

NORTH WEST REGION

For more details Contact Lou Jones RDO
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Introduction

Hello and Welcome to February and March's news from British Dressage in the North West. In this newsletter you can read about your New NW RDO Lou Jones and how she would like to help you the members; Tracey Moseley's experience of getting to the Nationals, getting placed and being 6 months pregnant at the time; Michelle Prince CCO for Staffordshire 'from Sanctuary to the Muppets'; An exciting new development with Hoof Portal website; Information regarding the up and coming Senior Inter Regional competition / viewing days and selection criteria; Information on A premier dressage display; BYRDS; Tiara Ball update 2011; Retraining of Racehorses (RoR) to Dressage Series 2012; Test riding – The Truth!, and as ever advertisements and future events listings.

If you would like to send us your news then please email lou.jones@britishdressage.co.uk

Your New RDO for North West



My name is Lou Jones; I am ideally located in Fazeley, Staffordshire, right at the heart of the region. Some of you may have seen my introduction on the newsfeed on the BD website, but if you haven't, then here is a little snippet. Horses have been my life since the tender age of just six months old and while my early career was in show-jumping; my home-bred Irish Sport Horse 'Sam' has given me a new found passion for dressage. I am a grass roots rider in this arena; however I have found the discipline involved has greatly improved our way of working together as a team. The majority of my working career has been spent in the Police force. Starting with the West Midlands Police Mounted Section. After the closure of the Mounted Section I redeployed into the intriguing world of forensics to become the Lead Forensic Scene Manager for West Midlands Police before public sector cuts dissolved the role. I am married with two children Alice (9) & Gracey (5). I also have a passion of photography and have been working freelance since leaving the Police as well as part-time work at my local riding school. I feel that my previous experience and knowledge of all things equestrian will help me in this new role. My aim is to look at all areas of BD, with more localised training clinics, Para opportunities, and a variety of judge training that hopefully will meet the demand of individual's needs. I have already had some great feedback from members and given time I hope to deliver. It is a great opportunity for me and I'm looking forward to meeting you all out and about.

North West News Stories



My Nationals experience: By Tracey Moseley

We arrived on the Wednesday to get my bearings, attend the arena walk and have a schooling session with my trainer. Spotting the championship arenas made me feel excited but nervous at the thought of competing in that arena the following day....they were so impressive! Wills' good behaviour and the support from my trainer (Claire Gaskin of TG Dressage) helped to keep me at ease, as it's not much fun working-in whilst 6 months pregnant with other horses playing-up around you. I took her to the arena walk, expecting her to have issues with the lovely (yet spooky looking) archway entrance to the arena which was decorated with flowers, but Wills surprised me and walked straight under it. The one thing she didn't seem overly keen on was how well polished the judges' cars were. That night Willow settled really well into her stable with her dinner and hay net. On the Thursday I greeted Wills with her breakfast early in the morning, giving me time to spruce her up and tack her up for the arena walk. The warm-up arena that morning was less crowded so was more enjoyable to work in, allowing my trainer to put us through our paces. Wills still seemed relaxed and when it was time for us to walk out of the warm-up arena and under that archway a wave of butterflies hit me, but as soon as I put Wills into trot and then canter, making our way around the arena before the start bell rang, my mind was solely on Wills and the test that lay ahead of us and the butterflies had disappeared. Although she made me work hard for it, Wills performed a lovely flowing and accurate test which was mistake-free. She didn't spook or seem fazed and after our final salute, even though I felt at times we could have had a little bit more 'sparkle', I was really chuffed with our test and with Wills' behaviour which had helped me through the entire Nationals experience. As we were 5th on in the competition, it was really nerve-racking (not only for me, but also for my trainer, my family and friends that were there supporting me the entire time) waiting for all the other competitors to compete and watching their scores come in. Out of a 27 strong class, I was thrilled to find out at the end of the class that we'd made it to 9th place and would be in the prize giving. To top that off Wills also won Best Placed British Bred Horse, so we had two enormous rosettes to strut around the prize-giving! I was so pleased with Wills that I decided to treat her to a beautiful new sparkly brow band from one of the many lovely showground shops, which she wore for the prize-giving, where she found her usual spark and really showed off her paces to everyone.....the feeling was indescribable, totally amazing! What a day! I found everything ran really smoothly and enjoyed the whole Nationals experience.



From Sanctuary to the Muppets

For Michelle Prince riding to her music always makes her smile as it includes an extract from The Muppets. But she had an extra reason to smile when she scored 70 per cent in her Novice Music competition.

