

Hi everyone,

Merry Christmas!

A few general updates from the committee for this month's newsletter:

- **Membership for 2022** is due by 31st December and we are transitioning to an online process for the year ahead. Look out for a dedicated email with details very soon!
- Reminder: **Help vouchers** for 2019/2020 can be used up until March 22.
- **Spring/ Summer Training dates** are currently being finalised – keep an eye on the Events page of the website.



Christmas message from your chair

2021 has been another challenging year for everybody with many things cancelled at the beginning of the year and not knowing what the rest of the year was going to bring. We have been lucky to hold our events since the Summer and have been so lucky with sending teams out to qualifiers with amazing results meaning championships for many which has just been amazing.

A huge thank you to all of our members and supporters for your ongoing support through continued challenging times. Our committee again have worked tirelessly this year to make sure we run our events within the restrictions and guidance we have had to follow, thank you, these things do not happen without you.

Have a lovely Christmas and a Happy New Year from myself and all of the committee and look forward to seeing you in 2022.

Gina x

HELP – An important update

We understand peoples plans change but it is becoming untenable to run events without the commitment of our lovely members. We were so close to having to cancel the December Dressage due to lack of helpers, which would have been a huge disappointment for all the competitors and the hard-working organisers alike.

If we're going to be able to make the most of 2022 and put on a full programme of events, we need your support. The committee is down to 9 (should be at least 12) and membership help seems to be coming from the same stalwarts every time (who we are undyingly grateful for, Thank you!) Quite simply we can't run events without help, we really don't want to reduce the number of events or cancel anything, but WE NEED YOU! (and if you'd like to join us on the committee, even better!) The FEBRUARY dressage will only run if we get committed helpers by mid-January, so please step up!

Dressage Report

Once again we have had fabulous results from our dressage team members, and individual riders, of late.

The Intermediate Winter Qualifiers, back in October, had large and closely competed classes. Unfortunately on this occasion we were unable to field a team, but were represented well in the individual competition with Nikki Conlin and Jackie McGonigle unfortunately just out of the placings. Caroline Pluck placed 4th in Prelim 14 Seniors with a lovely ride on Charlotte Moore's Sophia, and Abbie Addiscott placed 2nd in the Junior Prelim.



Caroline then organised a team for the online 'Christmas Cracker' stakes. Abbie Addiscott, Charlotte Moore and Sarah Moore rode fab tests but just missed out on placings in their arenas. Jackie McGonigle was 3rd in her arena, Helen Burgess-Allen was 6th in her arena and Caroline Pluck was 4th in hers. The team of Charlotte, Abbie, Jackie and Caroline also finished 8th out of 40 teams, which is an amazing result!

Then this weekend SORC attended the Novice Winter Qualifiers, with new faces and first time team members. Special congratulations must go to Abbie Addiscott and Caroline Pluck, who won their classes and will be off to represent us once again at Champs! Also a big well done to first timer Gina Beamish, who placed joint 2nd in her Intro test, just below Caroline.

Finally, I would like to thank the first time dressage team riders, Gina, Lizzie Greenwood-Hughes, Rachel Ferraby and Trisha Mentzel, for stepping forward to represent us as a club. For your committee it is not all about the placings; we work hard to put on training and attend these events as we know you all work hard to enjoy this mad hobby we share, so I hope you all enjoyed the experience! We are always keen for new dressage team and individual riders to have a go; please let me know if there is anyone else who would like to have a go!

Pole & Jump Clinics at Pyatt's Farm

Every month, we're holding a Pole & Jump Clinic with the wonderful Rae Gatland-Hanlon at Pyatt's Farm, in their huge 40 x 80m all-weather arena.

Classes run from just poles, up the heights based on demand and cost just £30 (£35 for non-members) for a 1hr session.

Upcoming dates:

Sunday 23rd January

Sunday 13th February



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SORC Event Dates for 2022

Date	Event	Venue
5 th Feb	Open Dressage	BCA
10 th April	Indoor Showing Show	BCA
19 th June	SORC Open Show (+ Dressage Qualifier)	Henley Showground, Hambleden
6 th November	Open Show Jumping	BCA
4 th December	Open Dressage	BCA

Qualifier Event Dates for 2022

Date	Event	Venue	Organiser
27 th Feb	Winter SJ	BCA	HWRC & TVRC
19 th March	Combined Training (FOH)	Bury Farm	BORC
10 th April	Combined Challenge	Munstead	Area 6 & 11
27 th May	Horse Trials	Snowball Farm	HWRC
19 th June	Summer Dressage	Hambleden @ SORC Open Show	SORC
10 th July	Summer SJ	BCA	HWRC & TVRC
21 st August	Dressage to Music	BCA	TVRC/Area 6

National Event Dates for 2022

Date	Event	Venue
11-13 March	Arena Eventing Champs	Aston Le Walls
26-27 March	Novice Winter Champs	Arena UK, Grantham
22-24 April	Intermediate Winter Champs	Bury Farm
21-22 May	Combined Champs (prev FOH)	Aston Le Walls
5-7 August	Horse Trails	Swalcliffe Park
3-4 September	National Championships	Lincolnshire Showground
Autumn Half Term	Dressage to Music & Introductory Champs & Quadrille	Hartpury University

Training Grant – The story of Tucano!

