



Equestrian life in the county

Welcome to Equestrian Life which is now a year old and rarin' to go for a busy 2010. There is so much to look forward to with large and small events all over the county every month and many of our county's young riders winning trophies all over the country. That's exciting stuff - especially with the countdown to the 2012 Olympics well underway.

Have you made a resolution for the New Year? If not, why not make 2010

the year you swung into the saddle for the first time, returned to the saddle if you have been away or, at the very least, supported some of the equestrian events that are going on in Lincolnshire throughout the year.

You'll make a lot of new friends and get to meet some great horses and ponies.

No matter what year it is elsewhere, let us here in Lincolnshire make it the Year of the Horse!

Words: Bernard Bale

Dates for your diary

January

- 1st South Notts Hunt meeting at Newark Town Hall. (11.30am)
- 10th Senior Affiliated Show Jumping at Arena UK. Tel: 01476 591569
- 12th Combined Training with Dressage and Show Jumping at Arena UK.
- 17th Eventers and Unaffiliated Dressage at Elms Farm EC. Tel: 01630 661314
- 19th Combined Training with Dressage and Show Jumping at Arena UK.
- 24th Unaffiliated Show Jumping and Combined Training at Arena UK.
- 24th National Hunt Racing at Market Rasen. Tel: 01673 843434
- 31st Affiliated Dressage and Unaffiliated Dressage at Elms Farm EC.

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

News on the hoof

Kesteven Rideability received a boost towards the end of the year when John Wright, Charity Steward of the William Peter's Lodge, Grantham presented cheques of £350 and £600 respectively to member Emma Sheardown, who is also in the Great Britain Para-Equestrian Dressage Team and Vicki Strawson, Group Organiser of KR.

Emma will be putting her money towards the costs of going to the 2010 World Championships in Kentucky, USA where she hopes to repeat her successes of gold and silver in the European Championships last year.

The donation given to Kesteven Rideability will go towards riding lessons, running costs of the Group and competition expenses for next year.

Market Rasen Racecourse can justifiably look back on a very successful 2009 and has many great events lined up for 2010, starting



with a race meeting on Sunday, 24th January. It is not just the events of the race track that are making Market Rasen the place to be. There has been an increase in other events as well, from weddings to antique fairs. So, keep an eye on the racecourse website.

Lots of readers from our area went to Olympia for the annual Show Jumping extravaganza and most have said it was the best yet. Hopefully, this time next year we shall be reporting on the success there of one of our own Lincolnshire riders!



Straight from the horse's mouth

TOP TIP

Thinking of buying a new horse or pony? Great but be careful you don't fall into the trap that has ensnared others. One of the problems has always been the wild goose chase. It starts with a phone call because you have seen an advert for exactly the horse you are seeking. You pile into the horse box and start to drive, perhaps to the other end of the country. When you get there you find that the 16.2 hh bay horse is actually a 15 hh chestnut and the vendor has allowed their enthusiasm to paint a slightly different picture to the reality.

In recent times another danger has crept in - buying over the Internet. Some have done it and some have regretted it. The photos looked fine but having parted with the cash, the horse that arrives is not necessarily the one in the pictures. This happened to Emma White who inherited all kinds of problems. As a warning to others she wrote a book about her misadventure with Jet. It is worth getting a copy from Pelham Tack Store in Immingham or from www.amazon.co.uk.

On the brighter side, if you buy a new horse or pony, why not send us a photo?



Did you know?

We normally associate High School with the Spanish Riding School of Vienna and similar troops but let us not forget Mr Philip Astley, an Englishman who was born in Newcastle-under-Lyme but served in the army where his love of horses inspired him to become one of the youngest equestrian trainers ever known. For fun he performed tricks to entertain fellow cavalrymen. After taking part in the famous Seven Years War in Germany up to 1763 he left the army with honours. Having heard that other cavalrymen had earned money from trick riding, he decided to go one better and started to put on a complete show on ground which is now Waterloo Station in London. As well as trick riding he showed off manoeuvres which we would now call High

School and even threw in some comedy. Thus the modern circus was born and since then thousands of young riders have been inspired by breathtaking displays of High School when they have visited the circus.

Dressage has much for which to thank Mr Astley.



Spotlight on - Meadowbrook Stables Riding School

It looks like it is going to be another busy year at Meadowbrook Stables Riding School, training centre, schooling livery and Working Equitation competition venue.

Initially Meadowbrook was opened as a livery yard but, with such an influx of enquiries for teaching it was decided to change and became a riding school by owner Sam Jamieson.

"I have been involved with horses since I was 4 years old and although currently in my 30s and a Mum, my passion for horses continues," said Sam. "Throughout my career I have been fortunate to work with and for some well known names in the equestrian industry gaining a vast experience in many disciplines both in the US and UK.

"We simply started a livery stables but when we added teaching we also gradually added more horses enabling us to teach clients of all abilities from beginners to more advanced of which some are instructors themselves. People also bring their own horses to us for lessons and schooling.

"I am especially sympathetic to

anyone who has lost their nerve as I experienced this myself. At 22 years old I was diagnosed with fibromyalgia and a few years ago I broke my back and leg in a riding accident whilst working elsewhere, giving me a further understanding of losing confidence and physical issues that can cause frustration with riders."

At Meadowbrook there are many options whether or not you have a horse of your own. The centre runs various types of training including stable management and you can keep your horse there on Schooling livery, hire the manege, canter track, show jumps and working equitation equipment, buy a Phoenix saddle and accessories, come on one of Meadowbrook's coffee mornings or have a programme put together just for you.

Lessons are available in the daytime and evenings every day except Sundays.

Want to know more? Contact Sam on 07866 426969 (daytime) or 01945 440283 (evenings) or email info@meadowbrookstables.co.uk