



NEWSLETTER

MAY, JUNE AND JULY 2021

We hope this newsletter finds you safe and well. With the roadmap out of lockdown on track, we have started to plan some events for the year ahead including the members and open show. Please keep checking our Facebook page and Website for any quick changes we might need to make to adhere to Government guidelines to ensure the events are run safely. We are excited to be able to run the events again and hope to see you all (safely) again soon.

Remembering those who we have lost

Our first newsletter of the year starts with a time to remember 3 individuals who have sadly passed away.

Jim Stokes

It's been a sad year and we have lost another of our long-term members Jim Stokes. Jim was a good family friend to us and had been a great supporter of the club with his ponies attending the members show and if they didn't, Jim always came along to support us. Numerous times he was on the winning Quiz team and he will be greatly missed by us all.

Sue Stokes has kindly agreed to come along to the members show and judge the fun classes so I hope you will all come along and support the show. ***Heather Linfield, Chairperson and Treasurer for Manhood Riding Club***

Jim Stokes very sadly passed away on 1st November 2020 at the age of 89 years. He was an active member of Manhood Riding Club for many years, not for riding but for driving. He was always very supportive of his wife Sue when she took part in club activities and often came along to spectate at shows and other events. His smiling face and infectious laugh were always welcome and he was ever ready to help anyone who may need it, from holding a horse, to fetching and carrying equipment. He readily supported the burger van and could often be seen enjoying the classes from the ringside munching on his burger wishing he could accompany it with a glass of his favourite red wine.

Jim's pride and joy, his driving pony Shadow, was purchased from Peter Linfield as an unbroken 3-year-old and she proved a marvellous family pony, broken to harness and under saddle. She partook in club activities and lived to be 33 years old, having bred one foal for Jim to drive, Twinkle. Twinkle proved to be unsuitable but it was not for the want of trying on Jim's part. She had excellent stable manners but was just a bit too enthusiastic between the shafts. She was sold to a family for riding and driving and Jim kept in contact with them to find out how Twinkle was doing. She landed on her hooves with her new home as she is still adored and used by them at the age of 24 years.

Jim is much missed by his family and all his many friends, with his dry sense of humour and ready wit, life just isn't the same without him. ***Alison Parsons, friend of Jim and Sue.***

Nick Linfield

We also sadly lost my brother Nick in January to Covid, a very sad time for us. Many of you had Nick as your Farrier, and you would all have known what a gentle kind man he was and his advice to horse owners and help to many members over the years will be sadly missed. As a family we would like to say thank to all the kind wishes and donations to St Richards Hospital that have been done in Nick's name. **Heather Linfield, Chairperson and Treasurer for Manhood Riding Club**

Kate Deacon

Another past Member that was also lost last year was Kate Deacon to many of us she was always Kate Berry and Kate and her mum with their welsh cobs often attend club shows, our thoughts and best wishes to Peter Deacon and family. **Heather Linfield, Chairperson and Treasurer for Manhood Riding Club**

Equine Grass Sickness

Grass Sickness is a scourge which causes devastation and heartbreak when it strikes. Despite 100 years of research, the cause remains elusive and it is frequently fatal. It is a disease of horses, ponies and donkeys in which there is damage to parts of the nervous system which control involuntary functions, producing the main symptom of gut paralysis. The cause is unknown but the nature of the damage to the nervous system suggests that a type of toxin is involved. The disease occurs almost exclusively in horses with access to grass.

My 7-year-old Highland Pony (Hamish) was diagnosed with Chronic Equine Grass Sickness (EGS) in October 2020. We have been through an emotional and stressful journey and there were a couple of times along the way when both I and the vets did not think he would make it. With dedicated care, intensive nursing and support he has been given the best chance of pulling through. He is now putting on weight and starting to enjoy life again.

The cause of the disease and risk factors that contributed to it is still unknown. Very little is known about the disease, how to treat it (this was the first case my vets had seen) and what the long-term prognosis is. I have found myself in the dark on how to best help Hamish as the disease progressed and still don't know if some of his ailments will be permanent. The Equine Grass Sickness Fund is working hard to raise money to fund more research to find the cause of the disease.

Grass Sickness is at its peak from 1st March to 30th June. It is incredibly important that you report a case of Grass Sickness to the Equine Grass Sickness Fund <https://grasssickness.org.uk/> as more research needs to be done to understand what causes this disease, the prevention of it and improve the treatment of Chronic cases. There is now a big push on research within the trust who are working with vets and horse owners to create a biobank. Data and information will be collected from Grass Sickness exposure sites and samples from infected horses to start to build up a pattern and understanding of what causes the disease. There tends to be a very small window of opportunity when grass sickness is suspected so the trust is asking for horse owners to think about this in advance. More details can be found on their website <https://grasssickness.org.uk/>

Helen Mitchell, owner of Hamish

Members Show

The members show will run on Sunday 27th June at Hunters Lodge. There will be our usual in hand and ridden classes, championships plus some fun classes open to non-members. As usual it will be a fun and friendly atmosphere with fabulous rosettes. We will let you know of any changes we have to make to adhere to Covid guidelines to ensure the show can run safely. We are looking forward to seeing you all there!

Diary of Events

JUNE

27th

Members Show at Hunters Lodge, Hunston (see attached schedule)

JULY

10th

Jumping at Hunters Lodge, Hunston. Open to members and friends.
4.30pm start, £5 per class
Clear Round
Novice (low)
Bucket Elimination

AUGUST

14th

Jumping at Hunters Lodge, Hunston (members and friends)
4.30pm start, £5 per class
Clear Round
Accumulator
Pairs

29th

Open Show (details next newsletter)