

Old Berkeley Riding Club

www.obrc.org.uk



Editor: Diane Hunt

OBRC

Newsletter

February 2026

Welcome to the February Newsletter

Please visit our club website: www.obrc.org.uk for details on upcoming events, clinics, competitions and results. We also have an open facebook page and for current members: Old Berkeley Riding Club Members Only Group facebook page.

To join the club – please visit the Membership page on the website for details, a guide and photos on step by step: “How To Join” via Sport80.

Membership 2026

We are pleased to announce that at the beginning of this year we have 55 members which is amazing. With the Sport80 system it means members re-joining and new members joining receive a full 12 months membership.

Pole Exercises & Grid Jumping Clinic

Saturday 25th January with Georgie Dalton at Cotton Spring Farm, Markyate.

Eight members enjoyed a fab clinic with a mixture of poles or jumping.

Next clinic is on Sunday 22nd February with Georgie Dalton.

Flatwork, pole exercises or course jumping. There are 10 members booked in this clinic. Details of forthcoming Clinics are on the Training page of our website.



OBRC Members Only Winter Online Dressage Series

Thank you to everyone who braved the rain & cold to support the second online dressage competition. We had 24 test videos ridden by 16 members for the December – January competition. Thank you to dressage judge Julia Catling for watching and judging all the tests. This winter the club has been offering prize vouchers to the 1st, 2nd, 3rd winners in each of the 5 classes. The third and last of the winter series competitions is February – March with entries closing on Monday 23rd March and last videos in by Tuesday 31st March. Schedule is on the Competition page of the website.

Winter Dressage Series Points League

OBRC members all gain points from the percentages in their tests.

Separate championships levels:

* class 1: Intro * class 2: Prelim * class 3: Prelim * class 4: Novice * class 5: PYO. Winter online dressage championship rosettes are kindly sponsored by Sue Sawyer of Pednor Rug Clean. Chesham, HP5 2ST. Prizes will be sponsored by OBRC.

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Area 6 Competition Reports

Winter intermediate dressage qualifiers on December 14th were held at Wellington Riding Centre, just south of Reading. Seven members competed in two teams and a few individual tests were ridden too. The Blue team finished in 1st place which was fantastic: Louise Bennett, Carol Fletcher, Louise Pusey, Charlotte Rollinson.

Our Gold team only sadly had three members, but they still all did well finishing in 7th place: Katie Penn, Anka Taylor, Anna Collins.

Julie Fleming won both of the BRC Prelim tests with a score of 75%.



team manager Jane Bancroft did a brilliant job of organising all the entries, putting the teams together and supporting members with information about the competition.

Saturday 31st January saw the dressage to music qualifiers at BCA, Maidenhead. We had six members competing in very nearly every class. Congratulations to Kirsty Scott and Elizabeth Etchells for winning the open pairs class, Carol Fletcher for her 4th place in the prelim test, 1st place to Elizabeth Etchells & 3rd place to Carol Fletcher in novice no BD points. Elizabeth Rollinson for 1st place in novice +BD points. Kirsty Scott 1st place in the elementary, Louise Riley-Hunt 1st in medium test and 2nd place in advanced medium class.



AGM, Awards & Social Evening 2026

What a brilliant evening we had on Wednesday 4th February at Bellingdon village hall, near Chesham. There were about 29 members and honorary members who were all there to celebrate the riding club, member's achievements and successes over 2025.

The evening started with reports on clinics, events and competitions the club members have been involved by the chairman Diane Hunt. Special mentions to thank members and honorary members for their support through helping at competitions. Thanks to the instructors & venues owners: Georgie Dalton, Pheobe Russell, Tracey Young. Special thank you to Deborah Sanders for allowing the club to hire her excellent facilities for the summer evening dressage series.

Important thank you to the committee members for giving their time to organise clinics: Leah Upton. Putting together team entries for dressage: Jane Bancroft. All the jumping qualifiers: Anka Taylor. Encouraging riders to join us: Liz Rollinson, Keeping minutes at meetings: Paula Wynn. Over- seeing the accounts: Jane Rickett.

Following on was a report from Leah on training clinics, Liz gave a short talk on membership. Then Jane and Anka both gave their reports on the member's successes over the year at the various Area 6 qualifiers and championships for both dressage and jumping.



