

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Looking back over the year we have been quite active and have put a variety of events and activities on in our area that have been well supported. In April we held a Trailer Towing practise session at Ponton Heath . A saddle fitting demo at



Sutton Saint James., thermal Imaging at Fosdyke, and a Bio Mechanics day at Caythorpe. A lungeing demo again at Sutton Saint James in May and our Grass sickness ride which was transferred at short notice to Ponton Heath but raised £340 for this very worthy cause. As always at this venue the going is good and usually the weather is kind to us. There was a Trec Training day at Horncastle in July. Over one weekend in August we held a biting clinic at Westdale Farm, Donnington. This proved so popular a second weekend was organised in October.

We held our annual get together in October and was entertained and amused by a talk from an ex-metropolitan mounted police officer who now works at HQ. Thank you Alan Hiscox an excellent evening. Still in October a Riding and Road Safety Exam plus a Weight Assessment session was held at West Pinchbeck. All these events were put on by our volunteer committee, without whom we could not possibly run.

We thank the venues whose premises we used, some free, some at a very reasonable rates. There are a lot of knowledgeable trainers in Lincolnshire and we are lucky to be able to draw on their expertise. Working in the background we have our volunteer Welfare and Access and Bridleways Officers who are on call to try and solve some of the problems in your area. By putting on events with your attendance helps us with financing a lot of this worthwhile work. So do support us this coming year and we look forward to seeing you. Perhaps you would like to join our Committee and help us with our events.

Our Committee

All of our activities are undertaken by our committed volunteer team.

Chairman - Sue Bell

Vice Chairman - Paula Leverton

Secretary - Caroline Greaves

Treasurer - Diane Gallon

County Access and Bridleways Officer -

Access and Bridleways Officers -
Caroline Forrester, Carole Bryant, Diana Pollard. Diane Gallon.

County Events Officer
Johanna Hughes

County Riding and Road Safety Officer
Paula Leverton

Welfare Officers
Rosemary White, Kate Vickers, Rebecca Williams, Frances Smith

Committee Vacancies

We are always keen to welcome new volunteers. We are especially looking for people to fill the following vacancies:

Communications Officer

County Safety Officer

Safety Officers

County Education Officer

Education Officers

Events Officers

Membership Secretary

If you want to find out more about volunteering visit
www.bhs.org.uk/volunteer

Access and Bridleways

Keeping horses off roads and away from traffic is a priority and in Lincolnshire, especially the Fens we are lucky enough to have lots of dyke banks. Unfortunately its more economical for the local authority to have cattle mow the grass through grazing, for which they receive payment. To have equipment that is expensive to keep and maintain year in and year out as well as having to keep extra staff to do the work is unfortunate for the rider. It is, we can understand, quite difficult in this day when there are so many cut backs in essential services. This however, leads to padlocked gates which prevents the cattle from straying, in turn the riders are then denied access. We try to deal with this matter by liaising with the authority and land owners where locked gate are found.

This is one of our many roles and we would appreciate feed back from any rider on the state of their off road track, bridleway or trail. Tell us about it so we can check it has been recorded as a permitted route. It may not be a route you ride at present, but some day you or your friends may wish to have an alternative route and it may not be there!

We also encourage people to get out riding as demonstrated at our successful Great Ponton Ride. If you know a route that would benefit from more riders using it let us know or even work with us to organise a sponsored ride.



Safety and Riding and Road safety

In October, we held an exam for Riding and Road Safety, This was at Fourwinds EC and our first exam for several years. There were seven candidates and two were successful in passing the complete exam. Not all attended the training sessions with a registered riding and road safety trainer which does ensure you are correctly prepared for the exam.



Kate Radford of Top Spec Feeds, again in October, came to Fourwinds EC and brought her scales to weight horses and give feed advice. Several people were surprised at what their horses weighed, and as well as getting weighted they were pleased with the advice. This was a free of charge service offered by Top Spec but all attendees made a donation to the BHS. Thanks to all.

