



The Headley Heath Riders Association

# Hacks & Tracks

[www.headleyheathridersassociation.co.uk](http://www.headleyheathridersassociation.co.uk)

Newsletter  
Issue 15/Summer 2017



## NEWSFLASH

Don't forget the Fun Dog Show takes place this coming Saturday on the green behind the main National Trust Car Park on Headley Heath.

13.30 – 16.00

Lots of classes so bring your lovely pooches for a fun afternoon.



I really don't know where the time goes – it's already July and we're over half way through 2017! I hope that if you are out competing, you are doing well and enjoying yourself. Hopefully your horses and ponies are drinking plenty of water so they don't get de-hydrated. It's been so hot, but I don't like to complain because it's so rare that we get so much sunshine and I feel that we should make the most of it and enjoy it while it's here.

The Spring dressage series has taken place. Congratulations to the winners of the trophies and well done to all of you who competed, whether you got placed or not. I know I've said it before, but I love to watch the progress that you all make, and confidence of both horse/pony and rider growing - I feel like a very proud mum!

We popped down to Hickstead last month and watched a bit of showjumping; I'd forgotten just how big those jumps are—unbelievable! I tried to spend some money but managed to leave having only bought lunch. If I'm honest, I was a little disappointed with the shopping as there didn't seem to be nearly as many shops as normal, but having said that, I haven't been for a few years so maybe my memory just isn't that good! We also watched a bit of the Prix St George and Grand Prix dressage to music – that was very interesting. I have to say, I couldn't help thinking how lovely it would be to get Nosey to that level and go and show those well-bred dressage horses, that a hairy cob can do everything they can do. I can see it now, Nosey with her long flowing mane and tail and me in my top hat and tails – wonderful!

On behalf of the Committee I would like to say a BIG thank you to everyone who supports HHRA and especially those who so generously give up their time, again and again to help out at events – you know who you are and without your generosity, we would not be able to hold so many events throughout the year.

**THANK YOU SO VERY MUCH FROM ALL OF US ON THE COMMITTEE!!!**

It was with great sadness that we had to cancel the Fun Ride this year, due to lack of entries. Hopefully it will be back on next year. There is an awful lot of work involved in putting this event on and we rely on so many people to help on the day that if the entries don't come in, then we have to make a decision.

Don't forget if there is an event that you would like us to put on, please do let us know and we will do our best to accommodate you. You will see a list of the main events still to come in 2017 on page 5, and there may well be a few additions, such as another talk, so please keep an eye on our website so you don't miss out.



## RESULTS

### DRESSAGE – 7 MAY 2017

Sponsored by Bowles & Co Solicitors

#### INTRO C – Judge: Anne Brunton

- 1st Susan Holbrook & Dell
- 2nd Sharon Robertson & Winston
- 3rd Valerie Selwood & Ulma

#### PRELIM 14 – Judge: Anne Brunton

- 1st Janet Stanley & Guildhall II
- 2nd Rosemary Hopkins & Dudley
- 3rd Kirsty Ball & Bess

#### NOVICE 28/ELEMENTARY 49 – Judge: Anne Brunton

- 1st Leeanne Baily & Warwick (N)
- 2nd Leeanne Baily & Merlin (E)
- 3rd Fiona Clarke & Echo (N)



## SPRING DRESSAGE SERIES

### Trophy Winners

Intro: Susan Holbrook & Dell  
 Prelim: Claire Burns & Henry  
 Novice: Irina Yukaits & El Cid  
 Elementary: Leeanne Baily & Merlin



### DRESSAGE – 7 MAY 2017

The final competition of the Spring series was very well attended with 28 entries. Congratulations not only to everyone who won or was placed but to everyone competing – it may not have been your day this time but hopefully you were pleased with how your horse/pony went.

