



## *Chairman's blog*

*December 2011*

With less than a week to go before Christmas, I hope you are all better organised than me? Mind you, I think we can sometimes get too worried about what is expected rather than what is important during this special holiday time. For me, it's about good company, some reflective thinking and lots of time for the horses!

Our events for the year have finished on a real high this weekend, with another hugely successful indoor trec, 4 classes with almost 50 entries provided opportunities for all levels. In class 1, our Newcomers event, 1<sup>st</sup> place went to Jean Hicks and Damsel fly with an excellent 75 points in the PTV section. In class 2, Maddie Chalmers with Pugsey and Debbie Garnham with Max both shared the 1<sup>st</sup> place a clear 14 points ahead of the rest. The open class 3, was the biggest and most competitive of the day with 1<sup>st</sup> going to Nichola Peace and the very well behaved Ausdan Sularis, Debbie secured 2<sup>nd</sup>, with Sue Walker and Harry as our highest place member in 3<sup>rd</sup>. However in the advanced open, we were delighted to see a member win, congratulations to Suzi Collins-Howgill and Tubby! For full details see [www.midsussexridingclub.co.uk](http://www.midsussexridingclub.co.uk). We are in the process of finalising results of the point trophies to be presented at our AGM, watch this space.....

Of course, this Trec event and all our other events this year are only possible with the support we get from members who volunteer their time, a big THANK YOU to everyone who has helped out. All your names will go into our helper's raffle and prizes will be given out at the AGM, so make sure you're there to win!

Talking about the AGM, this is planned for Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February, at Sayers Common Village Hall. As before, we will start with a glorious supper from Trixie, followed by presentation of our annual trophies then the formal business, concluded with an interesting talk by our own Annabelle Knight. More details will be issued in the New Year, but please put the date in your diary now. The committee have been working hard to put in place a programme of events throughout next year, with some exciting new ideas. In addition to a 3-part dressage series in April, May and June, in July we are delighted to announce a one day summer camp for members only. The increasingly popular Showing and Adult Gymkhana returns in March and November, we have Trec competitions planned for September and December, plus our Autumn Dressage in October – it will be quite a busy year. So in more detail, the programme is currently as follows:

Wed 22 <sup>nd</sup> Feb	AGM at Sayers Common village hall
Sat 17 <sup>th</sup> March	Showing and Adult Gymkhana at Royal Leisure
Sat 14 <sup>th</sup> April	Dressage series 1 at Brinsbury College
Sun 20 <sup>th</sup> May	Dressage series 2 at Brinsbury College
Sun 24 <sup>th</sup> June	Dressage series 3 at Brinsbury College
Sat 14 <sup>th</sup> July	Summer Camp at Brinsbury College
Sun 9 <sup>th</sup> September	Versatile Trec at Bramble Hill Farm, Slinfold
Sun 14 <sup>th</sup> October	Autumn Dressage at Belmordean
Sun 18 <sup>th</sup> November	Showing and Adult Gymkhana at Sands Farm (tbc)
Sun 16 <sup>th</sup> December	Indoor Trec at Sands Farm (tbc)

Training continues with lots going on, both dressage and show jumping are arranged over the next few months. Do check out the website which has all the latest information and to make bookings, please contact Liz ([lizmarlow11@hotmail.com](mailto:lizmarlow11@hotmail.com)).

Team events will start again in February, and volunteers are welcome for the indoor show jumping on the 12<sup>th</sup> and indoor dressage on the 19<sup>th</sup>, both at Sands Farm. Please contact Liz if you are interested.

We'll have a full review of our activities and achievements this year at the AGM in February, but I do want to remind everyone that this year we have launched the club on facebook. If you're internet enabled, please look us up and show your support with a "like"! As a friend, you'll get invites to events and various update messages, so another great way to stay in touch with your fellow members. For now, all that remains is for me to make a special thank you mention to my fantastic committee who I really enjoy working with, and wish all of you, your family and your horses a very Happy Christmas and lots of success in 2012!

*Petra Ingram*

**Chairman, Mid Sussex Riding Club**