



## **FDRC NEWSLETTER 2024 ISSUE NO. 4 – DECEMBER**

### **FIRST A BIG WARM WELCOME TO ALL OUR NEWEST MEMBERS**

Lissie Day, Sue Morris, Kerry Wallace, Dolly-Jae Baker, Janet Paterson, Finley Knight, Cait Byrne, Caroline Barton, Helen Bates, Sue Skinner, Edwina Grix, Wendy Neaves, Susan Lillington, Anita Lundy, Kate Akers, Jenny Sandford. Taking our Membership to a record 167

### **KEEPING ALL OUR MEMBERS "IN THE LOOP"**

As the Club has grown & grown this year so have the numbers of events & training sessions that we run. We have always tried to keep everyone informed but realise now, that latterly, we were relying on Facebook a little too much and that some members who do not "do" Facebook were getting missed in the chain of communication. Our Diary Date emails were not keeping up, for those who missed some updates we apologise

As you know BRC now use Sport80 platform for joining a riding club and they have now set up a group email facility for us to use to keep you all informed & up to date. We have just started to use this, sending out several group emails about training but have run into a slight glitch – not all of you are receiving or in some cases not opening them as they do not realise they are from the FDRC

This is possibly because they were not expecting to see **Sport80** in the "From Box" and either binned or deleted them or even reported as spam or just did not open it, it is also possible that their computer put them into Spam for them. We might still send some emails from the old FDRC Email as it does offer a couple of features that the Sport80 one does not.

**So in future the vast majority of emails relating to what's happening in the club will come from Sport:80 <noreply@sport80.com>**

**When you open it you will see the Faversham Riding Club Logo.**

**and at the bottom you will see the wording:**

***If you wish to reply or comment on this email please reply to: [favershamridingclub@gmail.com](mailto:favershamridingclub@gmail.com)***

***This email has been sent by FAVERSHAM AND DISTRICT RIDING CLUB – POWERED BY SPORT 80***

### **Membership Renewals**

***You will be pleased to know that we are not putting up the Club Membership Fee.***

It was a year ago that the BRC decided to use Sport80 to process all membership details and although it had teething problems we have got used to it and how it works. Our old Membership year ran from Jan 1<sup>st</sup> to Dec 31<sup>st</sup> but now your membership runs for a year from the date you joined.

When your membership is due for renewal it will be Sport80 who send out the reminders. And the email will look similar to the ones described above. We will be sending out information about this to all members soon as the first wave of Sport80 renewals are due at the end of December

### **Kent Police Community Policing Volunteers**

Several FDRC Members are already part of the Kent Police CPV Equine Team and Kent Police are looking for recruits. Would this be of interest to you?? All volunteers receive training and are a valuable asset in rural policing. The FDRC is hoping to hold an evening talk with Kent Police and BHS Road Safety in the New Year.

**Please see the back page for more details**

## A TRIBUTE TO CARAT by Joy Loyla

Quilate SB ~ Carat 4.07.2012 ~ 9.10.2024



An unassuming hack in the sunshine on 21st September resulted in what turned out to be irreparable injuries from a collision with a car and my beautiful Spanish boy was pts on 9th October.

During the time we had together he never had a single day of lameness or sickness. Four years of hard graft and training resulted in a true partnership, learning together. He turned an old endurance rider into a show rider - he wasn't easy but when the stars aligned he was magical.

We packed more into our 4 years together than most people would do in a lifetime. His flying changes, canter pirouettes, piaffe and passage were getting stronger and cleaner with every outing and training sessions were a delight. Our hopes of also developing his love of jumping next season will now sadly never be realised. We shared some amazing experiences in the showing and on parades

Our win at this year's Royal Windsor Horse Show was confirmation that my decision to purchase a PRE from Spain purely from a photo and videos was a gamble that would pay off.

We competed at local and County level shows, all the Foreign Breed classes, Concours d'elegance, side-saddle, and the honour of representing the PRE at Cranleigh's Foreign Breed Showcase & twice riding in London New Year's Day Parade.



He gave me an outlet for my love of making costumes and happily became 'Carat the Clothes Horse' He trusted me whatever and wherever we ventured together.



