

Essendon District Riding Club - Website address [www.essendondrc.co.uk](http://www.essendondrc.co.uk)



## Letter from the Chair by Kim Ratcliffe

I can hardly believe that it's already the end of the summer (ok – what summer???) and it is time once again to renew memberships, hold the AGM and consider how the club should be run in the year ahead. Although it is likely that we will make a small loss this year – a combination of the cost of sending teams to the area qualifiers, the cost of affiliation against the low number of members and the subsidising of clinics for members, we are planning to keep membership costs to a minimum once again at £15. However we have decided that we also want to do something to help the environment so we are asking all members to accept the new glorious Technicolor newsletter by e-mail. Those of you who still prefer to receive your newsletter – in standard black and white by pigeon post (or snail post if the strikes continue), will be asked to pay a slightly increased membership cost of £16. We also announced at last year's AGM that family membership would have to be revised as each member is covered by the affiliation fee, so we are introducing a fee of £10 for each additional family member. An additional benefit for family members that we are introducing is for anyone that wishes to receive their own copy of the newsletter by email can indicate on the renewal form (unfortunately we cannot offer this additional benefit by post). We will be happy to explain these changes at the forthcoming AGM which will take place over lunchtime during the first leg of the winter league.

We were delighted to attend the Riding Clubs Area 7 summer BBQ and award ceremony recently, where our wonderful show secretary Gill Walker received the award for being an "unsung hero" – a copy of the letter that we sent to nominate Gill is contained in this newsletter. All of the Committee play a big part in ensuring that the club runs smoothly and I hope that as many of you as possible will attend the AGM on 21st October to thank them for their work without which there would be no club. As usual we are hoping that more people will volunteer to join the committee at the AGM – the more there are the less we each have to do! We are also welcoming Debbie Walmsley to the post of Newsletter and club secretary – this is her first missive to you all which, I am sure you will agree, continues the high standard set by Gill Walker earlier in the year. Debbie is a relative newcomer to the club and also a recent convert to dressage with her lovely grey Irish Sports Horse Spritzer– although she can still be seen galloping around the countryside, along the beach and over show jumping obstacles in her spare time!

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Debbie was one of 9 members who represented the club at the Area 7 dressage qualifiers in July. The event, run as efficiently as ever by Holly Hill RC, was an opportunity for the club to return to area competitions after a frustrating experience in 2005 and a previous gap of some 11 years. The results are contained in a report later in this newsletter, but we are all delighted with the performances of all the people who so willingly turned out for the club. The Open team was just a hair's breath away from qualifying for the finals at Lincoln in September and I look forward to representing the club as an individual in the elementary and medium classes on Naomi and Malcolm Kember's Late O'Leary (Fungi to his buddies). Isabelle and Graham Izzard sweated long and hard over the demands of the British riding clubs entry qualifications, but even the usual last minute panics over combinations who could not compete, were not enough to stop a very smoothly run and organised team. Thanks go to everyone involved, especially Graham who not only did so much organising but also loaned his lovely horse to the team (he could not ride as he had already competed for Holly Hill in the Team Horse Trials). It would be great if we could find other club members who might join Graham riding for us next year in the jumping disciplines (see later in the newsletter).

The other job Graham has done for us in the last few weeks is to design a new club logo which will feature on all correspondence, newsletters, the website etc– the drawing is an original by a colleague of Graham's and we are delighted with how professional it looks

I hope that you are all happy with the way the club is run and we would like to invite you to join us to give us your feedback at the AGM

## Annual General Meeting – Sunday 21st October 2007

By Debbie Walmsley

The EDRC Annual General Meeting will be held on Sunday 21st October and will take place during the lunchtime break of the 1st Winter League 2007 show.

The AGM is your opportunity to elect the committee members for the forthcoming year. It is also your opportunity to talk to the Committee and let us have your feedback, ideas and suggestions on how you would like your club to be run and the sort of events that you would like to see the club running.

