiliation fees to £15 per head (half of your subscription gone in one fell swoop!). Area 12 affiliation fees account for another slice and then there are two insurance policies for public liability and our assets. So at the end of the day we are not left with very much. Now that all the disciplines have introduced grass roots initiatives such as BD Quest and BE 80 T, this has had a detrimental effect on the membership of all Riding Clubs and we are not alone in seeing our membership fall.

Training is one aspect of the Riding Club ethos that we subsidise and of course all training had to be halted during the national lockdown. However, we did get going again quite early thanks to Carol Pledsted offering the use of her very nice outdoor school. We are now back up and running with clinics at Kingfisher (Amanda Edmonds) and World Horse Welfare (Gill Longhurst).

Day clinics such as Jane Holderness-Roddam and Sue Petty are on hold at present due to lack of loo facilities being available.

At the moment, all competition activity has stopped. We know that some of the centres are running competitions again and it is very different when these are their own premises and not us hiring venues and having to comply with tortuous risk assessments and issues such as paperless scoring and judge's welfare. We find it impossible to run the Novice Winter Dressage qualifier this year which had been booked for KSEC on October 18th. As I write this there is no alternative proposal for this competition and it sounds as though we may be in some sort of lockdown again very soon so the October date may have to change anyway. Please still let Carol know if you want to be in a team.

Clearly our Supper Night cannot happen this year and because of the changes in the BRC year the AGM will not happen until January 2021 and again will be subject to the regulations in place at that time.

This sounds to be an update of doom and gloom but try and enjoy your horses at home and maybe continue your one to one training and then come out at the end of this ready to get going and put MSRC back on the map. Better still come to some of the training that we are running in a Covid safe environment. Don't forget that you can always keep involved by sending Martin anything you would like to share on our Facebook page.

Thank you all for your patience and continued support and above all keep safe and look after yourselves.

Your Committee

Main Club Contacts:

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- Treasurer: Judith Hall - 07940 826 000
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- Dressage Competitions: Jane Surmon - 07771 548317
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Our Team Managers are:

- Dressage: Carol Plested - 07973 360 968
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