

## Forthcoming 2010 Events:

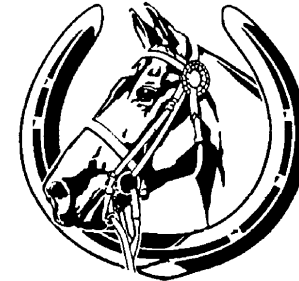
- Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> February – BHS Staffs Dressage Evening – Rodbaston College – Walk/Trot Test and Prelim – see college website (equine events page) for more details <http://extranet.rodbaston.ac.uk/extranet>
- March ( to be confirmed) – Combined Training event
- Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> April – Spring Pleasure Ride – Cannock Chase – (Contact Lesley Simmons on 01785 665670 or at [simmons@simmons928.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:simmons@simmons928.fsnet.co.uk))
- Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> July – Summer Show – Marquis Drive, Cannock Chase
- Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> September – Autumn Pleasure Ride - Cannock Chase – (Contact Lesley Simmons on 01785 665670 or at [simmons@simmons928.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:simmons@simmons928.fsnet.co.uk))
- Monday 4<sup>th</sup> October – BHS Staffordshire Annual Meeting

To find out more about any of the above events, or to read about the work of the local committees, visit [www.bhswm.org.uk](http://www.bhswm.org.uk)

Or look for Staffordshire BHS on Facebook

To find out more about the work of the BHS nationally, visit [www.bhs.org.uk](http://www.bhs.org.uk)

# STAFFORDSHIRE BHS



**The British Horse Society**

Registered Charity No. 210504



## CHRISTMAS 2009 NEWSLETTER

- ***All change at the top at BHS Staffordshire – farewell to our Chairman***
- ***Feedback from recent BHS Staffs events***
- ***Forthcoming events***



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### Interested in becoming a **Volunteer** with the BHS Staffordshire Committee?

#### The BHS Vision:

A Society which provides a strong voice for horses and people and which spreads awareness through support, training and education.

#### The BHS Mission:

The BHS aims to work in a spirit of partnership, with energy, commitment and knowledge, to promote and achieve the highest standards in all areas of equestrianism.

We are always looking for people interested in becoming volunteers. Not only would you be doing your bit for charity, but you'll also meet lots of like-minded people, and maybe learn some new skills.

If you are interested becoming a volunteer, visit the BHS website ([www.bhs.org.uk](http://www.bhs.org.uk)) or contact a member of the committee for more details.

## Your BHS Staffordshire County Committee

<p><b><u>Chairman:</u></b> VACANCY</p>	<p><b><u>Access &amp; Bridleways Officer:</u></b> Brian Smith (☎) 01538 384218 Email: <a href="mailto:brian@ballfields.force9.co.uk">brian@ballfields.force9.co.uk</a></p>
<p><b><u>Secretary/Treasurer:</u></b> David Wheatley (☎) 01543 502381 Email: <a href="mailto:dwheatley@imgroup.co.uk">dwheatley@imgroup.co.uk</a></p>	<p><b><u>Access &amp; Bridleways Area Rep:</u></b> Lesley Simmons (☎) 01785 665670 Email: <a href="mailto:simmons@simmons928.fsnet.co.uk">simmons@simmons928.fsnet.co.uk</a></p>
<p><b><u>Road Safety Officer:</u></b> Eileen S Foy (☎) 07710 749457 Email: <a href="mailto:foyeileen@hotmail.com">foyeileen@hotmail.com</a></p>	<p><b><u>Access &amp; Bridleways Area Rep:</u></b> Doug Smith (☎) 01543 571287 Email: <a href="mailto:doug@smith1950.freeseve.co.uk">doug@smith1950.freeseve.co.uk</a></p>
<p><b><u>Welfare Officer:</u></b> Wendy Webb (☎) 07967 711240 Email: <a href="mailto:wmwis@hotmail.co.uk">wmwis@hotmail.co.uk</a></p>	<p><b><u>Press Officer</u></b> Jenny Hodson (☎) 01952 810652 Email: <a href="mailto:onnyszerhoss@aol.com">onnyszerhoss@aol.com</a></p>
<p>Sonia Sharples (☎) 07879 412029 Email: <a href="mailto:Sonia.Sharples@poundland.co.uk">Sonia.Sharples@poundland.co.uk</a></p>	<p><b><u>Facebook Page Co-ordinator</u></b> Paul Hodson (☎) 01952 810652 Email: <a href="mailto:onnyszerhoss@aol.com">onnyszerhoss@aol.com</a></p>

# Riding & Road Safety Update



After 1<sup>st</sup> January 2010, the administration of the Riding and Road Safety exams will move from the Safety Department to the Training Department (which runs all the BHS stage examinations). The Safety Department will continue to work with the Highways Agency and other safety matters.

BHS Chief Executive, Graham Cory, has stated that he hoped to reduce exam fees and increase examiner's fees in line with other examiners, if sufficient funding allows.

The Riding & Road Safety exams can now be extended to 10 candidates per session, but owing to the complicated paperwork, it is unlikely that two exam sessions would be able to run on the same day.

Exams have been successful in the county, with our usual high pass rates at most centres. Dates are being booked for exams in the New Year and a training day is planned at Rodbaston in the spring.

For exam dates, check [www.bhswm.org.uk](http://www.bhswm.org.uk) or contact Eileen Foy, Region Safety Officer on 07710 749457

Candidates must be aged 12 or over and, as stated in the Highway Code able to control their horse/pony.

## CHAIRMAN'S FAREWELL REPORT

Seasons greetings to you all, I write with sadness as this is my last report but also excitement at all the events we have done recently and a new year in the offing. Staffordshire is blessed with an extremely vibrant horse community and it has been an absolute pleasure to live and work in Staffs the last 12 years, 11 of which have involved being on the BHS Staffordshire Committee and the last 6 as Chairman. I'm off to Northumberland to work as Assistant Principle at their land based college and am looking forward to new challenges and areas to get to know, I leave behind an excellent committee and a team that although all volunteers have found the time and energy to put on numerous events each year as well as all the work on welfare, safety and access.

Recently we had a positive annual meeting and have held successful introduction to dressage and first aid evenings. Planning is already underway for our annual summer show on Marquis Drive which has been well supported the last few years.

I know all this activity will continue and I wish everyone I have had the pleasure of meeting over the course of the last 12 years all the best for the future and thanks for all the support I have been shown. Thanks to my fantastic committee, their friendship and for all the hard work over the years.

On behalf of everyone at BHS Staffordshire can I wish you a wonderful xmas period and all the best for the new year for you and your equine friends ! and hopefully you will both get to some of our events in 2010.

Handwritten signature of Marcus Clinton in blue ink.

Marcus Clinton  
Chairman – BHS Staffs

## Report on Annual Meeting 2009

Once again, a good turn-out at the committee's Annual Meeting, held at Ingestre Stables. Chairman Marcus Clinton summarised the key areas in which the committee had been active throughout the year. This included our busy events programme as follows:

- The annual spring and autumn pleasure rides (the spring pleasure ride being particularly successful with a record turn-out) – see page 4 for photos from the autumn pleasure ride.
- The “showing skills” demo with Andrew Collins (see Summer 2009 Newsletter for report).
- The summer show – covering showing, show jumping, and dressage, as well as some fun dog classes (see page 6 for photos).
- The “Introduction to Dressage” evening – focusing on walk/trot and prelim tests (see page 9 for report).

At a number of these events, to support this year's safety and security campaign, free tack stamping was available where riders could have their tack stamped with their postcode or initials making it identifiable in the event of it being stolen and subsequently recovered.

The agenda also covered all the other key areas in which the Staffordshire Committee is active, including reports from Eileen Foy on Riding and Road Safety and from Brian Smith on Bridleways issues. There was also an update on the Committee's financial position from Treasurer David Wheatley. BHS members in attendance were invited to get involved by volunteering to assist with the work of the committee. A number of volunteers put their names forward.

Following the formal meeting, we adjourned to the indoor school where Tim Downes from Ingestre Stables gave an excellent and inspiring demonstration on improving the rider's position.

## Report on the Introduction to Dressage Evening

Linda Brookes, a successful dressage rider and judge, gave an informative presentation on tackling your first dressage test – with top tips on presentation, initial preparation, warm up procedures and the execution of the test itself.

The evening took place at Endon Riding School in their excellent indoor arena. Two daring riders volunteered to act as the demonstration for the tests, riding a Walk/Trot and a Prelim test. Each warmed up their horses in front of the audience, while Linda provided some thoughts and commentary. They then rode the test (which was called for them, so the audience had a clear idea of the moments required), and afterwards the performance was analysed for strengths and weaknesses. Linda then provided some guidance on specific exercises to improve certain aspects of the performance, and the audience were invited to comment.

## Report on “When to call the vet” – First Aid Evening

Caterina Termine, who provided part of the veterinary support to the British team in Hong Kong during the Beijing Olympics, came to Rodbaston in November to give an exceptionally knowledgeable talk on the most common equine injuries and ailments. The main aim of the evening was to clarify those cases which needed immediate medical attention, and other less serious cases which could be dealt with by a knowledgeable owner.

With some excellent slides prepared to illustrate (sometimes quite graphically!) a range of ailments, Caterina clarified some procedures and dispelled some common myths about appropriate treatment. A fascinating and amusing presentation was followed up by a question and answer session dealing with individual issues and problems.