

Northamptonshire



Hello,

Just a quick introduction as this is my first newsletter as Chairman. My name is Charley Stockdale and I took over from Ruth in October at the Annual Meeting and have been very fortunate in the support I have received from all the committee. I have been on the Northamptonshire committee for nearly a year and a half now having moved up from the South of the country.

I would like to take the time to say a huge thanks to Ruth who did so much for us all while she was Chairman and continues to do so as Vice Chairman and within her role as Welfare Officer.

We have got a full calendar of events planned from vet talks to dressage clinics and driving demo's and much more in between so please take a minute to read the events calendar and see what you can get along to!

The BHS wouldn't be able to carry out the work it does without the help of our volunteers, and we are always keen to see new faces. We welcome help in any shape or form so even if you are only around occasionally but would like to help whenever you can please feel free to contact me.

I hope this finds you well and fingers crossed for a slightly drier summer!

Want to get involved?

We currently have vacancies within our committee, for more information on what's available please contact Charley at charley_stockdale@hotmail.co.uk

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Moulton College
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE



Reports



Access – Sandra James

Access has been busy in Northamptonshire in the past six months. We have received many requests for support and input to both minor and major planning and access issues around Northamptonshire. If any of the following matters concern you please e-mail Sandra @ bhssjames@yahoo.co.uk we can only help you if you contact us.

Hardwick to Sywell – Bridleway is to be realigned around the edge of two arable fields- This will allow better access and quality of surface for riders with a 3m strip to be kept. The access gate to the A43 is to be mended. HS2- continues to have issues and Sandra has been liaising with the local council to ensure that the rights of way are all maintained with suitable underpasses and realignments being incorporated into the scheme. Towcester- planned housing expansion had a proposal to realign a bridleway to new green strip area – this having benches, ornamental gardens and water features—which would be totally unsuitable for riding along. After a meeting with the council a proposal to incorporate a separate, designated and safely fenced strip for the bridle path has been submitted this will be followed up. Yardley Goblin – Bridle path access at The Wharf is sought by local riders to access the A508 this is going to a Public Enquiry. Jane Bird a local BHS member is coordinating a submission for this and would welcome any help from riders in the area. The more support she receives the more likely access will be granted. Please contact Jane janebird@hotmail.co.uk she is especially interested to hear from people who have historically ridden this path. Tree Ninja Salcey Forest- the tree top activity site is close to the public Bridle path to Piddington it also runs next to a permissive route parallel to the Quinton road. Local riders are concerned for their safety. Following a site meeting the Forestry have proposed to fence the permissive route would this be a suitable solution? How could the Public Bridle path be made safe for equestrian use in your opinion? Help is needed from everyone who rides in this area please send your concerns to bhssjames@yahoo.co.uk as soon as possible.

Rider Access Group

Northants would like to start a Rider Access Group please contact janembird@hotmail.co.uk if you would like to get involved. It is envisaged that the group would extend and promote safe, easily accessible off-road riding and create links for equestrian access at a grass-roots level for both carriage drivers and horse riders. Perhaps mapping and highlighting local rides and trying to extend the Rights of Way's that we have within the county. It is hoped to hold a meeting soon to start the group off. Members from all over the county are needed and you do not have to own a horse to be involved. Further information may also be obtained from the

Safety – Sandra James

Hi Viz Tabards that have POLITE on them and blue and white squares have caused the police concern in that they may be interrupted by the general public as saying POLICE. The BHS would like to remind riders that it is an offence to knowingly attempt to impersonate a Police officer under The Police Act 1996 Section 90 (1) *which states “Any person who with intent to deceive impersonates a member of a police force or special constable.”* Some manufactures have now stopped production of this product.

Please report any horse related incidents and record them at horseaccidents.org.uk the BHS can only campaign and make a difference to equine safety if it is made aware of incidents.

Riding & Road Safety – Sandra James

If you are thinking of doing your Riding & Road Safety this year a good start would be to get an up to date copy of the the Highway Code and a copy of The British Horse Society Riding and Roadcraft Manual both are available via the BHS bookshop. Studying these will give you a head start with the practical and theory training and help you pass the exam. We have several trainers in Northamptonshire. We are also keen to expand the venues that have exams and would welcome an opportunity to do a risk assessment and give advice and guidance on running the Riding & Road Safety exam for further details please contact Sandra at bhssjames@yahoo.co.uk.

Local BHS trainers are available for private or group tuition; please contact Sandra James for full details.

EQL LEVEL 2 Award in BHS Riding Horses Safely on the Public Highway is split into two units. Each unit can be taken individually or all on the same day. UNIT 1 – Principles of Riding Horses on the Highway; UNIT 2 – Ride a Horse in an Enclosed Area and on the Highway. Candidates must be over 12 years old; the qualification educates the candidate in the skills and knowledge required to ride horses independently on the public highway, plus learning about the legislative requirements for riding on the road and learning the skills to put this knowledge into practice. The qualification enhances safety on the public highway for riders, horses and other road users.

