

# Newton Hall News

Quarterly

Spring 2008

## Thank you from Rossie

As many of you will be aware, Rossie is back in full swing following her hip operation in early March. She was overwhelmed by the messages, cards, flowers and gifts, all of which were much appreciated. Thank you.

## Latest winners from Top Yard

Petrina, Sam and Rachel are very busy as the 14 new boxes are filling up (see article on NH Arena's 5th birthday on page 2). Residents range from Hindleap Sweet William - 13hh SH HOYS qualifier last year- to Katmando who was piloted by Petrina to qualify for the RIHS at Hickstead this July.

Other successes include Daniel Bayes with Drummerdoon placed 7th in the prestigious Gold Cup at the BSPS Championships whilst Georgia Potts has had several wins in the WHP and M & M classes on the novice Connemara pony Claremount Spiral.

The horse walker has proved very useful as we have not had one case of mud fever since it was installed- not so many muddy and torn rugs either !

*A view into the new 14 boxes at the Top Yard*



## BHS PUFFA Junior Equitation Competition

Good luck to the four riders from the Newton Hall qualifier who are going to the National finals at Warwickshire College on May 28th: Laura Butcher and Georgina Carr ( 13years and under) and Bernice Laws and Laura Johnston (17 years and under).

Newton Hall and PUFFA enjoy a close co-operation and you may have noticed that NH ponies and horses now wear a polypad (saddlecloth) sporting both the PUFFA and Newton Hall logos when undertaking demonstrations and exams.

## New arrivals

One of our mares, Barley Pride (Mabel) had a chestnut colt foal in the early hours of 14th May. Mabel is a thoroughbred and the sire is a pure bred Irish draught Roamer Diamond Skip so we hope the new arrival will shape up to be a good eventer/ working hunter. Photos of mother and foal in the next edition.

## Horses Inside Out



As previewed in our last newsletter, the 'Horses Inside Out' demonstration with Gillian Higgins in April proved to be extremely popular with over 120 people attending the event.

Well done to the BHS Suffolk committee for organising this unique event. A follow-up demo has been booked on Saturday 13th September by popular request.

*Gillian Higgins*

## New Paddocks

In addition to the new boxes and horsewalker, fencing for new paddocks for the liveries will soon be finished and when the landscaping outside the NH Arena boxes is complete, the whole area will have had a 'makeover.'

## Pony Rides in the Park

We shall again be giving 'Pony Rides in the Park' at Christchurch Park Ipswich during the summer holidays- provisional dates are 1st, 8th and 22nd of August.

These rides have proved to be extremely popular and our volunteer helpers are usually kept busy throughout the day. If you would like to help, please give your name to the office.

## Newton Hall Arena's fifth birthday in March 2008

Newton Hall Arena was opened 5 years ago in March 2003. Although at the start of the millennium Newton Hall already had a smaller indoor arena, in addition to the two all-weather outdoor arenas, Rossie felt that there was a demand for an indoor arena to be available 365 days a year and large enough to hold affiliated competitions and national qualifiers. In 2001 Rossie, her husband Peter and younger daughter Petrina visited many indoor arenas throughout the country and commissioned local architects Hollins to design a building which they would be able to finance and which reflected their ideas.

Planning permission was granted for the new Arena 60 x 30m with a judges' box at first floor level for good visibility and a new livery yard with 12 loose boxes 10' x 12' and at the same time, the design would allow for future expansion of the Arena. The lorry park was also extended to accommodate extra parking for the competitors.

Local contractors were used and the Arena opened in March 2003 followed by completion of the livery boxes in June 2003. The Arena surface was carefully chosen to be dust-free, non-slip and easy to maintain-identical in fact to the surface used at the Horse of the Year Show.

The first season more than justified the family's confidence in the demand for the new Arena and it continues to be used 365 days a year but especially from October through to the Spring when many local, regional and national competitions are held as well as BHS training days and exams.

Riders regularly travel from all over East Anglia and beyond to take part in these events and the standard of competition is, as a consequence, much higher.

In 2007, an additional 14 indoor boxes were added to the existing livery facilities and a 54' diameter horse walker for 8 horses was selected so that the horses are not pressurised whilst exercising.

