



NEWSLETTER



OCTOBER 2013

Editor's Bit

Here we are virtually at the end of the season with the last Lancs Group Ride successfully completed. Even though the weather threatened to be horrendous for the Halloween Ride, it actually turned out pretty decent with just one very brief shower and a fair bit of sunshine so not a bad way to finish the season. The weather is so different now it feels like we are paying for all the fabulous summer weather that we had.

After the bumper edition of the last newsletter this one is rather more moderate in size but we do have a lovely article from Jackie Lloyd relating Khalifa's second visit to Barbury Castle and a very different article from Princess Lula (and mum Janet Bebbington!) relating her trip to Gisburn Forest - which may tempt some of you to visit.

I hope you've all had a really good season. On a personal note it has been fabulous to have been able to ride Ellie again even though the choice of rides was limited because she has not had shoes on for nearly 12 months. The farrier is very pleased with her progress so I am looking forward to continuing to ride over the winter ready for next season.

Finally, just a reminder of the AGM at the new venue on the 25 November. Hope to see you there.

Regards
Helen

From the Chair.....

Well here we are again at the end of yet another season – having said that there are still a couple of pleasure rides left before you need to get your mileage cards sent in! I hope you have all managed to achieve what you planned to achieve this year, it's always difficult isn't it with anything to do with horses- whatever you plan will invariably get turned upside down. However, I know that quite a few of you have done really well this season and should be in the ribbons locally, and a couple of you nationally as well. But remember – all our members are able to achieve awards whether it's a mileage rosette or a trophy – all you have to do is to remember to send in your mileage card to Yvonne Clark by 30th November at the very latest. The address is on the back of the card. Please also make sure

*you have filled in all the details on the front **AND** back of the card, e.g. colour of horse, and only use one card for one horse!*

As I mentioned in the last newsletter I haven't done anywhere near what I planned to do this season. Although I had just about managed to get going when I wrote the last piece, I didn't do more than a couple more rides as various events seemed to take over my life ha!

Having said that, it's perhaps as well as you may recall me being really pleased with Beavis's behaviour at the Cumbria Challenge Ride, when I thought he might have finally grown up, but alas no – he reverted to normal when I went to Delamere! He was an absolute nightmare, as those of you who saw me would confirm. Pulling and plunging (and even cantering backwards) for 40km is no-one's idea of fun, and we didn't really do anything else after that. He's obviously not had enough work this year so I hope things improve next season.

I am pleased to report that we had quite a few articles sent in after our desperate plea in the last issue. Thank you everyone, you have written some wonderful articles and sent some great pictures- please keep them coming.

Well the AGM is fast approaching. You will all have received the notice I sent out regarding time and date etc (Monday 25th November, 7.30pm at Grasshoppers Rugby Club, Preston) and also the request for nominations to the committee. We really would like as many people to attend as possible this year as we do have quite a lot to discuss. I know it can be difficult on a cold (and usually wet) winter evening in November to drag yourself out of the house again after you have been to work, and also tucked Neddy away for the night, but please do try; we really do value your input. If you haven't been before you don't need to be shy as there are plenty of people to talk to. There will also be chips and butties to eat after we have finished the more formal discussions, and there will still be plenty of time to chat and socialise. Those of our members who read Horse and Hound will probably be aware of some of the bad publicity which EGB has received recently and I am sure you are all aware of some of the funding problems our society has suffered over the last

12 months or so, mainly as a result of the withdrawal of financial support from certain quarters! These are just some of the issues we need to discuss, and all of them are directly relevant to you our members, in terms of membership fees, rides available, and entry fees etc. We really need to know how you want to move forwards with the sport, and would welcome any contributions, ideas and suggestions that you may make. That is why it is more important than ever that you come to the AGM, so please do come along and join in on the 25th. If you can drop me an email (or text) to let me know you are coming it would be great as it gives us an idea of how much food to order!