Carat was quite a character ~ his presence at the club clinics were always eventful but goodness me, I miss them and joining all the friendly riders. However, that group hack on 15th September at Godmersham in stunning soundings and amongst all the horses and riders will always be my favourite memory of the best time together. Gone but never forgotten

## Carol Gillatt: The Brave Coward

I returned to riding in 2020 after more than 40 years of virtually no contact with horses. I started with a loan of a 'plodder' who turned out to be missing his mum.....word to the wise – never loan a Haflinger!

It quickly became obvious that our relationship wasn't going to work out and that finding a loan horse wasn't that easy, so I jumped in feet first and bought my first horse.

I purchased Clara in March 2021, largely because I felt sorry for her, and also because she was a 'nice person' – they are absolutely rubbish reasons for buying your first horse at the age of 60, but live and learn! I had been looking for a bay gelding, bit of a school master and a max of 15.2hh, but they proved to be hard to find. I ended up with a grey, 16.1hh, mare who most certainly is not a school mistress; however, we are now united in our love for each other.....although I swear her love isn't as deep as mine at times!



It soon became apparent that I no longer had the same level of confidence that I had back in the day and my riding skills had obviously deteriorated. In the first year I fell off more times than I care to remember (I am so grateful for the

invention of body protectors), and I became quite fearful. This really didn't help Clara who was looking to me for confidence.

In 2022, I started to take lessons with Denize King and she has been so patient with me. Not having an indoor or outdoor school makes it impossible to continue schooling through the winter months but as soon as the ground dries, out the lessons restart and slowly but surely, DK has got me to a stage where I feel as though I am a proper rider again....well as long as long as there are no jumps in our path!



Dec 2023 I attended my first pole clinic and Clara decided that it was rather over whelming whilst we were waiting to go into the school.....all I wanted to do was get off and go home, but with encouragement we eventually got in the school and I survived the lesson. She was actually really good once we got going. I chuckled to myself when at the end, the trainer said she could see that Clara was really trying to look after me. It certainly didn't feel like that when we were waiting to go in, but now looking back I can appreciate what she was saying.

After the pole clinic and after seeing lots of FDRC clinics being advertised, I decided I was going to become a FDRC member in 2024 and see where it took me. I knew I needed to 'force' myself out of my comfort zone but I was so sceptical and nervous about it because I didn't know anybody at the club and assumed everybody would be super confident riders. I soon found out that isn't always the case and most of all everybody has been very supportive, friendly and genuinely wanting you to do well.

In my first year I have attended a 2-Day Camp at Ann Berry's, a Katy Ford 50-60 jump clinic, been on a day-trip to Newmarket, had a walk round Bigberry (no horse) to see what it's all about, and I'm booked for the FDRC quiz night and Christmas meal.

The Ann Berry camp was simply just great! I spent the first day being totally scared but by the end of day two, I was wishing it was a 3-day camp. I made some lovely new friends and so did Clara, who seemed totally at home in her holiday camp, but most of all I learnt a lot about my partnership with Clara. She really did try her best to look after me.

The Katy Ford jump clinic was the first time I had jumped a course since 1978, so for a natural coward, it was a massive achievement to get round the 50-60, even though Clara could easily do 60-70 or 70-80. I found Katy to be an excellent trainer as she made me feel at ease with what I was meant to be doing – simple instructions and lots of praise. Unfortunately, due to road closures during the summer, I had to cancel my next clinic with her, but I hope to book more in 2025.



The Newmarket Trip was such a fun and memorable day out. It was a real opportunity to get to know some faces and to see what goes on in the world of racing both on and off the track. I'm hoping there is another one next year.

So what has the first year of Faversham District Riding Club done for a nervous and cowardly, yet determined older rider? Well, from my perspective it has helped give me a focus and a sense of belonging. It has also made me realise that I'm not on my own, that there are others out there in the same situation as myself who are experiencing the same emotions. Along with my regular lessons and the club events I have attended, I can feel that my confidence has increased and in turn, my relationship with Clara has deepened further.

