



HOOFPRINTS August 2020

VIEW FROM THE CHAIR

Well, 2020 has turned out to be a funny, old year. Way back In March, committee were about to launch another packed Summer programme at a members meeting but all that was kicked into touch - first by restrictions on the number of people allowed to meet indoors (the number changed daily), then by total lockdown. Since 23 March we had a number of false dawns, when it looked like we might be able to restart things, only for the rules to change again.

Throughout the summer the various Sports Governing bodies – BHS/BRC/BE/BD/BS/HorseScotland - have been in constant negotiation with government trying to convince them and the relevant Public Health experts that horse riding training and competitions could be conducted safely and in a way which would minimise the risk of spreading coronavirus to the wider population. It's been frustrating seeing other sports recommence while riding has been left "on hold"; worse still, some riding competitions have re-started in some bits of the UK but not here in Scotland. So it was with some relief that we have at last been advised by Horse Scotland that the rules around riding are being relaxed. **However, that does not mean that things will soon be back to anything like normal.**

In order to persuade government to relax rules, the sport has agreed to implement strict new protocols for safety. This means big changes to the way shows are conducted. These changes present a real challenge both to riders and organisers. Indeed, even working out if we CAN actually run a show in compliance has taken a lot of thought.





On top of the changes, some of our most experienced volunteers are in the “at risk” or shielding categories and so will not be allowed to help out in the usual way. Restrictions on numbers of household contacts per day have ruled out a lot of the things show organisers have taken for granted such as organising work parties etc .For many instructors, the previous limit of meeting four households per day meant that group lessons were simply not economically viable – after all, why go out for one group lesson when four private lessons will pay better?

The good news is that it looks like we are now once again in a position to start offering group training. Committee are looking into this as we write and we hope to have something for you very soon – watch the members Facebook page/Club website.

In order to comply with BRC/HorseScotland guidance, we will be introducing new protocols for riders. These will undoubtedly seem very strange and probably restrictive, but I would urge you all to co-operate with the organisers. This is going to be a steep learning curve for everyone – not least the volunteers on the ground. It’s about seeing if we can run any form of show under these new restrictions. If we succeed, then hopefully we can move on to more shows and competitions in the future – a small but important first step.

The equestrian world is on trial right now – let’s all work to make this a success and demonstrate that we can run shows and competitions safely.

Linda Gove





LOOKING AHEAD

As we come out of lockdown and get the go ahead for competitions start up again in Scotland, Committee have been discussing options for the Club.

We would like to start by offering instruction, pole work clinics as well as trialling a Show Jumping Training Day.

I'm sure some of you will be eager to get out to the club again and hopefully some of you have been able to make use of the arenas and the jumps set out at the club field. I'm also sure that there will be some members who have yet to get out with their horses and I hope this update means that there will be an opportunity for you to do so.

We will start our first event of the season with a Show Jumping Training Day at the club field on **Saturday 22 August**.

These events, as you know, will have to be run under strict rules that comply with Covid-19 protocols and guidance. These rules will be posted on the FRC Facebook page and attached to the schedule of each event.

All entries will be online and times will be given before the event.

Dates for instruction and pole work lessons will be available soon and will be posted on the FRC Members Facebook page and the FRC website.





SHOW JUMP TRAINING SATURDAY 22 AUGUST

This event will be open to MEMBERS ONLY.

Each rider may have ONE HELPER attend with them. We will require you to provide us with the name and address of the helper on your entry form.

There will be NO SPECTATORS allowed at this time to keep numbers to a minimum.

Classes will be £5 for 2 rounds of the same class.

On arrival a Covid Compliance Officer will ask for your name and the name of your helper that you provided information for on your entry. You will then be shown where to park and we ask that you keep socialising to within the “bubble” of your own class/parking group and maintain social distancing at all times.

Please DO NOT have contact with others from different classes/parking bubbles.

Show Jumping will be pre-entered online and times will be given before the event – the schedule will be posted shortly on the Events page of the club website.

<https://www.fife-riding-club.co.uk/events.shtml>

There will be no toilets/catering available.