The next event after that will be the Presentation Evening at Ribby Hall on 25th January, but menu and booking forms will be sent out with the next newsletter at Christmas, so don't worry you haven't missed anything yet!

Back to the mileage cards which I started off on - remember that you can put any rides you complete up to the end of November on this year's (2013) mileage card, but any rides from December onwards will count towards next year's awards and will need to go on a 2014 Mileage card. These will be available from Jean Merchant, our membership secretary when you have renewed your membership for next year, but please do not send anything off to her yet. Once next year's membership fees etc have been finalised at the National AGM we will send out all the information on membership renewal in the next newsletter.

In the meantime I hope you manage to get some pleasant riding in without getting too wet, and please remember that we look forward to seeing you at our AGM.

Have fun out there!

Sue

Sue Taylor-Green, EGB Lancs Group Chairperson.
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The Annual Presentation Evening 2014 Raffle

Already another season coming to a close, where has the time gone? I hope everyone has had a good year achieving your goals.

Nearly time to tot up your points and miles ready for the next Presentation Evening (25/01/2014). Don't forget to send off your mileage cards to Yvonne Clarke by 30/11/2013.

This will be our third event at Ribby Hall, the past two years proving to be very successful; the venue, meal and the raffle have all improved making a more "up market" occasion which everyone has I hope enjoyed.

Now, with regard to the raffle: we have had some very generous quality prizes donated the last two years and 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 in 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.

I would be most interested and pleased to hear from anyone with an idea. Please contact me at lynne.jackson56@btinternet.com or on my mobile 07825373550.

Thanks
Lynne Jackson

Khalifa Goes to Barbury.....again!

Little did I know what was in store when I wrote "Khalifa Goes to Barbury" for you last season!

You may recall I shared our pleasure riding experiences from Barbury Castle where he broke his bridle and I rode him in nothing but a Dually headcollar!

This year, however, things would be rather different: 2013 was to be Khalifa's Novice season ... and he got off to a fantastic start, with a Grade 1 for his first Novice ride, and so his success continued... all grade 1's for each of his 40k Novice rides. So when the request came from Endurance GB for nominations for a Novice horse to represent England in the Home International at Barbury Castle in August, I couldn't help thinking quietly to myself "Well Khalifa can do it!" You

can imagine my surprise and delight when he made the “long list”... and then the “short list”... and then the “final selection” ... for the Home International England SQUAD! We were going to Barbury... again!

As the event drew ever closer, the nerves began to surface. We were faced with a barrage of e mails from the Team vet, the Team farrier and the Team physio, not to mention the Team, Chef D’Equipe, Maggie Pattinson. We were instructed and directed on a plethora of issues with strict standards, expectations and ground rules being laid. Pre-event preparations were exciting but also a little daunting. Two days before the trip our last minute preparations began to take shape. Khalifa was bathed and coiffed and, although I say so myself, looked quite amazing! He looked like a real Arabian show horse, complete with gleaming plaits, silky tail and dark glistening eyes. He really was given “the works” by an Arabian Showing expert! A far cry from the usual rough and tumble urchin boy that he usually is!

We set off on a warm August Thursday morning, for our long journey to Barbury Castle, near Marlborough in Wiltshire, feeling both excited and nervous at the same time. I should explain at this point that three horses were selected for each endurance class in the Home International and this made up the England SQUAD. Not until the Friday evening would the Chef announce the final selection – just one horse and rider combination for each class; these horses would form the England TEAM and ride on the big day for Team points.

From the moment we arrived the pressure was on! Meetings, briefings, trot ups, inspections, stable visits, farrier checks, physio checks, vet checks, kit distributed, air jackets fitted, expectations re-iterated ... and so it went on, whilst all the time, the tension mounted.

