

# Swallowfield Equestrian Club

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## One year on

Our equestrian club is now one year old and nearly all of our regular clients and competitors are members. Thank you to all of you for your continued support.

Membership continues to be beneficial for regular clients and competitors. The major benefits are a discounted rate for lessons with Jo, reduced arena hire charges and a £2 discount for every class entered at Swallowfield. Keep an eye out for SEC stickers in horseboxes and cars at shows as we all like to meet a friendly face!

If you were one of our earlier members, typically one of the first 40 members, your membership is probably due for renewal. Should you wish to rejoin, and we very much hope you do!, please fill in the form at the end of this newsletter. Please note, the renewal form also includes a space for your postal address. Occasionally we would like to post out information to you, specifically when it is not supplied to us in electronic format. If you do not wish to receive information this way, please leave your address blank. Please don't worry, we won't pass your address (or any contact information) to any other individual or company.

The renewal cost for membership is £50 for the year, with standard membership still £75, and don't forget, if you introduce a friend to the club, you get an additional £10 discount. Please print your form and send it to us with a cheque, payable to Swallowfield Equestrian Limited, and a stamp addressed envelope for your new membership number and card.

It's been a really busy summer with on-going infrastructure developments at Swallowfield and a full competition schedule for most of our members. Our Unaffiliated and Affiliated shows continue to be well attended and the standard of competition remains very high. The introduction of junior and senior British Showjumping into our competition schedule helps cement Swallowfield's reputation as a highly respected progressive venue.

Many of Jo's pupils have enjoyed exceptional success over the summer, with 16 club members and pupils qualifying for the BD regionals, others going to the Trailblazer finals and some members will be flying the central region flag at the Home International in October. Congratulations to everyone for a great season. We have some individual member's news later in the newsletter.

We would like suggestions for a member's event. Last year we got tickets to Olympia for the Kur, with yet another amazing world record performance from Moorlands Totilas. If you have any ideas for a great day/evening event that you think SEC members will enjoy, email Jo on [club@swallowfield.net](mailto:club@swallowfield.net) giving her the outline details and we can investigate further.

We would also like to hear more from our members. Let us know what you have been up to – and pictures are always welcome. Also suggestions we can pass onto our sponsors would be welcome. Cornerhouse, Astwood and Centaur would love to focus an article on an area of specific interest to our members, so send us your ideas.

**Congratulations to Amy Oades, a long term member of staff here at Swallowfield. This weekend she married her fiance Danny. Their wedding was held in Italy where they have family links and they are now honeymooning in Kenya.**

**We hope they had a fabulous day and enjoy a long and happy future together.**



## What's New?



Many of you will have noticed the British Showjumping dates in our schedule. When we introduced these dates, we decided to focus on Intro and progressive classes to encourage riders comfortable in Trailblazer or Cricklands classes to try British Showjumping.

We are delighted that our affiliated shows are becoming well attended and being really well received by competitors. Many of you may not be aware that you can try your hand at British Showjumping without first becoming a member. British Showjumping run a "ticket" scheme to allow those progressing through the sport to jump in their classes on a test basis. We are currently running a "free ticket" scheme for our senior classes, so if you are a regular at our unaffiliated show jumping shows, download our schedule from our web site [www.swallowfield.net](http://www.swallowfield.net) and come and have a go!

We have now concluded our season's club point's league, kindly sponsored by Centaur Biomechanics. Centaur are this years sponsors of the British Dressage Preliminary National Championships and have also been heavily involved with the Pet Plan festivals. They are also a major presence in other equestrian disciplines and are playing a key role in the British Equestrian Federation's World Class development programme. We are delighted to continue our association with Centaur Biomechanics beyond this season's league sponsorship.

The provisional results are announced in this issue, we will confirm the final result in the next issue, in case we have missed any member's points in the total.

## Astwood Update – winter league sponsors



We are delighted to announce that Astwood Osteopaths will again be sponsoring our winter season's club league.

Astwood continue to work very closely with Swallowfield and Andrew Marling is a regular visitor, working on both horses and riders.

By considering both horse and rider, and their impact on each other as a team, Andrew works to help us achieve straightness, relieve aches and pains, and reduce tension that shows up during our schooling work and competitions.

**For further details visit the Astwood web site. If you would like to add yourself or your horse to Andrews treatment list, please contact the office at Swallowfield.**

[www.astwoodequineosteopaths.co.uk](http://www.astwoodequineosteopaths.co.uk)



Just to remind you of the Cornerhouse **free visit scheme** for routine veterinary work.

They will assign a vet to your zone for routine work i.e. vaccines, dental work, revisits, prescriptions checks, blood tests, removal of stitches post surgery etc.

