

# Pied Horse Neighsletter

February 2008

Skreens Park Farm, Roxwell, Essex 01245 248003 / 07870 147286

Welcome to the first neighsletter of 2008 - hope you enjoy it, and please feel free to submit any related articles to Claire H. in good time for the next one!



## Gimpy

As many of you are aware, Gimpy was born last summer with a rare disorder which left his face severely deformed. This caused him to have difficulty breathing and as he matured he would have had a poor quality of life, if he was able to survive at all. Luckily for Gimpy, the Royal Veterinary College were prepared to take on the challenge of the pioneering surgery to correct the misalignment of his upper jaw, therefore saving his life. As you can imagine, the operation and aftercare were expensive but essential. Gimpy was successfully operated on in October last year, and has now had the plates and pins removed that were holding his jaw together whilst they healed, and is recovering well.

We would like to say a HUGE thankyou to everyone who donated to the Gimpy Fund, and to all those family and friends who kindly donated as well. Many people went to a lot of effort to support Gimpy, but a special mention goes to Elinor Cowen who managed to raise the incredible sum of £520 by doing a sponsored ride and getting all of her family and friends to sponsor her.

Despite everyone's best efforts, we are still short of the target and with the final vets bill being nearly £2500 higher than the estimate please watch out for upcoming fundraising events or even plan your own. Any donations would be gratefully received, and remember the names of the most generous donors will appear on a plaque on his stable door.

## Dressage at Longwood

On Friday 1st February, despite reports of sleet and gale force winds, the horses were loaded and everyone set off to Longwood Equestrian Centre in Basildon. Much to the relief of the riders and supporters the evening remained dry, even if it felt like sub zero temperature outside! For Emily it was the first test that she has ridden without a leader. Amelia rode the Prelim 7 test, and was placed higher than Cathy who was in the same class, which is very impressive for her first ever test. Claire rode despite doctor's orders to the contrary.

The judge seemed to use a system of marking based on the lotto system of randomness, so maybe the results were not a very good indicator of the work put in by the riders preparing for the test or their excellent presentation on the day.

Walk and Trot Test:	Jenny Woodgate and Buffy	5th Place
	Sue Baker and Rukis	6th Place
Prelim 7:	Amelia and Jinks	3rd Place
	Cathy Glen and Chaos	5th Place
Prelim 10:	Philippa Wisbey	3rd Place

The other riders who rode their tests exceptionally well but were unfortunate not to have been placed were Angela Riley on Rukis, Emily Hulme on Jinks and Claire Howard on Chaos.

## Equitation Competition

The Equitation competition is run by the BHS to offer young non-horse owners throughout the UK the opportunity to compete and qualify for a national final. The competition consists of a dressage test, show jumping course and a set of equine related general knowledge questions. The two age groups in the competition are 13 years and Under, and 17 Years and Under. A regional qualifier was held at Skreens Park Farm on Friday 28th December 2007. All competitors rode exceptionally well with the top two riders from each category qualifying for the national finals at Warwickshire in May.

The results from the day were:

**13 Years and Under:**

1st Place: Gabby Oxlade and Rukis  
2nd Place: Elinor Cowen and Jinks  
3rd Place: Georgina Keam and Jinks

**17 Years and Under:**

1st Place: Philippa Wisbey and Rukis  
2nd Place: Laura Hill and Flea  
3rd Place: Jamie Entwistle and Flea  
4th Place: Anna Gregory and Chaos

A big well done to all the riders who worked hard practising for the day as well as in the competition itself.



Above: The Competitors with their rosettes

**Braintree Riding Club Dressage**

On Saturday 18th August a great day out was had by all of those who attended Braintree Riding Club's novice dressage day. For the majority of those competing this was to be their first ever dressage and everyone was definitely feeling very nervous. Despite the nerves and everyone being incredibly worried that they would forget their test, the standard of the riding by the entrants from Pied Horse was impressive, with everyone returning home with a rosette (Even Cathy!)

**Exam Success**

Huge congratulations to Student Instructor Jenny Woodgate for passing her BHS Stage 2 Horse Care and Knowledge Exam at Trent Park Equestrian Centre on the 5th November 2007. The examination lasts all day and candidates are examined on a wide range of subjects, ranging from the digestive and skeletal systems to lungeing.

**Other News**

As many of you may have seen, sweatshirts, coats and bodywarmers are now available with the Pied Horse logo. Another order will soon be placed with the supplier, so please see Cathy to order yours soon to avoid disappointment.

On Sunday 2nd February, Cathy and Loony, Dick and Rukis and Hannah and Chaos went for a trial run ride on Southend Beach. The horses enjoyed themselves and were well behaved. If you are interested in riding on the beach later on in the year, please speak to Cathy for more information.

**BHS Horse Owner's Certificate**

The Horse Owner's Certificates are offered at four levels of knowledge with regard to the care and management of the horse. Each level will be assessed in the form of a written paper. The first Level 1 course has just finished, but don't worry if you would like to take the Level 1 then there is another course starting on Wednesday 13th February - please see Cathy for details.

**BHS Exam Course Dates**

Horse Owners Certificate Level 1: 5 week course including exam, Wednesday evenings commencing 13th February.

Junior Progressive Riding Tests 1 and 5: Revision and exam 15th February

Senior Progressive Riding Test 1: Exam 27th March (evening)

Horse Owners Certificate Level 2: 5 week course including exam, Monday evenings commencing 31st March

Riding and Road Safety: Course and exam being held in May, Dates TBC

Stage 1 course: 6 week evening course, Thursdays commencing 5th June

Horse Owners Certificate Level 3: 6 week course including exam, Monday evenings commencing 14th July