Presentations of the Challenge Trophies and special awards

DEERHUNTER TROPHY Area dressage

Prelim, Novice

Winner: Alison Dippenaar & Jazz

Alison did very well at the winter qualifiers finishing 2nd place in prelim test with 72%. Winter championships rode in the prelim test finishing 2nd place with over 70% score.



MAURICE ESSEX DRESSAGE CUP Area tests: Elementary, Medium, Advanced Medium

Winner: Tamsin Morris & Khadira

Qualified at winter areas to compete in the Championships at Arena UK – finishing in 2nd place. Qualified at the summer dressage & competed at Lincoln summer championship in 6th place in elementary & 8th place medium.

IAN CRIPPEN SHIELD Area winter & summer show Jumping 60cm, 70cm

Winner: Louise Pusey & Billy Whizz.

They jumped two double clears in the 60cm & 70cm classes at the area qualifiers. Louise was invited to compete at the Summer SJ championships as individual in 60cm & part of the 70cm team. There they jumped two double clears in both heights over very different courses.

ROSSLARE SHOW JUMPING TROPHY -

Area 80cm, 90cm, 100cm

Winner: Anka Taylor & Ella who jumped a double clear in the 80cm class at the winter SJ, finishing in 2nd place against 45 other riders.

Coney Spurs Trophy – Dressage to music

Winner: Elizabeth Etchells & Maurice who finished in 2nd place in the Novice 0BD points in January 2025 & were invited to compete at the championships in April where they won the championship class with 71% out of 21 riders.

Galway Rose Cup combinations starting out at intro dressage level

Winner: Louise Bennett & Jack.

They competed in our winter online competitions in 2024-25 series, giving them confidence to compete in the area Q in October in finished 6th place. At the December Area 6 Q Louise & Jack won the intro test out of 10 riders & helped the blue team win.



HEATHER EDWARDS TROPHY

C T / Combined challenge / Arena Eventing

Winner: Alexa Iona-Smith & Callie.

The pair competed as an individual in the combined training qualifier in June at BCA. Won their Prelim test & 80cm with a good dressage mark & clear SJ. Competed at the CT Championships & won her arena class championships which was fantastic.



ONE DAY EVENT CUP - Horse Trials

Winner: Elizabeth & Maurice who normally just compete in the dressage & SJ. They thought they would enter the HT. Finishing in 3rd place with an invitation to the champs.

Championships: they rode a brilliant test & jumped CR. XC course was twisty & hilly. But only one run out, but they finished which is the important part.

BEST DRESSAGE TEAM – 2025

Open team members: Janine Modder, Jane Bancroft, Charlotte Rollinson, Kirsty Scott. Won at the Area 6 team qualifiers at Wellington Riding in December 2024. The team were invited to compete at the winter championships at Arena UK in April 2025. All rode brilliant tests and the final scores were announced our team members had finished in 2nd place out of 33 teams, which was fantastic.

BEST JUMPING TEAM – 2025

70cm Show Jumping team: Louise Pusey, Gina Elliott, Ellie Rose & Julie Fleming competed at Area 6 summer SJ Qualifiers at BCA and won the competition.

This was brilliant and exciting as the team were invited to compete at the summer SJ championships in Lincoln in late August 2025.

Unfortunately Julie's horse Clover was struggling with the scary fillers, so kindly stepped back & Hannah Brookfield took her place at championships. They all jumped very well over two tough and challenge courses to finish in 9th place from 22 teams which was amazing

Special Award

Liz Rollinson and Rebel support & compete in the summer dressage & winter series. Rebel is quite cheeky as he will shy at anything and challenges Liz to get the best from him. The pair enjoy competing in DTM but have to ride the novice tests which are more challenging.

With new music only ridden through once before, they competed in area 6 DTM qualifier.

Despite Rebel spooking at the big dressage letters & judge's car - Liz rode a good safe test. When the results were announced they won the class & qualified for the championships.



Jumping improvement

Gina bought Bubby in 2024, attended pole clinics & some of the Georgie Dalton clinics. Competed for the club in the Summer SJ Q's at 60cm & 70cm teams & the Combined Training team at prelim dressage & 70cm. At the CT championship Gina & Buddy stepped up a level to fill a place in the team, but needed to jump the 80cm course which they coped with well.



Newcomer's Awards for attending and supporting Club through events & competitions

These awards are for two new members who joined in late 2024 or 2025.