Michelle, aged 42, is the county co-ordinator for Staffordshire. Riding her Lipizzaner x Hanoverian to music prepared by Listed Judge Jenny Johnson she achieved 70 per cent.

But it is even more significant as Fable as he was taken on by Michelle from the Mare and Foal Sanctuary in Devon in 2008.

"He had 10 months off when I was recovering from a cross country fall which left me with a broken back and neck," Michelle explains. "He is a bit of a drama queen, but gets over things quickly once he has sorted his twisted knickers out. I backed him myself and he is absolutely my horse – I love him to bits.

"I wanted something to help him get more confidence as he is still a baby after being started late. I thought that noise he recognised might help him to settle and relax away from home."

Michelle, who trains with Steph Cooper and Claire Ballantyne, has been working on her floor-plan and improving Fable's pages and progressing to Elementary.

Jenny Johnson works with Helen Bradley to provide floor plans and music for those wanting to take part in dressage to music. For details of clinics checkout the British Dressage website and look on the North West Region page.

Exciting new development – Hoof Portal Website

We are delighted to inform you that the British Equestrian Federation (BEF) and its Member Bodies are, with the support of Sport England grant funding, setting up a portal website www.hoofride.co.uk to promote horse riding and the benefits of equestrian activities.

Members of the public will be able to access information on horse riding, driving and vaulting with advice on how to get involved from beginner level upwards. The site will then direct visitors on to the Member Bodies of the BEF appropriate for their interests and skill sets. We will be implementing this website alongside a sustained marketing and PR campaign to promote equestrianism as a sport and capitalise on the anticipated interest generated by the Olympic & Paralympic Games.

One key element of the Hoof website will be the ability to carry out a search of equestrian facilities by geographical area. A year ago BD provided the BEF with the location of all the venues where Affiliated Dressage takes place. The more detail provided on a listed centre

then the more likely it is that people will be attracted to that facility. At present the data available in relation to your facility is limited and does not include any personal information or comprehensive detail regarding the precise nature of the services which you provide.

Should you wish us to include further information/detail to promote your facility please complete the online survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/hoof-facilities-survey-2012> and we can then ensure that the details are complete. You should note that there is no charge for this service.

A Premier Dressage display

Some of the top riders will show their skills as the Premier League comes to the North West in 2012.

Just months before the world's best riders compete in the Olympics in London, people can enjoy top class competition close to home.

In March the Premier League dressage comes to Myerscough College, in Lancashire and then in May it arrives at Somerford Park, in Cheshire.

The top class competition is open to spectators with a limited entry fee to see many of the classes including the dressage to music competition.

"There can be no better inspiration for riders than to see the top riders in action," said Lou Jones, British Dressage North West Regional Development Officer. "We are lucky that there are two competitions within the region that we can all enjoy."

The Premier League takes place at Myerscough College between 8 and 11 March and details are available on their website. It then returns to the region between 25 and 27 May at Somerford Park in Cheshire. Watch this space for more details.

BYRDS NW Dr. Moira Lafferty

The British Young Riders Dressage Scheme (BYRDS) caters for all riders between the ages of 6 – 25 years of age. There is no joining fee and you can take part in all our activities even if you are not yet a member of British Dressage.

BYRDS NW is a really friendly group with lots of regional training and team opportunities throughout the year. Whether your first love is eventing and you need to practise the all-important dressage phase or you just want to develop your flat work come along and get involved. Everyone is welcome and to find out more about our activities log on to the web

http://www.britishdressage.co.uk/your_regions/north_west_region#byrds where you will find our Diary of Events for 2012 and our December newsletter full of reports written by our members. You can also email me on

moira.lafferty@o2.co.uk or give me a ring on 07808 924695. Look forward to seeing you soon. Moira

Senior Inter-Regional Competition

WOULD YOU LIKE TO REPRESENT THE NORTH WEST REGION

AT THE 2012 SENIOR INTER REGIONAL COMPETITION

AT THE COLLEGE, BEDS ON 19th & 20th MAY

We are looking for dedicated riders & team players to represent the region from Prelim to PSG level. If you are consistently achieving scores above 67% (prelim & novice) 65% (elementary & medium) and 64% (A Med & PSG) and would like to be considered to represent the region at this competition, please register your interest by completing and returning to Lou Jones the application form to attend one of the viewing days, where the selectors will be in attendance and team selection will be made.

CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS IS 9TH MARCH

VIEWING DAYS / TEAM SELECTION:

Saturday 17th March @ Reaseheath, Cheshire

Sunday 18th March at Watt Meadow, Staffordshire

TEAM BUILDING DAY – SUNDAY 6th MAY @ Rodbaston College, Staffs

[Click Here to take you direct to webpage](#)

Wanted : Lancashire County Co-ordinator

Are you good at organising, do you have some experience of competitions, and have you a little time to help British Dressage?

We are looking to recruit the last CCO to complete the North West Region. Your role would be to liaise with venues in your area, maintain BD boards, use Facebook, Twitter and Forums to let people in your County know what's happening.

For more information please contact Lou Jones at lou.jones@britishdressage.co.uk

Flying High at the British Dressage North West Ball

Hundreds of dressage enthusiasts joined together in November to celebrate at the annual British Dressage North West Ball. The ball organised by Brenda and Ron Pamplin raised almost £8,000 with half being donated to the North West Air Ambulance to support their work in the region. In a busy evening there were plenty of bids on the many items that went under the hammer in the auction. Auction items included a VIP trip to the Nationals, gym membership and a lesson with Richard

Davison. The ball was also an opportunity to recognise the contribution of the former North West Regional Development Officer Elaine Gray. Dancing went on late into the night with people celebrating a successful 2011 for dressage in the North West.

Retraining of Racehorses (RoR) to Dressage Series 2012

Run at Prelim, Novice and Elementary this series runs from 1st January through to 30th September 2012, and is open to registered RoR horses ridden by BD members. The RoR Racehorse to Dressage Series culminates in a Final with a prize fund of £2,000 (1st £300, 2nd £200, 3rd £100 in each of the three sections), including rugs to each of the winners.

To qualify to compete in the final, riders must submit two qualifying test sheets, gained in regular competitions, to the RoR (originals not copies) with a percentage of 62% [or above]. Qualifying can come from Open, Restricted or Training sections; however there will only be one Open class at each level at the Final. Please note that horses must be registered with BD or compete on a ticket to compete at Novice level and above.

Horses may compete in a maximum of two levels at the RoR Racehorse to Dressage Final. The dressage tests for the Final are Class 1 P19, Class 2 N35 and Class 3 E53. Full details of fees, entry criteria and closing date to be advised later this year.

The Final will take place at Vale View Equestrian, Nr Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire, alongside their winter High Profile Show from 8th November to 10th November 2012.

New for 2012 – RoR Prelim classes

RoR have expanded their involvement with BD and in 2012 in addition to the above series there will be 4 dedicated RoR Prelim classes. The classes will take place alongside selected Area Festivals and will be open to BD members and non-members riding horses which are registered with RoR. These classes are not qualifiers however the sheets may be used toward qualification for the Racehorse to Dressage Horse Series. RoR will provide a jacket to winner of each class and rosettes to all who compete.

RoR Prelim Classes will take place at the following Area Festivals;

Weston Lawns	Warwickshire	18 – 19 Aug
West Wilts	Wiltshire	18 - 19 Aug
Rowallan	Ayrshire, Scotland	24 – 26 Aug
Northallerton	North Yorkshire	22 – 23 Sep

To find out more about RoR and how to register your horse with them please see - www.ror.org.uk or email info@ror.org.uk

Test Riding Clinics

– The Truth

British Dressage North West Region runs many test riding clinics to help riders prepare for competitions. Here we ask one rider what she thinks about them.



Mother-of-two Lisa Sergeant has an enviable record of dressage success including with her current horse Monkey Puzzle V.

The 31-year-old based in St Annes, Lancashire, has trained a horse to Advanced Medium, broken five of her own horses, competed at national level and represented the North West region at the Senior Inter Regionals and the Home International. She regularly uses the test riding clinics to assist her riding.

"I got into them mainly in preparing for the Inter Regional and Home International competitions that I represented the North West region for and in preparation for the Regional Champs," Lisa explained.

"I think the best thing is getting the judge's opinion, knowing what the judge is looking for in a particular movement ie angle of half pass/shoulder-in/travers etc, and finding out what exactly they can see from being sat at C.

"Helen Bradley also gave me vital tips and exercises to do to help me improve the bits of the test that weren't as good as other bits. Also, little things like taking my time in the halt, making sure it is established before riding the rein back, where to aim for in the half passes to make sure you get there just before the marker, ready for the next movement. Just little things like that that help you go on to ride an accurate test which can stop you throwing marks away.

