



BERKELEY & DISTRICT

RIDING CLUB

Newsletter – June 2026

Chair update – Sarah Raymond

Welcome to the latest edition of the B&DRC newsletter!

What an amazing start to the year, it is only the beginning of June and this Newsletter is bulging with an amazing array of club activities.

It is great to see so many people getting involved.

This is all possible because of the hard work of the committee and I would like to take this opportunity to give a big thank you to them all.

There is so much more to come and I look forward to seeing everyone out and about this summer.

Have fun!!



A fab Pontispool camp with £345.88 raised for GWAA and £345 for the club. Thank you to Shanice for organising.



Club member: Naomi Watkins

competes at Badminton Grassroots “Huge thanks to everyone for their support and help along the way for the grassroots I never thought we would make it to the top 10!!! Finishing 8th in the 100 just amazing!!!”

Day Camps

11 January 2026 at CCR

7 March 2026 at Rectory

23 May 2026 at Oxstalls

Thanks to Liv for organising
three amazing day camps.



Showjumping – West Wilts

11 January 2026

70cms **Harriet Daly**
80cms **Zoe Lang**
80cms **Sophie Bell** – placed 1st
and 90cms – placed 4th



Winter Intro Dressage - CCR

22 February 2026

Team 5th

Sian Edgell
Sophie Bell
Sadie Giles
Vikki Fowler



AGM – Award winners – 26 January 2026

Award	Member
Members' member	Liv Pierce
Club all rounder	Ella Viz
Southfield Dressage	Jill McFarland
The Anne Brown Award	Ali Baimbridge
Anne Stevenson Memorial	Jayme Latham
Veteran Award	Sally Thorne and Mouse
Best Riding Club Horse	Basil (owned by Jill McFarland)
Persil Ponies	No award this year
Best newcomer	Sophie Bell
Most helpful	Helen van de Loo
Most improved	Mollie Veale



**Winners at Skittles
18 March 2026 at
The Malt House, Berkeley**

**Julie Smith
Helen van de Loo
Sandra Massey
Shelley Fisher**

Thank you to Liv for organising



Thank you, Sally Thorne, for your contribution to the club's committee

I have been asked to write a piece for the club newsletter about my riding life and BDRC membership.

I started riding at 7 and still going at 72 so quite a lot has happened.

The first pony I rode was 25-year-old 'Greydown' who taught me how to have fun, we hacked everywhere, not too much traffic in those days. When I was 14, we went to Hereford market and came home with 4-year-old 'King' who cost 90 Guineas (£94.50). I joined the North Somerset Hunt Club where I would hack miles to a rally, do a two-hour ride then hack home again. Very few of us had our own transport and even for gymkhanas we would always hack there and back. We often won trotting races and King was a pretty good jumper so picked up a few ribbons and trophies along the way. These were the days when a full set of shoes was the princely sum of £2 and I reckon we wore them down quickly!



As I got to 18/19, I had developed new interests, so King was sold on and I bought my first car. After 20ish years off riding, at the age of 39, I introduced my daughter to horse-riding and realised I needed to get back to it myself, so I had some lessons at White Cat stables and Leyland Court riding school and at the age of 41 I bought 6-year-old 'Oliver', a 16.1hh Cleveland Bay X. Oliver did not enjoy Dressage but wow, could he jump, often taking off miles before the fence! We had great fun and won many ribbons but when he was 14 he developed tendon injuries and I was advised to stop jumping him and have a quieter life, which we did until I sadly lost him when he was 24.



Still keen to continue I started looking for his replacement and the first horse I went to try was the wonderful 'Mouse'! I was then 60 and Mouse was 9. This was when I joined BRC for the first time and what a good thing that was. I started with Severn Vale but soon after joined BDRC as well (mostly because this meant I could go to Camp twice a year which I loved!) I joined Berkeley in 2015 and joined the Committee in 2017 as Treasurer. I did have my Maths "O" level but didn't have a clue what a spreadsheet was, so hubby came to the rescue and away I went. This was when we introduced the club to online banking and BACs payments and cheques started to fade into the distance. I really enjoyed my time on Committee. Berkeley is a super, friendly and supportive club and I got plenty of help and advice from the lovely Committee members. I did 8½ years as Treasurer but as my brain is slowing down, I decided to let someone else have a go.

Mouse and I did lots of competitions and got to represent the club at several Area competitions including two visits to Lincoln for Championships. The second of these was 70cm SJ where I was the only clear round in the team but I failed to go through the finish timers and so was eliminated! Enough said! Mouse damaged her





annular ligament and after surgery in early 2019 we had to take things a lot easier. It was at this time the lovely 'Misty' was up for sale and I really wanted to continue jumping so she joined my "string". However, at 65, having several unscheduled dismounts and finding it took me a lot more time and energy looking after two, I decided to sell Misty to a very nice lady and carry on with Mouse who was feeling better and better all the time. Sadly, her fear of big traffic eventually got the better of her and I had a nasty fall on to a car bonnet and then onto the road when I was 70. This resulted in 25 days in hospital and my / her retirement from riding! But Neither of us wanted to retire really and after about 9 months we were up and running again. We do a few camps and rallies and hack around the track at Leyland Court and grow old disgracefully. My aim is to get us to a combined age of 100 which will take another 3 years so here's hoping!