Then came the final briefing on Friday evening, when “the team” would be announced. There was an air of expectation, a more subdued squad and rather less laughter... this was the big moment we had all been waiting for. We were under no illusions though; even if not selected to ride for points, we were riding in England kit, as part of the Squad, and were expected to conduct ourselves accordingly. The Chef D’equipe had made that abundantly clear from the start! Words cannot describe that moment when the name of the Novice horse was announced. Our delight was indescribable when Khalifa’s name was called: the Novice horse, representing the England Team, is Khalifa BJ, to be ridden by Novice rider, Carolyn Livesey from Lancashire! I turned to Carolyn to say “Well done” but the words just wouldn’t come... I was too choked to speak! I can honestly say that this was the first time I had ever wished that I was a Novice rider!! Instead, as an advanced rider, I was to be confined to crewing, alongside David, my husband who had expertly crewed Zim Nazka at FEI level and successfully crewed Khalifa throughout his novice season to date ... and, of course, to motivating Carolyn who had only ever ridden two novice rides previously! I could see the realisation of the enormity of the situation dawning on her, and knew I would need to do some

calming and coaching! Carolyn is a recent “convert” to Endurance and this was to be a major baptism of fire! What a moment for her!

On the Saturday there was excitement in the air! The weather was glorious, the stables were decorated with England flags and bunting and so were all of our trailers, as we set about putting the finishing touches to our fantastic horses! Then followed an enormous parade of all of the Home International Squad horses, riders and crews from England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales complete with flags and marching, horses in fancy dress, horses being ridden, horses being led... and some totally disguised as “dragons” whilst others were resplendent in full suits of armour and ridden by princesses and regal knights! It was a truly proud moment and a moving and spectacular sight. If you haven’t seen the photographs do go onto the website and take a look! I had my doubts about how “Baby Khalifa” would cope with all of this razzamatazz... oh ye of little faith! He took it all in his stride as the “novice” amongst the seasoned horses ... and even played his part comically by removing the flag I waved in my hand and proceeding to parade with it in his own mouth!!

Next came the serious part – when we had to present all Squad horses to vetting. This was done with great aplomb and spectacle too, with all horses being paraded in England rugs as a squad, prior to vetting. It was of course a nerve-wracking moment ... but all went well and all horses passed the vetting.

After tacking up and warming up, with nerves jangling, Carolyn and Khalifa were timed out across the starting line and I watched through very proud and tearful eyes as they disappeared into the distance and over the top of that famous Barbury hill! Now it was time for me to stress! I am NOT a seasoned crewer so I had to patiently allow David to “show me the ropes”. It felt very strange to be crewing my own horse and I think I made my mind up that day that I was definitely destined to be in the saddle and not in the driving seat! I have the utmost admiration for all crews everywhere and will never take my crew for granted again! They do a fantastic job and are the “unsung heroes” in this wonderful discipline that is “Endurance” without whom, we would not and could not be successful!

Khalifa and Carolyn had a brilliant ride. They were both amazingly professional and followed all instructions issued to them from the Management Team and as dictated in the Home International Rules. They completed the ride strictly as instructed, as close to 11.00kph as possible – any deviation from this would incur penalty points for the team. They came in at 11.1kph! We presented Khalifa to vetting early, within a few short minutes of the thirty minute allowance, as directed by the team vet, with a heart rate of 42, giving him a Grade 1. Well done Carolyn and Khalifa! They had achieved maximum points for the England Team!! We were extremely proud and it was a fantastic experience. It was an honour to have been selected, a thrill to be part of the Squad, a proud moment to represent the England team and a success we will remember for a long time to come.

THE ADVENTURES OF Pantyfid Cloudy and Princess Lula in Gisburn Forest

Or.....the day Lula met Little-legs!



Well it finally happened! I can't say I wasn't warned as all the signs were there. A big breakfast, saddle in the wagon and the grooming kit out for longer than 2 minutes. So, what happened I hear you ask? Well, the answer is we set off on the motorway and then the A59 followed by lots of twisty roads to a place called Cocklet Hill. This was the longest journey I had done in the horse box and it took all my concentration not to fall over as some of those hills were really steep and the little wagon wasn't happy. I could tell by the way it slowed down and the engine got a bit warm.

