

HAMPSHIRE HORSE

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NOVEMBER 2008 (Issue 48)

What's On:

Sun 2 Nov: Table Top Tack Sale, in aid of South Hants Pony & Horse Protection Group. At Wickham Community centre, Mill Lane, Wickham. 12.30 - 2.30pm 11.30 for Traders. Tables £8. Admission 30p. Refreshments available. Call (01489) 790982 or e-mail shphpg@hotmail.co.uk for details or to book

Wed 5, 12, 26 Nov: Clear Round Evening, Crofton Manor EC, Titchfield Road, Stubbington, Fareham PO14 3EW. To book half hour slot pls call Jemma Sheppard on 07500 660049. www.croftonmanor.co.uk

Sat 8 Nov: Dressage Clinic with Roland Tong (World Championship rider and National Dressage Champion), at Little Leigh Farm EC, nr Rowlands Castle. 45 minute private lesson, special offer £45. Contact Lorraine Lewis, Tel 023 9241 3687, Email lozzie_lewisa@btconnect.com

Mon 10, 17, 24 Nov: Flatwork Evening, Crofton Manor EC, Titchfield Road, Stubbington, Fareham PO14 3EW. To book half hour slot pls call Jemma Sheppard on 07500 660049. www.croftonmanor.co.uk

Fri 14, Fri 28 Nov: Fiona Foy Dressage Clinic, Ladycross, Brockenhurst, Hants, SO42 7QL. Dressage clinic, all levels welcome. Lovely quiet venue, large arena (outdoor), good parking etc. Very friendly. Good for young horses. All bookings strictly through Fiona 07968 059434. www.fionafoy.co.uk

Sun 16 Nov, Sun 18 Jan 09, Sat 14 Feb, Sun 15 Mar: Indoor Horse Driving Trials at Sparsholt College, 9am – 5pm. Competitors and Spectators welcome. Contact Brenda May on 01590682356 for entries.

Thu 20 Nov: Fiona Foy Dressage Clinic, Al Kingston Stud, Plovers Barrow, Toms Lane, Linwood, Ringwood. Training Clinic. All levels. Outdoor 60m x 20m all weather arena. For details contact Fiona on 07968 059434. Spaces limited. Booking essential. www.fionafoy.co.uk

Sun 23 Nov: Lecture Demo with Jenny Hadland, physiotherapist. Braishfield Manor, nr Romsey, 10am. Organised by BHS Hampshire. Tickets £10, all welcome. Send an SAE with your cheque (payable to "BHS Hampshire"), and contact details to Miss K Harvey, 3 Duke Road, Hedge End, Southampton, Hampshire, SO30 0PF. Tel. 01489 691943 Email: events@BHS Hampshire.org.uk

Sat 29 Nov: Pippa and William Funnell Masterclass. Top 400 BSJA riders have been invited to compete at Crofton Manor EC. 7pm start, doors open 6pm. Refreshments available. Tickets in advance £15 each (12yrs and under £10) Family ticket £40 (2 adults/2children). Limited seats available. Speed Stakes Class, followed by masterclass, finish with Grand Prix. Download booking form www.croftonmanor.co.uk, tel 01329 667323

Sun 30 Nov: PHPA Winter Dressage, Thorney Island, nr Emsworth. 10am start. Novice Mobility (walk & trot), Prelim 4 (restricted and open), Novice 20 Open. Entry fee £10 (£8 PHPA members). Pre-entries only. Contact Julie Brown, 88 Redwing Road, Clanfield, Waterlooville PO8 0LX, Tel 07504 815112 (evenings), email brown.julie2@sky.com

Winchester Riding Club

Open Unaffiliated Dressage Competition to be held at Sparsholt College

Sunday 23 Nov, Saturday 21 Feb 2009 & Sunday 29 March 2009

More details can be obtained from Mrs Sue Knight-Jones, The Beeches, Duke Street, Michedever, Winchester SO21 3DF. Tel 01962 774064, or from the website www.winchesterridingclub.co.uk

