



NEWSLETTER



DECEMBER 2014

Editor's Bit

This Newsletter is mainly about the Annual Awards Night in January and you will find all the information you require for that later on; however, we have an article from a new rider (always good) and also included a letter from Betty regarding her 80th Birthday Bash with tips on how to still be riding in Endurance at that age!

There is some information from the Committee regarding membership for 2015 and already, information regarding the first Lancs Group ride of the season at Croal Irwell! If you are one of our members who still receive a paper copy of the Newsletter you will find enclosed a form for your Horse Registration, a Membership Renewal Form and a Ride Entry form, all for 2015.

Hope to see lots of you at the Awards Night; meanwhile enjoy the Christmas and New Year celebrations.

Regards

Helen

From the Chair

Well here we are again, the end of the ride season, all the Christmas festivities to look forwards to and also both the Annual Presentation Evening and the 2015 season ahead of us.

I hope that you all remembered to send off your completed Ride Cards by the due date, they are all currently being checked, calculated and entered into the various awards categories – all will be revealed on Saturday 24th January at the Annual Awards Presentation event. The details about that are included later in the newsletter along with your ticket booking form. Please take note that this is an extra special event this year to celebrate our 30th Anniversary Year, and the theme of the evening will be a 'Glitter Ball'- read more later in the

newsletter to fully explain. I just hope that as many members and friends as possible will attend to make this a really special evening. Many of you attended our AGM in November and contributed to the varied and valued discussions about the future of our sport. I am sorry that more of you weren't present but I hope that you all completed the online questionnaire related to this, and that you will all be participating in the members vote which will take place shortly. If you are not up to date with proceedings then please log into the EGB national website and also check out the emails which were sent to you from national (via Olwen Bryer and John Hudson). If any of you have any questions about this then please do not hesitate to contact any of the committee for further discussion.

One of the issues we discussed at our local Lancashire AGM was the points system, the claiming of trophy points and the ongoing need for helpers at rides. We decided that for the 2015 season onwards, it will still be necessary for all members wishing to claim trophy points for the season, to help in at least one ride in the season, and that this ride will be clearly signed for by the ride organiser on their ride record card.

Additionally which is much more exciting is the introduction of a brand new scheme and trophy, which will basically be a helper's trophy. Members will need to apply for a Helper's Award Card at the start of the season, and will accrue points for various tasks, the points which will depend on the role/task completed at a ride. Needless to say we obviously need training in these tasks and this will be explained shortly in a personalised email you will receive in the New Year. We feel that to satisfy the training requirements of our sport, and to help all our members appreciate the various tasks which take place, it really would be useful to hold a training evening which explains many of the roles involved in organising a ride, or helping at a ride, e.g. vet writing, stewarding, check pointing, time keeping, so that not only do we all understand and keep up-to-date in what is going on in the endurance world around us, but we can all contribute to the development of both the sport and our own knowledge. So you will receive an email shortly about this new Lancs EGB Helpers

Award Scheme, and also about a special Open Evening/Training night taking place – something else to look forward to in the new season.

Also don't forget as the 2015 season approaches that we need to renew our memberships, both full and associate members can renew online on the national EGB website and Associate members can still download the paper form from 1st January to send to Jean Merchant (address on form from Lancs EGB website). We all – both competitive and pleasure riders - need to download a Lancs Horse Registration form from the website to send to Jean Merchant in order to receive a Horse Ride Record card to log all the rides you do next season – don't forget to do this as it really is important.

Well, all that considered I will leave you to enjoy the festivities. Make the most of the 'off season' and enjoy a brief rest before the next season takes off. It won't be that long as I am sure you will all notice from the poster included in this newsletter, in that the Lancs Group preliminary ride of the season at Croal Irwell takes place on 1st February.

I hope that you all have a wonderful time over the Christmas period and I look forward to seeing you at the Presentation Evening – don't forget to send in your ticket requests.

A very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to everyone.

Sue

<p>Annual Presentation and Awards Night - Saturday 24th January 2015</p>
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This year's presentation evening will again be held at Ribby Hall near Kirkham. This has been a very successful venue for us over the last three years, as it not only has a lovely room with pleasant atmosphere but the food and staff service are excellent.

