



THE BRITISH HORSE SOCIETY SCOTLAND

BHS Grampian Newsletter Winter/ Spring 2010

Chairman's Report

Isn't it fabulous to be seeing green fields again, although now we are back to MUD! Events before the snow came were well attended and included:



The ever popular Erik McKechnie clinics were all full and Erik was in top form.

The AGM included a very interesting talk from Erik about his work with the World Class Performance Squad for the Paralympics.

James Munro provided both audience and guinea pigs with much food for thought at the Showing Clinic. His entertaining and highly informative demonstration included what the judge is looking for in a variety of classes.

Sheila Thom BHSI and Chief Examiner came up to present a PTT Training Day. 25 potential coaches gained from this informal day where Sheila emphasised the coaching element of the exam and the requirements of the new standards. We are grateful to Aberdeen Riding Club for providing facilities, horses and guinea pigs.

The Careers Evening was a great success. Over 45 young people and their parents attended to hear valuable information from a number of local professionals, from a variety of equine related careers. We are grateful to them all for giving up their time to pass on their experiences.

Riding and Road Safety. There have been two R&RS tests over the winter at Hayfield, Aberdeen and Wardhaugh, Huntly with high pass rates. Well done to all concerned.

Congratulations to "Moulán" (pictured below at Blair) from Grampian who was awarded the Tarragon Trophy for the Scottish Equine Personality of the year. Check the following link to see why she is so special

<http://www.bhsscotland.org.uk/Pages/moulán.htm>



FACEBOOK BHS Grampian now has its own page on FACEBOOK. Become a fan!!

Dates for your Diary

Erik McKechnie BHSI - Flatwork training 22nd/23rd Jan, 19th/20th March, 30th April, 1st May, 28th/29th May. Email Julia if interested. Due to the popularity of these sessions, BHS members will have priority for places

23rd February – Eric Smiley – CPD day on Indoor XC at SNEC, Oatridge. See BHS website for more details

26th Feb – Stage 4 Stable Management training morning with Julia Gourley BHSI. Contact Julia for details.

1st March – First Aid refresher day at the Cabin, Keithhall, Inverurie

2nd/3rd March – Equine Specific First Aid course two day initial course at the Cabin

1st March Talk on "BHS Trec" by Rhoda McVey – see overleaf for more details on this exciting new discipline. 7.30 at the Torryburn Hotel, Kintore. Email Julia for more information.

4th March Mark Todd at Gleneagles. See BHS website for details

Late March BHS Stage 4 Riding Training. Contact Julia for details

2nd April – Talk on Fitness. Lorna Hogg, one of our best Endurance riders and Jennifer Johnston BHSI will combine their expertise to discuss fitness and fittening. Torryburn Hotel, Kintore at 7.30. Contact Julia for details

Friday 16th/Saturday 17th April. By popular request, David Gatherer returns for a two day clinic. Friday at Fountain Equestrian for flat and/or SJ, Saturday at Balquholly Cross Country. **Please email Eleanor Mennie for an application form.** This course tends to fill up quickly. BHS members have priority for places

3rd May – The essential annual BHS Fun Show at Aden Park, Mintlaw. Classes for everyone contact Mandy Sall for entry form – email best.

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Marwari horses, the native Indian horse of the Rajput warriors.



A good canter across the desert – note the typical curly ears of the Marwari, she wasn't pleased that I had slowed her up to take a picture!

The hospitality was awesome, our hosts made us feel like memsahibs of the Raj (even though we wore joddies and T shirts) , the food was brilliant, freshly cooked with local ingredients and the horses, lean, keen and very fit, but easy to ride.



Annella in a traffic jam – camel and bullock carts were the most popular conveyance. All the horses were car, motor bike, bullock and camel proof!

We rode each day through compelling landscapes of sand dunes and shady Kerji trees, past fascinating villages full of friendly faces and waving, smiling children to camp which was NOT like camping as we know it. Our hot water was always ready for a shower and our minstrel, Rama Lal played lively local folk music as we ate– with dancing later!



Camping, Rajasthani style!

We visited the fantastic painted mansion houses in Nawalgarh and learned so much about past and present Rajasthani culture. A brilliant experience to be totally recommended, and making money for BHS Welfare too!

Maisie's Mutterings

Weel, am nae affa impressed wi aa this snaa. A canna get oot intil the

gairden for a wee wander through the bushes, forbye a canna get near the grass, there's snaa up roon ma oxters, Ma chummies ging oot and dig through for a bitie tae eat an am jist ower aul fur 'at but the wifie his bin geeing me extra maet wi sugar beet and grated carrot – ma favourite. A get tae haik aboot in the shed aa day an a, wi a new bonnie rug wi a cover up till ma lugs so mibbee its nae sae bad efter aa. The wifie's nae chuffed though, barrowin muck til the midden his bin a bit o a chaav an a winna tell ye fit bonny wirds she used fan a hale barra couped ower. She wisna happy either fan I skailed ma watter bucket which froze solid on the fleer and she wint her length on't. She fair used Snow langwidge fur a wifie! So a think she's needin it tae melt mair nor me – am quite happy!



BHS Trec

Ever felt intimidated by the impressive mounts everyone else seems to have at dressage or showjumping competitions? Have you ever thought of trying BHS Trec? Trec horses come in all shapes and sizes; Warmbloods, TBs, Mountain and Moorland - everyone is on a level playing field. No one breed is particularly suited to all three phases so it's a fair competition. And it's so much more than handy pony - great for developing confidence in young horses, and you can do the map reading part as a pair, so at least you get lost together! It's fun, it's sociable, but it can challenge on many levels. Rhoda is on the BHS Register, and won the British Championship (L2 Indiv) in 2009. Come along to a presentation on the 1st March, see photos and hear about real competitions, and get ready to get involved. It's addictive....



Jubilee Fund

The Jubilee Fund is to help instructors or potential instructors in any discipline of equestrian sport who are teaching young people to increase their skills and qualifications. Application forms available from Julia. – we would encourage all instructors or potential instructors who wish to add to their qualifications or skills to apply for funding, especially those who may be concerned about financing their training. Also remember we have a selection of training DVDs to borrow. Contact Julia

Trailer Safety

We have heard of recent cases where a trailer wheel has come off due to ice penetration. All trailer manufacturers suggest yearly service so perhaps a timely reminder to check!

BHS Challenge Ride to India

In November BHS Grampian members, your correspondent, Eleanor Mennie and Annella Cowan, a BHS Trustee, set off for the beautiful North Indian state of Rajasthan to take part in a 8 day ride across the semi desert on pure

