

Horsham & District Riding Club

CLUB CAMP 2007

LOCATION:	Sands Farm, Warnham	DATE:	17-20 September 2007
------------------	---------------------	--------------	----------------------

Well, this year we had a change of venue and held camp at Sands Farm, Warnham. We did however go to Fair Oak again for our XC day. We also made it a 4-day camp this year, so that more fun could be had by all! We again had a lovely mix of members, some new and some old, however all coming to have a good time and learn as well. The weather was good, just a light shower on Thursday.

As with previous years, we had some great instructors. Hillary Hughes, back by popular demand taught flat work in the indoor school on Monday and Tuesday. Following such good results from last year, she once again really helped people to get their horses going well.

For jumping, we were lucky to have Ken Spencer, Helen Millichamp, Sally Thurloway, Ali Joannides and Donald Kear. We had some doing flat work, while others were split into groups, some doing courses and other doing grids. It was great to have people at all levels and all getting something positive from the sessions.

Once again, we were lucky to have some talented people giving up their time to give demonstrations and talk to the group. On Monday Jill Ealeos brought her lovely horse Norman, immaculately turned out, to give a side saddle demonstration. It was great to watch, especially when she jumped a 3ft spread! Ros Head brought her lovely Tommy and Jill showed us how to put a side saddle on. Ros and Tommy had their first experience of side saddle. As expected Tommy was exceptionally good. Ros did really well riding him side saddle, however she did not seem particularly keen to jump her next BE event like it! On Tuesday Marilyn Turner and Caroline Exley, again beautifully turned out, gave a dressage to music demonstration. They worked beautifully together and gave us some good tips on how to do it ourselves. On Wednesday Helen Millichamp gave a very helpful lungeing demonstration.

Wednesday was a slightly different day. There was a suggestion of gymkhana games! Instead Yvonne Huber came to teach Quadrille, which I can safely say everyone really enjoyed. We will all listen to music in a whole new way. Donald organised some jumping in the afternoon, and everyone had a really good time.

On Thursday we were at Fair Oak for our XC. The instructors, back by popular demand were Donald Kear, Ken Spencer and Russell Cooper. Walking around, I saw a lot of very happy faces and everyone having a lot of fun. Ken's group decided to put their quadrille skills into practice and jump the final big hedge together, which made a great picture!

In the evenings, we had a couple of nights at the Wheatsheaf, Plummers Plain for dinner. On the Monday evening Max arranged a quiz. On Tuesday evening we all met at Max's house for a demonstration on Shiatsu. Max kindly lent her horse to Helen Greenwood, to work on and explain Shiatsu in practise. There is to be a 3-day course on Shiatsu and Club members have been offered a discount. If anyone is interested please speak to Helen.

I agreed to help Max run camp this year, Max having run it for the past 3 years. It was her turn to ride and can she ride! I still hear the shriek of delight as she clears the final hedge! When I first joined Horsham Riding Club, camp was one of the first things that I did. I met a bunch of really friendly people, who offered me support and friendship and I have never looked back since. I am sure that everyone taking part in camp this year had fun, learnt something and found camp friendly and supportive, which is why our Club is so great to be a part of. I would also like to say thank you to everyone who helped run Camp this year especially Max, and to Sands Farm for making us so welcome and all our great demos.

Report by Niki Roberts