Tue 2 Dec: Tim Stockdale Lecture/Demo, Improve your Show jumping, Crofton Manor EC, Titchfield Road, Stubbington, Fareham PO14 3EW. Tim will be bringing his own horses with him to help demonstrate the show jumping techniques and solutions that have taken him to the very top. Tickets £25.00 for adults £18.00 for children (12 years and under). Group discount buy 10 tickets and receive 1 ticket free. Tickets on the night will be subject to availability and cost £30 and £25 respectively. Doors open at 6.30 with a chance to meet Tim prior to the performance which will start at 7.00. Refreshments will be available plus a question and answer session at the end. For further information visit www.timontour.co.uk. Order form available to download at www.croftonmanor.co.uk

Wed 3, Mon 15 Dec: Fiona Foy Dressage Clinic, Al Kingston Stud, Plovers Barrow, Toms Lane, Linwood, Ringwood. Training Clinic. All levels. Outdoor 60m x 20m all weather arena. For details contact Fiona on 07968 059434. Spaces limited. Booking essential. www.fionafoy.co.uk

Wed 3 Dec: Clear Round Evening, Crofton Manor EC, Titchfield Road, Stubbington, Fareham PO14 3EW. To book half hour slot pls call 07500 660049. www.croftonmanor.co.uk

Mon 8 Dec: Flatwork Evening, Crofton Manor EC, Titchfield Road, Stubbington, Fareham PO14 3EW. To book half hour slot pls call 07500 660049. www.croftonmanor.co.uk

Sat 13 Dec: Winchester Riding Club Christmas Show Jumping, Sparsholt College. Entries secretary: Deborah Smythe, 10 Mary Lane, North Waltham, Basingstoke RG25 2BY, email wrc.mag@btinternet.com www.winchesterridingclub.co.uk

Fri 19 Dec: **Fiona Foy Dressage Clinic**, Ladycross, Brockenhurst, Hants, SO42 7QL. Dressage clinic, all levels welcome. Lovely quiet venue, large arena (outdoor), good parking etc. Very friendly. Good for young horses. All bookings strictly through Fiona 07968 059434. www.fionafoy.co.uk

Sun 28 Dec: **Fawley Riding Club Christmas Show**, Upper Mullins Lane, Hythe, Southampton. Contact 023 8084 3366 or email fawleyridingclub@aol.com

Wed 7, Wed 21 Jan 09: **Clear Round Evening**, Crofton Manor EC, Titchfield Road, Stubbington, Fareham PO14 3EW. To book half hour slot pls call 07500 660049. www.croftonmanor.co.uk

Sun 5 Apr: **BHS Fun Ride at Rockbourne**, nr Fordingbridge. Start times between 9.30am -12.30pm. Send SAE to Secretary – Sue Bailey, The Laurels, Forester Road, Soberton, Southampton, SO32 3QG. Tel 01329 835376, email sue.bailey77@btinternet.com. Entries open Jan 09. Sorry no entries on the day. Details at www.BHSHampshire.org.uk



The Canter and Gallop

It can be hard to influence the canter if the rider is still awed by the speed of it as it does require quicker thinking and action. However, the same basic principles apply as in walk and trot. To slow down the canter the pace should be checked when the horse's shoulders are lifted, as this is the moment when the rider has the most control.

Imagine asking the horse to hesitate just at this point in the stride. A common problem with less forward horses is to find that as soon as you get into canter you are back in trot. This is often caused by the rider freezing as they go into the canter. Therefore do not forget to ride actively in canter and keep applying the leg aids. As soon as you feel that lift of the shoulders, which means the horse is about to canter, use your legs again to encourage the horse forward into the canter.

There is often a lot of confusion about the canter aid as it differs from that of walk and trot. The leg aids for canter are: inside leg on the girth and outside leg slightly behind the girth. The uneven leg aids for canter tells the horse which leg you want him to lead on. Some horses may respond more to one leg aid than the other and so you may need to experiment with the balance to get it just right for the horse you are riding. If you do not get a transition when you want one it does not help to move your outside leg even further back, simply apply stronger aids.

A common fault with riders who are worried they may get left behind is to lose rein contact as the transition is made. If you suffer from this problem then keep your hands low so you can use the neck to keep your hands steady - but keep that contact!

