

Welcome to our Autumn newsletter. Wow! What an action packed summer it has been. Our riders started the ball rolling at the Inter Regionals at Keysoe, and continued on to Wales, Sheepgate and several other places in between! On the bigger stage, our team won team silver at the Europeans, Laura turned the tables on the Germans to grab the individual bronze – and a star was born! Anyone wanting something to aspire to – just remember that test of Edward Gal's for 90% and look no further! One of our pony riders – **Claire Gallimore** travelled with the British Team to compete at the Pony Europeans (read her article further on in the newsletter) and several of our riders got all the way to the National Championships with great results – so a massive well done to **Alex Hardwick**, 2009 Medium Restricted National Champion! Also many congratulations to **Georgina Weedon**, 8th in the Novice Restricted and **Alicia Patrick**, 7th in the Preliminary Championship, and **Sam Thake** in the Young Horse class. Lots to report on, and also lots more planned going into 2010. So please read on, and look forward to seeing many of you in the coming months!

THE BYRDS INTER REGIONAL TEAM COMPETITION 2009



Sam Hawkins Michelle Watson Georgina Weedon Bethany Rose Horobin

Our Champs – Team Prada!!!

Yes, not to be outdone by their senior counterparts - our Eastern Prada team brought home the spoils for the region in the BYRDS Inter Regional as well!! 37 teams from all over Scotland, Wales and England converged on Keysoe for two days of fierce competition. This year for the first time, all tests ridden over the weekend were 'rider tests' as opposed to dressage tests. Teams, made up of riders from A, B, C and Fledgling squads rode tests over the two days at their relevant level. In between, much partying was done,

and team spirit was in great supply! The East set up camp around Lorrie's caravan with BBQ, flags, bunting and gazebos and partied on down! Eleanor brought the requisite selection of chocolate and sweets (purely for reasons of raising blood sugar levels when required in our athletes of course!!) and everyone had a great time! The rain was a bit of a dampner on Saturday night - but undeterred, sausages were sizzled and drinks consumed. At that stage, our Prada team were lying in 3rd place with everything to ride for the next day.

Sunday dawned bright, with the overnight rain making the carpark and temporary stabling area a little more soggy, but undeterred, our riders rose to the challenge! Eleanor spent two days in the indoor school warming everyone up, and Lorrie did her normal sterling job of watching every test, boosting riders' confidence, calming down parents and generally keeping everyone happy!

The sun was shining as the 150 or so riders gathered in the arena on Sunday afternoon for the prize giving. Islay Auty gave a rousing speech telling the assembled riders "some of you standing here today will be our riders of the future, and British team members". There were awards for the individual winners in each squad first of all. We had two good



Gabby Lucas Michelle Wakefield Imogen Ablett Rosie Daniell
Burberry Team

placings in the A Squad - Michelle Wakefield in 3rd and Michelle Watson in 4th, qualifying them both for the prestigious A squad ride-off at Hartpury the following weekend. Just out of the top 10 in 14th was Sam Collins.

The B Squad saw Georgina Weedon in 4th and a flurry of our riders just out of the top 10 - Eve Olive in 11th, Heather Jeffers, 12th, Aimee Witkin 13th and Issy Whiting in 14th - a great result for our girls in a hotly contested section with 43 riders.



Ruth Hole Issy Whiting Natalie Roberts Heather Jeffers
Mulberry Team

The C Squad saw two of our riders gaining individual honours - well done to Natalie Roberts in 9th and Beth Turnbull in 10th. All three of our Fledgling riders did brilliantly to finish in the top 10 out of a class of 22. Bethany Rose Horobin was 2nd, Imogen Ablett 3rd and Ruth Hole 6th - what a fantastic result!

The climax of the whole weekend, and the reason that so many BYRDS riders train all through the winter,



Sam Collins Harriette Williams Aimee Witkin Alicia Patrick
Versace Team

is, of course, the team competition. It is always hard to tell over the weekend quite who is winning, much time is spent at the scoreboard with notes and sums being done to try and see who may

be in the running. In reverse order, the results were announced, and at last, the Eastern Prada team were revealed as the 2009 Champions! The team was made up of **Michelle Watson, Georgina Weedon, Sam Hawkins and Bethany Rose Horobin**. Michelle has been a fantastic supporter of the Eastern region ever since her pony days. Now riding in young riders with her own GDH Florestans Fire, Michelle, who runs her own training yard stated "It's been a long time coming, but it was worth the wait!" Georgina Weedon and



Eve Olive Emma Hester Sarah Thomas Beth Turnbull
Gucci Team

The Smoke Jumper helped the team with two great tests in the B squad. Fledgling star Bethany Rose Horobin, who scored a 3rd and a 2nd place over the weekend was another vital member of the team. Bethany is another rider who has supported the East for several years now - and thanks also to her Dad Peter for the fantastic photographs! Completing the Prada team was Sam Hawkins riding her own On Pluto's Planet.

