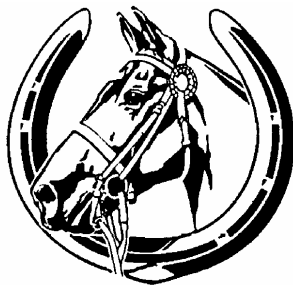


STAFFORDSHIRE BHS



The British Horse Society

Registered Charity No. 210504

SPRING 2006 NEWSLETTER

What's the BHS doing in your area?

- ***Meet our new Welfare Reps!***
- ***Sign up for our Horse Owners Certificate course – starting February***
- ***County Safety & Access Forum***
- ***Do you ride on Cannock Chase? See inside for news***
- ***Spring Pleasure Ride***
- ***Riding & Road Safety Exam Dates***
- ***Plus, info on BHS Trec***

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NOTICE - New Welfare Representatives!

The BHS is a registered equine charity, actively involved in all aspects of horse care and welfare. Each year the BHS responds to over 1000 welfare concerns, which are mainly dealt with by Welfare Representatives throughout the UK. You may be aware that the Staffordshire region was in need of Welfare representatives...and here we are to fill the vacancies!

We have been appointed as your new Welfare Representatives for Staffordshire county. Welfare Representatives aim to advise horse and pony owners, so to prevent neglect and abuse. Practical assistance, advice and support will be available through education and free advisory leaflets, given with close links with the BHS headquarters at Stoneleigh.

If you do need to contact a welfare representative, please phone Wendy in the first instance. We're only on the other end of the phone so don't hesitate to call!

Regards

Welfare Officers:

Wendy Webb (☎) 07967711240 Email: wendym.webb@btinternet.com

Natalie Gill (☎) 07980260234 Email: nataliegill0327@hotmail.com

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

A Happy New Year from all at Staffordshire BHS! We hope it is an enjoyable and prosperous one for you and your horse. As ever your Staffordshire committee has been active and it was nice to see some new faces at our Annual Meeting in October who also enjoyed the entertaining quiz kindly written by committee members Paul and Jenny – there were certainly some interesting answers! The meeting was deliberately held in the North of the county near Stoke - as indeed will be the forthcoming safety and access evening. This is to reflect the spread of the membership and ensure events move around the county.

We hope to have an active 2006, we welcome two new welfare officers, Wendy and Natalie; safety and access come to the fore - see details in this newsletter; and following the successful Horse Owners Level 1 certificate run in 2005 we launch Level 2 in February. Work continues liaising and campaigning re the use of Cannock chase and establishing a safe and enjoyable environment for both horses and cyclists. Don't forget the West Midlands link of the BHS website (www.bhsmidlands.org.uk) which will keep you up to date with regional and Staffordshire events as well as training organised by our regional development officer Preetha Balse - congratulations to Preetha on her marriage in December and thanks for all the support to Staffordshire.

Hope to see you at an event soon,

Marcus Clinton - email: marcus.clinton@rodbaston.ac.uk

RIDING & ROAD SAFETY EXAM DATES

2nd Feb – Rodbaston College

26th March – Rodbaston College

April (date to be confirmed) – Wheaton Aston

For more details, contact:

Road Safety Officer:

Eileen S Foy (☎) 07710 749457 Email: foyeileen@hotmail.com

BHS TREC – an introduction

If you're a rider who enjoys exploring the countryside and shakes in your boots at the thought of competition – you're not alone.

Throughout many years of riding I've conjured up all sorts of excuses as to why I couldn't compete. "I don't like being watched, my horse isn't big enough/small enough/good enough, I'm not good enough" and finally, "I can't afford to buy all the clothes."

When I picked up an entry form at a local feed merchant for a BHS TREC competition, I discovered a different problem...I didn't seem to be able to apply my excuses! More than that I was surprised to find a sport that fell in line with my past time of quietly training my equine friend to cope with 'scary monsters' and obstacles we might encounter on a hack. This seemed too good to be true.

Back home I got straight on to the BHS Website and bought the TREC rulebook and a video of hints and tips. Sure enough it was true:

As quoted by Rob Jones (Director TREC BHS) "The whole point of TREC is not to make you a winner or a loser, it's more to give you an appetite to want to go into an area and explore it on your horse." Sounds good? Here's more...

- It doesn't require high quality horses or expensive clothes or tack.
- With emphasis on enjoyment, beginners and seasoned competitors are made equally welcome.
- Non-horsey partners or family can join in.
- You'll explore parts of the British countryside that may not normally be accessible.
- You can push yourself as hard as you like or miss out things you don't feel confident with – without getting eliminated!