## Area 7 Qualifiers

By Isabelle Izzard

Sunday 15th July saw the highlight of the dressage year – well almost! It was the Area 7 Dressage Qualifiers, which took place at Bibsworth Hall Farm, and was hosted by our neighbouring riding club, Holly Hill. This year Essendon entered two teams – a Novice and an Open team, and also had two members riding as individuals at medium level. The Novice team comprised Jill Tan, Debbie Walmsley, Angela Slater and Tim Kember, and all rode Prelim 13. The Open team riders were Pat Perkins, Michelle Loy, Suzanne Adamthwaite and Kim Ratcliffe. Three of the Open team had to ride a different Novice test, and the fourth rode an Elementary test. Confused? Yes, so were Graham and I when we were trying to sort out the entries!

The day dawned fine, and despite some pretty black looking clouds, the only spot of rain we had was towards the end of the day. I am pleased to say that everyone who rode for the club put on a really good show, despite the fairly difficult ground conditions, which were mainly due to the awful mix of weather we have had this summer. A number of our horses are a bit iffy on grass in any case, so it is to everyone's credit that we had a successful day. Our Novice team was unplaced, but did well with respectable scores. Our Open team came third overall. Unfortunately only the first two

At this year's AGM, and in recognition for those riders who have represented the Club during the year there will be a small presentation – so if you have represented the Club during the year make sure you are there!

### Notice of Meeting

1. Chairman's Report
2. Treasurer's Report
3. Award of Trophies
4. Election and Re-election of Committee Members
5. Any Other Business

**Please come along and show your support for your club.**

*the following links are for the area 7 results:*

[www.rfrc.org.uk/page2html](http://www.rfrc.org.uk/page2html) for the Show jumping & Horse trials  
[www.hollyhillridingclub.co.uk](http://www.hollyhillridingclub.co.uk) for the dressage results

teams qualify to go to the finals in Lincoln, but the team did get some nice yellow rosettes for their trouble. Kim Ratcliffe won the medium individuals and will be representing the club at the finals in September. She also qualifies to ride an elementary test at the finals as an individual, as she was second overall and not part of a qualifying team. I told you it was complicated! Full results are shown below.

Many thanks to all those who took part, and a vote of thanks to Holly Hill Riding Club whose organisation made the day run so smoothly. We hope you enjoyed it as much as we did, and next year, we will be old hands and should be able to win both classes outright! We also hope to run a Juniors team next year, so if any of you know of any budding young dressage riders out there, please encourage them to join the club – we would love to hear from you.

The last word has to go to the competitors:  
 "I just hated the ground, Dad, but I liked that young chap who was riding me today" – Donsong Izzard (whose pilot on the day was Tim Kember)  
 "What do you mean I have to do it all again in September?" – Late O'Leary Kember  
 "You didn't tell me it was going to be on grass" – Rocky Slater.

## Clinics 2007

By Naomi Kember

The club ran four clinics with Top Trainers during the summer months. Two were with Mette Assouline, and the others with Inger Bryant and Jill Day.

All clinics were well attended even though unfortunately Inger's clashed with one of the Etteridge Farm shows.

It was good to see horses of all ages and experience, and I guess the same was true of the riders! There were a few magical moments where following the trainer's suggestions resulted in transformations in the horse's performance prompting spontaneous applause and exclamation from those watching.

Feedback overall was very positive, and I would encourage those members who did not participate to have a go next year. It really does not matter how much or little experience you and/or your horse have, so don't be shy.

If anyone has any comments on this year's clinics or suggestions for next year's please contact me. Finally many thanks to Woodlands, the trainers and participants for making the clinics a success.

## Etteridge Farm Open Showing Show

By Vicky Hill

The Etteridge Farm Open Showing Show, organised by Club members Debbie Wisbey and Vicky Hill, was a great success greatly helped by the perfect weather which attracted a rush of late entries on the day.

In addition to the traditional classes a lot of young competitors had fun with the Clear Round Jumping, Novelty Classes and the latest venture Novelty Classes for dogs!