I'm looking forward to 2025. Yes I will still be nervous when I turn up for an event, but the more I do it, the less intense those nerves will be. I am so glad that I made the decision to join Faversham District Riding Club in 2024 and here's to 2025 and whatever I can achieve.

**Note from Editor:** Carol Thank you so much for sending in this article – I was quite touched as I read through it. Your experience epitomises everything we, the Committee, strive to achieve for our Members and highlights that the more you join in the more you get out of the club. Sally



## LOOKING BACK

### PIZZA NIGHT – A SOCIAL GET TOGETHER at Knowler Farm, Stelling Minnis on 6<sup>th</sup> Sept



This proved to be a very popular idea and one we will certainly repeat. Over 20 members & guests arrived at Knowler Farm and enjoyed the most delicious freshly cooked Pizza. There were tables inside and out and the place was a buzz of conversations as members chatted to old friends and met new ones. The bar was good too! Many thanks to Liz & Tim for organising it.



### FDRRC 1 DAY CAMP with ANN BERRY 8LS on Saturday 7th September

A brilliant day was had by all on the Clubs 1st 1 Day Camp for Members Only with Ann Berry at Welwyn Stud  
11 Members took part .

We were extremely lucky with the weather and was great to meet new and existing members.

Lots of support and encouragement from all those taking part. No one joined the 'Flamboyant Flyers Club' though there were a few moments.

Thank you to Welwyn Stud and Ann Berry BHSI for your expert and supportive teaching.

Thanks Sam Miller for your organisation.

We are back in June 2025 for our 2 day camp.



### MECHANICAL HORSE TASTER SESSION ON 14<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER at Alkham Valley Community Project

12 FDRRC Members booked in and all had a very good time. Heather reported that it was a really great session and thanked Lynnette Marsh and Jo Murrell for being fabulous hosts and said Emma was awesome and that it was such a lovely accommodating venue. Lots of lovely comments from the participants.

### MEMBERS ONLY SOCIAL RIDE at GODMERSHAM PARK on 15<sup>th</sup> SEPT

by kind permission of The Sunley Family and Mandy and Ian Lamb.

13 riders set off on the Godmersham Park Ride, which was held at the kind permission of Mrs Sunley of Godmersham Park estate. The weather was definitely on our side and the views were amazing.

Riders were escorted round the park by Ian and Amanda Lamb of Lamb Equestrian, starting off along the grass gallops (available to hire if you wish to go faster on a different occasion), heading off around the outskirts of the park and finishing with a paddle in the River Stour. The ride culminated with a coffee & cake..



## **MEMBERS ONLY SOCIAL RIDE – 20<sup>th</sup> October from Saddlesdane Report by Jo Boraston**

Five brave FRDC members, helpers and horses braved the rain to meet at Saddlesdane for a fun ride around the Lees Court Estate and Perry Wood. We had a lovely ride as far as Selling, including a great canter along the Lees Court valley. All horses were very well behaved!

We rode as far as the White Lion, our planned pub stop, before making the executive decision that standing in the rain in a pub car park in October wasn't the most fun.

We also adjusted our route to avoid what would have been a very wet and soggy Perry Wood, and instead to use the quiet roads to head back via Lees Court woods and then up the bridleway into the back of Saddlesdane. We still managed over 12km (nearly 8 miles in old money) in over 2 hours, so a good hack out despite the rain.

A couple of us took advantage of the coffee and excellent homemade cake provided by the Saddlesdane café, before we all headed home to dry off in the warm.

Thanks to Laura Mohammed for organising and leading the ride, to Saddlesdane for the use of their facilities and the excellent coffee and cake. Special mention also to Carole Horton, Kali Smith and Melanie Irwin for making up the hardy bunch of riders with myself and Laura, we had lots of chat and fun along the way.

We all agreed that a repeat date would be an excellent idea in better weather when we could enjoy the pub stop, Perry Woods and relax more afterwards.



## **STEADY NEDDY MEMBERS SOCIAL RIDE on Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup> from Dargate Report by Sally King**

Following feedback & enquiries from some of our Members we were pleased to be able to introduce our NEW lower key version of our Members Only Social Rides called "Steady Neddies Social Rides"

Many thanks must go to Sarah Reith whose idea this was, Chrissy Sutton and myself have assisted her in the running of the first one from Dargate.

