



# NEWSLETTER



December 2017

## Editor's Bit

Season's greetings to all!

The time of year is here where we get wrapped up, send our ride cards in and start thinking about celebrating our horses', ponies', families and friends' achievements for the season, I hope it has been a fun one for all and look forward to seeing you all to toast to the year at our Lancashire Awards night in the New Year; Sarah Bamber has written up all the details for you here in the newsletter and this year has seen us get all 'techie' here at the Lancashire Group so with booking tickets for the event in mind, don't forget you can also get all the details and make your booking on our website <http://www.lancs-egb.org.uk/>.

We have some more members' thoughts and memories in this edition of the newsletter and find out who was up for awards from Lancashire at this year's National Endurance GB presentation night. Thanks as always to all who have contributed with ride reports, articles and feedback and a special thank you this edition for Ruth at [www.IndiePics.co.uk](http://www.IndiePics.co.uk) photography for some great ride images to accompany our articles, please remember to support all our Endurance GB photographers by visiting their websites and purchasing an image or two of you and your friends out on your adventures.

Have a fabulous festive season everyone!

Susy x



## **From the Chair**

A very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you all and I do hope that all your horses are enjoying their well-earned off-season rest and recuperation in-readiness for the 2018 season

It's been an exciting 6 months for me, getting to know all the rules and regulations, and hopefully not making too many mistakes. My main aim was to bring LEGB in to the world of on-line entry and PayPal payments. I think it went quite well and have learned some valuable lessons along the way, and will have ironed out any flaws before the 2018 season commences.

Sarah Bamber and her band of merry elves (committee members) are busily preparing for the LEGB awards night. Sue Taylor-Green is beavering away calculating your mileage and the trophy winners, all to be revealed on the night! Don't forget whether you have ridden 100km or 500km each and every one of you is a winner, to Complete is to Win.

For this awards night we have on-line ticket and menus, PayPal and of course cheque, all the details are in the awards night section. Please invite your family and friends it's going to be a fabulous night. Ladies get those glad rags out, and let's see if we recognise each other out of jodhpurs ☺

New for 2018 is the on-line Lancs.EGB horse registration and payment, making it quicker and easier for you. The £1 fee covers printing and postage. Don't forget you need to register your horse each year for you to be eligible for mileage and trophies. Details have been sent you via email and I have placed the information on Facebook and the website.

On Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> February we will have the Ride Organisers meeting followed by a 2 hour Risk Assessment and Bridleways clearing event presented by Phil Lee from the Forestry Commission. It's free to come

along and we will provide supper. It will be a great informative evening it's not just for ride organisers but for anyone who is thinking of running a ride or wanting to keep our bridleways and open spaces safe for riders. I will put the event on Facebook so you won't forget. If you are thinking of organising a new ride for 2018 please either contact me or come along to the Ride organisers meeting, we have plenty of people with a wealth of knowledge who will happily help you out. I'll issue the full ride list post 8<sup>th</sup> February on Facebook and the website. For 2018 as it will mainly be on-line entry rides will be opened 6 weeks before the ride as per EnduranceGB rides

Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> March is the AGM and all are welcome to attend. If you have questions, ideas or just comments on how we are performing please come along. If you fancy joining the committee I will be sending details out closer to the time on how to complete your nomination and to make it easier it will be on-line.

Last but no means least on the 15<sup>th</sup> April, Croal in Spring will be LEGB National Ride. I am currently working with landowners to have additional permissive routes and hope to have ride distances of 40km, 32km and 24km. It's no easy task organising a National as I have found out already and I will require loads of helpers, Vet writers, vet runners, checkpoints, car park attendants the list appears endless. So, if you fancy helping please contact me and I'll add you to my list.

Well, I think that's just about it folks as far as notices are concerned. It just leaves me to wish you once again a very Merry Christmas and a especially Happy New Year!

Cath Houghton

## Young Rider Information

### National AGM and Presentation Night

Congratulations to Endurance GB Young Rider Emily Cooke riding Lady's Man, our Endurance GB National Supreme Champion 2017 and to our very own Lancashire members Lily Gibbons and Kate Atkinson.