The horse should lead on the inside foreleg, this is because the horse balances best on turns and circles this way, and therefore it is important to get it right. It is not unusual to find a horse who does not like to lead on one or other leg; this is because he may be unevenly muscled and/or lack suppleness. Think of this type of horse as an athlete who only ever trained by running one way round the running track and how uncomfortable it would be for him to run round the other way. You can also encourage the horse to take the correct lead by asking for canter as you ride into a corner or turn, keeping the contact especially on the outside rein and making sure you have the horse bent a little to the inside before you ask.

If you have trouble telling which leg you are on these tips should help:

- Once you have a good canter going (cantering on the lunge can be extremely useful for this exercise) concentrate on what you feel in your hips. You should feel your inside hip being taken a little more forward with the leading foreleg. When the horse is on the wrong leg it often feels very unbalanced (although not always).
- If you cannot feel which leg is leading, the cultivation of a glance downwards which does not affect your body position will help. As you feel the horse's shoulders rise, glance down the horse's inside shoulder and you should see the toe of that foot flick in front of the shoulder. Watch for this flick until you know just what to look for and then you will be able to spot it with just a quick glance.

The gallop is generally performed out hacking or perhaps if are able to ride in a field, rather than in a school. This is because it requires a good amount of space to get up speed and decelerate again.

The gallop is not something that involves being "out of control" as this pace can be varied and controlled just like any other. Gallop is most often ridden in a forward seat that is very similar to the jumping position. To achieve this, as when jumping, you may wish to shorten your stirrups. The aim is to hover just above the saddle supporting yourself on your knees and stirrups without pulling on the reins to hold your position.

Some horses may get excitable and strong in the gallop and in this case it can help to bridge your reins, as this gives you a secure contact. Bridging your reins means once the rein has passed between your thumb and fore finger it goes across the horse's neck to your other hand where it is held between your thumb and forefinger. You can do this with one or both reins. Keep your hands low, resting them on the horse's neck if you wish.

In order to gallop, first go into a canter and then adopt a forward seat; then use both legs to ask the horse to gradually accelerate. When you want to stop steady the pace with your reins and sit back down into the saddle. Here are some further tips.

- Don't try to gallop if your control in canter is uncertain!
- Pick a good piece of level or slightly uphill ground which is straight and gives you plenty of time to see ahead and stop if need be.
- If you're not sure you'll be able to stop, practice in an enclosed field at first.
- Don't try and go too fast. You should feel that you could stop at any moment should you need to.
- Remember that the riding arena is too small a space in which to practice galloping!
- Oh and enjoy it too!

If you should find that you can't stop then keep calm, sit down in the saddle and sit up straight. If the pace is too fast or unbalanced for you to sit to reasonably then stay in forward seat. Don't get into a tug-of-war with the horse by continually pulling on the reins but try short pulls on the reins, releasing in-between until the horse listens. If this has little or no effect, and there is room, the easiest thing to do is to ride ever decreasing circles. As the horse circles it will slow up to balance itself and then you can stop. If circling is not possible then place one hand firmly on the neck with the crest of the neck between your thumb and fingers and pull firmly on the other rein with a long pull and brief release until you have the horse again under control. If you ride sensibly you will very rarely, if ever, be really out of control.

www.ridinghabit.co.uk

Peter Cox Photography

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Message from Hampshire HorseWatch:

Stolen Horses are a horse owner's worst nightmare. Recent incidents highlight the fact that thefts are occurring and at present thieves are targeting Shetlands or perhaps similar in size.

Theft of horses is very difficult to prevent for all the obvious reasons. However there are deterrents to prevent thefts and importantly identify horses to owners and the best one is freeze marking. The decision to do so is with you, the owner. As with all stolen property, the item taken is invariably only worth something if someone is prepared to buy it. So as horse owners or someone thinking of buying one, only do so if you know who you are buying from.

YOU - the community have it in your power to prevent many horse thefts by closing down the possibility of a sell. You know that at present Shetlands are being stolen.....if you know someone who is selling, advertising for sale Shetlands make some enquiries and if needs be report the matter to the police. Genuine sellers of horses have nothing to fear. YOU the community are best placed to enquire and investigate on behalf of your fellow horse owners who may be the victims of a horse theft.


Always remember never to put yourself in any danger if enquiring into any matters. Gathering information and passing it on to the police or your county HorseWatch will be just as useful.