Carol Fletcher & Bean

Joined in December 2024: Carol competed & been part of the dressage teams in 3 area competitions. Attended the social evenings.

Lynne Priest & Ruari: Have supported the training clinics, evening dressage series & jumped in the show jumping teams at area 6 competitions.

Old Berkeley RC and Breakspear RC Challenge Cup

New award to the highest overall point's winner of the winter online dressage training & competition series for October 2024 – March 2025

Winner: Kirsty Scott and Charlie with 55 points

DANESBROOK DRAGONFLY TROPHY – Improved combination over the year

Winner: Carina Vials & Ted who started off entering the winter online dressage series and came to a couple of summer dressage competitions. Then they started jumping and competed in the New BRC Club jumping series at 50cm & 60cm. They qualified & jumped at the BRC championships at Bury Farm, Slapton in September. Where they were 3rd in 50cm and 2nd in 60cm



THE VALHALLA CUP

Overall Points won at summer evening dressage series.

Points are awarded on percentages gained in the dressage test classes

Reserve Award: Paula Wynn & Puzzle with 49 points

Winner: Charlotte Rollinson & Rebel with 52 points



WINTER'S TALE TROPHY

Progressive improvement

Winner: Katie Penn & Kai.

Kai can be a challenge as he gets very tense in new situations. Sensibly they started out with winter online dressage, then braved the Area 6 intro Q in 2024 at Wellington. In 2025 they came to summer dressage series, joined in some of our clinics away from home and braved Wellington area dressage Q in December competing in the two tests. Now competing in this winter dressage series. Kai has really improved and is gaining more confidence.

HORSE HEAD TROPHY - To the horse or pony who has joined events & clinics

Winner: Lilly and her rider Anne Jermey. Lilly is now 21 years old, she has attended lots of clinics, competed in the summer evening dressage, online dressage, jumped in the 40cm BRC club jumping and won the 40cm championship.



PORTWIN CUP – For supporting the club by helping at the club at event etc.

Winner: Steph Brookfield who went above and beyond at Lincoln SJ championships – travelling up with Gina to support and help the 70cm team – sleeping in the trailer with her mother-law-to be. She walked all the courses, helped her sister Hannah in the practice ring.

Ran back to help Gina tack up. She held horses so the team could walk the course again. Even though our riders were in different jumping arenas – Steph went back to support Gina & Louise while they jumped. At the end of the day she helped pack up & load up for the journey home.

CHAIRMAN'S CUP

Winner: Paula Wynn

We had two teams competing at the BRC Combined training championships in September. The BRC insisted our club provide a helper at these Championships which were at Aston Le Walls, near Daventry and Paula kindly offered to drive up there to be a helper so the team members could compete and not have help, which is what we sometimes suggest. But competition times were all wrong for everyone and their horses.

THE PHIPPS TROPHY Awarded on points gained for attending training, club competitions, helping out at all types of OBRC events & activities. Points gained on horse & rider combinations.

RC Award: Jane Bancroft 24 points

Winner: Leah Upton 34 points



Fundraising For OBRC

Old Berkeley Riding Club has signed up to the Easy fund raising platform.

This is a simple and easy way to raise some extra funds for the riding club at no cost to members and friends.

In return the money raised can be put toward funding & subsided training clinics, competitions and events.

Those interested can follow the link to sign up to the app:

<https://easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/old-berkeley-riding-club>

Diary Dates

OBRC events, training & Area 6 diary dates:

OBRC online dressage: February – 31st March

Area 6 Winter Show Jumping Q BCA 28th February

BR Club Jumping Q BCA 28th February

BR Arena Eventing Wellington 11th April

Area 6 Summer Show Jumping Q BCA 24th May

Area 6 Horse Trials Q Munstead 20th June

See training page on website for booking details.

All schedules for online dressage series will be on the competition page of website.

BR Area 6 competition qualifiers for teams & individuals will be on the AREA 6 page.

Schedules will be emailed out as available.

Keep in Touch

Website: www.obrc.org.uk

Members are welcome to join the OBH members' only group facebook

Open Old Berkeley Riding Club FB.

The committee members are always happy to help, answer questions or advice on training or events.

Chair and dressage: Diane Hunt

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Paula Wynn: Club Secretary

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Liz Rollinson – Membership Secretary

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