The hardest part of TREC for me was admitting I'd avoided *Competition* for such a very long time because the 'C' word made me scared. TREC is a fantastic platform to start on; the only pressure you get is from yourself.

If you're secretly harbouring a desire to have a go, just imagine the best hack/fun ride you've ever been on. Then think again and imagine it could've been better.

Look out for BHS TREC training days and competitions.

Wendy Webb

BHS County Welfare Representative (Staffs)

BHS Staffs Summer Show – *Amendment Notice!*

**Summer Show Date has been moved to
Sunday 9th July 2006**

**See further details & schedule in the next
BHS Staffs Newsletter!**

**Springer Spaniel pups
looking for fabulous owners!**

**KC reg. Parents competed Crufts obedience and
agility & have police snifferdog littermates.**

Tel Wendy 07967 711240

Cannock Chase, the Forestry Commission and Horse riders

Following recent discussions concerning conflict between horse events and cycling events on Cannock Chase, a meeting took place between the Staffs BHS Committee and the Forestry Commission. Present at that meeting, as well as two committee members, was Preetha Balse our Regional Development Officer. Many subjects were broached and it was felt that the issues identified needed to be aired in a wider forum. To this end a meeting took place on 5th December which was attended by the same two committee members, local horse riders, representatives of the cycling community and a representative of the Forestry Commission. After a long and honest exchange of opinions and ideas, several suggestions were put forward:

- ◆ To increase awareness amongst both cyclists and horse riders of the problems that both groups face. This to be done by means of leaflets, talks and joint initiatives.
- ◆ One suggested initiative was a 'man v horse v cyclist' event similar to those held in other parts of the country.
- ◆ There was also mentioned the possibility of a joint training venture to increase awareness on all sides.
- ◆ The Forestry Commission to update maps giving better advice to cyclists regarding horses and their behaviour.
- ◆ The Forestry Commission to liaise with both communities to endeavour to ensure that the Chase can be used safely by all. This includes riders, cyclists, ramblers, dog walkers and anyone else pursuing a legitimate pastime on the Chase!

We will keep you updated on progress on this matter.

Access & Bridleways Area Representatives:

Lesley Simmons (☎) 01785 665670 Email:

simmons@simmons928.fsnet.co.uk

Doug Smith (☎) 01543 571287 Email:

doug@smith1950.freeserve.co.uk

Access & Bridleways Officer:

Brian Smith (☎) 01538 384218

Email: brian@ballfields.force9.co.uk

Horse Owners Certificate Course

The BHS Staffs Horse Owners Certificate Course starts:

Monday 6th February 6.30-8.30pm

Rodbaston College

It will cover a range of horse care topics, in preparation for the Horse Owners Certificate, Level 2. (You do not have to have done Level 1 in order to join the course.)

The seminars are aimed at providing both textbook knowledge and practical skills in all aspects of horse care for the ordinary horse owner. For those who would like to complete the Horse Owners Certificate (Level 2), there is an exam at the end of the course. Nonetheless, you are not obliged to sit the exam if you sign up for the course. You may just want to refresh your knowledge, or come along to have those basic horse care questions answered which have always puzzled you.

Sessions will be scheduled weekly, every Monday. There are six sessions in total, each session costing £10. If you sign up in advance for the whole course, the fee is £50. There is an additional fee of £14 for the examination.

For further info or to sign up, contact:

Marcus Clinton (Chairman) (☎) 01785 220330
Email: marcus.clinton@rodbaston.ac.uk

or

David Wheatley (Secretary/Treasurer) (☎) 01543 502381
Email: dwheatley@imgroup.co.uk

County Safety & Access Forum

*Looking for somewhere more interesting to ride?
Find out where to do it and how to do it safely!*

**Bulls Head Hotel, Hanford, 8pm
Thursday 16th March 2006**

[On A34 go straight across the roundabout at Trentham Gardens heading towards Newcastle. Right turn into Bank House Road - the Hotel is on this road on the corner where it meets Manstreet]

FREE BUFFET!

Find out how to venture further with your horse!

Meet the experts!

Bring yourself up to date with current topics!

HIGH VIS CLOTHING/BRIDLEWAYS/HELICOPTERS/ROAD SURFACES/RIDING & ROAD SAFETY

**Pleasure Ride
Sunday 30th April 2006**

Marquis Drive, Cannock Chase

- ◆ Start Times: Between 10am and 12 noon
- ◆ Entry fee: £10 per rider – discount for BHS members (please remember to bring your membership card)*

For further details contact:

Lesley Simmons (☎) 01785 665670

Email: simmons@simmons928.fsnet.co.uk