The evening will follow a similar format to normal by starting at 7.30pm with a full three course meal, followed by the presentation of awards. As usual, we will all get dressed up in our posh togs, (enjoying the change from horsey gear) and

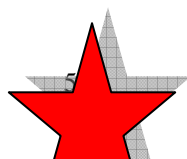
will hopefully relax, eat, drink and be merry chatting and socialising with friends old and new. HOWEVER, we need to put on something a bit extra this year to celebrate the awards presentations for our 30th Anniversary Year of EGB Lancs Group.

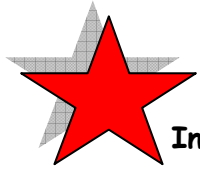
Those of you who attended last year's event will remember some 'mirth' over a certain persons 'glitter ball dress' - so in keeping with this theme we decided that for this year's special event we should all wear something with some glitter. Yes even the men!!!! We don't mean ball gowns, or even long dresses (you can if you wish) but just that some (or all if you must) of your attire should be glittery - all in good taste of course - so see what you can come up with and let's make our 30th Anniversary something special.

This year's guest who has kindly agreed to come and present the awards is our EGB National Chairman, John Hudson. So please make every effort to come along. Also try to encourage your family and/or friends to come with you to help you to enjoy the evening. This invitation is especially true for some of our newer members to the group; please do come and join us and take the opportunity to meet some of the other members. It really is a good chance to get to know everyone, in more leisurely circumstances than at a competition or ride. It is usually a good night for all!

A route map and directions to Ribby Hall, will accompany the tickets when they are sent out to you, but it is easy to find being directly off the M55 Junction 3. Please read the menu below and make your selection on the attached form ASAP - it is important you send in your ticket request by 15th January AT THE LATEST! The price per ticket is £22 per person for the three courses, plus coffee or tea etc. Where else do you get such a good deal in the company of your friends? It is good value, so please do take advantage of the offer and support your group by buying tickets and coming to what should be a very enjoyable social evening - not to mention picking up your rosettes and prizes and also taking part in our wonderful raffle of course!!!! If there are friends you wish to sit with please let me know and I will try to do a seating plan.

The menu for the evening is as follows:-





**Endurance GB Lancashire Group
30th Anniversary Glitter Ball**

**Incorporating our Annual Awards Presentation Evening
Saturday 24th January 2014**

Please choose one option from each course to create your menu

Starter

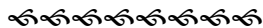
Sweet Potato and Pepper Soup
Poached Salmon & Prawn Rilette, Baby Leaf Salad, Lemon & Dill
Dressing
Chicken Liver & Cognac Parfait, Red Onion Jam, Homemade
Toasted Brioche



Main Course

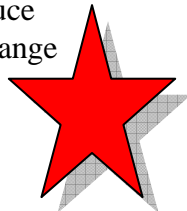
Roast Breast of 'Spleneach farm' Chicken with Sweet Potato Puree
on a Fondant Potato, Shiraz Jus
Roasted Salmon Fillet, Crushed New Potato Cake, Lobster Veloute
Ribble Valley Loin of Pork, Roast Potatoes, Crackling, Cider Jus
Basil Infused Savoury Pancakes with Wild Mushroom & Spinach,
Topped with Smoked Cheese Sauce

all served with Roasted New Potatoes & Seasonal Vegetables



Sweet

Sticky Toffee Pudding, Butterscotch Ice Cream, Caramel Sauce
Honey Rose Cara Crakine Chocolate Torte, Forest Berries, Orange
Reduction
Classic Lemon Tart, Fresh Raspberries & Crème Chantilly



Freshly Brewed Tea or Coffee

£22.00 per person

Awards kindly presented by John Hudson – Chairman Endurance GB

I hope that suits everyone!

Please indicate your choice of menu on the form enclosed, and send your completed form, together with a **cheque** made payable to **EGB Lancs Group** for **£22 per person**, and a **STAMPED ADDRESSED ENVELOPE**, to me (Sue Taylor-Green) by **15th January 2015 AT THE VERY LATEST!!!!!!**

N.B. It is probably worth you making a note of your choices on the above menu to remind you what you have selected! Also remember to list your friends you wish to be seated with and I will do my best to sort a seating plan (but don't promise ha!)