Our Burberry team did a great job to finish in 8th place - so well done to **Michelle Wakefield, Rosie Daniell, Gabby Lucas and Imogen Ablett!** In fact, the East did brilliantly overall, as all five of our teams finished in the top 20 - a

great result with 37 teams competing altogether! Well done to the Mulberry Team in 11th - **Issy Whiting, Heather Jeffers, Natalie Roberts, Ruth Hole**, the Gucci Team in 18th - **Emma Hester, Eve Olive, Beth Turnbull and Sarah Thomas**, and the Versace Team in 20th - **Sam Collins, Aimee Witkin, Harriette Williams, Alicia Patrick**.



Eastern Team HQ... before the rain!

GOODBYE!

As most of you know I am leaving BYRDS at the end of December. I would like to say a huge thank you for all the support I have had from all of you over the last eight years. It really has been a privilege to work with such a wonderful group of riders and parents.

We have had some fantastic results along the way but to me the most important thing is the way everyone has worked together to achieve this. We are now one of the best regions in British Dressage. Please give your full support to Eleanor to make this continue.

I shall not be far away and hope to be asked back to help out when needed. I shall watch the progress of all of you with great interest. Just keep up the good work.

Love Lorrie

x

NEW BYRDS REP!

We are pleased to announce that we have a new BYRDS Rep for the region! And you will all be delighted to hear that it is someone you all know already – Eleanor Collins! Eleanor has worked with Lorrie from the very beginning of the BYRDS movement in the East, running clinics for the 8 members (yes, that really was how many we started with!) She has gone on to teach lots of you, train up our teams to great success and run our popular camps. So I am sure you will all join me in welcoming Eleanor aboard in her new role, and wishing her every success!

DO CHECK OUT YOUR REGIONAL PAGE REGULARLY!

For all up-to-date information on what is going on in the region, check out our page on the British Dressage website. This page also has other events of interest in the region, and regular updates/write-ups on competitions.

www.britishdressage.co.uk/your_regions/eastern_region

TALENT SEEKING DAY

5 AUGUST 2009, BROOK FARM, ESSEX

We held a very successful Talent Spotting Day at Brook Farm. With 28 entries overall, it was a busy day for the two assessors - James Burtwell and Mark Ruddock - both of whom are Trainers and Judges. The format of the day was that riders in the same age categories were grouped together. First they rode the Talent Spotting Test, and then they came back into the arena for training on their own horses in a group. After this, the assessors swapped the riders around onto different horses. "Try to imagine that a friend from another part of the country has called you to ask if you can go and try a horse they have seen advertised near you, and let them know what you think" was the brief. The sheets that all the riders get at the end of the day look for things such as 'feel and elasticity of the seat', 'Anticipation of movements', 'poise and security', 'effectiveness of the aids'. The second half of the session concentrates on the training and swapping and includes the riders influence on the second horse, their talent and empathy and knowledge of training systems.

The first section was the Fledglings - and this was won by **Imogen Abblett** who rode a nice test and spoke well. In the young juniors section (age 12-14) **Beth Turnbull** and Take the Biscuit were successful. The hotly contested Middle Juniors (age 15-18) was won by **Sarah Thomas**, and in the Young Riders, **Katie Hamilton** came out on top. Well done to everyone who took part, all went home with rosettes, certificates, feedback forms and prizes.

Spring Two Day Camp 2010

12-13 April 2010

Towerlands Park, Braintree, Essex

Camp in Spring 2010 promises to be an action packed two days with the emphasis on the horse as an athlete. Eleanor has lots of great ideas to make your two days fun as well as educational. There will be lessons, workshops and other related activities. As well as all the riding, it is also a great way to meet other BYRDS riders and make new friends. So – what are you waiting for – sign up now!!!

All levels will be catered for, so if you are interested, see the application form attached to this newsletter or for further information, please contact Eleanor Collins on: 01371 811330

BYRDS EASTERN REGION

BYRDS Representative:

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E-Mail: lorriesisson@btinternet.com

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Trainer & Camp Co-ordinator:

Eleanor Collins
Cooks Farm Cottage, Walthams Cross
Great Bardfield, Essex, CM7 4QW
Tel: 01371 811330

Committee Member:

Sue Darken (Herts) 01279 507861

PONIES ON THE MOVE

RADWAY HARLEQUIN 13hh Riding Pony for loan/lease

A superb opportunity for a fledgling/C squad rider. Harley excels at his prelims and came seventh at the Nationals this year. He is also capable of competing at Novice level with a competent and able rider. This year he has competed with his current owner at Keysoe, Sheepgate and the Byrds Home International.