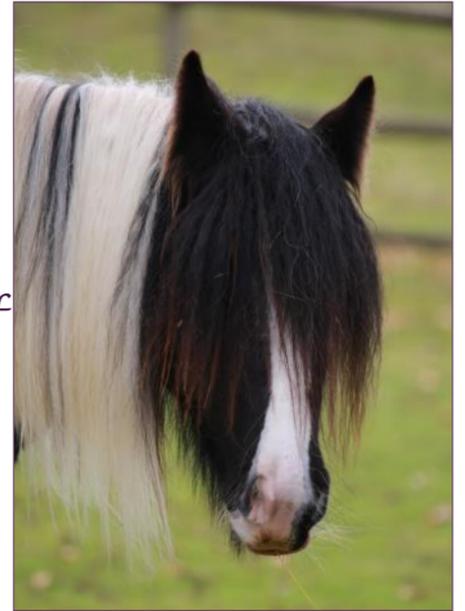
I need to make a special mention to the following; Emma Terry and Ymir – Emma, you have obviously worked really hard on Ymir, it was like watching a different horse and all your hard work is definitely paying off. He looked amazing and the photos I took on the day don't do him justice. Kirsty Ball and Bess – this little mare only knew fast and faster when Kirsty took her on, but the difference in her is amazing. I couldn't believe how relaxed she was, that's Bess not Kirsty. Finally, Sharon Robertson and Winston – this little (big) baby horse is just lovely, a really genuine horse; I'm looking forward to watching him progress. I love all your horses and ponies so please don't feel offended if I haven't made a special mention for you.

The winners of each class went home with a hay brick and some horse shampoo and of course, the lovely rosettes courtesy of the very generous sponsorship from Bowles & Co Solicitors. A BIG thank you to Bowles & Co for their continued sponsorship, to Anne Brunton for giving her time so generously to judge all the classes on the day, Mrs Diana Bartolini-Samuel for the use of Saddlescombe, Liz and Glynis for organising the event, Helen for writing, Glynis for scoring and Karen for being super steward. I do hope I haven't forgotten anyone, but if I have please accept my sincere apologies as it's not intentional.

HUGE congratulations to the winners of the Spring series trophies—Sue, Claire, Irina and Leeanne and of course, Dell, Henry, El Cid and Merlin for being such good boys!

## NOSEY'S NOTES

Here is the next instalment of my new life. After I had munched some of my hay, David and Janet turned me out next to Gem and Snowie. They were a bit worried about Gem's reaction because she can be a bit bossy in the field so they had fenced the field in half and turned me out on my own so that I could say hello over the fence without anyone getting hurt. Snowie didn't take any notice of me at all and Gem just came and looked at me once. The next day was just the same so on the third day they decided to open the fence up and put us all in together. Gem was really nice to me but Snowie didn't seem to like me at all and chased me around the field - I didn't understand and I didn't know the boundaries so the temporary fence was taken down very quickly because David and Janet were worried about me getting tangled up in it. I didn't understand why Snowie didn't seem to like me but after a few days it settled down. I still get told off if I try to come to the gate to be caught first but otherwise it's ok.



I didn't understand anything when I first arrived at the yard - I am a real baby and I've heard talk that everything will be taken very slowly with me so that I understand and don't get anxious (which I do get sometimes). When I was being groomed and having a rug put on I kept following whoever was doing it, around the stable because I wanted to see what they were doing. I can now move over in the stable when I'm asked (although it sometimes takes a few asks) and I pick my feet up really well now. I have also had my feet trimmed by the farrier and I was a really good girl. I've been groomed outside of my stable whilst being tied up (with a haynet) and had my feet picked out there too.

I love all the attention I'm getting and like nothing more than getting a cuddle.

I've made lots of new human friends and think I can say that Snowie and Gem will be my friends too, in time.

I love water and whenever David or Janet bring water to my stable to top up my water bucket I just have to mug them and take a drink so it takes them quite a long time to get my bucket full. They say it's because I didn't have access to water before I was rescued.

Look out for more news about my progress in the Autumn Newsletter.