As usual we will end the evening with a 'Rowdy Raffle' We have had some very generous quality 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 great e.g. Tack, riding lesson/training, maybe a weekend accommodation for horse and rider. Or are you a hairdresser, beautician, butcher, baker, even candlestick maker!! 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 lindacowperthwaite@tiscali.co.uk or sense@jackielloyd.co.uk.

Also if you have a trophy from last year's presentation, would you please arrange to get it back to me, by the week before the "do" (i.e. by 16th January) or phone me to let me know how you are getting it to the Awards ceremony.

Thanks

Sue Taylor-Green
01772 436043

Reminder

Please send all Lancs Horse Registrations (download from website) to Membership Secretary Jean Merchant at 259, Rochdale and Bury Old Road, Heywood, Lancashire, OL10 4BQ.

Any queries re membership please contact:

Membership Secretary Jean Merchant at 259, Rochdale and Bury Old Road, Heywood, Lancashire, OL10 4BQ.

Tel: 01706 364360

Email: jean.merchant09@btinternet.com

Don't forget that all membership renewals can be made online on the EGB National website and these are due from 1st January 2015



Endurance GB – Lancashire Group

CROAL-IRWELL VALLEY, BURY **PLEASURE RIDE**

(Post code to venue will be sent to you with Directions to Venue)

SUNDAY, 1st FEBRUARY 2015

21km (13 miles)

Members and Non-members welcome

This is a wonderful New Year ride through the Croal-Irwell Valley incorporating mostly woodlands, no gates, and very little roadwork.

A rosette is presented after completing the ride.

- Ample hard standing for parking,
- **No** toilet or water facilities. Bring your own refreshments!
- Ride pre-marked. Maps. Marshalls
- First Aider in attendance at venue
- Rules & regulations as per EGB handbook.
- Ride start times **between 9am and 10.30am** (no later please)
- Entry Fees: £15 EGB members, £18 Non-members
- Entry forms on website: www.lancs-egb.org.uk (Events & fixtures, social ride entry)
- Cheques payable to “**EGB-LANCS GROUP**”

Please include an **A5 SAE** (use “large” stamp for **more** than 1 entry) for return of map, ride information and directions to venue, to:

Jenny Rand, 41 Parkway, Greave, Rochdale, OL11 5EE

For further details, please contact Ride Organisers:

Jean Merchant - 07814 630999 or Jenny Rand – 07729 655634

Please clean up after your horse so don't forget your bucket & shovel

Have a smashing ride! ☺

Betty's Birthday Bash....

Dear EGB friends

I'm rarely lost for words (Composition, i.e. Essay writing was always my favourite subject at school) but this time I truly do not know where to begin. I'm at a complete loss to know how to thank all you lovely people out there who made my 80th birthday so mind-blowingly memorable.

First and foremost must come Glenda and Jean who bore the brunt of all the preparation and subsequent frustration of the cancelled Betty's Birthday Bash.

What an amazing party we had at Sue and Alan's the following day and that Birthday cake had to be seen to be believed! Though I was very disappointed that Little Crosby had to be cancelled I think we were able to

enjoy the social side and chat better without the presence of our equine partners. It was great catching up with so many faces from the past. Sadly for me my family were unable to attend the party or the rescheduled ride at Formby due to prior commitments. Three of my four grandchildren were to ride at Little Crosby, then Rob and Gill had been looking forward to re-living past rides with you.

Next, Formby Pink Ride - what can I say?? – Simply superb or Google out of ten as the kiddies on Chris Evans Show say!! All those people and especially those riders balloted out who came along anyway without their horses. I was completely overwhelmed back at the venue by the effort that had been made on my behalf, so I must apologise to all those I appeared somewhat distant to – truth is I was close to tears and felt I was living on another planet.

So many of you came asking how I do it at my age and my immediate response was NOT VERY WELL!! However, I will offer a few suggestions:

1. Have good friends that help you out – in my case Maxine and Colin. I definitely could not cope at home without their help and encouragement. Then there's Barbara and Alan. Poor Barbara has put up with me for 20+ years. She opens 99% of gates for us (Fea is hopeless at gates once having got herself fastened by the bit on a gate latch which resulted in a broken bit and damage to her mouth) Barbara never complains when I have to slow down even when her mount is full of running. She's just so positive and understanding – a true friend.
2. Don't over horse yourself. As each year goes by and I stiffen up a bit more I'm so grateful to Fea for looking after me and putting up with my now appalling riding.
3. Try to keep fit. I go to sessions for the over fifties with Age UK twice a week and feel tremendous benefit from this.
4. Last but not least look after your health and be happy to accept you will no longer be able to cope with much that came easily thirty years ago. Just accept your limitations!

So fellow riders – get out there and appreciate to the full the camaraderie, the effort put in by your equine partners, the fresh air and the chance to enjoy our marvellous N W countryside seen at its best between two hairy horse ears – all brought to you courtesy of EGB. Well what a year I've had, so I now wish you all much pleasure in your riding to my age and away beyond.

Yours sincerely

Betty Paul

PS. My birthday celebrations did not end at Formby:-

In those bygone days when I transported three horses (legally!!) in my little lorry I'd be passed by monstrous "Arctics" on the motorway so I'd say to whoever was with me "I'd LOVE to drive one of these". Now what do you think my neighbour Jan presented me with – no, you'll never guess – only a truck Driving Experience" in a 44ton Arctic complete with trailer – so on 8th November off I went to a disused airfield near York.

The drive turned out to be all I'd hoped for and more – totally mind blowing. What a feeling of power up there.

You should have seen the poor instructor's face when he saw his next pupil but he certainly kept his cool! BRAVE MAN. He did a great job – I even managed line parking – something I find difficult now in my 4x4 CRV – and my test score was 96/100!!

Cheers all

Happy Christmas and a great New Year

Betty.

They say Horses are in your blood don't they?

They say horses are in your blood, and for me it has certainly always felt that way. From a ridiculously early age I whined to go for riding lessons then for years afterwards 'Daddy I want a pony' was every other sentence until aged 9 my poor (and soon to get much poorer!) Dad gave in and bought 'Sailor' - the first of many. As other friends 'grew out of it' and got into boys and booze I got up at 6am to make beds and lug around bales.

I did all the usual stuff - pony club, show jumping, even brought on my own foal and so it went on until in 2008 my current mare, Maggie, and I made the move from Kent, to the North. Unfortunately Mags was diagnosed with Navicular in 2011 and last October we made the painful decision to say goodnight to her. And so for the first time in 24 years I was without a horse. I literally didn't know what to do with myself and that is when Sue (Taylor-Green) suggested I ride Pete. At nearly 17hh and jet black it felt a bit like getting onto Black Beauty the first time I rode him, although I never saw the episode where Black Beauty spooked at a bin bag/ log / running water/ road drain so perhaps it wasn't quite the same!

After a few local hacks, Sue suggested I join her on a pleasure ride and this was how on a cold morning last February we found ourselves at the Croal Irwell ride venue. I was quite nervous as I didn't know what to expect but everyone was really

friendly and it was very relaxed. After getting our bibs and maps we set off on the 24km ride. I remember 2 things about that ride, the first is that I discovered Pete isn't keen on being passed (maybe it's a thoroughbred thing?!) and will plunge about on what feels like 2 legs and stick his bum out to prevent this happening, and that riding for a few hours even when you've been riding for years does make you walk like a cowboy the next day! Ooh and not forgetting my favourite part - the beautiful rosette we picked up on completion

I think that's probably what made me come back again a couple of weeks later for the next ride and so it has gone on all year. We took every week as it came as Pete has stiff hocks sometimes and we didn't really think he'd manage the full season but as we approached the summer he was getting fitter with each ride and so we arranged to go to the Lindum Spirit Festival in Lincolnshire and entered our first 3 day ride. We packed up the trailer and set off on the Wednesday morning, arriving in the early afternoon when we arranged our corral and got ready for the leg stretch class that evening. The 12 km ride was fine, except for the biting insects that seemed to find Pete and I the special course, for that evening's menu! Then to add to the misery of being eaten alive by mosquitoes, Sue tactfully told me that in countries with mosquitoes people sleep with sacrificial pigs as they are smelly so are preferred by the insects - and if you haven't already cottoned on this meant she was saying that as Pete and I were being eaten alive we must both smell like stinky pigs!! Humph!

