

Area 1 News

Well, just as we all get back on board, and try to stay there(!), down comes the snow again. It really is a bit of a challenge, however there are compensations for those of us who do not have access to an indoor school.....no farrier for at least six weeks, and vastly reduced feeding ..although the treasures are munching their way through an inordinate amount of hay/haylage!

The first Area casualty was the Winter Show Jumping. Realistically, no one was ready.....so the 2011 competition will be the 27th November 2010.

It is with great regret I have to report there will be no Novice and Intermediate Horse Trials this year. We had a venue booked, but no one came forward to take overall control of the set up. I have a great deal of sympathy with this, as I have run two Horse Trials myself, therefore know what is involved. There is no doubt that, generally, we are all spoilt with the luxury of the 'prepared ' venue....turn up, and it all happens. I cannot stress strongly enough that we are in great danger of losing all expertise, knowledge, and the camaraderie that comes from being involved with an amateur event. There is a great deal of help to hand, and much fun also.

So, onwards...I am very grateful to the clubs who have volunteered to help with the Area training this year...please pay attention to the SEA web site for details. Not all the training involves horses. Edinburgh and District are organising First Aid... please contact caroline.pennycook@scottishwidows.co.uk for details of the course on 6th March.

Kilmacolm have organised another Health and Safety Roadshow with Bill McKinley. You will have received the Rider Magazine, and will have noticed the article about the Club Welfare Officer. This is now something Clubs cannot ignore. Bill explains the role...and at a previous 'Roadshow' in the East, reassured many! Bill has produced a CD which covers all the aspects, including Risk Assessments. It is important to remember that if your club runs any competition under the umbrella of 'Riding Club', you must 'take all reasonable precautions' to ensure the safety of your competitors. These 'precautions' change/ increase according to the on going legislation, which is why we are trying to help.

On a more cheerful note, many clubs have seized the inclement weather to have some interesting evenings...Almond have organised massage sessions and 'core stability' workshops.

The BSJA sessions at Ingliston have had members from Stranraer, Ayr and Lochgilphead attending, despite the weather, and Dalkeith Equestrian are in the process of putting together a training day at Dalkeith Park on 31st May, hopefully with Les Smith and Louise Milne Hume.

Kilmacolm have organised a One Day Event at Houston on the 29th May. This will be held on the old Horse Trials course and will be for Nursery Novice and Novice (Intro). The xc section will be over approx 12 fences, including ditches, water and banks.

There will be SJ and XC training for Pre Novice, Novice and Intermediate on the 30th, at Houston.

Finally, the Area Hunter Trials are to be held on 28th March. Ayr are running this. Please do give them support, as they have continually committed themselves to the support of the Area. The schedule will be sent to all secretaries in due course and will be on the SEA web site.

Best wishes to you all.