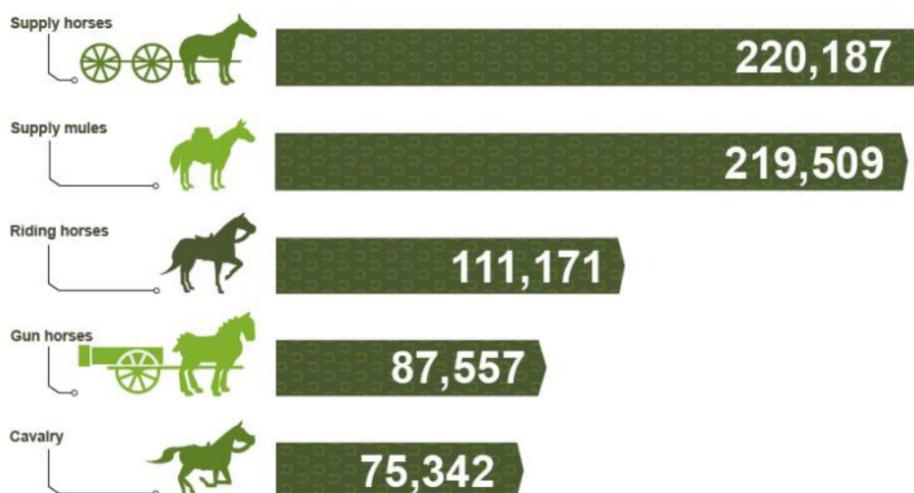


## DID YOU KNOW.....

During World War 1 (WW1) the British Army deployed more than a million horses and mules. There weren't enough horses in Britain to meet demand, so over 1,000 horses a week were shipped from North America, where there was a plentiful supply of half-wild horses on the open plains.

Horses were to prove essential, but they were used in different ways as the war progressed. So what were their roles during the war?

### British Army in November 1918 Horses and mules



By November 1918, half of the British Army's horses were in France. The rest were spread across the Balkans, Middle East, Egypt, Italy and the UK. There were four main roles. Supply horses and mules were used to move ammunition, general supplies and ambulances. Riding horses were ridden by soldiers behind, and sometimes even in, the frontline. Teams of gun horses pulled artillery pieces that weighed as much as taxis. Cavalry horses were still used in battle.

WW1 was the first conflict where film and portable still cameras were common on the battlefield. They captured footage and stills of horses in action, from their struggles in the mud of the Somme, to teams of horses pulling artillery guns.

The British Army invested immense resources in keeping horses ready for war.

New Zealand gunner Bert Stokes later recalled being told in 1917: 'to lose a horse was worse than losing a man, because... men were replaceable, while horses weren't at that stage.'

The British Army provided 2,978,301 tons of oats and 2,460,301 tons of pressed hay as fodder during the conflict.

The average ration of a supply horse was 20lb of fodder, which was a fifth less than recommended. This meant the average battalion needed at least 7,840lb of oats and hay a week to feed its 56 horses. Gun horses were bigger and pulled heavier loads so required at least 30lb of daily fodder. They could spend up to five hours eating a day.

By November 1918, nearly 19,000 men were serving in the Remount Department of the British Army preparing horses to be sent to war across three continents.

Each 1000-man infantry battalion had a transport section of 20 men, who looked after the riding horses, supply horses and supply mules. In the muddy conditions it could take 12 hours to clean the horses and their equipment.

Over 1,300 officers served as veterinary surgeons across all theatres of war. There were also more than 27,000 men serving in the Army Veterinary Corps, who supported the medical treatment of horses.

The British Army Veterinary Corp hospitals in France received 725,000 horses and successfully treated three-quarters of them. A typical horse hospital could treat 2,000 animals at any one time.

On average the British Army lost 15% of its horses every year. Surprisingly, just a quarter of horse deaths were caused by enemy action. The biggest killer was 'debility' - a condition caused by exposure to the elements, hunger and illness.

It was one hundred years ago that the Household Cavalry made their last charge in warfare. They attacked a German defensive line containing heavy machine guns - 300 horses and 250 troopers were killed!

During WW1 the British shipped 1.3 million horses and mules to France - only 6% came home again! Those that did not perish in the endless shelling were either destroyed or sold locally after the war finished.