Kim arrived in time to present the rosettes for the Riding Horse Class, sponsored by EDRC, which was won by Ashleigh Rice riding Poppy.

Essendon was represented by Club Treasurer Avril de Solla who achieved two 4th places with Plush Good Heavens, Sally Glossop who qualified for the Shires C & T Showing Championship in the Rehabilitated Racehorse Class, and most spectacularly by Jill Tan with G. Papparazzo, who achieved a hat trick of wins in Style and Performance, Ridden Arab and Arab in hand and went on to be awarded Reserve Champion in the In Hand Championship.

## Member News

By Kim Ratcliffe

I am delighted to report that, as well as our success at the Riding Club qualifiers, Funghi (Late O'Leary ) & I were also the joint winners of the Wix Pet Plan Area Festival Elementary Restricted class and have therefore qualified to ride in the Festival Final at the new winter Championship final venue at Hartpury In Gloucester. We also took part in the Music qualifiers at Novice & Elementary level riding to a new compilation that was put together by the Kember family and myself in rather a rush.

Consequently I was rather winging it throughout and managed to finish just behind the music. Still it was good enough to earn 74% and win in the novice and 3rd place in the elementary so we've qualified for the winter semi finals at both levels. We had also qualified earlier in the year for the Summer Regional Championships at Novice level- we took part in the Eastern regional event at the College and although we didn't get placed overall we did have one nice judge who thought we were worth 9th. All in all a successful summer season.

## Renew Your Membership and Help us to save trees!

It's that time of year again, when membership renewals are due, and the renewal form is included with this newsletter. In a bid to be more environmentally friendly (and help the club to save money!) it would be appreciated if all those who are able to opt to receive newsletters and other communications by email rather than paper copies by post.

If you are happy to receive communications by email please send your contact details to Debbie at [debbie653@hotmail.com](mailto:debbie653@hotmail.com)

## How I spent my training voucher

By Kim Ratcliffe

Naomi Kember (owner of Fungi – professionally known as Late O'Leary) and I decided to use the training voucher on one of the clinics that the club ran with Mette Lubker-Assouline. I must admit to a bias and it was my idea to get Mette down to the club. I have known Mette and her husband Michel Assouline – who is a former French National champion and current trainer to the Paralympics British squad – for several years on the dressage circuit but we have got to know each other better since they moved from Sussex to Colne Engaine on the Essex/Suffolk border, close to where I hold a regular clinic. I have watched them teaching and have always liked their no nonsense style.

They focus on the rider always riding with the correct contact and a consistent steady leg, encouraging the horse to work forwards consistently into a connection with energy and confidence.

## Join Us and Spread the Word

We are on a recruitment drive this year. The club has had a good year with the dressage league, clinics and our recent success at the Area 7 qualifiers, and we would like to now boost our numbers so we can do even more. We are a friendly club with an enthusiastic committee, and are one of the only local clubs to run classes at the more advanced levels, where you can compete at the higher levels without feeling completely overwhelmed.

So if there is anyone at your yard or anybody else you know that might be interested in joining, please get in touch! We are particularly keen to encourage juniors.

I attended both of the club clinics with Funghi and Mette encouraged me to maintain a more consistent right rein and leg connection as I was inclined to focus on the stiffer side and overlook the softer side. We spent a lot of time developing more correctness in the lateral work, where Funghi tended to swing his hindquarters out to the left. And if I thought I encouraged my pupils to ride a lot of transitions then Mette had me doing direct transitions with corrections using the rein back until we both got the message that they would be correct! I was exhausted after the first session but a month later I could have continued on further – must have been the extra weetabix!

## Forthcoming Events

### Etteridge Farm Unaffiliated Dressage Show

#### Saturday 15 September 2007

Unaffiliated dressage show being held at Etteridge Farm, Pembridge Lane, Broxbourne EN10 7QP on Saturday 15 September 2007. Four classes are being held, two prelim (tests 7 and 12) and two novice (tests 21 and 32). Entry fee is £7.50 per class, entries close on Monday 10th September, and late entries may be accepted £8.50 per class. Please contact Sally Glossop for entry forms on 01920 463644.