By Sally Wells

I was so thrilled to be awarded a SORC training grant at last years' Virtual AGM. Initially I planned to spend it training my 2nd foal, Temba, but that wasn't to be.

Some of you will remember my crazy bay mare, Maxie. She had to take early retirement in 2010 due to a shredded lateral collateral ligament in her knee. Vet suggested I could consider breeding which is not something I had previously thought about. However I then remembered a conversation at an earlier SORC camp at MK with Sarah Williams who described this lovely stallion called Challon Z, who had the best temperament and passed that on to his progeny. One or two other respected contacts also recommended Challon and following a bit more research and going to meet the big dude in 2010, everything was arranged.

Tucano was due on 12th April 2012, but Maxie held on for a full month – probably due to the horrendous stormy weather that characterised 2012. Tucano was born on 12th May – a massive foal. He was a very friendly foal but quite a drama king, and although the spitting image of his Dad, he didn't seem to have inherited his easy nature. I had put in an order for a 16hh ish beast, so realised I was in big doo doos when he was bigger than that at 22 months! Now approx. 17.1hh.

He was very lightly backed by the very light and highly competent Vic Richards at 3 and to be fair, he was a superstar.



Vic said "I don't want to burst your bubble, but if they are easy at 3, they are often (a nightmare) at 4!" And so it proved. Even Vic, who thinks it hilarious to go broncing across her arena on something, found she had to rummage for her brave pants to get on him and lick him into anything approaching safe for me to sit on. He might have been the smartest on her yard but he was also the sharpest. I rode him a lot that summer at Vic's, just light hacking - but having no help at home and unsuitable hacking here it was decided that he'd stay at Vic's then come home to be turned away.

I sent him back to Vic early April 2017 for a quick re-start, but something was clearly wrong. Everything had changed and he was unmanageable. I quickly went and got him home as it was clearly pain related and I didn't want Vic, or Tucano, or a member of the public to be hurt. Diagnostics revealed 2 kissing spines under the saddle area. He had ligament snip end of April and spent rest of the year doing strenuous (for me) in-hand rehab.



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Turned away for the winter and re-started at home by Ellie Kay May 2018. She came a couple of times a week and I got back on in August. All was relatively fine. He was still quite reactive and explosive at times but we pottered on. I had some super lessons at home with Susie early 2019, but needed to get him out. I took him to camp at Aston le Walls end of August with Chainie Worrall. It was a great but challenging couple of days and when I got home again I could see he wasn't happy. Vet called and diagnosed bi lateral hind limb lameness. This was just the start! Suffice to say that the autumn/winter of 2019/20 was horrendous. Apart from it being the wettest winter I can remember which had all of us on our knees anyway. But at the end of it, his veterinary record read like War and Peace and I'd eaten substantially into my savings to pay the vet bills (not covered of course).



When I started riding him again after 1st lockdown, I had a big problem. He was plunging his head violently and frequently to the ground. It was just completely unmanageable. I couldn't get him out of the way of vehicles on the road and didn't dare go out of a walk as he would still do it in trot and I was likely to end up as a sling shot! He was worse in the school and became very hostile. I felt all his many issues were just too much or too painful for either of us to deal with. The blood bank was suggested by friends at this point. However he looked so fab flouncing around the field that I decided to try one more thing. I got Ellie to come and sit on him (well briefed of course) and after he threw the kitchen sink at her, she charmed him into doing 5 minutes of lovely loose trot work. So I thought it was worth both of us having a circuit breaker and sent him out on loan to Elise Clement's yard where she quietly got him back working again with careful management. He stayed in work with her friend Flora, and I rode him there without problems once or twice a month, then he came home to me end of August.

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He's a different boy now – he's the horse I was trying to breed. I am over the moon and surprised to find that he is the one who deserves to make use of this training grant. We've had some flatwork lessons, some lovely lessons with Jayne Connors and we've also jumped at BCA with Lucy Jackson and at Kingsey with Mandy McGlynn. I'd like to use the training grant for these sessions. He's still sharp at times but so much more rideable and consistent and I'm really enjoying him. For the first time in our partnership, I see progress each week. After the journey we've been on, I'm just thrilled to be able to ride him from home, and am happy to take things one step at a time and see where it leads. Who knows, we might even be able to ride for SORC again one day as I've enjoyed doing so much in the past with Paddy Joe!

This photo is from Lucy's clinic end of October:

