



Braintree Riding Club

Newsletter No. 11

Wow, we are three months into the New Year already!

We have already been busy running various clinics at Townfield, and a big thank you to all who have attended. They have, as usual, all been good fun and light-hearted, but you have all gone away having learnt something new and eager to start practising at your own yards.

We are sorry that last moment changes of instructor have had to be made; this was due to Zoë having a re-occurrence of an old injury and being sidelined for the past month. However our dressage clinic this weekend (21/03) hopefully sees her return to the big wide world of the equestrian.

Our training camps for this year seem to be ever popular and the first one due the first weekend in April is already fully booked.

It seems that the credit crunch is affecting us all and that you are being selective on the events that you want to do this year. From the history, which we are able to obtain from our web site, and from the number of views on Horse Dates, the instructional side of our Club is far more popular this year. This would indicate that you would prefer to better yourselves and learn more, while having fun and meeting old 'mates', than do the competition side of things.

This has forced us to look at what we had planned for the year. Membership is down, but we still have overheads to meet. The biggest one of course is the hire of the venue at Gosfield, followed by judge's fees etc and insurances.

In view of the lack of interest in the first few events that we had planned for the Gosfield venue, rather than put the club in debt, the events that have had no 'look ups' have been cancelled. We will of course reconsider this if we get enough support. In the meanwhile, we will continue with those events that you seem to want.

If any of you know of a suitable venue where we could run some of the events (at little or no costs to the club) then please let us know.

We have noticed that we are not the only club to be suffering from the recession. There are more events than ever being advertised on Horse Dates as cancelled or they have places remaining. Some have even reduced entry fees. We are unable to do that with our hire fees at Gosfield.

Our coffee evenings during January and February were a good point of contact and we made some new friends over a cup of coffee and had a good chat about horsey things in general. Keep your eye on our website for the next coffee evening. These are often posted at short notice.

Hoping to see you at one of our events very soon.

Braintree Riding Club
18 March 2009