Welfare

We have Welfare Officers in the field working on your behalf to try and assist owners and re-educate some into making the life of our equine friends more enjoyable. We are not able to discuss cases, nor divulge where problems occur. Rest assured all four of our dedicated Welfare Officers contribute not only their time, but their expertise to this essential part of our charitable work. Much of their role focuses on education, not only of the horse owners, but landowners and the general public.

The funds we raise through our events and training clinics contribute towards volunteers expenses. If you are interested in Equine Welfare get in touch with us volunteer@bhs.org.uk

Education and Events

Saturday 26th April dawned a wet and miserable day! But this didn't deter the 10 horse and rider combinations booked into Russell Guire's biomechanics clinic held at Elms Farm Equestrian Centre in Caythorpe. Despite a few hiccups with power supply the day got off to a prompt start. Russell supplied jacket for all riders. These had very bright lines on them to help identify any rider crookedness. He then applied white spots to the horse and the saddle to highlight if the saddle was off to one side. I think all riders were quite surprised and shocked to see the outcome when shown the video footage Russell had taken. After discussion and some changes to seat, legs hands and various other bits! Riders then had the opportunity to ride some of the movements again. Everybody assured me they had gained a lot from their session, some of the changes made had very dramatic improvements on both horse and rider. The day catered for all abilities of horse and rider. Russell's enthusiasm for the subject and benefit to both horse and rider made a very enjoyable and educational day.



Amy Mottram gave our Thermal Imaging talk at Sunset Farm, Fosdyke, and showed many different things to look for on images she had taken. She was very enthusiastic on the detail for preparation for the season.

The saddle fitting demo was given by Sam Jamieson at Meadowbrook Stables, Sutton Saint James. This illustrated how to take templates, and check for correct saddle fitting, assessing the fit on several types of shape of horse. Sam also ran a clinic on training aids such as the Equi ami, Chambon and De Gouge. Some lunging and work in hand was also demonstrated.

Were you one of those lucky ones who attended a trailer towing practise session at Ponton Heath by kind permission of Granville Thompson? What great fun and so helpful especially for those that wished to take their trailer towing exam. Some brought their own vehicles and some their own trailers too. A very useful and informative day.



Our Members

BHS membership gives a huge range of benefits to help you enjoy your life with horses. But more than that, membership is vital for helping us raise funds needed to improve access, safety, welfare and education for all.

In South Lincolnshire we have 674 members that is a growth of 4.33% in 2014.

We would like to thank each of our members for supporting the BHS and please do get involved.

Our Finances

Below is a summary of our finances from January 2014 to December 2014

A proportion of The British Horse Society membership income is provided to each committee every year to cover volunteer expenses and support local activities.

The events and training fees raised by South Lincolnshire go to help with welfare, access and subsidising our training sessions.

Income

Funds from BHS HQ Capitation	£509.51
Donations	Nil
Event Entry Fees	£880.00

Expenditure

Access and Bridleways	Nil
Communications	Nil
Education	Nil
Events	£556.45
Riding and Road Safety	Nil
Safety	Nil
Welfare	Nil
Committee Expenses	£83.55

Our Plans for next year

We aim to put similar events on throughout the year that was well received by our members over the 2014 season and hopefully try something different too! If you feel there is a need for an event, training session or similar that we do not do, contact Sue Bell and let's see what we can achieve.

More people are now aware that we are a charity and this we hope will attract more people wishing to join the BHS so our membership is hoping to be increased this year.

We are able to give training and exams for Riding and Road Safety within South Lincs. Check us out!

It's our intention to hold our annual Pleasure Ride in June, this is usually well supported.

See our Facebook page for dates.

Thank yous

There are many people to thank for their time and assistance in helping make it a great year for South Lincolnshire. This includes our Committee, the venues and instructors we have been able to use, without who none of our success would have been achieved.

We have an active Committee who like to put events on that will appeal to our members in South Lincolnshire. We are all aware of how the weather can change attendance, other event clashes, or horses not being on form can all make a difference to how well an event is received. One thing does make a difference is the venue. We are grateful for the support of all the venues who have hosted our events this year.

Our Annual Pleasure Ride, which this year was for raising money for the Grass Sickness Fund was held at Ponton Heath free of charge by kind permission of Granville Thompson who has supported the BHS for many a year.