His current owner has now moved onto a bigger pony and we are therefore looking for a five star home for this lovely pony. If interested please contact Sheryl Patrick 07939614102 (any time) or 01986 798502 (evenings only).

Other News...

NSEA Regionals: Congratulations to **Bethany Rose Horobin** who won the Elementary at the recent regional round of the Inter Schools Competition. She is now off to the finals in November so good luck!

Pony Club: Several of our riders got to the Pony Club Champs this year, well done to **Rhiannon Ball** and **Lilly Adkins** in the individuals, and to **East Essex** and **North Norfolk** Pony Clubs who were both placed in the Open Team Championship.

Trailblazers: We had several riders contest the Trailblazers Final – so well done to **Courtney Blundell**, **Ella Garfoot** and **Jade Addy** (and anyone else I may have missed!)

National Training: Well done to **Emma Hester**, **Harriette Williams**, **Gaby Lucas** and **Aimee Witkin** who have all been accepted onto the Central Training Squad to work with the National trainers this winter.

Young Professionals Award: Congratulations to **Michelle Watson** and **Natalie Banks** who were selected to take part in one of only three days running this year for young professionals in our sport. And even bigger congratulations to Natalie who is one of the six finalists! She goes to The Talland School of Equitation, Cirencester, Glos on Monday 15 February. There, the riders will ride a variety of unknown horses and be involved in discussion on future aims and plans. The judges will be Carl Hester and Nicola Jourdain. All six will receive generous training grants Spectators are welcome and encouraged to attend.

As well as this, Michelle has also got onto the **BEF Regional Foundation Squad** which is a terrific achievement. She has already had her first induction day and going forward she will receive coaching, sessions with a sports psychologist, veterinary support and monthly training with International Trainer Michel Assouline for up to two years – so WELL DONE Michelle!

THE BYRDS HOME INTERNATIONAL 2009 – WALES



What can we say about our foray into Wales? Well, it was very ... wet!!! The sun shone on the first



day, and it was a beautiful setting, with arenas in the middle that could be viewed from all around. Our riders performed really well in their warm-up tests. A couple of ponies took exception to the flags flapping, and one rider who shall remain nameless, forgot her test – but all in all it was a good start. And then the rain came! And it poured... and poured... and poured! The arenas turned to lakes, the box park to mud, Eleanor's lorry resembled a Chinese Laundry with so many damp clothes hung up to dry, and riders struggled in and out of soaking wet boots and breeches – not fun!

However, undeterred, our riders continued on, with some great results. By the end of the competition, we had several placings in the individual championships, and two of our three teams in the top 15. So well done to: **Bethany Rose Horobin** – 2nd in Fledgling Champs, **Aimee Witkin**, 5th in Pony Novice Champs, **Issy Whiting**, 4th Elem Champs and **Harriette Williams** 7th in same class. To **Rosie Daniell**, 2nd in Jnr Nov Champ and **Georgina Weedon** 7th. To **Michelle Watson**, 5th in Jnr Med, and **Emma Hester** 6th in YR Medium.

In the teams, we were right up there, and then an unfortunate blip dropped our Prada team down to 5th, but still a great result out of 27 teams. So well done to the Prada Team of **Michelle Watson**, **Bethany Rose Horobin**, **Mchelle Wakefield** and **Aimee Witkin**. In 14th was our Gucci Team of **Emma Hester**, **Issy Whiting**, **Beth Turnbull** and **Rosie Daniell**, and in 22nd, the Versace Team was made up of **Georgina Weedon**, **Sam Collins**, **Harriette Williams** and **Alicia Patrick**.



Massive thanks as ever, to the 'support team'. To the Mums and Dad's and siblings who braved the weather, and to Eleanor and Lorrie for being there to warm-up riders, calm down parents, hold umbrellas and ponies and generally keep the whole show on the road – CONGRATULATIONS TO YOU ALL!

I know it's not always that exciting – but at least try to look like you are having fun!

THE EUROPEAN PONY DRESSAGE CHAMPIONSHIPS

By Claire Gallimore



Being chosen for the European Pony Dressage Championships in July, made me feel very proud and I was honoured to be wearing a Great Britain pocket badge on my jacket. The journeys to and from Moorseele in Belgium were so much fun and being with the other girls was such a laugh and great for team GB spirit! Once there, we met many competitors from the other nations who were very friendly and at the official Opening Ceremony we were able to swap our flag pins with one another. I managed to get a Dutch and Danish one which I put on the lapels of my riding jacket.

The competition itself was tough but dealing with all the ups and downs made me even more determined and we thrived on the challenge, qualifying for the Freestyle by being in the top 15 after the Individual Test. When the loudspeakers were crackling when Gigolo and I were performing our Kur made me realize just how mentally tough you have to be when things happen outside your control.



The whole trip was a memorable experience and helped me become a stronger athlete. Thank you to the whole team that made it all possible. Being part of the Great Britain team brought us all together and I have definitely made friends forever!

DON'T FORGET!!

The Pony Europeans 2010 are being held in the UK. For all of you who have ambitions to be on the squads, this is a unique chance to watch the top pony riders from all over Europe on some of the most stunning ponies.

Being held at Bishop Burton, North Yorks. on the 27 July to the 1 August, it is a must for all.

So get those union jacks out and start cheering the home team on for a medal in 2010.

For all up-to-date information on what is going on in the region, check out our page on the British Dressage

website: www.britishdressage.co.uk/your_regions/eastern_region



CHRISTMAS PARTY AND GOODBYE TO LORRIE!

Saturday 5th December 2009
Brook Farm, Stapleford Abbots
6-8pm

EVERYONE WELCOME!

Snacks and drinks and a chance to catch up with friends!
Awards to all those who have represented the Region this year.

This will be Lorrie's last official BYRDS event, although I am sure that she will not disappear completely, and we all hope that she will still be around to support everyone for many years. So please do come along to give Lorrie a great send off and to celebrate what has been a fantastic year for the Eastern Region.

Please e-mail or call Katharine to say if you are coming so that we can cater accordingly and see you there!



SHEEPGATE U25'S BYRDS CHAMPIONSHIP

August 2009

Quite a few of our riders took the now well worn route up to the Sheepgate U25's Championships at the end of the summer holidays. This competition runs over 5 days and there are classes

for everyone at every level! (How they work out the schedule and the scores is just mind-blowing!) As ever, Eastern riders performed well, and we had two champions! **Claire Gallimore** and Gigolo won the FEI Pony Championship and **Michelle Watson** the Young Rider Derby. In fact Michelle got rather more than she bargained for when, standing on the podium to collect her medal, her boyfriend Jamie, ran out, got down on one knee and asked her to marry him!! To cheers and clapping all round, Michelle said yes!



Our teams also did well with both the Prada Team and the Burberry Team finishing in the top 10. Well done to all our riders at Sheepgate: **Michelle Watson, Michelle Wakefield, Aimee Witkin, Alicia Patrick, Claire Gallimore, Georgina Weedon, Gabby Lucas, Emma Hester, Harriette Williams, Bethany Rose Horobin and Beth Turnbull.**

EVENTS COMING UP

Entering for events:

- Please use **separate cheques** for each event payable to BRITISH DRESSAGE.
- Please use one of the attached entry forms.
- Unless otherwise stated, all entries to Katharine Perry
- Times for clinics etc will be e-mailed out, if I don't have your e-mail address – please let me have it asap!
- Entries can be paid for via credit card over the phone to Katharine, and entry form can be e-mailed.

Date	Event	Cost/Details
15 Nov	<p>MECHANICAL HORSE WORKSHOP CONCENTRATING ON THE RIDERS POSITION HIXHAM HALL, FURNEAX PELHAM, HERTS, SG9 0LR 10-1pm</p> <p>A morning session working with Amanda Gover and her mechanical horse. The session will be concentrating on the rider's position, the bio-mechanical theory behind it and why and how it should work. Everyone will get a chance to ride and receive body sculpting to gain the right position. Amanda Gover BHSIT firmly believes that the horse cannot respond correctly unless the rider understands the theory behind how to ask correctly. "No-one has ever explained it like that before" is regularly said during lessons. You will need to come in riding clothes, and are also welcome to bring your own saddle if you wish. Places are strictly limited, so book NOW!</p>	£15
28 Nov	<p>PROGRESS CHECKING CLINIC CALDECOTE FARM, CALDECOTE LANE, BUSHEY, HERTS , WD23 4EF</p> <p>This day is open to all and is a chance to catch up with our Trainer Eleanor Collins, assess progress throughout the summer and discuss where you are aiming with your winter training. If you have not been to any training before, you are welcome to start here! Don't forget your Log Books – if you don't have one yet you can get one on the day!</p>	£35
5 Dec	<p>CHRISTMAS PARTY AND FAREWELL TO LORRIE BROOK FARM, ESSEX</p> <p>See details in newsletter and don't forget to let me know if you are coming!</p>	
23 Jan	<p>JULIE HUGO CLINIC - HERTS Normandale Farm , New Barn Lane, Little Hallingbury, CM22 7TR</p> <p>Flatwork clinic with trainer to one of our National Champs this year!</p>	£50 for ¾ hr private lesson
30 Jan	<p>JENNIE LORISTON CLARK LECTURE DEMO</p> <p>Check out the Brook Farm website for further details. www.brookfarmtc.co.uk</p>	Apply to Jackie Silk.
31 Jan	<p>TRAINING DAY AND TEAM VIEWING BROOK FARM, ESSEX</p> <p>Open to all, but looking for potential team members as well for this summer. If you wish to be considered for teams you need to tick box on application form and you also need to attend <u>at least</u> two BYRDS events between Jan-May.</p>	£35

15 Feb	TRAINING DAY AND TEAM VIEWING THE COLLEGE EC, KEYSOE, BEDS Details as per 31 Jan.	£35
6 March	JULIE HUGO CLINIC, HERTS Normandale Farm , New Barn Lane, Little Hallingbury, CM22 7TR Flatwork clinic with trainer to one of our National Champs this year!	£50 for ¾ hr private lesson
27 March	TRAINING DAY AND TEAM VIEWING WIX EC, MANNINGTREE, ESSEX Details as per 31 Jan.	£35
7 April	TEST RIDING ANALYSIS THE COLLEGE EC, KEYSOE, BEDS Ride a test which will be videoed. The watch it afterwards with the judge and trainer and discuss where marks were won and lost. A brilliant way of gaining those extra marks! Open to all – please state on your entry form which test you will be riding from the following: P12, N24, E42, M71, AM84	£35 Don't forget to say which test you are riding.
12/13 April	TWO DAY CAMP TOWERLANDS PARK, BRAINTREE, ESSEX See more details in the newsletter.	Apply on separate form (attached)
3 May	OPEN SHOW AND TEAM VIEWING TOWERLANDS PARK, BRAINTREE, ESSEX This show is the open show for the year. There will be tests at all levels including the Rider Squad Tests. EVERYONE is welcome, but for those of you who are aiming for a place on one of the teams, this show is a must. Great prizes and rosettes and a chance to ride against BYRDS members from other regions.	Schedule in Spring newsletter
30 May	TEAM TRAINING AND ELITE SQUAD TEST ANALYSIS BROOK FARM, ESSEX As well as team training for those on the long list, there will be test analysis sessions for our Elite squad riders (that is those who are riding at FEI level, on the central training system, or on any of the national squads).	£35
19 June	TEST RIDING CLINIC CAMBS Open to all, this day concentrates on different movements within the test, how to set your horse up and gain the best marks possible for each movement.	Details in Spring newsletter
3 July	TEAM TRAINING AND ELITE SQUAD TEST ANALYSIS BROOK FARM, ESSEX Details as above (30 May)	£35
10-11 July	BYRDS INTER REGIONAL EVENT THE COLLEGE EC, KEYSOE, BEDS	

CHECK ON THE REGIONAL WEBPAGE FOR FURTHER CLINIC DATES THAT WILL BE ADDED DURING THE YEAR!

APPLICATION FORM FOR BYRDS CAMP 12-13 April 2010 – Towerlands EC, Essex

Spring camp in 2010 is being held at Towerlands EC, Essex. It comprises two days of training, lessons, test riding and other activities. Accommodation in your own horsebox for riders, ponies will be stabled in permanent boxes. The cost of camp is £160, which includes all training and related events, stabling and dinner on the middle evening.



APPLICATION FORM FOR BYRDS CAMP 12-13 April 2010 – Towerlands

Name:

Address:

Tel. No:

E mail address:

Rider age:

Horse:

Horse age:

Size of horse:

I wish to ride a test at the following level: Prelim / Nov / Elem / Med / Adv Med
(Please delete as applicable)

Brief details of level you are riding at and experience:

Please send this application form, complete with a cheque for £160 (payable to British Dressage) and an sae if you don't have e-mail to:
Eleanor Collins, Cooks Farm Cottage, Walthams Cross, Great Bardfield,
Essex, CM7 4QW

BYRDS ENTRY FORM

Event: Date of Event: Rider:
Horse Tel: E-mail:

I am riding the following test (if applicable):

Cheque enclosed for: £

I would like to be considered for a team this summer: Yes/No (please delete as applicable)



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Cheque enclosed for: £

I would like to be considered for a team this summer: Yes/No (please delete as applicable)

Please photocopy this page, or print off another one from the website if you need more forms.