At the end of the war the British army owned just under 800,000 horses and mules, mostly in France. Working out what to do with them was a major challenge for both the army and the Treasury.

A century on, horses still have a role in the modern armies of the world.

The British Army has 500 horses based in barracks at Hyde Park and Woolwich in London. They take part in ceremonies all year round from the Changing of the Guard at Buckingham Palace, to accompanying the coffin at State funerals. For the Army, horses offer a powerful symbol of its military heritage as well as enhancing the standing of the Queen and the nation before an international audience.

At Romsey there is a memorial for the WW1 equines; the forgotten heroes.



## EVENTS

## JULY

15<sup>th</sup> – Fun Dog Show

## AUGUST

5<sup>th</sup> – Bar-B-Que

## SEPTEMBER

12<sup>th</sup> – Quiz Night17<sup>th</sup> – Dressage19<sup>th</sup> – Table Top Sale

## OCTOBER

1<sup>st</sup> – Dressage16<sup>th</sup> – AGM22<sup>nd</sup> – Dressage

Please see the website for further details on any events

## NEWS

Don't forget the Prudential Ride is taking place on Sunday, 30 July so the roads around Boxhill and Headley will be closed for the day.



As you will already be aware, the cows are now back on Headley Heath and there is a notice on the main gates to let you know which zone they are in so that you can avoid them if you need to.



On 20 June we held an open evening to try and recruit some more Committee Members. It was lovely to see those of you who came along and hopefully we will have some new members on the Committee very soon.

## HORSIN' AROUND FOR A SMILE!

Why are clouds like jockeys?  
Because they hold the reins!

The Headley Heath Riders Association

Our very generous sponsors

**BOWLES&CO**  
Solicitors

#### DRESSAGE CLINIC – 20 MAY 2017

The dressage clinic was well attended. Everyone enjoyed themselves and hopefully found their session helpful. A BIG thank you to Jackie Stevens for taking the clinic.

#### GRIDWORK CLINIC – 6 JUNE 2017

Unfortunately, due to weather conditions and fallen trees a few people were not able to get to the clinic provided by Teresa White. However, I have been told that because people could not make it, Teresa was extra generous with her time for those who did manage to get there. A BIG thank you to Teresa.

#### Wild Horse by Trish Beckwith

Aloft the wind  
I ride the night sky  
I see the world through a much different eye

Power, beauty  
Strength and grace  
I feel the spirits of ancestral space

Pride of herd  
Sisters and brothers  
I live ever watchful standing by others

A kaleidoscope of colors  
No two ever the same  
The short, the tall, the long of mane

I know the chance  
I know the fear  
I live on the edge for death crouches near

On my back I carry a load  
Through storm and calm  
Ever vigilant and bold

I have died in battle  
Killed by man  
Hunted by predator as I roamed the land

No more room  
Not enough grazing  
Captured, shot, sold by pound on bills of lading

Yet I survive  
Sometimes an insurmountable course  
I am feral, I am Mustang, I am Wild Horse

**LIKE OUR PAGE ON FACEBOOK!**

**[facebook.com/headleyheathridersassociation](https://facebook.com/headleyheathridersassociation)**

And finally...

We would really like you as members to contribute to the Newsletter, so please do feel free to send us any articles, photos or jokes that you would like to share. You may have done your first dressage or clinic and want to share your experience with others to encourage them to have a go.

At least let us know whether you have enjoyed an event or not; if we have feedback we will know if there are areas that need improvement. Perhaps there is a particular event that you would like us to hold - let us know and we'll see what we can do.

If you would like to advertise anything in the Newsletter (members only), let us know - it's free!

We would really appreciate your help at events so that we can continue to run them, so if you are able to spare even just an hour or two to help at any event, do please let us know. If you would like to help but feel worried because you don't know what will be expected of you, please contact us and we will answer any questions you may have and put your mind at rest. We're a very friendly bunch, despite what you might have heard.

You can either contact HHRA at [headleyheathridersassociation@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:headleyheathridersassociation@yahoo.co.uk) or me directly, at [Janetfigg@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:Janetfigg@hotmail.co.uk).