Future plans include provision for a spectator gallery, lecture rooms and on-site catering.



*The horses and ponies have adapted well to the new new horse walker*

## Examination Results

Many of the NH trainees and clients have successfully taken BHS examinations recently but we should like to publish more names so let us know when you have passed your exam(s).

Congratulations to the following successful candidates:

Rachel Skeeles **PTT**; Lydia Williams **Stage 2 Care**; Debbie Bentley **Stage 1**; and Justina Apps **Stage 1**

## Photos/ News/ Results/ Stories

We should like to publish more photos on our web site and in our newsletters from yourselves. If you have any items for the next edition of **Newton Hall News** or our web site, please email them to:

[crmdairy@btinternet.com](mailto:crmdairy@btinternet.com)

## Preliminary Teaching Test Training Day



A very successful and well attended BHS Preliminary Teaching Test Training day was presented in May in the NH Arena by BHS Director of Standards, Margaret Linington-Payne, BHSI & Chief Examiner. The day was aimed at both trainers and examination candidates and gave an overview of the new examination structure, which has been amended to bring the qualification up to date with industry requirements and in line with the UKCC endorsed qualifications.

In addition to the theory sections on the new lecture subjects, there was also a lunge lesson and typical class lessons in both flat work and jumping. Many thanks to Margaret Linington-Payne for such a lively and enjoyable course and to our students who were the enthusiastic 'guinea pigs' and helpers for the day.

*Margaret Linington -Payne BHSI*

## **NAGS NEWS- Jenny Gostling**

In January we had a Riding and Road Safety demonstration by Alexis Smith. Two ponies and riders were used in order for Alexis to show aspects of riding on roads and how junctions should be approached and the signals that should be used. Alexis emphasised the use of high visibility jackets for riders and also explained the high visibility items that can be fitted to a horse.

NAGs Christmas seems to be getting closer to the next one as our annual Christmas meal this year took place in the middle of February. We were all fed and watered well at Mr Wing's Chinese Restaurant in Ipswich – well worth a visit for their buffet.

In April Daniel Spencer showed us his jumping skills (well, not actually HIS jumping skills but those of him and a horse!!) He spent a lot of time explaining aspects of show jumping to us and showing how the number of strides between fences can be changed.

We are grateful to those individuals who come and speak to NAGs members.

### **Q. How many bones does a horse have? A report on the NAGS Equiquiz by Rachel Wilding**

On the 1st of May NAGS held an EquiQuiz, this is now its third year and seems to be becoming an annual event, in the aim to raise funds for the Suffolk Air Ambulance and have a good time. As horse riders we appreciate the hard work and valuable service they supply. The quiz night comprises of various rounds from 'general knowledge' to 'true or false' where we try and find out who knows the most unusual and less commonly known facts about our equine friends and the teams go head to head to fight for points! A big thank you goes to Rossie for allowing us to host this night, which I hope everyone agrees was a success! ( The horse has 210 bones).

In a valiant second place was Leslie / Sarah / Sarah and Sally who were beaten to finishing post by ONE POINT! Therefore the winning prizes went to the 'Bunny's Army' team which was made up of Lynn and Kirsty Thompson, Clare Nightingale and Glen Povey - well done!



**NAGS Equiquiz competitors**

Well done to all those who entered - remember look to the notice board early next year to see the date for 2009's Equi-Quiz! 'Old NAG's team failed miserably for yet another year by coming last. At least we got nice loser rosettes. So, for next year's quiz if you want to win either join NHEC's office team or the team with Kirsty and Clare in it as they are the ones who do well.

However, if you don't mind being Losers, Old NAG's team is on a roll and doubtless will lose again next year - why break the habit of a lifetime?'

## **NH Pony Club- Jane Halls**

Bareback riding, a picnic tea and rounders are coming up during the summer for Pony Club members. With our ever changing events we try to cover something for everyone.

We have just had a dressage rally, followed by a dressage competition. Members were able to practice the test and improve on transitions and shapes that go to making a dressage test a success. With the help of Sam Spencer all the children came away with more knowledge and improved riding skills. The ponies were of course all very willing and just needed to have the right commands given to ensure that their performance was the best. The points were very close for all ten competitors, but the best score went to Georgina Carr. We are hoping to run our awards day for children working towards either their bronze, silver or D test.