These rides will be shorter than the average Members Social Rides lasting from 60 mins to 75 mins and will be completed in walk and trot. These will be aimed at, but not exclusively for, those who would prefer a steady, smaller group which will be restricted to 4, i.e. nervous horses or riders, a rider with a youngster, older riders or older horses.



We had a little trouble with box parking problems – when we first started planning this ride we had earmarked a field on the Mount Ephraim Estate but due to heavy rainfall we had to abandon the field and look for somewhere with hard standing. Sarah managed to find a farm building with a small concrete apron for us to use. Sadly, as this was very restricted on space it meant we had to ask anyone who had a larger lorry to withdraw as we could only accommodate a very limited number of trailers or small lorries. Thank you all for being so understanding.

Sarah worked out the route and led the ride on Wynn with the three riders who took part. Weather was dull but dry, for which we were thankful but unfortunately the views out over the Swale were a bit hazy. Chrissy & I were ground crew and got a few pics on route and when all horses settled with their hay we broke out the coffee and cakes and it was lovely to chat to everyone and get to know two of our newer members Elyse and Cait. We will be running some more of these rides in 2025

## **FDRC XMAS DINNER & GRAND DRAW at THE WOOLPACK, CHILHAM on November 29th**

We had 35 places for this get together and tickets sold out in a very short time and meant that some of our Members missed out for which we apologise. This is happening as this Newsletter is being edited - There will be a report of this event in the next Newsletter.

## **COMING UP**

### **Sun 15<sup>TH</sup> & Wed 18<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER - CHRISTMAS MUSICAL RIDE with WENDY NEATH AT 11.00 AM SADDLESDANE EC, BADLESMERE**

On behalf of the club I am running a Christmas Musical Ride at Saddlesdane  
We will put together a routine from scratch to suitably festive music, and attempt to ride it through at the end.  
Depending on numbers. I will either direct from the ground, or ride and lead from the front!  
I used to run lots of these for various clubs, and they are great fun.  
You don't need a dressage horse, but you will need to be able to steer,  
stop and go, ride beside, behind and past others, and your horse must not kick.  
Usually with a first time session we stay in walk and trot unless we have a group  
all happy in canter, or unless we get enough to run 2 groups  
Saddlesdane is provisionally booked for 2 hours.  
I will ask you to wear either red or green tops, and tinsel too!  
And drinks and nibbles afterwards in the lorry park maybe?

Initially we will set up the MRL entry for 4 riders, but we can open it to  
2 hours if there is enough interest for 2 groups - Organiser Wendy Neath  
£20 for Member/£25 for non-members to cover Saddlesdane hire with lights and music

**Places can be booked through My Riding Life**

<https://www.myridinglife.com/eventdetails.aspx?id=490595>

### **THE ANNUAL CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR (ON FOOT) SOCIAL WALK AND GET TOGETHER Dec 28<sup>th</sup>**

Members and Non-Members Welcome... come and walk off some of the Christmas excesses.....

10.30am meet at Knowler Farm Coffee Shop, Stelling Minnis, to join for a hours walk around  
Stelling Minnis, and return for Coffee/Hot Chocolate (and other hot drinks available) and  
Cake from Knowler Farm Coffee Shop.

Small donation of £2/person towards club funds (payable on the day)

**Please RSVP attendance and numbers so we can give the Coffee Shop and idea of  
numbers via this page or messenger to Liz Roberts**

**Location:** <https://w3w.co/salmon.barn.stroke>



### **MEMBERS ONLY Social Ride from Crockshard Farmhouse, Crockshard Hill, Wingham, CT3 1NY**

Organised and by kind permission of Philippa Ballerio

Meet from 10.45am, ready to ride at 11am. This ride will be limited due to parking restrictions which will allow  
only 5 trailer/horse box parking spaces.

The ride will be for approx two hours (weather dependant) and will include either one to two pub stops... please  
bring some money if you want a drink!

Please bring something to 'socialise' with for after the ride (tea/coffee/cake etc!)

