



# Braintree Riding Club

## Newsletter No. 17

I can't believe that it's 12 months since I last wrote a newsletter! Where has the time gone?

I must say a big thank you first of all to our sponsors for this year. Paton & Lee Equine Veterinary Surgeons kindly offered to sponsor the club early this year. M & B Carpentry of Colchester and Felixstowe followed this later in the year and kindly donated the rugs which were given to the supreme and reserve champions at the Annual Show, together with the rug which was raffled at the annual meeting with proceeds going to the Essex Air Ambulance. Also our thanks go to Lord's Farm Shop of Gosfield Shopping Village for the rug given to the junior points champion and the money off vouchers to the other trophy winners.

We have just had our 5<sup>th</sup> Annual meeting. This year held at Rivenhall village Hall - what a lovely place. We will certainly be going back there in the future. It was great to see so many of you there, but I have to admit that I am extremely grateful that not every one of you turned up as we would never have got you all in!

We recapped over the past 12 eventful months. We started the year off extremely well with acquiring the use of the fantastic facilities at Writtle Equine Unit. As most of you will know, they were in breach of their planning regulations of allowing open competitions to take place there, and we were asked to relocate following a reminder from Chelmsford Council.

We moved some of our events to Norton Heath and to Towerlands. Towards the end of the summer, we were in talks with Charley Nathan over the possibility of running more events at Towerlands and all things looked good.

However, things were not to be when it was announced that Towerlands would be closing at the end of August.

Unfortunately, owing to making a huge loss at a couple of events, and other circumstances out of our control, we were unable to continue using Norton heath as a venue.

We continued the season using the great show field at Bluegate Hall and of course the One Day Event venue at Stratford Hills.

The one day event saw over 147 entries and, in spite of the course having to close for a couple of hours whilst the air ambulance was called in, we finished ahead of schedule, but regrettably ran out of daylight in which to finish the results. We are sorry for all the time it took to get these results out to you and for the delay in you getting your rosettes. As you can imagine it was a huge task.

During the year we ran coach trips to both badminton and Burghley. Both trips selling well with full coaches. Just the annual trip to Olympia on Puissance night to go now, and we are looking forward to it. Again this is a sell-out.

We will be looking closely at these trips next year owing to it being Olympic year, so may well give them a break, but will certainly do them again in 2013. If we get enough requests for trips in 2012, then we will look at this again.



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We finish the season tomorrow (30 October) with a mini novice hunter trial, another first for the club. It has a Halloween twist and we all hope you will enjoy it. Over 20 cross country type fences have all been built in one day with the aim of giving you and your horse a taster of what hunter trials are all about.

The loyalty league proved to be a bit of a headache in more ways than one! Firstly, we have had over 625 horse and rider combinations! Most of these entries came in on the day of the event; therefore, there was a massive amount of work to do after the events to keep the database up to date. That was without the little (well actually big) gremlins that attacked the PC the database was on and locked the programme. It took weeks to sort out, but of course there was then a huge backlog to work on. It also became obvious that there were duplicates on the database. Some of you managed to confuse us by entering your horses under their registered names and then at other events using their stable names!!

This is something we will be looking into over the next couple of months as it has proved to be unworkable if we continue to have such a successful season as this one has been.

We will keep you posted so please keep your eyes on the website for all information. And Facebook, of course.

We are busy trying to find a venue for the winter season, but indoor schools with large enough car/lorry parking is a problem. Again all information will be on the website.

Thanks again to all our sponsors for their continued support throughout 2012. Have a great Christmas (yes, it's nearly here) and we look forward to seeing you all again very soon.

### 2011 Trophy Winners

- |                                                             |                                  |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| ▪ Best Junior Shield                                        | Lily Fraser                      |
| ▪ Best Senior Shield                                        | Simone Booty                     |
| ▪ Crosby Cup for the most improved show jumper              | Rachel Lowry                     |
| ▪ Victoria Lady Trophy for the most improved Dressage Rider | Amber Rowe                       |
| ▪ Pali Trophy for the most improved horse                   | Paddywack – Gemma & Adele Coppen |
| ▪ 14.2 and under 15+ salver                                 | Isabelle Lane                    |
| ▪ Over 14.2 15+ salver                                      | Claire Newbury                   |

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29 October 2011