Another worrying trend following on from the theft of horses is that the thieves will contact the owners of the horse saying they know where the horse is or can arrange for its recovery. The owner is only too grateful to recover the horse that they will gladly give up money as a reward! If you should be in this position seek advice from your police. Always make sure you know who your investigating officer is so you can keep him/her informed.

There has been a run on stealing Shetlands in the past week or so. 7 have gone missing to date (not all in Hampshire). At a recent sale this type would make up to £1000 each so are a quick and easy way of making money. Please be on the lookout for new ponies in your area and guard against the theft of your equines. Stolen from near Cheriton, believed to have gone between 6pm 16th October & 8am 17th October 2008, two miniature Shetlands, one mare, one yearling filly, chestnut & white skewbalds. Much loved family ponies, owned & shown by 11 year old. Please keep your eyes open, heartbroken family & distraught daughter who just want their ponies back. Contact with any information: Donna Brealey - 07799 791632 or 01962 771403.



Classifieds:

SADDLE For Sale	17 1/2" Thorowgood T4 GP Cob synthetic saddle. Black leather-look with suede effect seat and knee pad. With fish system changeable inserts. To fit wide, low withered horses, such as cob-type, Arab, or large Native breeds. Fitted my Arab/Welsh 15.1hh gelding. 18 months old. Excellent condition. £175 ono Tel: 07759 571864 (Clanfield)
CLOTHING For Sale	Equitech ladies red fleece roll neck jumper size 12. Good cond. £5. XL TUFFA SUEDE ZIP UP HALF CHAPS complete with bag, worn twice £10, cost £30. Jodphurs girls "saddle master" cream size 56R, probably suit slender girl 6 - 9 yrs. worn once £5. Jodphurs "Steeds" mens, 38" w. black stretch cotton fabric £8. Ladies Musto Snugs waist length jacket , size M, grey fleece and black cotton material body, zip up to collar. Good con. £10, cost £50. Tel: 023 92365318 (Hayling Island)
SADDLE For Sale	Wintec 500, 17", brown, 2 years old. Excellent condition. £100 ono Tel: 023 9225 1222 (Waterlooville)
SADDLE For Sale	Brown leather 17" GP Fieldhouse Saddle . Good condition. Marked as narrow, but did fit a 16hh Cleveland Bay/TB. Bargain at £295. Please call 07880 553794 (Horndean)
SADDLE For Sale	18", suede seat, black leather dressage saddle . Medium/narrow. £200. Tel: 023 9259 8747 (Clanfield)
SHARER Wanted	Part Sharer wanted for very pretty, safe and sensible, NF pony 13hh. This pony lives at our home in Bishops Waltham. We are looking for a small adult, who would like to school/hack her once or twice a week and maybe compete in some dressage competitions. The person we are looking for would be 9 stone or under, be capable of riding on the bit, kind, knowledgeable and experienced. May suit a mother who has time to ride while her children are at school. If interested call 01489-891917
PONY For Sale	12.2hh black mare. S/J, X/C. Many wins. For sale as sadly out-grown. Same home 5 years. Not first pony. More details please ring 07963 446374
WANTED Part Loan	Horndean/Clanfield area (about 4 mile radius of Horndean). 15hh-16.2hh weight carrier. Must be bombproof, as although the teenager is a confident rider, it would be the first loan outside a riding school. Don't want a plod-along but not too highly strung either. Terms negotiable. For more details please contact Chris on 023 9259 8068
LIVERY	Part Livery vacancies, Upper Swanmore. Friendly yard, great hacking, good turnout, and outdoor school. Tel: 07773 595984
	For Sale: 10 year old 15.3hh Irish Sport Bay Mare . Stunning Mare with great personality. Has done PC, SJ, XC, Dressage. Very responsive in training, with a bold jump. Great to clip, shoe, & box. Hacks out alone or in company, with no vices. Would suit competitive teenager or mother/daughter combo. Needs Natural Balance shoeing. University forces sale. £3,800. Ring 02392 231653 or 07970303970 for more details and to arrange a viewing.
HORSES For Sale	14hh black Welsh mare , 10 years old, forward going, fun pony. £2,000 ono. Plus youngsters ranging from 2008 foals to 4 year old Cob colt, due to be gelded when flies have died down. Colts and fillies available, blagdons, spots and greys. To make between 12hh-14.2hh. Open to sensible offers due to loss of grazing. Tel: 07773 595984

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