I t H a d T O B e H O r s e s

Anyone who has read Bridget Jones's Diary will know that, after finally getting together with Mark Darcy, Bridget finally admits that daughters really should do what their mothers tell them.

While I haven't quite managed to track down Colin Firth I can confirm that, annoyingly, mothers are always right, and it's thanks to mine that I found a way make a career out my passion.

Horses have been my life ever since I met Nipper, a typical - yet very special - fat, round, hairy riding school pony. After graduating from university with a BSc (Hons) and MSc in equine science, I did what many students do when they haven't a plan, and went travelling.

Ironically this break from work turned out to be the turning point in my career.

My mother, a part-time technophobe, insisted I write letters rather than emails and texts, so that in years to come I'd have something to read back and cherish.

Despite my protestations that an email could easily be printed out, I dutifully wrote (fairly) regular letters to all of my relatives back home, and after four years of writing because I had to, slowly began to realise how much I enjoyed writing because I wanted to – which was something I could turn into a career.

Returning home with no journalism qualifications and no contacts in the industry seemed a daunting task. I quickly learned not be shy when it came to asking for help however, and, particularly among the 'horsey set', fellow journalists are very supportive.

The lack of qualifications weren't really an issue in the end, and although I did study towards a certificate in my own time, if you can write, and have in-depth knowledge on your chosen subject, with plenty of hard work you can still go far.

The key? Get writing! I was told over and over, do your best to get published.

Unfortunately this does mean being a bit pushy and approaching people, but within a month or so of arriving home I'd secured a post as resident 'expert' on all things arena-related at Your Horse magazine, and wrote music reviews for a local magazine.

Obviously at this stage you have to be prepared to work for free, but that shows the commitment all of your future editors will be looking for.

After taking up a job at Weatherbys, horseracing's administrative body, racing quickly became my new love, so the next step was to combine the two. Again, this meant doing a lot of work, for free, in my own time. However, I can assure you it does pay off.

From starting out writing for their website, I then secured a job in another department where part of my role involved writing race reports for third parties, and on the side, I was commissioned to do various features for magazines and betting guides.

Thanks to all of that, and my mother's advice of course, I gained the knowledge and experience to land the title of bloodstock journalist at the Racing Post. Now in my second month, most days I still can't believe how lucky I am.

By Katherine Fidler.

Horse Ball

Do you enjoy meeting people and being part of a team? Do you like to keep fit? Would you and your horse like to try something a bit different? Fed up with handing over your cash for just a few minutes show jumping or dressage? Then why not try horseball .

We all know that horses and humans alike can get a bit stale doing the same old thing week in, week out and horseball offers a complete change that has many benefits to both horse and rider. I was looking for something different after failing settle my horse out hunting despite numerous attempts. I was amazed to find that he took to the sport really quickly and enjoyed working in a group without getting over excited.

Horseball is a sport played by passing and throwing a ball on horseback, with the aim of putting the ball through a net and scoring points. Strict rules govern the direction in which players can move on the pitch to prevent collisions. The ball has leather handles attached to it making it incredibly easy to catch, so there is no need to worry about any lack of catching skills in this game!

It a sport often likened to rugby or basketball, apart from the fact that competitors are on moving horses. Four players from each team can be on the pitch at any time and there are a maximum of six in each team.

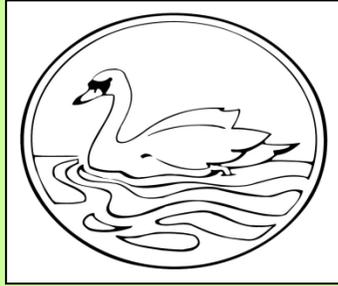
I am often asked what happens when the ball is dropped, and the simple answer is that it is picked up by one of the players. There is an extra piece of tack called a “pick up strap” which keeps the stirrups down so that you can lean over and get the ball without falling off. It is **not** necessary for everybody in the team to be able to master this simple trick, but it is fairly easy if your mount isn't too tall or too wide! As a more mature person it did take me a quite a while to perfect my technique when I first tried to “pick up” but most riders do not find it too difficult.

There a number of inexpensive “have a go” events at different clubs where you and your mount can be introduced to the sport, and it is possible to play a couple of matches for approximately £15.00 to £20.00.

For more details please contact moyra.elliott@btinternet.com



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Diary



Spring/Summer 2013

Northamptonshire

11th May 2013 Jump Training with Sean Maxwell
'Improve Your Jumping Using Grid Work'
Contact Sean on seanm@moulton.ac.uk

May – Trec Master Class.
Date and Venue to be confirmed but please contact Moira Elliot on
moyra.elliott@btinternet.com

22nd June 2013 – Harry Payne Clinic at Moulton College. Please
contact Sean on seanm@moulton.ac.uk

*Come and see us out and about at local shows and fairs near you over
the summer.*

July will host a Towing Clinic, please contact Sandra James on
bhssjames@yahoo.co.uk

September – Driving Master Class TBC

October – The Annual Meeting

**We look forward to welcoming you to as many of our
events as you can make. Please come and say hello, and
let anyone of us know if you would be interested in
volunteering.**