Lily gained the most points for a Junior Rider riding more than one horse through the 2017 season to take the Peter Ball Trophy away, and congratulations for also coming third place with Sandy and 7<sup>th</sup> place with Sulan Electric Prince in the Overall Junior Rider Championship, well done Lily!

Following a hugely successful year, Kate Atkinson was awarded the Endurance GB International Performance Recognition Award for Young Riders, this was for competing in the European Championships 2017.

In the Young Riders category Kate was awarded the Mellor Trophy, for being the Young Rider gaining the most points in Competitive Endurance Rides riding more than one horse and achieved 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the Young Rider Grand Prix Trophy with HS Prosper, who also went on to partner Kate to 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the Endurance GB FEI Championship awarded to the horse and rider combination gaining the most points in FEI classes run under the auspices of Endurance GB. Kate also won the Premier DE Award for the young rider gaining the most points in UK



FEI rides on more than one horse and was placed 4<sup>th</sup> with HS Prosper and 14<sup>th</sup> with DNS Ronaldo in the Nippa Trophy for the Young Rider with the most overall points, Well Done Kate.

## Members' News

### National AGM and Presentation Night

Saturday 25th November saw the Endurance GB AGM and the annual EGB Gala Dinner and Awards ceremony take place at the Daventry Court Hotel, Daventry. It was attended by nearly 250 people! It's a fantastic opportunity for our members to get together and celebrate the achievements from the year and, as always, included an 'Ode to the Horse' - the most important partners in our sport.

Lancashire members saw success at the Awards ceremony in a range of areas, firstly we congratulate Rachael Atkinson and Tannasg Psyches Realm for being awarded the Endurance GB International Performance Recognition Award for achieving 17<sup>th</sup> place in the World Championships 2017 at Brussels, Belgium.



Jackie Lloyd's Zim Nazka ridden by Carolyn Cummings was awarded 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the Sam Weller Trophy, awarded to the horse gaining the most points in Graded Rides of 45km or less.

Lancashire team of three Tania Fitton, Sarah Bamber and Karen Corr were awarded second place in the Teams of Three trophy for their team of 3 horses; Delfyw Squwiggle, LTF Jjewell and Miss Kitty gaining the most points in all types of rides. Thank you to IndiePics for the fabulous images below.

Well done to all!



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**Endurance GB Lancashire Group Annual Awards Presentation Evening**  
**Saturday 27th January 2018**

This year's presentation evening will again be held at Ribby Hall near Kirkham, and as previous years will take place in the slightly larger Woodland Suite which has a bar within the function room itself. Please try to encourage your family and/or friends to come with you to help you to enjoy the evening. This invitation is especially open for some of our newer members to the group - we would love to share our awards evening with you. If you have ridden with any non-members this season please encourage them to come along too! It really is a good chance to get to know everyone in more leisurely circumstances than at a competition or ride. It is always a good night for all with lovely food which is at an amazing price for such a sumptuous three course meal!

Dress code this year is SMART/casual - ladies you can still wear your evening dresses if you so wish but please NO jeans and trainers.

A route map and directions to Ribby Hall will be available on the Lancs website, but it is easy to find being directly off the M55 Junction 3.

Please read the menu on the next page and make your selection via the online form which Cath will be sending out in the next few days ASAP - It is important you send in your menu/ticket request(s) by 13th January 2018 AT THE VERY LATEST!!

Please contact me if you cannot book online. The price per ticket is £22.00 per person for the three courses, plus coffee or tea etc. This price is subsidised by the group and really is good value, so please do take advantage of the offer and support your group by booking your place(s) and coming to what promises to be a very enjoyable social evening - not to mention picking up your rosettes and prizes! If there are friends you wish to sit with please list them on the form and we will do our best to accommodate you on the seating plan.

We have had some generous quality raffle prizes donated for the last couple of years. It would be great if we can keep this standard going,

so I would like to appeal to all members, especially if you have a business from which you could donate your product or time. Anything equine would be really great e.g. Tack, riding lesson/training, maybe a weekend accommodation for horse and rider. Anything that you think will be a quality usable prize. We would be pleased (and grateful) to hear from anyone with an idea or offer of a raffle prize.