### Marina Harley Clinic

Marina is running 2 clinics for Foresters RC, the trainer is our very own Chairman, Kim Ratcliffe! EDRC members are very welcome to attend. The dates are Saturday 27th October and Saturday 17th November. The clinics will be held at Woodlands- for further details please contact Marina on 07973520899.

### Cross Country Clinic

If any members are interested in attending a cross country clinic at Coursers Farm, please contact Graham or Isabelle Izzard. Coursers Farm is near Colney Heath, a mile from Junction 22 of the M25. The cross country course is varied and well maintained, with good take-offs and landings. There are over 40 jumps for riders of varying ability, including solid obstacles, brush fences, ditches and water. The course is also open for hire on an individual basis - telephone Sharon Symons on 07956 984406.

### Air Ambulance for Hertfordshire

Hertfordshire does not currently have an air ambulance. As we are all too aware riding can be a dangerous sport and if anyone does get seriously injured timing of medical care can be critical. An air ambulance service can literally be a life saver. The Herts Air Ambulance Appeal are holding various charity events to help raise the funds to provide an air ambulance service - if you would like to get involved and help raise funds for this critical service please go to [www.hetsairambulance.org.uk](http://www.hetsairambulance.org.uk) or call 01787 221828 for further information.

## Winter League points and trophies

By Kim Ratcliffe

The Winter League is run over 4 legs between October and March with points awarded to members according to placings at each competition. 10 points are awarded to the highest placed member, 9 points to the second highest etc down to 1 point for the 10th highest placing. Non-member results are ignored for league results, for example if non-members came 1st 3rd and 5th in a class then the members placed 2nd, 4th and 6th would receive 10, 9 & 8 points respectively. In the case of a tie the points for the shared places are shared – so if there were joint member winners then they would share the 10 and 9 points for 1st and 2nd place and so receive 9 ½ points each.

The best 3 points scores achieved by a combination in each class are added together and the Champion and Reserve Champion placings in each class are awarded. In the event of a tie then the points score from the 4th leg are taken into account. Combinations are only eligible for the points trophies if they have competed in 3 or more legs of the league. The points trophies and MEGA EDRC rosettes are presented to the winner & runner up of each class at the Champions show, which for 2008 will be held on 13th April (don't worry it's not a Friday!).

Each prize winner will also be eligible to ride off against each other in the Champion of Champions class on that day where each combination will ride a test at the level they were successful in the league and the combination scoring the highest percentage overall will receive a special award and be crowned Champions for the year.

The trophies that are awarded for each class are as follows;

### Annual Awards

Dexter Cup – Rose Emberton

Silver Angel Cup – Rose Emberton

### Winter League Awards

Gow Cup Preliminary – Ann Marie Bitmead

Gilpins Cup Preliminary – Debbie Walmsley

Brookmans Park Saddlery Novice – Vicky Hill

Balcombe Trophy Novice – Kim Ratcliffe

Minto Cup – Elementary – Kim Ratcliffe

Howe Engineering Cup Elementary – Faye Murphy

Silver Cloud Medium – Faye Murphy

EDRC Challenge Cup Ad. Medium/Advanced – Suzanne Adamthwaite

Warrenwood Challenge Cup Novice freestyle to music – Tracey Clark

Charkham Challenge Cup Elementary freestyle to music – Penny Lock

## Dressage with Instruction Classes

By Kim Ratcliffe

Many of you will have noticed that some of the classes on the winter schedule include instruction and also that we have a number of these classes on the Champions Show. These classes are run as normal dressage tests but after the test has finished the rider remains in the arena and the judge will come out to give them 10 minutes of instruction/help focusing on what did not go so well in the test.

It's a great opportunity to get a better understanding of what the judge is looking for and to have a little more time to put things right.

