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Hi everyone!

By the time you are reading this the Winter Championships will have been and gone and the summer show season will be in full flow!

Firstly the area's committee would like to welcome the new members to the area *WELCOME!* This is also a reminder for all those who have not renewed their membership, to renew it as soon as possible.

There is a FLAT TEACH IN organised with Katy Carter instructing on Thursday April 15th 2010. Please see your recent mailing or the website for further details.

Plans for a working hunter teach in are also in the pipeline; if there is anyone interested in taking part, please would you call Karen Brar on 07810 876245.

A HUGE thank you goes to Claire Lockyer and her team for running a fantastic Spring Show at Sparsholt College. Many area members were there, thoroughly enjoying catching up with friends, all be it in a few heavy downpours! The supreme champion Lemington Star Attraction, ridden by Hayley Ironside, owned and produced by Mandy and Gemma Richards – congratulations to you all!

A reminder for those junior members who are interested in judging and would like to attend judging training sessions, in preparation for being considered for the Young Judges Team, or just to learn more, please contact Mary Gray on 01722 331221 or 07761 002557. It is planned to visit several different yards, with the opportunity to join judges at our area shows.

The Summer Show is being held on 30th May 2010, at New Park, Brockenhurst, home of the New Forest Show. There will be RIHS qualifiers for many classes, along with other new classes. Schedules are now available on the website. If there are any members or their friends who would be willing to help in any way – even the day before, *please* contact Lyn David.

Shortly after the summer show, there is going to be a FLAT TEACH IN with Julie Templeton instructing. This is due to take place on Tuesday 1st June 2010. Further details can be found on the website, or alternatively call Sarah on 07766 808161.

Now to a little bit of news

Some news from the Woyka's:

Firstly, thank you to everyone who organized the wonderful area winter show at Sparsholt. It was really fantastic to jump the workers using the whole arena, then to come back in and do a show. It makes such a difference to Novice large workers to have room to use the space rather than be constantly on the turn. So thank you.

Our new baby, Parc Capone (actually we have had him for eight months, but one can't hurry perfection!) had one down with Hetty but he behaved very well. He got some nice comments from the judges, I thought he looked like one of those big seals you see sunbathing on rocks. However onwards and upwards.

Smokin Gun wintered well, for the first time on haylage, as our hay making failed miserably. He won the Open 14 handers and then went Reserve.

Then we had a great day at Hartpury, Gunner won the Open 14 handers and then won the RIHS 14 handers and then went Champion. It is a great feeling to have such a good start for the season. Hetty has GCSE's coming up and I am not too sure how good Gunner is at 1st and 2nd World War History. So we can be slightly more relaxed and concentrate on books.

Sofia Woyka

Thank you Sofia for your news – what a brilliant start to the season!

Rebecca Hamilton-Fletcher has also emailed me:

Hi Sarah

Could it possibly be that this long wretched winter is finally over...let's hope so.

Bethany has been out and about having fun with her two ponies. She has had a great start with our lovely new boy, Barney (Brinmark Royal Windsor); at Lionheart's early Spring Show they were 1st mixed ht SP/SHP and 1st unaffiliated FR; and at NPS 24 warm up show they were 1st unaffiliated FR, 1st mixed height SP and 1st mixed height SHP.

Getting back into the plaiting up lark has been a bit of a shock, but it's nice to know my hands haven't lost all their dexterity yet!

Bethany and Floss have been doing plenty of indoor jumping over the winter and have all but perfected their 'motor-biking-round-corners-against-the-clock' technique. They took a break from 'jumping-at-impossible-angles' to revisit their more restrained selves at our area

spring show at Sparsholt. Unfortunately, having come 2nd in the novice WHP Bethany had to dash off to fulfill a thespian commitment elsewhere - and Aimee Stunt stepped in with literally seconds to spare to ride Floss in the open WHP. With instructions from Sue to 'get to know the pony as you approach the first fence...!!' they went clear and came a credible 3rd. They also won the BSPS FR and went reserve champion - so very many thanks, Aimee, for deputising for Beth so well.

That's all for now

Rebecca

Thanks Rebecca - not sure the winter is over, it has rained all day here today! Fingers crossed for some sunshine soon ☺

Don't forget the area's website, it is there for your use, keep an eye on it for up dates about forth coming events, ponies/items for sale, etc:

www.bspsarea11.com

Sarah x