

Over 75 Years of Equestrian Excellence AT OLD BERKELEY RC

This issue BRC's Olivia Walker catches up with the committee of Old Berkeley RC. The club celebrated a significant milestone back in September 2023 – its 75th anniversary

Right—
Stephanie
Brookfield
on Maddie
at the HT
Championships



ACTION/REPLAY PHOTOGRAPHY



Above—
Jillie Luff and
Corby National
PYO Champion
2023

Chair's comments

DIANE HUNT

I love attending competitions to support and encourage our members, celebrating highs and encouraging riders to try again after lows. Riding, training and competing are all about taking part, learning new skills, reaching personal goals, supporting one another, and having fun!

The Old Berkeley Riding Club was founded by Colonel Phipps in 1948. He'd organise an huge array of social events and activities for the members, including garden parties, trips to Windsor races, cross-country rides and barn dances.

Competitions were often organised at prestigious venues, and OBRC team members won the one-day-event at Kensington Palace Gardens in 1960. The club's success continued into the next decade when its Quadrille team took top spot at HOYS in 1971.

Today, the club continues to grow in strength with a membership base spanning Buckinghamshire, Hertfordshire, and Bedfordshire.

The club is known for being supportive and friendly, making it a welcoming environment for its 50 plus members.

OBRC had a very successful 2024 season with some brilliant performances from teams and individuals, who left their mark in various qualifiers and championships.

Highlights included veteran club stars Jillie Luff and Corby (she is 75 years old, and he is 20) continued success in the PYO (Medium/Advanced Medium) at Lincoln. They were National Champs in 2023, and were in the top ten last year.

2024 also saw numerous other standout performances, with riders and teams earning top spots in qualifiers within area six and at championships nationally.

BEYOND COMPETITION

Aside from successes at competitions, committee member Elizabeth Rollinson talks about what else OBRC has to offer: "The club offers an incredible range of

...Beyond physical training, OBRC offers a range of educational events through its 'Horse Knowledge Club.' These events, both online and in-person, cover a broad spectrum of equine-related topics...



Katie Penn –
pleased with
her test

Right—Miles
of smiles
at the 75th
celebrations
social



POETRY IN MOTION

Tamsin Morris
on Khadira at
the intermediate
qualifier



CHARLOTTE BURY PHOTOGRAPHY

subsidised opportunities for members to train together. We try and encourage fun and learning in a supportive environment to ensure that everyone can progress at their own pace and level of confidence. We host a variety of coaching sessions but also enjoy hacking together on BHS rides, training on the biomechanical horse (pictured below) and a good social night at the pub!

"Beyond physical training, OBRC offers a range of educational events through its 'Horse Knowledge Club.' These events, both online and in-person, cover a broad spectrum of equine-related topics.

"Past sessions have included talks on equine dentistry, saddle fitting, and bridledways access. In addition, members have been able to learn about equine nutrition and

techniques for managing competition nerves and building confidence.

"Each year the AGM marks a special occasion celebrating not only all the competitive achievements that our members have had, but also their dedication and growth over the year.

"The club's awards include around 15 challenge trophies and cups with many of our awards honouring the success whilst others focus on personal milestones such as improvements in rider confidence or achieving individual goals with their horses.

"One of our most cherished and long-standing trophies is The Phipps Trophy, which has been a part of the club's history since 1959.

"This special award, affectionately known as 'the

turning-up prize', is given to the member who attends the most training sessions and competition events throughout the year.

"The 2025 awards ceremony will mark the debut of our new, recently donated Galway Rose Cup which will be presented to a member embarking on their dressage journey.

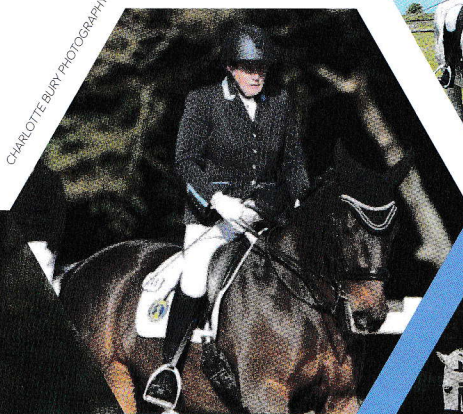
"Our chairperson, Diane Hunt, and the other committee members meet regularly to ensure all our activities and competition entries run smoothly.

