



Dear HCTG member,

Welcome to the first club newsletter of 2022. For new members (of which we have quite a few recently) we send four newsletters a year, the purpose is to connect with our members, and let people know about planned training and competitions, things in the pipeline and other news. First of all, we would like to wish all our new members, and those who have renewed a warm welcome and we really look forward to riding with you this year.

As you all know, we have postponed the AGM that was due to take place on the 26<sup>th</sup> to the summer. We felt that holding it indoors at the village hall, in masks and coats with all the doors and windows open, perhaps wasn't the most fun way to spend a Wednesday night. Given the pandemic situation in winter, that can provide further anxiety for many people who feel compromised in social situations, a summer outdoor alternative was deemed more appropriate and most of all more sociable. We hope to do this in a pub garden in June, with the proviso of a decent 7 day weather forecast. We may have to be flexible, but we would like as many to come as possible, we can enjoy a pub meal outside and enjoy the usual AGM discussions in a more convivial atmosphere.

At the AGM we normally announce who is standing for re-election and who wishes to stand down. Toni Tait (our team manager) and Helen Towers (long term committee member who has done many roles over the years, but now mainly runs the combined training, and the Jane lessons) are standing for re-election, and both Angela Parkin and Anthea Heath have put their hats into the ring to be on the committee. Thank you both for coming forward, Andy will send out the voting forms on the 1st February, so look out for it in your emails so you can give them your votes. Sue Emsley has retired after 25 years of putting up with us all! She has promised to come to the AGM for a drink and cheers from us though. That said, you'll still see her at Allerton and Bramham horse trials, as well as perhaps our first weekday dressage of the year. Thank you Sue, from all of us, we'll really miss you, especially for organising and running competitions with your great knowledge and professionalism. Julie Curran will take her place as Vice-chair of the club.

## **Lessons and Training**

Don't forget all lessons are advertised on our riding club website, [www.hctg.org.uk/whats-on](http://www.hctg.org.uk/whats-on). In the diary page you will find all the relevant hyperlinks to take you to the horsevents page for booking and paying, you can also look for lessons on <https://horsevents.co.uk/HCTG/> but please note not all the club activities are listed here. The full diary is found on the club website. Lessons have been busy and well attended. We've had jumping with Hazel at Allerton and also Tracey Newman coming to Ledston, with more in the diary. Tracy Garside has been teaching her monthly polework, always very popular, and new for this year we ran the group dressage training at Askham. The format was an hour lesson in a group of four riders, with a different theme each week. The lessons were really popular and everyone enjoyed them, practising or learning new skills. We will run this course again from the middle of April on Thursday nights. This year will see a price increase for the Jane Bartle Wilson lessons, they will charge us in line with what they charge their other clients, however our lessons still are very good value as we organise the groups of three/pairs, and if you have earned the 20 % helper discount it's even better. From February 1<sup>st</sup> her prices are £35 per rider in a shared lesson (£28 with helper discount), or £70 for a private.

The horsevents booking fee is 3.9% plus 40p on each lesson. We appreciate this is an extra cost but given the very high turnover of lessons and thus cash in and out of the club, which amounts to tens of thousands of pounds worth of accounting to consolidate, it's currently our best and most efficient option.

## **Club competitions**

Our first club dressage of the year will take place this Sunday, and it's full! Weekday dressage will hopefully follow as soon as we find someone to run it.

The Christmas Show Jumping ran on the 28<sup>th</sup> December, it was a great day, we had a brilliant turnout and made approx. £650 for the club, which helps us subsidise lessons and teams. Thanks to all of you who came and helped all day, and to those who entered and made it such a fun competition, as well as the great xmas fancy dress outfits. Charli Cripps horse won the day on that score!

## **Camp**

Our next camp takes place at Somerford on March 17<sup>th</sup>, less than 10 weeks away! Keep your eyes peeled for updates from Bobby. She is full but keeps a waitlist so contact her if you want to be on it.

### Teams

We're at Bishop Burton this weekend, 100 + , 100, 90 and 80 teams all competing. Riders selected are The 80 Rockstars are Angela Burrows Bobby Good, Mike Cairns and Vanessa Howdle, The 80Popstars are Jennie bannister, Helen Macrow, Charli Cripps & Collette Sykes. The 90 rappers - Emma Harrison, Ruth Schofield, myself & Jane Lee. The 100 Beatniks - Tessa Downs, Zoe Laver, Beth Povey and Lorraine Battle, and the 110 Hip-Hoppers are Louise Wilson, Pheobe Towers, Mandy Gray & Rebecca Mountain. Thanks to all those who came forward and good luck. On the Saturday Julie Curran will be with the team as team manager, and on Sunday Toni will be there.