Anyway, I digress; the clue is in the name...."hill". Now, I live on the Fylde coast and hills aren't in our vocabulary and certainly not in mine as I like to tootle round at a slow pace on our nice and flat roads! When I got out of the wagon I was surrounded by all these trees, also known as Gisburn Forest and parked next to us was a cute looking little gelding who I hadn't met before. I spotted my chance and decided that flirting was in order especially as my hormones were racing even if my feet weren't. Once tacked up, her who thinks she is in charge got on but I was too busy eyeing up my new boyfriend to stand still, so Frannie had to hold my reins. Then we set off on the bike trail until we hit the forest roads. There were lots of signs about for cyclists but when I listened in to the conversation, I gathered horses have to just find their own way...more on this later! We had a lovely walk and a few trots past nice sounding places such as PARK WOOD, SHEEP HILL and HESBERT HALL. Some of the tracks led to dead ends but we weren't in any hurry so we just turned round and retraced our steps. I happily followed Little-legs as being in front isn't my forte, enjoying the views and flirting with my new friend whenever I got the chance. The views were magnificent and we saw a deer as well as other wild life; the

weather cool enough to keep the flies away so we happily tootled on until we had done about 8 kms. At the next T-junction we were told to turn right but both my boyfriend and I knew this was the wrong decision as the transport was to our left but did they take any notice of our stopping and pointedly looking left...NO! So, we carried on albeit a bit more slowly as we were still trying our best to say this was the wrong way home. At this point, we met a truck loading felled trees onto a wagon. Now I did say to Little-legs at this point 'them on board' should have read the signs but as usual they took no notice and continued along the road for another 3 kms until we came to a dead end, and I mean a dead end! Finally, they LISTENED and we retraced our steps and after asking a lovely lady cyclist the best way back (note to self they didn't ask us!) we found ourselves walking down hill on a track when 'her on board' spotted two black ears making their way through the reedy field. Little-legs had some competition as here was a Shetland stallion who could sense I was very hormonal and followed us all the way down the hill whispering sweet nothings to me. Anyway, I decided a midget Shetland was no competition for a handsome chap like Little-legs and focused on not tripping up on the stony tracks. Have I mentioned that this is also one of my little foibles as I am usually too busy noseying about to look where my feet are going but some of these tracks forced me to be careful, so another lesson learnt! Anyway, by this time I was ready for a drink and a snack so we trotted on, yes even **more** trees and a lovely view of Stocks Reservoir before we picked up the path back to the car park. When Auntie Jenny checked her watch we had done 20kms! 20 kms! And been out for 3 hours! No wonder I felt tired. When we got back to the wagon I stood quietly while my tack was removed and my sweaty brow mopped (and other bits I won't mention being a lady!). Now despite this being the longest I have ever been ridden I can truly say it was fun and I can't wait for my next date with Little-legs. I don't know why they call him that as his legs aren't little at all and he certainly can walk faster than me.

LULA xx

PS. I would recommend a trip to Gisburn Forest during the week as at weekends there are a lot of cyclists zooming about and the car parks will be busy.

REMINDER

**Ride cards must be sent to Yvonne Clark
to arrive by 30 November at the very
latest.**

Lancashire Merchandise

These are available in a range of colours & sizes and the range includes the following:

Sweatshirts
Polo Pique Ts
Fleece jackets
Fleece waistcoats
Jodhpurs
Caps
Day / Event Rugs



**New merchandise now available - embroidered Lancs logo badges:
Small £5 Large £8 ideal for sewing onto sweatshirts or special rugs
etc.**

Please call Lynne Jackson: 01772 690454 for details/prices, orders etc.

DISCLAIMER

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