



Surrey county chair Carol Stothard awards the June Eastwell Cup to Margaret Lyall

LONDON & SOUTH EAST

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THE BHS Surrey county committee presented the June Eastwell Memorial Cup at their Annual Meeting at Ripley Village Hall. This award is presented to the highest-placed BHS member over the two dressage events held in April and October. The cup is named in memory of June Eastwell, who did so much for the BHS and was chairman of the Surrey county committee.

Margaret Lyall won the Cup, riding her 16-year-old thoroughbred gelding Sonoran Moon – aka Morris. Morris – “a very honest horse who tries his best” was bred as a racehorse but never made it to the turf. Margaret bought him from his breeder when he was five. After trying eventing (not Morris's forte) Margaret did a variety of Riding Club activities with him. Her aim is to move him up to Elementary Level in 2010 and we wish her every success!

Development Officer Claire McCaffrey-Clarke has been busy organising Safeguarding and Protecting Children Workshops for 2010 (See Diary Dates page 76) and Register of Instructors Training Days.

Finally, 27 February is the date for the Regional Qualifier for the Martin Collins BHS Instructors Challenge, to be held at Plumpton College. For a chance to compete in the final at Royal Windsor contact Claire (details above) asap. Closing date 15 February. All forthcoming events are listed on the regional website www.bhs-londonsoutheast.co.uk. ■



EAST OF ENGLAND



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HERTS HAD a fascinating talk on Polocrosse. Iain Heaton, SDO for UK Polocrosse explained it is an excellent way of improving horsemanship and a great confidence-giver for nervous riders. BHS East of England hopes to run a “have a go” training session in the spring.

Herts also organised another sell-out Supper Quiz night, raising approximately £450 towards BHS access and welfare issues. Our thanks go to all those who helped and attended – congratulations to the winning team, ‘Woodside Pacers’.

This was the second successful quiz and it was brilliant to update everyone on how some of last year's money was spent. A well-used path near Bayford called Stockings Lane had a dangerous deep muddy patch, in front of a bridge. Unfortunately this section of the bridge route is not currently recorded on the Definitive Map of Public Rights of Way, so Herts County Council could not carry out work on it. An application is in process to record this route. Meantime, worried that a serious accident would happen before then, (there have been a number of minor accidents due to horses leaping out of the mud onto the bridge and catching rider's legs on the bridge sides), contractors Maydencroft Rural carried out the work at a much-reduced rate. This has made the path much safer to use.

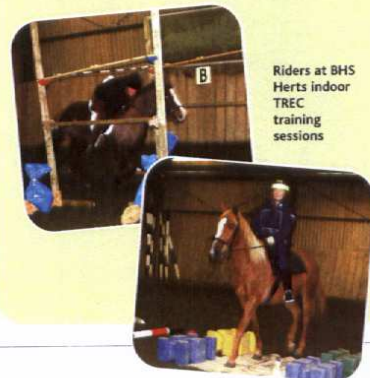


Sharon Hunt

BHS Herts ran two successful indoor TREC training sessions at Chesfield EC. Following these, a TREC competition was held, attracting all types of rider/horse.

In Cambridgeshire, Development Officer Janet Pamment went to the opening of the new Equine Therapy Centre at the College of West Anglia's Milton site. This was opened by Sharon Hunt who, like Janet, was impressed with the cutting-edge facilities, which mean the equine students will graduate with a comprehensive understanding of, and expertise in, operating the state-of-the-art equipment. Facilities like these have until now been missing in this area.

Over in Norfolk, a second Lucinda Green clinic was held, with every rider getting great results. Also proving successful are the Spencer Wilton clinics, again attended by all levels of riders on different types of mounts. Look out for more of these clinics and other events on our website www.bhseast.co.uk. ■



Riders at BHS Herts indoor TREC training sessions



Left: BHS Cumbria Quiz winners

Below: From the left, Jean Rogers, Jo MacInnes and equine breeding expert Martin Boyle MRCVS, MA Vet.MB



NORTH & YORKSHIRE

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WITH THE turn of the year we look forward to the launch of our websites for both regions the coming months. These will hopefully allow us to communicate more effectively and keep everyone up-to-date with membership news and activities!

More than 30 members and supporters braved appalling weather to meet at The Lakeland Hotel in Cumbria in November. BHS North region chairman Jo MacInnes organised most interesting and educational evening for horse owners in support of the BHS 'Saving the Line' campaign. The Irene Heppel Memorial lectures at York were a huge success last year, so if you're a horse owner, or would simply like to update your knowledge, on this day is for you. 'Save the Sound' is the title of this year's event at The Buckles Inn, York on 28 February. There will be lots of practical advice and answers to all your questions.

Tickets are £12 including refreshments and lunch. Call Wendy Suddes (details above) to book your ticket, as places are limited.

BHS Cumbria is currently without a secretary. If you think this role might be for you, then give Wendy or county chairman Jean Rogers a call on 01539 536319. The Annual Meeting drew a large crowd to Penrith Rugby Club for a Prize Quiz, won by 'The Pony Nuts'.

There is a spring programme already in place for training riders, instructors and horse enthusiasts in 2010. All Registered Instructors and Approved Centres will receive a mail shot in the next few weeks. If you'd like to be sent training updates and you are not on our mailing list, then give Wendy a call. Also see Diary Dates on page 74.

We continue to have pockets of interest in BHS TREC across the regions and two county committees have organised Kelly Marks Indoor Winter



From the left, BHS Cumbria members Barbara Burton and Paula Marshall Brownrigg with embryo transfer specialist Becky Cox and Tessa Clarke of West Kingston Stud

events. BHS Cleveland's competition will run on 24 January at Upsall Grange (contact Elly Thompson on 01642 452260) and the BHS Cumbria event will run on 21 March at Kingwater EC, Brampton (contact Helen on 01697 478431). Do take these opportunities to have a go – everyone welcome!

We are happy to arrange delivery of a range of short courses including Equine First Aid, Equine Behaviour and Handling, Lungeing, Clipping, Grassland Management (in fact any horse related topic), to small groups at your livery yard. Do let us know if you are interested – or would like help to improve your skills. Contact Wendy for more information (see above). ■