

Dates for your diary

March

- 6th Open dressage competition (North Lincs Riding Club) at LRAC, Kenwick Park, Nr Louth.
- 7th Have a Go Show at Sheepgate EC.
Tel: 01205 870236
- 7th BRC cross country at Epworth. Tel: 01472 587838
- 14th Unaffiliated Show Jumping and Combined Training at Elms Farm EC.
Tel: 01630 661314.
- 14th Irish Day National Hunt Racing at Market Rasen.
Tel: 01673 843434.
- 21st Eventing, affiliated and unaffiliated dressage at Elms Farm EC.
Tel: 01630 661314.
- 21st Hykeham Riding Club Beach Ride from Mablethorpe Seal Sanctuary car park.
Tel: 07939 677999.
- 28th Open Show Jumping at LRAC, Kenwick Park, Nr Louth.
- 28th Unaffiliated Show Jumping and Combined Training at Elms Farm EC.
Tel: 01630 661314.
- 28th Welton Riding Club Beach Ride at Theddlethorpe St. Helen, near Mablethorpe.
Tel: 07818 437607
- 30th Family Funday Racing at Market Rasen.
Tel: 01673 843434.



Equestrian life in the county

At last, it's March and spring is truly upon us which is not only good news for those of us who have had enough of the grey skies but also for those coming out of hibernation to start attending the many shows and events going on throughout the county from now until the end of October. Welcome to the new outdoor season!

Words: Bernard Bale

Spotlight on - Rebecca Golland

Rebecca Golland is looking forward to a busy 2010 following her super success in 2009 in which she won the British Dressage Steele Salver, one of the top honours in the sport. Rebecca successfully competes three horses at various levels around the county and beyond and is hoping to bring home more trophies during this year.

"It was a great surprise to me to win the Steele Salver," she said. "British Dressage tot up the points you win at various competitions throughout the time period and whoever has the most wins the prize. I hadn't even known about it until I was invited to Addington Manor in Buckinghamshire to receive the award."

The family has the Stonecroft Livery at Barnetby where Rebecca trains both horses and riders of all levels.

"We have very good facilities and we are in the middle of nowhere so hacking and road work is brilliant," she said. "It is especially ideal for problem horses and nervous riders as we can ride for ages through the country lanes and hardly ever see any traffic. We also have a large sand and rubber menage and very good stabling so I spend my time in really good surroundings. It is great that it is a family interest too. My Mum got myself and my sister Sarah interested and it has just taken off."



REBECCA GOLLAND

Rebecca won her award riding Millie - or A Question Of Class if you prefer her formal name - a mare bred and trained by Stonecroft Livery but she has two other horses at differing dressage levels.

"I took another of my horses to the St Leger meeting at Doncaster Racecourse, at the invitation of the Retrained Racehorses organisation, so I could demonstrate racehorses can be retained as dressage horses," said Rebecca. "I just enjoy being with horses and if I can help other people and horses I am happy to do so. I have been helped myself by my brilliant trainer Steph Cooper, who is an ex International dressage rider and a top ranking dressage competition judge. She has been a great help to me."

Rebecca has high hopes for 2010.

"I want to compete my three horses at various levels as much as possible and move them up the grades with more training and experience," she said. "The problem is that everything is so expensive that to really progress you have to have some sponsorship, large or small. Every little helps and I am getting some good media attention now as well as appearing at some major events so if anyone wants to get involved I would be really pleased to have a chat with them."

Of course, the Olympics take place in Britain in 2012 and there are many riders dreaming of taking part. Few of them have won the Steele Salver though and Rebecca must have a chance. Sponsors will be queuing at her door if that happens.

Anyone wanting to get in touch now can telephone 01652 688319.

Here at Lincolnshire Life we wish her well and look forward to reporting her progress throughout the year.

PONY EXPRESS

Make haste and send us your news, photos, results and dates for the diary. Equestrian Life is interested in all things horsey so let us know what is going on whether you are a novice rider or an experienced carriage driver. Send to Lincolnshire Life, County House, 9 Checkpoint Court, Sadler Road, Lincoln LN6 3PW or email equestrian@lincolnshirelife.co.uk

Quarrington Stables

Happiness is saddle-shaped at Quarrington Stables near Sleaford where the new facilities have already delighted many young riders and look set to please many more in 2010.

Quarrington Stables was established thirty-six years ago at Manor Farm in the village by the late Tessa Brown and it has grown and grown in popularity as well as facilities. Sue Mallinson joined Tessa to run this excellent stables and under their guidance many local children have taken their first steps in the saddle, most having gone on to become experienced riders.

"We are particularly popular with children who seem to draw a lot of confidence from being here," said Sue.

"It is lovely to see them progress as riders and have a lot of healthy fun as well as learning to care for and respect the ponies and horses.

"Our new facilities include a much bigger indoor school with viewing area as well as some new boxes. We have about twenty horses and ponies here and I think they are very happy with the new facilities too.

"We can cater for all levels from the nervous novice to the more experienced riders. We have very good livery facilities as well as being able to cater for children's parties and so on. We are looking at a number of different events during next winter and we already have some summer events as well as encouraging our riders to compete in other events around the county. I think it is fair to say that we are very keen to make riding a pastime all the family can share."

Sue modestly fails to mention her own success such as being presented with a Sleaford Civic Award for her work with children at Quarrington Stables. Today's work and fun at the stables is laying the foundation for some excellent Lincolnshire riders of the future.

Enquiries about Quarrington Stables to 01529 302735 or 07884 231361.



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