The following week we're at Northallerton for the arena eventing. We have selected three teams for this event. The 80cm team is made up of Bobby Good, Collette Sykes, Angela Burrows & Gwen Winn. The 90 are Allison Knights, Ruth Schofield, Jane Lee & Emma Harrison. Finally, the 100cm includes Mandy Gray, Pheobe Towers , Tessa Hazel Downs, and Lorraine Battle.

The next team competition will be the Combined Training to be held at Port Royal. As usual, get in touch with Toni if you would like to know more, or chat to one of the club trainers.

### Other things

A very good opportunity has been offered to us from Sue Hardaker (via Tracy Garside who is doing fitness training with her). She is the coach behind Ride Freely Intrinsic Biomechanics , she has offered the club up 10 free places for a taster session to take place on the morning of 12<sup>th</sup> February at 10am in Lower Dunsforth. If you would like to come along , please email [chairman@hctg.org.uk](mailto:chairman@hctg.org.uk) It would be nice if all participants gave £5 and we will donate it to Hope Pastures.

As mentioned before Tricia will take you on guided rides, and it is well worth it she knows all the good places to ride. Myself, Zoe Laver and Jo Booth all enjoyed a fabulous hack around the bridleways of Castle Howard, and others have hacked around the public Bridleways at Allerton with her. We also would like to extend our congratulations to Trish for winning the West Yorkshire endurance prize, she and her brilliant horse George have done it again! If

anyone would like to know more about endurance riding get in touch with Tricia and she'll tell you all about it.

That's all for now. Keep in touch, let us know if you have any ideas for the club , or lesson feedback. Below I've included some feedback/insights on the recent dressage lesson series from the coach .

Ride well and keep safe,

from Sophie Ahmed and the Harewood committee.

*Coach Tracy Garside gives her perspective on the recent group dressage lessons.*

*"Just driving home from the 4th and final flatwork session that made up a new Series for HCTG....*

*Thought I'd share my thoughts with the members as on reflection it's been a really productive initiative and would be great to run again as proven popular.....*

*I chose a progressive theme for each session which helped manage expectations but equally may have daunted a few so hopefully the feedback will help put potential participants minds at ease 👍*

*\*Riders Position and Effectiveness (seems like the obvious place to start)*

*This session focused on the 'Blueprint' for ideal classical position so developing awareness and practicing 'good habits'*

*\*\*Transitions - The Mirror of the Horses Training*

*A valuable opportunity to remember what 'good practice' looks /feels like and to have feedback on what you're achieving (along with homework)*

*\*\*\*Demistifying Shoulder In and Travers*

*This session particularly sounded daunting but quite honestly the variety of horses that attended and benefited from this evening is the main reason I felt compelled to put pen to paper 😊*

*\*\*\*\*Rein Back & Counter Canter*

*This was a very progressive and fun session with amazing feedback from the riders....*

*Again young and older horses from all disciplines achieved so much.....*

*Everyone left knowing how they could recreate the exercises at home too*

*So, I've learnt a lot from this series - especially how riders often have a 'closed mindset' about their horses training and abilities so it's been a pleasure to witness the breakthrough “*

## **Dates in the Diary**

30/01/2022 Club Dressage Askham Bryan College

09/02/2022 Flat work or jumping with Jane Bartle Wilson. Yorkshire Riding Centre

12/02/2022 Show Jumping with Hazel Towers Allerton Park Stables

12/02/2022 Pole work with Tracy Garside Howe Hill Farm

12/02/2022 Intro session with Sue Hardaker , Lower Dunsforth

13/02/2022 Club Dressage. Askham Bryan College

05/03/2022. Pole work with Tracy Garside Howe Hill Farm

09/03/2022. Flat work or jumping with Jane Bartle Wilson. Yorkshire Riding Centre

13/03/2022. Show Jumping with Hazel Towers. Allerton Park Stables  
26/03/2022 Tracey Newman Jumping lessons. Ledston Hall Equestrian Centre  
27/03/2022 Club Dressage. Askham Bryan College  
03/04/2022 Club Dressage. Askham Bryan College  
13/04/2022 Flat work or jumping with Jane Bartle Wilson. Yorkshire Riding Centre  
14/04/2022 Group Dressage lesson with Tracy Garside at Askham Bryan  
05/06/2022 Club Dressage. Askham Bryan College  
12/05/2022 Group Dressage lesson with Tracy Garside at Askham Bryan  
19/05/2022 Group Dressage lesson with Tracy Garside at Askham Bryan

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