"Whilst training is very important, I think it's crucial to get things from a judges point of view, as it is them that give us those all- important marks out of 10 in the arena."

The aim she has for this year is to move to compete at Advanced Medium taking the 17h nine-year-old coloured gelding as far as he can go.

For more details about test riding clinics go to the North West region pages on the British Dressage website.

North West Training Clinics - February & March

For further information and dates, please visit the webpage at
www.britishdressage.co.uk/your_regions/north_west_region

With Richard Hope

At Stourport Riding Centre, Hartlebury Road, Stourport. DY139JD. Each lesson will last approximately 45mins. Cost BD member £40.00 / Non-BD member £45.00. Clinic Organiser – Suzi Douglas-Osbourne, for further information, booking details and times please contact Suzi on 07985101635 or e-mail suzi7@btopenworld.com

Dates – 24th February, 23rd March 2012

With Helen Bradley

At Merecourt Stud, Mythop Road, Blackpool FY44XB. Private lessons approx. 40 mins. Cost BD member £40.00 / Non BD members £45.00. Semi-private lessons – BD members £25.00 / non BD members £30.00. Alternative test riding available if preferred. For further information, booking details and times, please contact Nicola Smith on 07985101635 or email Nicola.equestrian@live.com

Dates – 25th March 2012

With Isobel Wessels

At Kings Equestrian Centre, Bromyard, Herefordshire. Private lessons approx. 40 mins. Cost BD members £75.00 / non BD members £80.00. For further information, booking details and times please contact Judith Harris on 01885400320 or email rainbow43jh@aol.com

Dates – 7th March 2012

With Isobel Wessels

At Knowsley Hall, Nr Liverpool (by kind permission of Lady Derby) Private lessons approx. 40 mins. Cost BD members £70.00 / non BD members £75.00. For further information, booking details and times please contact Helen Bradley on 01995643115 / 07711193001 or email hjbradley@btinternet.com

Dates – 21 & 22nd March 2012

With Kate Cowell

At Kingswood Equestrian Centre, Wolverhampton, WV7 3AH. Private lessons with Kate (40 mins) Cost: Members £45.00 / Non-members £50.00 For further information, booking details and times, please contact Debbie Tandy on 07828 201702 or email Debbie at debbietandy@uwclub.net

Dates – 27th February, 26th March 2012

With Kate Cowell

At Crow Wood Equestrian Centre, Burnley, Lancs. Private lessons with Kate (40 mins) Cost: Members £50.00 / Non-members £55.00 For further information, booking details and times, please contact Rebecca McNair on 07977426655 or email rebecca@logwoodstables.co.uk

Dates - 18th March 2012

With Kate Cowell

At Allens Hill Competition Centre,
Persore, Worcestershire, W102DU.
Private lessons with Kate (40 mins) Cost:
Members £45.00 / Non-members £50.00
For further information, booking details
and times, please contact Sue Harcombe
on 07792573507 / 01568760649 or email
mr.raindrop@hotmail.co.uk

Dates -28th February, 20th March 2012

With Clive Halsall

At Walton Fold Farm, Longridge,
Lancashire. Private lessons with Clive (45
mins) Cost: Members £45.00 / Non-
members £50.00 For further information,
booking details and times, please contact
Ellen Eccles on 07889273367 or email
ej.eccles@btinternet.com

Dates -12th March 2012

With Helen Bradley

Test Riding Clinics

At Croft Riding Centre, Croft, Nr
Warrington, Cheshire WA37AS Cost:
Members £40.00 / Non-members £45.00
For further information, booking details
and times, please contact Ellen Eccles on
07889273367 or email
ej.eccles@btinternet.com

Dates – 4th March 2012

With Helen Bradley

Para-equestrian Training

At Croft Riding Centre, Croft, Nr
Warrington, Cheshire WA37AS Cost: £15
for 40 mins. For further information,
booking details and times, please contact
Ellen Eccles on 07889273367 or email
ej.eccles@btinternet.com

Dates – 4th March 2012

Pilates

Mounted Pilates at Myerscough, Lancs - DATE - 6th April 2012 with Steven Wright. £22.00 per rider for an hours session. To reserve a place or for further information, please contact Helen Bradley (NW Region Members Rep) on 01995 643115 / 077111 93001 or email Helen at hjbradley@btinternet.com