Please contact: Tania Fitton: [henry.T2@sky.com](mailto:henry.T2@sky.com) or Glenda Griffin: [g.g.135lark@hotmail.com](mailto:g.g.135lark@hotmail.com) or just turn up with it on the night.

If you have a trophy from last year's presentation that doesn't need any repairs, would you please contact Cath or myself before the end of December to let us know how you are getting it to the Awards ceremony.

There was an extra special award given at the National Endurance GB awards night, to find out more book your tickets and come along.....

Thanks Sarah

See menu next page:

**Lancashire Group Annual Awards Presentation Evening Menu**

(Please choose one from each course)

To Start

Homemade Roasted Tomato & Red Pepper Soup with Basil Pesto  
Chicken Liver Pate, Sour Dough Crostini & Onion Jam  
Garlic & Herb Stuffed Field Mushrooms, Brioche & Tarragon Hollandaise

Mains

Braised Tournedo of Beef, Creamy Mash, Seasonal Vegetables wrapped  
in Bacon, Red Wine Jus  
Roast Chicken Breast, Garlic & Thyme Fondant Potato, Seasonal Greens,  
Jus  
Herb Crusted Salmon, Lemon & Black Pepper Crushed Potatoes,  
Steamed Greens, Spiced Cream Sauce  
Lancashire Cheese & Onion Strudel, Heritage Tomato Salad (V)

Dessert

Sticky Toffee Pudding, Butterscotch Sauce, Brandy Snap, Vanilla Ice  
Cream  
White Chocolate & Raspberry Brulee, Homemade Shortbread  
Strawberry & Vanilla Cheesecake, Anglaise, Strawberry Gel, Creme  
Chantilly

To Follow

Freshly Brewed Tea or Coffee, Mint Chocolate Wafers.

We look forward to hearing from you, Sarah.

## **Morgans and Morabs: The horse world's best kept secrets?**

**Words by Peter Berry**

I came to horses relatively late in life, only buying my first one when I was aged 40, after surviving a life-threatening illness, the two years following were spent confined to a wheelchair which made me realise that I should not put off achieving a childhood dream any longer. Now, almost 20 years later I continue to over compensate for my horseless childhood, having bred most of my 11 strong herd of Morgans and Arabs, the latter arrived much more recently, but not without a very steep and painful learning curve!

My first two purchases turned out to be complete disasters. First was a psychotic Dales pony that would bolt on a daily basis for little or no reason. After a collision with a bus, in which remarkably neither bus, nor pony was injured, I called it a day and sold her as a broodmare. My second acquisition was a 14 year old thoroughbred advertised as a so-called "schoolmistress". She succeeded in teaching me that it hurts when you get dumped and after breaking my hip and pelvis, I sold her back to her original owner. I also learned that you trust what those selling horses tell you, at your peril!

Still determined to find my perfect equine partner, I went back to the drawing board, or in my case the internet, and did some more research. I remembered seeing a photograph of a Morgan in an *Observer Book of Horses* I had as a child, and thinking that might be the breed for me, I focused my search.

Many of you may have heard of Morgan horses and my guess is that when you think of them, you may see in your mind's eye, a small horse with a high head carriage, long feet, high knee action and yards of tail trailing the ground behind it. You may then also wonder about their usefulness outside the show ring? It is perhaps this common, somewhat cartooned, public perception that has meant that generations of horse-owning public in this country, quickly over look them when contemplating

buying a horse to compete with, or simply to have as an all- round family horse; and so the true value of the breed has been kept secret among the small band of devotees it has attracted.

Having decided that Morgans were the breed or me, and concluded that the only way to really know the history and temperament of the horse you hope to ride, is to breed it yourself, I bought a broodmare with the aim of doing just that. I was lucky enough to find a little diamond in Monnington Miracle, so called because she was conceived in this country using frozen semen from America, the first time this had ever been done here. She was only small, 14.1 on a tall day but she was as brave as a lion, and a dominant Alpha mare who's calling was to be a mother. She loved foals, (human ones too) and raised several who did extremely well in the show ring, winning European titles, as well as in a variety of performance disciplines. My first foal from her was a colt, which I sold at weaning , the second, Sophie was to become my first show horse , trail partner and endurance horse and, most importantly, great friend.



What has all this got to do with Arabians? Well, firstly, the Arabian often suffers from a similar problem, of course; the public perception is of an extreme type bred solely to show, and yet the true worth of the breed is in the riding horses, of which there are many. In terms of history, the original Morgan traces back to the Godolphin Arabian, blood that came through his sire, True Briton who was line bred to this famous Arabian and whose blood was introduced to America by an imported English Thoroughbred called Wildair.

The breed takes its name from its founder, Justin Morgan, a school teacher and horse breeder from Vermont, who took back a young colt as payment of a debt. The spirited bay colt, foaled in 1789, was from a breeding programme that had produced quality horses for generations. The colt, named Figure, but later renamed after his owner as was the trend at that time, became something of a local legend, being able to out-pull the local draught breeds and out-trot and out-run visiting thoroughbreds to the area who he raced in arranged matches and remained unbeaten.



Justin Morgan, the horse, was used widely at stud and proved to be a prepotent sire, re-producing himself when bred to mares of various backgrounds and breeding. There have been various descriptions of the stallion over the years but perhaps one of the more reliable ones comes from a man called John Woodbury. He

bred and owned one of the great stallion's three famous sons, that later become pillars of the breed. He saw the horse first hand and said:

*"The original Morgan, as I best recollect, was in weight not more than one thousand pounds, and maybe one hundred pounds less; height, about the same as Backman horse [the Backman horse referred to was 15.2 hands]; short back, thick shoulder and broad chest; heavy stifle, and, I think, longer body and clear from flesh, with large cords and muscles; head rather small, wide between eyes, which were full and hazel; extremely large, extended nostrils; jet black flowing mane and tail; dark bay; very fast for both racing and trotting. I once saw him trot at Randolph and win some 50 dollars, matched against a large English horse, called King William, and whipped him easily."*

Now all registered Morgans trace back to this single stallion and many exhibit the same qualities and characteristics that this horse impressed with over 200 years ago. Indeed, the breed standard by which they are judged, is largely based on the original animal.

Today the Morgan 'spirit' comes in a variety of shapes, sizes and colours, reflecting the influence of the many mare lines that were introduced into the genetic melting pot that is now the Morgan. They range in height from 14 to 16 hands high, most being about 15 hands, and although many are bay, as was the original, chestnut and black are also quite common with palomino, grey, and dun/buckskin less so. There are a few breeders in America with a special interest in preserving and promoting the rarer colours, producing silver dapples, grullas and pintos.

The gene pool, broadly speaking, is distributed between four family groups: Government, Western Working, Brunk and Lippitt. Used extensively as cavalry horses, the U.S Government, established its' own re-mount breeding programme and bred a slightly taller animal, to cope with the specific demands of the role. Morgans were commonly used by both sides in the American Civil War and one of the few survivors of the Battle of The Little Bighorn, where Custer made his last stand, was a horse called Comanche who was said to be half Morgan and half Mustang. The Western Working family, as the name suggests, was made up of horses bred for working on the many ranches at that time and, way back, probably included some Mustang blood in its' development. Brunk are named after Joseph Brunk who developed them and are notable for their soundness and athleticism.

Lippitts are arguably the purest of the four families in that they have the most crosses back to the original Justin Morgan with no outcrosses to other breeds in the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries. Most pedigrees today will include representatives from more than one of these family groups but no matter what genetic package a Morgan comes in, and despite their physical differences, they all share the same spirit and character.

The stallions below, although quite different, illustrate good examples of the breed and interpretations of the standard.



Morgans are extremely intelligent horses and very people-loving, being especially fond of children. They seem to be able to quickly estimate the ability of the person on their back's ability to stay there and will tread very carefully with a child or novice on board but will go hell for leather, given half the chance, when they have a more competent, experienced rider. They can be extremely competitive and love to race, often not settling until they have passed a horse and rider they have spotted in the distance. Their love of human company and willingness to please is almost dog-like but they can easily use their intelligence to create mischief if it is not channelled adequately; seeming to have an opinion about pretty much everything, if the rider is a little indecisive, the horse will be only too willing to decide what should be done in any particular situation and act on it!

They are blessed with speed, strength and stamina and are a handy size for youngsters and those not as nimble as they once were, to mount. Easy keepers, they are pony-like in their dietary needs, and consequently can be more susceptible to laminitis and equine metabolic syndrome than other breeds if allowed to over indulge in their favourite pastime of eating!

Morgans make excellent carriage horses but are true all-rounders, competing successfully in dressage, show jumping, Le Trec and endurance. They have an impressive record in the Tevis Cup, perhaps one of the world's most challenging competitive trail rides. One mare in particular, Lippitt Miss Nekoma, made the gruelling one day 100 miler

her own, after successfully completing six times, once while in foal and still rearing her last baby!

America's first national breed, the Morgan has been instrumental in developing several others such as Quarter horses, Saddlebreds, Tennessee Walking horses and Standardbred, to name a



few. Perhaps the most recent breed to claim the Morgan as its' progenitor, is the Morab. Since the 1800's horse breeders have been interested in combining two favourite breeds, the Morgan and Arabian, to produce the Morab horse.

History's first recorded Morab was the famous trotting horse, Goldust, who was unbeaten as a harness racer, and won a famous race in 1861 against Ironduke for \$10,000 prize money! In 1920, William Randolph Hearst was credited with coining the name "Morab" for the athletic Arabian-Morgan horses he bred to work the mountainous terrain of the Hearst Ranch. In 1973, Ilene Miller founded the first Morab Horse Registry in Clovis, California, and she registered over 500 horses before her untimely death a few years later. IMBA (International Morab Breeders' Association) launched the first fully computerised Morab registry in 1992. The Registry lays down the strict criteria that must be adhered to in order for a horse to be legitimately called a Morab.

The average Morab is between 14.2 and 15.2 hands high and weighs between 950 and 1200 ponds. The Morab's skeleton is very different than other horse breeds. Like the Arabian they have one less rib and three less vertebrae, but unique totally to the Morab is the shape of their hindquarters as well as the different pelvic angle. Along with other characteristics, these are the most apparent differences from any other breed. Taking the Arabian horse, often called the "drinker of the wind" because of its powerful lungs, and combining it with the

broad powerful chest of the Morgan, gave the Morab a naturally superior breathing system. A wide forehead sets off large, dark expressive eyes. A thick mane and tail balances out its muscular build. The Morab's head may be straight to slightly dished with a big powerful jaw in conjunction with a small muzzle.

All well-bred Morabs have a consistently uniform look, with some degree of refinement; with successive generations showing very little if any change from the first generation. It is this ability to transmit their distinguishing characteristics to their offspring that makes the Morab a distinct breed rather than just another nice cross-bred horse.

Currently there are approximately 600 registered Morgans in the UK and no horses registered with the International Morab Breeder's Association, however, that isn't to say there aren't horses here that would be eligible for registration. A Morab holds the record for completing 5,000 miles in one year in endurance rides. Another, named Tulip, has over 22,000 AERC endurance miles and has taken the all-time AERC lifetime mileage record. A Morab named Pinto holds the record for the longest continual trail ride in the northern hemisphere, completing 20,000+ miles in three years in the early 1900's. A Morab named "Kooter" went to the World Endurance Championships in Barcelona and took home a Team Silver Medal to ass to his AERC 6,000 mile medallion. Twice Tevis Cup winner, and Haggin Cup winner, Pancho, was a Morab and so the list of achievements goes on.

It is said that the turnover rate for the Morab breed is almost non-existent; once people have them, they keep them! The international Morab community is unified in its' love and admiration for and devotion to the breed and are only too happy to testify as to its' tremendous athletic qualities, gentle character and catalogue all the various sporting achievements. At the same time, they acknowledge and give credit to the Morgan and Arab who each made an invaluable contribution in creating the Morab.

So far I have not crossed the two breeds so have yet to breed a Morab, though I hope to do that in the near future. As I said earlier, I

obtained my first Arabs 8 years ago when I obtained two brood mares from the famous Harwood Stud which was in the process of disbanding. Marceline ,her half- sister Caecilia with her 10 day old filly foal ( the last foal to be bred at Harwood) came to join the Morgans.