With progressive awards and numerous badges to achieve, the Pony Club Centre at Newton Hall is a great way to have fun and improve riding and stable management skills. We are part of the main Pony Club, with all the benefits, plus the chance of riding your favourite horse or pony from Newton Hall.

If any parents/children would like to find out more about the Pony Club, please email [janehalls@hotmail.com](mailto:janehalls@hotmail.com). New members always welcome. Alternatively you can find out more general information on [www.pcuk.org](http://www.pcuk.org). Our noticeboard in the barn has all the dates of forthcoming events.

## Goodbye to Gannett

It was a sad Xmas/ New Year week-end for us all when Gannett was put to sleep due to arthritis in his off foreleg. He had reached a good age and had been on loan to Newton Hall since he was 18. Gannett introduced many riders to the art of dressage and he is sadly missed. However his 'deputy' Wilf, another grey gelding, kindly on loan, is proving very popular and has a good appetite for jumping.

## Driving Competency Tests

Two driving competency tests at Newton Hall have been held this winter at Newton Hall thanks to John Parker and over 20 drivers and grooms have passed the test. John, of Norwich Union Coach fame, ensures that each participant receives coaching of the very highest level in his own inimitable style. Another test is to be arranged at Newton Hall later in the year, names to office please.

## Fynnlads Bonjovi- by Rossie Theobald BHSI

A 14hh liver chestnut gelding affectionately known as Jonjo, Fynnlads Bonjovi came from the Birchall-Small's yard in Sussex and was born in 1993.

Penny Nicholls bought him for daughter Laura for Pony Club and local shows and Rossie collected him from a Towerlands show and delivered him to their home in Ashbocking.

Five year old Jonjo proved to be a bit lively for a 13 yr old so he was brought to Newton Hall to be worked by Petrina. After four weeks, a disciplined pony returned to his owner at Ashbocking and behaved normally over the next few weeks. However, Pony Club camp was just too much for him. He couldn't contain himself and returned to his twisting bucks- which are known to many riders- but that's where his jump comes from!

He was returned to Newton Hall for retraining and advertised for sale. An experienced quiet rider tried him but fortunately Penny found out that he was destined to be ridden by a petite mature lady without much experience and he would have been quite unsuitable for her. In the October, Rossie and Petrina bought him with a view to competing in the WHP classes during the winter, qualify for the March championships and then find him a new WHP jockey in the Spring. In the November, he was turned out as usual with two other horses in 14 acres when Rossie, who was teaching in Arena One, saw him rolling but unable to get up and thought that rug straps were caught around his legs. Karen King and some other trainees ran to the field to find that the rug was not restricting him but that he was badly concussed and unable to stand. A straw bale wall was made and several waterproof rugs were used to protect him and after a couple of hours, 5 people including the vet supported Jonjo to the small indoor school. A dedicated team of volunteers watched over him for 5 nights and he gradually began to recover.

Six months later, he began some light work, first in hand then lunging and finally under saddle. In the July of that year, there was a case of strangles at Newton Hall and Jonjo developed the disease. It was touch and go, but Jonjo is a survivor and his cheeky fighting spirit brought him through. More convalescence and then he was back in work.

Since then, Jonjo has had a string of successes too numerous to mention. Highlights include winning with Petrina the first ever Competition Pony class at Stafford and going on to win the championship. With Lucy Minta he won many WHP championships. He has been placed in the BHS Junior Equitation Championships with James Pratt, Sam Spencer, Emily Rogers and Jodie Delande and won it last year with Steph Ryder. This partnership went on to win the Otley College Prelim championship in 2007 as well as the UK Riders and Chasers Ride and Relax Dressage Championship at Warwick. Apologies to many other winning partners not mentioned here, but Jonjo has been very successful and the list of competitors would be too long to include here!

Thank you to Penny and Laura for finding this very special pony- and what an extrovert!

*Fynnlads Bonjovi and Steph Ryder at the PUFFA championships 2007*



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[www.nhec.co.uk](http://www.nhec.co.uk)**