The route will be on lanes and bridleways. Hiviz MUST be worn.

This ride will include cantering (ground permitting), so you must be confident to canter in a group in an open  
space. Please be considerate to other riders in the group, and the Ride Leaders' word is final.

Parking: For trailers and small lorries will be at Crockshard Farmhouse, please drive down the drive and park  
near to the barn and stables. What3 words is <http://w3w.co/cure.item.browsers>

**Cost £5. enter via <https://www.myridinglife.com/eventdetails.aspx?id=493950>**

Please bring equipment to clear up after your horse

### **HOLD THE DATE - FDRC AGM & AWARDS NIGHT on 21<sup>st</sup> FEBRUARY**

**More details to follow**

### **FDRC 2 DAY CAMP with ANN BERRY on 28<sup>th</sup> 29<sup>th</sup> June 2025 – Still Some Places at Welwyn Stud, Hawkinge Folkestone Kent CT18 8LS**

Our 2 day camp will be held the weekend of the 28th and 29th June.

There will be a maximum of 10 spaces.

Cost will be £180 which includes overnight stabling and lessons.

A 50% deposit will need to be paid to guarantee our weekend and the price.

If you are interested please let Ali know

**Lots more events in the pipeline – look out for notifications on FaceBook & by Email.**



## **TEAM & LEAGUES NEWS.**

**Note:** To represent the FDRC in a team or as an individual club you need to be a fully paid-up member of the Club. We will highlight these competitions as we go through the year asking for riders & helpers by email, Facebook, and Website. Please keep a look out and let team managers know if you are interested in being in a specific team as & when they are put forward. See committee List to see Team Managers details.

### **FDRC MEMBERS POINTS LEAGUE**

We are introducing a new Members Points League **Entry £10.00 will be via MRL at is now OPEN. You have to go into your MRL account search for Faversham & District – Take OUT your post code & milage and it should magically appear!!**

This is a very simple points league but with lots of prizes. Remember “points mean prizes!”

On entering you will be sent a points card to complete during the year.

For events in which you take part, points will be allocated as per the attached sheet. This covers horse events not run by FDRC or BRC. Fill in the form and ask the Show Secretary, trainer or organiser (or Committee Member who may be present) to confirm and sign your card.

The League runs from the 1st January to 31st December 2024 with the prizes being allocated at the 2024 AGM (Feb 2025) - You can, of course, enter this at any time during the year.

### **Redhorse Dressage 2024 FDRC Members Points League – Willow Farm EC**

An extra way of getting a little more out of your dressage tests. When you enter a class or classes at a Redhorse Dressage Competition at Willow Farm and you tell Sue Barradell who runs the shows that you are an FDRC Member - your placings are converted to points for the FDRC Red Horse Dressage league. Sue runs the points system for FDRC members, which runs from February 2024 to Jan 2025.

PLUS at each show the highest placed FDRC Members gets a lovely rosette

Check [Redhorse Dressage Website](#) for show dates.

**Results will be announced and League Rosettes will be awarded at the FDRC AGM held in Feb 2025**

## **TEAM REPORTS:**



### **JUMPING TEAM RUNDOWN - REPORT BY SHANNON LUNT – SJ TEAM MANAGER**

#### **COMPETITIONS SINCE SEPTEMBER ARE:**

#### **19th September Blenheim Palace International Horse Trials update!!**

A huge well done to our team, they came 27th out of 44 teams! Blenheim is always a challenging event and they have done us proud!! Riders were - Zoe Pinion, Millie Day, Lissie Day, Kelly Lasarow  
A huge thank you to Karley Hubbard who stepped in as team manager on the day. Hopefully we can send another team next year

#### **6th October BRC Combined Championship**

We sent two riders to the BRC Combined Championship Vita Welcome and Desti Horton. *(report later)* Congratulations to our two members who competed today at the BRC Combined Championships. It was lovely to see them stables together and supporting each other. Vita Welcome competed in the Combined Challenge and sadly had some issues with a skinny meaning no placings for them today. Desti Horton represented our Junior riders in the Combined Training 80 and has worked hard with regular dressage training leading up to the competition and this paid off with a respectable dressage score and along with a clear SJ came home in 8th place.