The next day was Pleasure Pairs class so as we were trying to pair up a huge black TB and little chestnut lunatic (I mean Arab) we had our work cut out. We plaited their fore locks and tails and interwove pink and green ribbon then added matching numnahs, t shirts and hat silks. The ride was memorable as being the hottest day I have ever ridden in, but we eventually arrived back at the venue a lot sweatier than we had set out. In the bar that evening we waited anxiously to see if we had been placed. The organiser read the names of the placed pairs and as she reached 3rd I said to Sue 'I think they've missed us out' but she didn't have time to reply before we stood up to collect our first prize rosettes and goodies! I couldn't believe it I was so excited I jumped up and down (nothing to do with the wine) and ran up to the front to collect the prizes and have our photo taken! Pete got lots of extra carrots that evening and we might have had a couple of glasses of wine in the trailer to celebrate (or maybe 3 or 4!).

On the last day we were entered into the 40km ride but unfortunately Pete wasn't quite right when we trotted up so we downgraded to the 12km. As this was the first ride I'd be doing on my own, I was nervous but I needn't have been, we tagged along with 2 other riders and had a good time round the course and trotted

up sound at the end. All in all, much better than I'd ever dreamed of at the beginning of the season with Pete managing 3 rides over 3 days and coming home with rosettes and goodies galore! Some other highlights of the year have been the beach rides which are just amazing, although Pete is definitely not a fan of water so I'm not sure he'd agree, and I couldn't forget to mention the constant amusement I get from riding with Sue and Beavis, mostly because of the memorable stunts Beavis pulls that Sue always tries to find excuses for! My personal favorite being the time we were cantering along the beach and he stopped dead, catapulting Sue over his neck leaving her clinging on by one stirrup - this apparently is normal behaviour when there is a change in the density of the sand from a wetter area to a drier one! Or it might just be that he was being a plonker! Ha! All in all it's been a great introduction to Endurance riding this year and I can't wait to see what next year has in store. - Carla Jackson

Carla Jackson (riding Pete) and Sue Taylor-Green (riding Beavis)



DISCLAIMER ANY COMMENTS MADE IN LETTERS RECEIVED FOR INCLUSION IN THIS NEWSLETTER ARE NOT NECESSARILY THE VIEWS OF THE EDITOR OR MEMBERS OF THE EGB LANCASHIRE GROUP 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.

FOR SALE

DUKE



13.2 hh Tri-coloured light to medium weight 12 year old pony.

Duke enjoys his work whether hacking, schooling, show jumping, pony club activities or cross country . He is forward going and sharp with quick reactions and is an ideal ride for a confident positive rider, or as a second pony for a competent teenager.

He is easy to catch , shoe , and loads easily into trailer or box.

His impeccable manners in the stable make him a pleasure to deal with.

Duke ignores the heaviest traffic including farm traffic and hacks out alone or with company .

£1850 ONO.

Contact Barbara Smith on 01254 878139 or

Mobile 07730070469

Duke has not done endurance in the past but he is very forward going and does not tire easily so could make a new career with the right rider and some time to learn the ropes.

Committee

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Tel: 01254 830900

EGB Lancs Group

Glitter Ball and 30th Anniversary Awards Evening

Saturday 24th January 2015

Booking Form

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

Number of tickets required _____ Cheque Amount £ _____

Please indicate number for each of the choices for each course:-

Starter :

Sweet Potato and Pepper Soup _____

Poached Salmon & Prawn Rilette _____

Chicken Liver & Cognac Parfait _____

Main Course:

Roast Breast of 'Splendleach farm' Chicken _____

Roasted Salmon Fillet _____

Ribble Valley Loin of Pork _____

Basil infused savoury pancakes with wild
mushroom & spinach _____

Desert:

Sticky Toffee Pudding _____

Honey Rose Cara Crakine Chocolate Torte _____

Classic Lemon Tart _____

Please return form, with cheque payable to EGB Lancs Group for **£22** per person
plus SAE, to Sue Taylor-Green, Nursery Cottage, Ulnes Walton Lane,
Leyland, Lancs, PR26 8LU, by 15/1/2015 (at the latest)

Tickets will be returned to you together with a venue map, early in the New Year.