"The club also has lots of loyal and hardworking volunteers who contribute massively – helping at area qualifiers, national championships, at our evening dressage competitions and sharing knowledge and skills during online Horse Knowledge Club events.

"We're so grateful to have such wonderful members who make our club such a welcoming experience for all." 🐾

➔ TURN TO P16

CHARLOTTE BURY PHOTOGRAPHY

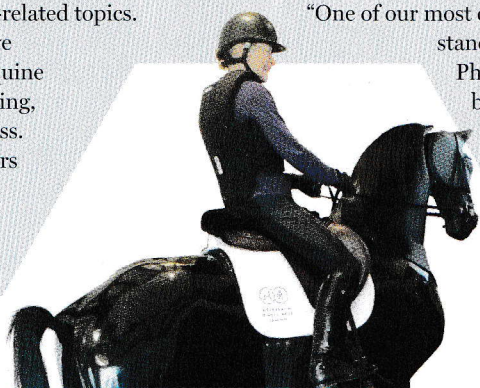


Above—Diane Hunt on Barry at Wellington int D qualifier 2024

Top right—Dressage pairs winners Jane Bancroft on Candy Blue and Alison Dippenaar on Cavalier Katnis at the Area 6 qualifier

Right—Elizabeth Etchells on Dunedin Maurice at the intermediate qualifier

Our AGM award-winners last year



What our members say...



Paula Wynn (centre) and friends show off their Summer Dressage series Champions rosettes

PAULA WYNN

I bought my coloured cob Puzzle after losing my confidence on another horse. With help and support from club training clinics, I slowly gained confidence and started competing at club dressage competitions. After encouragement from other members, we were part of the OBRC winning team in area qualifiers, then competed at the BRC summer National Championships in 2024. It was an amazing experience and shows how rewarding joining a riding club can be.

“ I slowly gained confidence and started competing...”

JULIE FLEMING

I originally joined OBRC to take part in clinics with the goal of improving my riding, but with encouragement and support from other members I've achieved so much more.

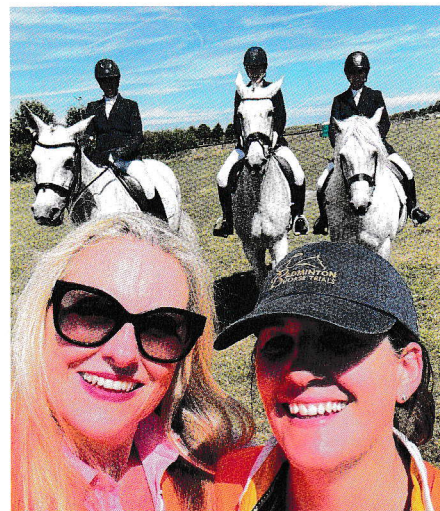
I've been away to camp, represented the club in show jumping and horse trials events and I've competed at the National Championships – a real highlight.

Three years ago, I hadn't ever ridden a dressage test and wouldn't have considered taking part in a one-day-event. It just goes to show what is possible with gradual progress and encouragement.

Our club members are all at different levels of riding and experience, but in the club we celebrate all achievements enthusiastically. I thoroughly enjoy the camaraderie of members.

When competing at events I really value the support of volunteers, so I make sure I volunteer at events myself.

Being involved in the organisation and success of the day is great, whether stewarding the car park or warm-up ring, or pole picking in the jumping area. It's always a fun day and great to meet members from other clubs.



Happy volunteering times – Julie Fleming (right) with Anique Hobden

“ ...With encouragement and support from other members I've achieved so much more...”

“

DIANE HUNT
OBRC CHAIR

...I really enjoy being the chairman of our club and it's given me the opportunity to meet lots of new friends...

Leah on Fred at the BRC SEIB HT Championships



ACTION REPLAY PHOTOGRAPHY

LEAH UPTON

I'd encourage anyone to join their local riding club. I am an average rider and, for fabulous Fred (a 14hh New Forest pony) and I, competing as part of a team in area qualifiers was a high for us in 2024. Qualifying and competing as a team member at the winter show jumping, horse trials and combined challenge BRC National Championships was the icing on the cake for me.