At Burley Gate Village Hall, Herefordshire with Alexandra Lyons - Body Control Pilates Instructor. A six week course - £48.00 (class size limited) Commencing: 23rd February 2012 - 7pm - 8pm. To reserve a place or for further information, please contact Sarah Leitch (NW region Judges Rep) on 01432820510 / 07974 191947 or email Sarah at sarahleitch@btinternet.com

At Myerscough College, Lancashire with Steven Wright - £30.00 (class size limited), Commencing: 16th February 2012 - 8pm - 9pm. To reserve a place or for further information please contact Helen Bradley on 01995643115 / 07711193001 or email Helen on hjbradley@btinternet.com

These are mat based classes using controlled movements to strengthen the deep core abdominal muscles, improving body shape,
For cancellation on the day or part way through a course no refund will be paid. Bookings cancelled prior to the start of a course may not be eligible for a refund unless the space on the course can be filled.

Dressage to Music Clinics

With **Helen Bradley** (Trainer & List 2A Judge) & **Jenny Johnson**.

25th March at Reaseheath College, Cheshire

27th March at Crow Wood Equestrian Centre, Burnley, Lancashire

For further information and to check availability of places, contact Jenny Johnson on 07734976978 or via email at jennyjohnson2012@live.co.uk
BD members £125.00 / Non BD Members £150.00 – For more details of the programme please view the webpage at www.britishdressage.co.uk/your_regions/_north_west_region

Judge Training Dates

22nd February – Training Session at Myerscough Winter Regionals with **Clive Halsall** – Ad Me

23rd February – Training Session at Myerscough Winter Regionals with **Helen Bradley** – Med

24th February – Training Session at Myerscough Winter Regional with **Judith Harris** – Elem

25th February – Training Session at Myerscough Winter Regionals with **Andrea Smith** – Nov

1st March – DVD Session with **Judith Harris** in Herefordshire – 7pm

13th March – DVD Session with **Helen Bradley** in Lancashire – 7pm

To check availability and or further information please contact your RDO – For cancellation on the day or part way through a course no refund will be paid. Bookings cancelled prior to the start of the course may not be eligible for a refund unless the space on the course can be filled.

UKCC Taster with Anne Keen Coach Educator and Assessor

Come and find out about the UKCC level 2 and 3 coaching qualifications and how they can help you to improve your coaching skills.

During this informal session Anne will explain the requirements of UKCC qualifications including the individual portfolio work. You will have the opportunity to participate in some fun mini coaching sessions and to ask questions about the syllabus and assessments. All levels of coaches are very welcome, as are riders and judges who are interested in developing their coaching skills.

Being held at Kingswood Equestrian Centre 5th March 2012 from 6.30pm – Cost £10.00 per person, for more booking information and details, please contact Helen Bradley at hjbradley@btinternet.com

Advertisements

Jenny Loriston- Clarke FBHS

Date 6th March 2012

Training Clinic at Ingestre Stables, Stafford ST18 ORE. Lessons will be of 45 minutes duration and will cost £75 per session. Limited numbers of spectators will be welcome at a cost of £10 for the whole or part of the day. If you wish to be considered for a riding place on this clinic please email Tim Downes at tim@ingestre.com or phone 01889271165

For Sale - 13.3hh, Dark bay, Just turned 11ys with very low mileage. Fantastic paces, with a great hind leg and super engine, willing to learn, has lateral work established and a great medium trot and canter! He loves to jump too, xc and sj -so would event Irish Sports Pony. Rolo has been used as a Working Hunter Pony, and has been to pony club etc-Currently being schooled by an eventer at Whitchurch/Nantwich. £5,500 incl tack and all rugs 07802 353019 susieking@balfours.co.uk

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bB82eHcvk2w>



Emergency Services Horse Show Thursday 31st May ~ 3rd June 2012

Classes to include
Dressage
Dressage to Music
Showjumping
6 Bar Challenge
Venue

International Indoor Arena
Aintree Racecourse, Liverpool

www.bluelighthorseoftheyearshow.co.uk

Would you like to advertise here?

For Just £25.00

All you have to do is send us your advert and we will do the rest for you.

Email: lou.jones@britishdressage.co.uk

Would you like to be a volunteer?

Somerford Park are looking for volunteers to help with the Premier league on the 25th-27th May 2012.

If you are interested then please contact Julian at mail@millbankequestrian.com or lou.jones@britishdressage.co.uk

With Thanks to Amanda Coleman and Lou Jones