

Achieve your equestrian dreams – one hoof at a time

Winter 2018

Well folks we come to end of another year, albeit it's a shorter year to fit in with British Riding Clubs membership year.

All members are cordially invited to our

Annual General Meeting and Social Evening

On Saturday 12th January 2019.

Following last year's successful format, it'll be a Fish and Chip supper, with Quiz and games and prize giving. Unlike last year's we'll be in a bigger hall – Wittering Sports & Social Club. Put the date in your diary and more details to follow

Membership renewals.

Did you pick up on the earlier hint that this year was a shorter year. Our membership year now runs for the full 12 months from 1st Jan to 31st December.

Membership fees for 2019

£25	Riding Member Annual Membership
£10	Non-Riding Member Annual Membership
£20	Family Member Annual Membership

For that you get access to regular training (mentoring), cheaper entries at competitions and priority bookings at special clinics. As part of British Riding Clubs, you get insurance at any BRC event, a quarterly magazine, entry to qualifiers (more of which later) in a variety of disciplines for their Championships. Plus you get to have fun and support from your fellow members.

All you need to do is fill in the [form](#) and send with payment – NB we do need a new form each year – particularly important with the new GDPR legislation.

What's this about qualifiers?

So we have Area Qualifiers going on throughout the year. We are in Area 7 which stretches from us in the North down to Stevenage, and from Milton Keynes across to Cambridge. All members are welcome to enter the competitions but we do need you to be a regular club supporters (attending mentoring, helping at our own competitions etc) but also agreeing to bring along a friend or be prepared to help for a WARC slot at the qualifier event itself (see below). Each Area 7 club also 'hosts' a specific qualifier event (more of which later).

The next series will be for the Winter Novice and Intermediate Championships, starting with **Show jumping on Sat 26th January , the postponed 100cm class Arena Eventing on Sat 2nd Feb, and followed by dressage on Sun 16th February ALL at Keysoe.**

Anyone can take part either as individuals or as part of a team of 4 – we don't have trials or selections, and we'll fit you into teams if you want. All entries are through WARC team managers and the club pays the prelim entry fee to British Riding Clubs 21 days BEFORE the event. **This is important – you must be a member on this day – so the showjumpers must be members by the 5th JAN .**

The way we work our Area's qualifiers is that each team supplies helpers on the day. Some of these qualifiers are BIG events, like the Eventer Challenge which needed 56 fence judges, and the summer dressage was held over 5 arenas. We appreciate it can be difficult if you travel alone, or your horse won't stand in a trailer to help, so this year we're asking for SWOPPSIES. Could you show jumpers come and help at the dressage qualifier and vice versa. You can also support your club members freeing them up from the worry of having to help and compete on the same day. Tracey Matthews (Chairwoman) and I had a great day supporting our 80cm show jumpers at the 2018 Winter championships.



And we went and did it all again at the Winter Intermediate Championships, although we drew a bit of a short straw out in the cold and rain poo-picking the dressage warm up.

This year WARC are hosting the Combined Training (dressage & showjumping) Qualifier on **Sun 7th April** at Grange Farm – please make a note in your diary to come and help. We really will need as many people as possible to help put on a good show. You can sign up either before (2 dressage arenas and a show jumping course to set up), on the day (as helpers for the home club) or clear away afterwards. Last time we held it in 2017 we had a massive 102 entries, so imagine the hours scoring, writing, collecting, stewarding involved!

Closer to Home competitions.

Trec

The TREC season is under way with the first two competitions (and training days) now complete - last weekend in glorious sunshine. Special thanks must go to Karen Barker (ably supported by Paula Warrener) for organizing , setting up and running these weekends. Again, you need a small army to help set up and clear away the obstacles. No experience needed, as with a lot of helping, the more hands the merrier and easier it is.

The third TREC weekend follows with a training day on **9th** and competition on the **10th February**. This is likely to be very popular, so keep your eyes peeled on the Wittering Academy Facebook page and website for bookings being taken ...



Photos by Eriena.com

Dressage

Our winter dressage series starts on **13th January** so look out for the schedule. We use listed BD judges and have a very posh set of dressage boards now. A good chance to practice for those qualifiers in February.

Showjumping

Show jumping takes a bit of a back seat at home until well after the frosts with our first competition on **22nd April**. Having said that I'll probably have to eat my hat if that get cancelled due to hurricane or gales. Sometimes you just can't win.

Mentoring

Mentoring dates have also now been confirmed for the first quarter of next year – so please look on the website and as always, let Angel know in good time (ideally at least a week before) if you are able to attend your session.

Grange Farm Equestrian Centre have resurfaced the 'Sunken' Arena and rubber topped the 'Jumping' Arena so they hold up much better to our very varied weather of snow, frost, rain but unfortunately there is nothing we can do about Windy Wittering except pile on the sand bags and avoid the flying fillers. If you are in any doubt about conditions – please ring the organizer , keep an eye on our Facebook page for updates.

So in summary

Membership renewal 1st Jan

AGM & Social Evening Sat 12th Jan Ummm how about we make everyone put out the dressage board before they can eat???

Home dressage competition Sun 13th Jan

Area Show Jumping Qualifier 26th Jan

Area 100cm Arena Eventing Qualifier 2nd Feb

Trec training and competition 9 & 10th Feb

Area Dressage Qualifier 16th Feb

Of course it goes without saying and I repeat this every time – its your club , we'll organize things and support you but we need you to come out and help. Even the simplest all day clear round still needed 41 manhours of setting up, running around on the day and the clearing away.



And PS Have a Happy Christmas