Unfortunately, because these take so much longer to run each class and so complicate the timing for the organiser we can only offer these classes at the higher levels during the league so that they all run at the end of the show and for just a few competitors. We have looked at trying to include them at lower levels but concluded that it wasn't practical.

The show on April 13th 2008 includes classes with instruction at all levels and the member scoring the best marks at each level receives a training grant from the club so please make sure you come along for a chance to get help from an experienced judge and for a chance to win financial help as well.

# A Nomination for the Area Helpers Award

## Gill Walker

By Kim Ratcliffe

Gill received the Area Helpers Award at the Area 7 meeting and summer BBQ in July. Below is the letter of nomination that was put forward by the club.

We would like to nominate Gill Walker to receive the area award. Gill joined the club in 2000 and was immediately nominated onto the committee as we knew how well she was regarded in her previous club (Hallingbury RC – a small unaffiliated local club). Gill took on the role of show secretary which means that she organises rosettes, boards and score sheets for every show, making certain that they arrive in good time to ensure the smooth running of the show; this takes a major job off of the organisers. Gill also took over responsibility for maintaining the score-points both for the league championships and the annual trophies, organising the prize giving's and keeping track of the whereabouts of the trophies so that they are ready to hand out on the day. Recently, when the newsletter secretary had to step down for personal reasons, it was Gill who stepped forward to take on responsibility for the production of the spring newsletter. Not only was this produced ahead of schedule but it was also in the best and most professional format the club has seen for sometime.

Gill's show secretary duties run alongside her busy and hectic life which includes running her own a yard, having a part-time accounting job and a family and home to maintain. Yet it is rare to ever see Gill without a ready smile. This hectic schedule and dedication the club has meant that Gill has not had the opportunity to compete as often as she would like which in turn has led her to miss out on Championship trophies on several occasions – an event she could have easily taken with her lovely mare Holly. Despite all of this Gill never complains or makes excuses and she still found the time to take Reserve champion in the EDRC elementary league this winter.

Such selfless acts are all too rare these days when competition seems to be such a driver for many people.

We all have busy lives and finding committee members and helpers who are helpful, reliable and nice to be around is no mean feat– Gill Walker fulfils all of these criteria and more and her willingness to take on major projects such as the newsletter at minimal notice confirms our view that she deserves an award.



## Who to contact

Below is a list of all the committee members and their contact details. Please do not hesitate to contact a committee member if you need information about the club, any of its activities or if you have any ideas that you would like to put forward.

**President:** Inger Bryant

Deenscote, Sands Lane, North Biggleswade SG18 9AE – 01767 627372

**Chairman:** Kim Ratcliffe – *addie37@hotmail.com*

19 Churchgate, Cheshunt, Herts, EN8 9BN – 01992 424319

**Secretary and Newsletter:** Debbie Walmsley – *debbie653@hotmail.com*

5 Leat Close, Sawbridgeworth, Herts CM21 9LZ – 01279 724 255

**Treasurer:** Avril de Solla – *avril@desolla.freerve.co.uk*

1 Ambleside Crescent, Enfield, EN3 7LZ – 020 8804 4171

**Subscriptions and BRC Co-ordinator:** Kay Symons – *tizzy.symons@yahoo.co.uk*

61 St George Road, Enfield, EN1 4TY – 07742519923

**Points and Trophies:** Gill Walker – *m.harv@btinternet.com*

Clintons, Bury Green, Little Hadham, SG11 2HF – 01279 654430

**Clinics:** Naomi Kember – *naomikember@hotmail.co.uk*

54 Firs Lane, London N21 3HX – 020 8360 6950

**Teams:** Isabelle and Graham Izzard – *graham.izzard@benoy.com*

17 Windermere Road, Muswell Hill, London N10 2RD – 0208 245 0937

**Co-Opted Member:** Alison Harvey – *alisoncharvey@btinternet.com*

17 Coronation Road, Ware, SG12 9DX

*Please feel free to contact a member of the committee for more information*

### Essendon District Riding Club

**email enquires**  
debbie653@hotmail.com

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*We're on the Web!*

*Visit us at:*

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