#### **13th October BRC Area 10 Show jumping at Hadlow**

A huge well done to our riders, it was a very successful day out for the club! Results are as follows:

<b>60cm Mixed</b>	Amy Boaler - 4 <sup>th</sup>
<b>80cm Jnr</b>	Teah Lamb Kyla Lamb - 1 <sup>st</sup>
<b>80cm Snr</b>	Karley Hubbard - 1 <sup>st</sup> ,

Lucy Bruce - 13<sup>th</sup>, Rosey Hill - 20<sup>th</sup>, Vita Welcome - 24<sup>th</sup>  
 Kim Laucins - 27<sup>th</sup>, Jaz Chamberlain - 29<sup>th</sup>  
 Vita Welcome - 13<sup>th</sup>, Teah Lamb - 16<sup>th</sup>, Jasmine Chamberlain - 17<sup>th</sup>  
 Kim Laucins - 25<sup>th</sup>, Issy Mason Amy Whitworth - 29<sup>th</sup>  
 Issy Mason - 8<sup>th</sup>

**90cm Mixed**

**100cm Mixed**

**80 cm Senior Team FDRC 6<sup>th</sup>**

A big thank you to Jan Barlow Desti Horton & Steebs Bina for volunteering!! Without them our riders couldn't compete. No more qualifiers until the Area 10 Combined Training that the FDRC are organising on MAY 10<sup>th</sup>. Will be looking out for helpers and team members.

**CHAMPIONSHIP BRC NAF FIVE STAR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS by KIM LAUCENS**

**ON AUGUST 31<sup>ST</sup>. 2024**

I couldn't be anymore prouder of this little horse over the weekend at the BRC NAF Five Star National Championships at Lincolnshire show ground.



First test of the morning was our second ever novice test with a respectable 65.87% with lots to like and lots to take away and learn but we still came away with a 9<sup>th</sup> place.

To then smash it out the bag in our prelim, first one down the centre line this afternoon with 3 hours of more people to come. She put on a punching performance to give us 70% and finishing on the podium with a 3<sup>rd</sup> place in a very large class.

Unfortunately we didn't stay for the mounted prize giving which is a shame as she totally deserved the lime light this weekend. Thank you to all the people that focused me, gave me advice and training over the last few weeks in preparation for it. This little horse has really shone and proving herself more and more. Thank you to my Mum for coming and supporting me and turning her out beautifully.

**SUMMER CT NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS at ASTON-LE-WALLS on October 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup>**  
**Report by Desti Horton**



SPARKLY QUINN

I was thrilled to find I had secured myself a place at the finals, although somewhat shocked too. I have only a vague memory of my 2<sup>nd</sup> place qualifier at Felbridge back in May! Our preparation concentrated wholly on our weaker discipline - dressage.

We had weekly lessons working on rhythm and balance that we increased to twice weekly, a couple of weeks before the event. The day before we left, we washed Quin and put her in her onesie to keep her sparkly. Cleaned the tack and prepped all the gear.

One of my oldest friends, Inca, had promised she would come with me, and even though she is not horsey, she was an amazingly help! We packed up the horsebox with everything, including a kitchen sink! Combined training requires quite a lot of different tack, horse equipment, clothes, boots, and plenty of accessories, so my accurate and endlessly long list was a torn mess in the end.

We left home (me, Inca, and of course, my chauffeur and best supporter - Mum) at 1pm and arrived in Aston-Le-Walls about 4 hours later. Quin was quiet and content, during the journey, with her travel boots keeping her legs snug, while munching hay in-between snoozing. We could see her the whole journey in the camera. We hand grazed her and gave her time to stretch her legs before feeding her tea and tucking her up for the night.



Meanwhile, Inca googled "how to plait a horse for dressage" LOL! The following morning, after a meatballs and spaghetti supper, Inca followed through with her research and plaited Quin's mane and tail. I'm not kidding, first time plaiting and she's a pro!