Having developed an interest in endurance and really enjoyed taking part at open level with the Morgans, I thought that if I wanted to become really competitive, at a higher level, I should ride an Arab. A series of setbacks has meant that Marceline's 5 yr old son Monty ( by



African Emir), has been the first of his family to make it to the start line of an endurance ride having just made his debut and is ridden by my friend Andrew. I join them riding Martha, a Morgan mare who was born just six weeks after Monty and so the two of them have

grown up together and are great friends. Later in the year, I plan to bring a couple of the older Morgan mares out of moth balls and do a few competitive rides with them too.

I have shown the Morgans in hand and ridden hunt seat classes with some success but I have to say I'm not a great fan of showing and prefer to be out riding over the countryside.

Of the eleven horses I have currently, I have bred six of them and despite all the expense, hard work and stress that breeding involves, I think it is my favourite part of horse ownership, unfortunately, parting with foals is my least favourite and explains, at least in part why I have so many. I have to say though, with those I have sold, they have gone to wonderful homes, here and overseas.

Having imported a two year old mare from America, six years ago, I was so impressed with her that I followed up by bidding for frozen semen from her sire that was in a Stallion Auction in the States. The result is a now two year old colt who I'm hoping to breed to my mares in the not too distant future and hopefully use him to produce my first Morab. Their father is the spectacular Minion Millennium pictured above.

Although I wouldn't have said so at the time, I suppose I have much to thank the delinquent Dales Pony and treacherous Thoroughbred for; had I stuck with either of them, I probably would not have had the joy of sharing my life with Morgan horses, nor learned about the wonderful fusion of Morgan and Arab blood that is the Morab, and I would not be party to these well kept secrets.

Peter Berry.



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## Ride Reports

### Croal Valley Ride

22<sup>nd</sup> October 2017

Well storm Brian tried to ruin our day but as the winds were forecast to drop by Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> October, we decided to go ahead as planned. Unfortunately, due to the rain the previous night Jamie had to re-mark the whole route before the riders went out, much to the disgust of my washer later!



We had a change of route which was close to the river which was running too fast to be safe, but we opened up a new section so as the riders still could ride 24kms and received some really good feedback. I must thank the forestry commission for allowing this change at such short notice.

Food and Sauces my local butty van set-up shop preparing hot food for the riders before and after the ride, which was well appreciated

We had a few dropouts but that was to be expected, riders came from Cumbria, Derbyshire and West Yorkshire plus a good local contingent.

The volunteers for the checkpoints donned their waterproofs and off they set. Indie Pics (Ruth Saunders) was our photographer for the day and the ever so famous Ted the bull terrier donned his all-weather gear to get some cracking shots of the riders on the return to the venue.



Surprisingly most horses came back very clean, even though the crossing from Outwood to Phillips Park was quite muddy.

A great day was had by all, with the exception of Duncan McCartney who was trod on by Tilly, Duncan now has an early Xmas present of steel toe cap boots.



Thanks to all my volunteers, Markers - Jamie Houghton, Diane Hudson, Helen Dawson, Checkpoints - Kath Wilson, Angela Leadbetter and Jane Rothwell, Timekeepers: Justin and Alice Bamber, First Aid - Liz Nabb and Office - Sarah Bamber; who without their help these rides cannot go ahead.

Cath.

**Ulnes Walton Bridleways Association Halloween Ride  
Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> October 2017**

The Halloween ride was a spooktacular success as ever and there were some fantastic outfits.

Thank you to all Lancashire Group members who attended.



**Local Area Rides 2018**

All dates for rides in 2018 will be available on the EGB website.

<http://endurancegb.co.uk/main/Rides/List-of-Rides>

Please contact the Ride Organisers directly for all queries about their ride, including the Ride Distances on offer at the ride. It is simplest to email the Ride Organiser. Email addresses are listed below where possible. If you need to phone Ride Organisers, please do so during sociable hours. Between 9am and 9pm

**Please contact Jamie Houghton - [jamiehk80@gmail.com](mailto:jamiehk80@gmail.com) for any additions or amendments.**

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## Committee

You are welcome to contact any of the committee but if your query is specific to one of the listed roles, then we suggest you contact the appropriate Committee Member, in the first instance.

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