Dressage – Area Qualifier – 8 March 2026



Two teams placed 5th and 8th

**Claire Simpson (P3)
Steph Parsons (N2)
Teresa Ventimiglia (N3)
Jill McFarland (E1)
Claire Friend (P3)
Vikki Fowler (N2)
Sarah Raymond (N3)**

Dress down Dressage Burrows Court 5 April 2026

A great day with fun for all. Thank you to **Gill Lawry** and helpers for organising and supporting the day's activities.



EQ Bands and Dressage Workshop "Where the marks are" 3 May 2026

This was a great event organised by Liv. An evening with Steffi Harant learning about how dressage was marked followed up by a rider section putting the learning into practice.



B&DRC member Victoria Stacey at Badminton Grassroots Championships

It is hard to find the words to describe what an incredible experience it was. Filled with all the highs and lows of the sport of eventing!

I was filled with gratitude to be trotting down the centre line at Badminton and cried tears of joy at the end of our test. Quickly followed by real tears on seeing the score and realising that the judges did not share my enthusiasm for our efforts!

That had to be the low point of the whole experience. Thankfully I had 4 hours before I was due to jump and so I allowed myself 30 minutes of sulking and feeling sorry for myself. Then bucked myself up and reminded myself how lucky I was to be there.



RIDER
370



Autumn then jumped a wonderful clear show jumping round, on a course that was causing issues for some.

Then on to the main event, the cross country. I felt surprisingly calm and ready to go. I was genuinely more excited than scared and Autumn gave me the ride of my life. I will never forget the feeling of galloping past Badminton House and through the water.

In preparation for Badminton I had several sessions with a Sports Psychologist. Having qualified, I had a strong sense of 'imposter syndrome' and didn't want this to detract from the enjoyment of the day. Those sessions really helped me, both with the disappointment of our dressage score and ensuring that I fully appreciated where we were and every moment of the experience.

In the end the crowds and coffin, towards the end of the course, were just one question too many. I felt Autumn slightly shy-away from the crowd and I lost her concentration. We tried to get over the ditch but our journey finished there. The feeling I had in that moment was one of gratitude and joy, rather than disappointment.

Grateful for Autumn, for the round, for the partnership and for the support of so many. I patted my beautiful Autumn and our Badminton adventure reached its conclusion.

What a blast!



Combined Training West Wilts EC

17 May 2026



Teams:

Alison Odle Hawkins
Teresa Ventimiglia
Shelley Fisher
Jill McFarland
Sarah Raymond
Rebecca Lingham
Laura Nelmes

The novice team won and the open team came second. Special thanks to Jill for stepping in and riding in 2 classes - and she won both! Other strong individual placings too.

National Arena Eventing Championships

30 May 2026

TEAM 7th (24 teams)
Victoria Stacey
Sophie Bell
Elena Grace

Individual 100 – 2nd for **Victoria Stacey**





by Sophie Bell



REMY

SHOW NAME: CARNLEA JE T'AIME
AGE: 7 ON 3 APRIL 2026

ABOUT ME

I was born in Ireland and moved to a producer's yard in 2023 when I turned four, shortly after my mum found me! (she was looking for a good natured, easy' young horse - lol)

My favourite things are food, jumping (even when there are no jumps 🐾) and being groomed

I LOVE A CARROT & A CUDDLE



MY FRIENDS

I don't like new people invading my space and when my bestie Cara gets to go out in the field without me!!

I also love other animals, especially cows and alpacas near my home I like to say hello when we ride past.



LOVING MY WORK

My advice to other horses is that if you stare directly at your mum or dad and give them your cutest face it quite often results in a carrot & a cuddle!!

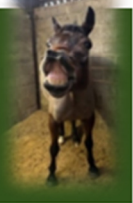
My special trick is that I always break ANYTHING but the baling twine when I'm tied out. Once I pulled the tie ring out of the brand-new lorry (oops)!!! (Mum said I wasn't allowed to add as a tutorial as my advice to other horses)



.....to mum's relief I have mellowed out lots, but I still have my own quirks like my recognisable neigh (chicken/dinosaur vibes) and the occasional standing on two legs!!!

Some people may have described me as 'opinionated, stubborn and naughty' however I would say I was just more seasoned

**I ALWAYS TRY MY BEST
FOR MY MUM AND I LIKE
TO LEARN NEW THINGS**



Upcoming events

Dates for the diary



When

What

Where

Saturday 13 June 2026	Summer Dressage	Rectory Farm Arena
Sunday 28 June 2026	Combined Challenge	West Wilts EC
Saturday 4 July 2026	Summer Showjumping	Rectory Farm Arena
Sunday 12 July 2026	Horse trials	Howick BE
1 – 4 October 2026	Residential Camp	Stockland Lovell
Sunday 11 October 2026	Arena Eventing	West Wilts EC
Sunday 18 October 2026	Dressage to Music	Burrows Court
Sunday 15 November 2026	Winter Intermediate Dressage	CCR Equestrian

2026 residential camp date
Stockland Lovell
1 – 4 October 2026

Paying the Club

Please when paying by bacs if the bank account you are using has a different name than that of the entry, please either reference entry name and date of rally/event on payment or drop the club Treasurer a message stating who the payment is for.

When paying for rallies, camps etc. BACS is our preferred method details are:
Sort code 09-01-51
Acc. No. 84275504

Where possible please reference each BACS payment with date of rally/event

Committee members



Who	Role	Contact
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