I warmed Quin up for the dressage using my instructor's plan, and went into the test feeling prepared. However, I was a little disappointed with how the test went, and I am working hard on taking the rhythmic and engaged contact from the warm up into the test! We scored a (not too disgraceful) 37.1%, which meant if I was to stay in the running, I would need to go clear in the showjumping.

As soon as Quin saw the jumps she pricked up her ears and said to me "Here we are Mum, this is what I came for; I've got this!" And she did. Double clear my little star. We had quite a

wait to collect my 8th place rosette and then a long drive home. But I loved every moment of it and just wish Quinney was ten years younger so I could have another decade riding her!



## **AREA 10 SHOWJUMPING QUALIFIER - HADLOW COLLEGE - SUNDAY 3RD OCTOBER 2024**

### **Report by KARLEY HUBBARD**

Having recently joined the riding club, the Showjumping Qualifier was my first event with the club. A day that reminds you how horses really are the greatest of levellers. Despite his many years of experience Hector isn't the most confident of ponies, it's like sitting on a 4 year old...he's 14! He's not the boldest, is scared of life and needs his hand holding. When walking the course, my nerves kicked in big time. A spooky, atmospheric indoor arena with very colourful fences.

We're eventers so we're used to big open fields and can't remember the last time we rode a jump off let alone an indoor arena. Already knowing this we'd entered the 80cm for the first class with the hope of just getting round and taking each fence at a time. I was so proud of him, he just about held it together and stayed with me. Some how we won, which means we've qualified for the Riding Club Winter Showjumping Championships at Arena UK next year...an even spookier arena! A massive well done to the other members, a successful day for all with numerous placings.

The least said about the second class the better...we didn't make it past the second fence! You win some, you lose some. We had the most fabulous day meeting fellow team member Vita Welcome, we're planning on going out with Coakham Bloodhounds at some point this season so let us know if anyone else is keen on joining. It was also lovely to catch up with fellow eventer Lucy Bruce who we parked next to at Tweseldown in the summer and realised we'd both just joined the riding club. We caught up with Dina from Battle Riding Club who was parked on the other side of us at Tweseldown! It was lovely to catch up with friends and meet new ones. You can probably tell I like a chat so looking forward to seeing more of you out and about soon.

## **TEAM COMPETITIONS COMING UP**

### **AREA 10 WINTER DRESSAGE QUALIFIER - on 8<sup>th</sup> February at Hadlow College**

This is a qualifier for Dressage To Music, Introductory Dressage, Novice Dressage & Intermediate Dressage

### **AREA 10 COMBINED TRAINING QUALIFIER at FELBRIDGE EC, on 10<sup>th</sup> May 2025**

The FDRC will again be organising the Area 10 Combined Training Qualifier at Felbridge Showground on Saturday 10th May 2025.

**As well as the BRC Qualifier classes there will also be unaffiliated classes to enter.**

We will be looking for riders and helpers.

**QUALIFIERS** - There will be more Area 10 Qualifiers and we will notify you by FaceBook & Email as soon as we know the dates or have the schedule.

**2024 WINTER NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS** – Will be held at Arena UK 5 & 6 April 2025.

Please see Website What's On page for training dates at <https://www.favershamridingclub.com/whats-on> or on [FDRC Facebook Page](#) and look out for Diary Update Emails



## **TRAINING & TRAINERS -**

**In December you are invited to wear an Xmas Jumper to any training session.**

## CLINIC REPORT - BACK ON TRACK BY WENDY NEATH

### **SJ clinics 2024 with Katie Ford at Drayhorse Arena Arena Eventing with Claire Stryzyk Breach Barn November**

I joined FDRC when I moved to this area 4 years ago, having retired from running my own yard and teaching [including lots of RC clinics]. Since then I have had a bad fall 2 years ago, fracturing my pelvis in 3 places and shattering my confidence.

I also lost my lovely Rocco, and then when I bought Ferdy, the horse who seemed just the right one for me to get back on track with he turned out to be a bit trickier than expected with a tendency to worry – and buck.

