

# Horsham & District Riding Club

## *Members' Camp*

<b>LOCATION:</b>	<b>Hickstead</b>	<b>DATE:</b>	<b>29<sup>th</sup> &amp; 30<sup>th</sup> August 2008</b>
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Twenty Horsham and District Riding Club (HDRC) members gathered together on the last weekend of August to enjoy 3 fun filled days of adult camp. The series of lessons and demonstrations, run by Chris and Karen Wellings and their innovative 'Horses N Courses' business, was held at Hickstead showground. The first day of camp, Friday 19<sup>th</sup> August, opened with a sports psychology talk on nerves and how to manage them during



photography  
samanthalamb.co.uk

Karen teaching HDRC member Tony

riding and competition situations. Some of the exercises shown obviously proved advantageous as through out the camp, on more than one occasion, the campers were seen to be practicing them. Later on Friday morning the riders congregated at the luxurious new all weather arena, interestingly built for the purpose of arena polo to be played in the winter, for the work sessions. This started with flatwork lessons, designed with the afternoons jumping in mind and executed with first-class instruction. The benefits of the hours session were obvious. A quick break for lunch and the eager campers were soon back in the saddle. The success of the day continued into the afternoon's grid work jumping lessons where many of the combinations of horse and rider jumped bigger than they had ever done previously. Friday concluded with

dinner at the local pub, and after a busy day, much food and drink was consumed. Feeling more tired than they had started the day the HDRC members headed home to recuperate. However, a small number of brave souls headed off to spend the night in their horse lorries and trailers rather than the comfort of their beds, with their horses safely tucked up in their temporary stables on the showground.

Saturday morning dawned to a glorious day which was a welcome relief after the dullest August on record for nearly a century! Looking slightly less bright than the previous day the riders resumed their training after a master class from 'the Wellings'. Mounted on one of their own horses Karen demonstrated



Karen showing us how it's done!

the art of jumping a course whilst Chris narrated the demonstration. The use of the microphones, which were being used throughout the weekend by the instructors, meant that the audience could hang off every word. After the perfect opening for the day's theme of course jumping the campers soon commenced their last lesson before the afternoon's interclub competition. Two hours of jumping rounds of fences prepared the riders well for the afternoon's activity. The team jumping competition went very well with not one competitor finishing on more than 4 faults and everyone was rewarded with some fabulous horsescourses commemorative rosettes. Here the 2008 HDRC camp concluded for most people, and tired but happy horses and riders headed home. A cross country day was to follow, but the weather was so awful (and cross country is meant to be fun!) it had to be postponed (now re-scheduled for 14<sup>th</sup> Sept at Fairoak).

Many thanks would like to be extended to the riding club organisers, horsescourses and the trainers for the excellent instruction they provided and everyone else who helped make it such an enjoyable event. A special thank you would also like to be made to Samantha Lamb who provided the wonderful photography service through out the weekend. To view pictures of the event please visit her website at [www.samanthalamb.co.uk](http://www.samanthalamb.co.uk). Whilst 2008 Riding Club camp was a great success next years can't arrive soon enough!



HDRC members enjoying the day