I've been working hard on my riding and my mindset – and his confidence in me, and life in general. Little by little I am starting to really enjoy riding again. FDRC clinics have been a big part of this, and both Claire and Katie have helped me put all the little building blocks into place with just the right amount of encouragement without over-facing me. And of course there's nothing like a supportive group of fellow members cheering you on to help – thank you anyone who's shared lessons with me. And I have to say how lucky we are to have access to 2 lovely venues at Drayhorse and Breach. **Roll on 2025**

### CROSS COUNTRY CLINICS with CLAIRE STRYZYK at CHILHAM (OR OTHER XC COURSES)

We are pleased to offer cross country training with Claire Stryzyk at Chilham Park.(and other local courses) Claire is a BHSI 5 Performance Coach and Chief Instructor for the East Kent Pony Club The clinic will last for 90 minutes and will be split into two groups:-

**Under 80cm and Over 80cm** The price includes course hire.

Body protectors **must** be worn

**It is recommended that on XC Clinics you bring someone with you on foot to assist in the event of a rider fall. Members £45 Non-Members £50**

Details on [Whats On page of FDRC FaceBook](#) Places can be booked through [My Riding Life](#)

### SHOW JUMPING CLINICS with KATY FORD at DRAYHORSE ARENA, CHALLOCK

These sessions with Katy Ford who is an Accredited BS UKCC Level 3 show jumping coach.

Katy is extremely knowledgeable and sympathetic in her teaching are very popular.

Held at Drayhorse in the 60 x 40m arena

Our clinics with Katy Ford continue to be extremely popular and fill exceptionally fast. In fact, several weeks in advance.

It has been great to see some members this year grow in confidence and move up to the next group. With this in mind and following feedback about group heights we have decided to juggle the height groups and add an extra group. We will be trialling the new groups from January to March.

We still have the option to put on another group if demand is high.

The new groups are:-**50-60cm, 60-70cm, 70-80cm, 80-90cm, 90-1m \*\*Option for fences to be bigger than 1m.**New dates are: 4th January, 1st February, 1st March

**£20 Members/ £25 Non-Members via MRL**

**The clinic will be groups of 4 for an hour and in four height categories.**

### POLEWORK & GRIDWORK SESSIONS with CLAIRE STRYZYK AT COBB MEADOW RDA CENTRE, CHARTHAM and CHILHAM CASTLE PARK

Claire is a BHSI stage 5 Performance Coach and BD list 5 Judge and a knowledgeable experienced instructor happy to help riders and horses at all levels from grassroots up. Claire runs a well thought out lesson working both you and horse carefully towards the last exercise which puts all you have done together into one exercise. Claire is a preceptive and sympathetic instructor.

**Members £20, Non-Members £25 - Max of 4 per group**

Dates & entry details for the above clinics can be found on [Whats On page of FDRC FaceBook](#)

## CLUB REGALIA



You can order a Hoodie, Polo Shirt, Sleeveless T-Shirt, a Cap and a Bobble Hat. The front embroidery is included in the price and for an extra sum you can have the back embroidered with the larger motif as well. To order go to: <https://www.jbembroidery.co.uk/embroidered-faversham-district-riding-club.html#/>

We also offer self sew patches which come in two sizes:  
 8cm for sewing onto your own clothing at £10.00  
 11cm for attaching to saddle cloth at £12.00  
 Useful if riding for the club teams.

**To purchase go into your MRL account search for Faversham & District – Take OUT your post code & milage and it should magically appear!! The badge(s) will then be posted to you.**



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# Recruiting Community Policing Volunteers



Our Equine Community Policing Volunteers receive training to help them perform a valuable role in our harder to reach rural areas. These areas you may already hack, it may also open up new places for you to explore as you build relationships locally.

The role is about local community engagement and support, assisting the police and local authority by helping us tackle & deter several issues including fly tipping, rural crime, poaching, nuisance motorcycles, and search for missing people. It is also about helping to generate information & intelligence.

You will be the eyes and ears in your rural community making a genuine difference to everyone, learning new and additional skills, whilst feeling valued doing something very different.

For more information and to apply please visit: <https://www.kent.police.uk> you will find CPV Equine within the Recruitment section, then Specials & Volunteering then Community Policing Volunteers or Email [Martyn.Tulk@kent.police.uk](mailto:Martyn.Tulk@kent.police.uk)