The visit can be booked weeks in advance, the latest time being 2pm the day before the zone visit day. The appointment time is allocated after 4pm the day before your visit and you will need to phone the clinic between 4pm and 5pm to confirm your appointment time. **To qualify for the free zone visit, payment for all work carried out must be made at the time of the visit.**

Please see their web site for free visit zone information.

We are extremely fortunate to have such equine specialists within our geographical area and over the years we have kept them quite busy!

Robert Walsh and his team will regularly submit articles for our newsletter. These papers will address issues we all face, whether we like it or not!

**If you would like any further information on Cornerhouse Equine Clinic services please call them on 01564 743033, via their web site [www.cornerhousevets.com](http://www.cornerhousevets.com) or email them at [info@cornerhousevets.com](mailto:info@cornerhousevets.com)**

## Cornerhouse Equine Clinic – Equine Dentistry

### Why do we need to rasp teeth in horses?

Sharp enamel points develop on the buccal side (cheek) of the upper premolars and molars and the lingual side (tongue) of the lower teeth. This is due to the fact that the upper jaw is 15% wider than the lower jaw and the teeth are worn down during the lifetime of the horse by the grinding action of chewing, the silica contained within grass and hay acts like sandpaper and gradually wears the dental enamel. The cheek teeth continue to erupt during the lifetime of the horse until they are worn away or fall out due to dental disease.

The sharp enamel points in a ridden horse can cause ulceration to the cheek and tongue which in turn causes discomfort as having a bit in the mouth and a flash or tight noseband will push the soft tissue structures into the sharp points.

### Horses in the wild survive without dentistry – why is that?

In the wild the horse will eat for 18 hours a day and will continually grind/wear the cheek teeth down. It never has a bridle on and can open its mouth and carry its head wherever most comfortable. Horses in the wild will not survive with dental disease so as a result of natural selection only horses with good dental makeup/conformation will breed and survive. In contrast, domesticated horses are bred for looks, speed, gait etc and as a result we encourage the progression of a host undesirable genetic traits, for example, parrot mouth, boxy feet, umbilical hernias, undescended testes etc.

### Pleasure and competition horses.

Regular and thorough dental examinations are important in maintaining the health and performance of your horse. Signs of dental disease are varied:

1. Difficulty in chewing, dropping food (quidding) drooling saliva or trying to eat and stopping abruptly.
2. Halitosis or bad smelling breath.
3. Nasal discharge especially from one nostril.
4. Weight loss especially in older horses.
5. Swelling in lymph nodes under the jaw.
6. Reluctance to have a bit in the mouth.
7. Poor head carriage and opening the mouth when ridden.
8. Occasionally there can be facial swelling or bony swelling of the jaw.

## **Common reasons for horses to present with oral discomfort:**

### **Sharp enamel points (as discussed) with ulceration of the soft tissues.**

Easily corrected with routine rasping, or use of motorised dental equipment. Once the points have been rounded off the ulcers will heal very quickly, sometimes salt is added to water as an antibacterial agent.

### **Periodontal disease:**

Infection in the tissues immediately around the tooth leading to loose teeth (very painful when chewing). This can be improved with antibiotics and by taking the tooth out of occlusion with motorised burring of the opposing tooth (it is not involved with chewing for a short period). Occasionally in advanced cases the tooth is removed under sedation or under general anaesthetic.

### **Retained deciduous teeth: (caps)**

Occasionally young horses fail to effectively shed their 'baby' teeth and the retained temporary tooth or cap causes difficulty in chewing. This will often present with bad breath and cured by removal of the offending tooth with a special forceps.

### **Fractured teeth:**

Often presents with quidding weight loss, more common in middle aged and older horses, may involve the crown only or may extend down to the roots of the tooth. If the root of a tooth is infected (apical disease) there may be nasal discharge as the tooth roots of half of the upper teeth are as in the maxillary sinuses. With lower teeth there may be swelling on the jaw bone.

### **Schooling problems**

Are commonly caused with wolf teeth (1st premolar teeth) especially if there is only one tooth and it is unstable. Large wolf teeth as seen in cobs are very stable and usually do not cause problems. Wolf teeth are removed under standing sedation.

### **Hooks and ramps;**

Horses with over bite or parrot mouths can have large hooks on the upper 1st cheek teeth and large hooks or ramps on the last lower cheek teeth – these are ground down with electrical/motorised dental burrs.

### **Accentuated transverse ridging:**

Deep and multiple ridges in the molar teeth can make it difficult for a horse to work on the bit with a flash in place – so this is important in dressage and eventers. This is routinely corrected with a motorised disc burr.

If you have any specific dental queries please contact Robert Walsh at [cornerhousevets@aol.com](mailto:cornerhousevets@aol.com)

**Don't forget to quote your SEC membership number when sending in your entries to benefit from our exclusive SEC member discounts**

## Club League Results

Congratulations to our Club members who have achieved the following results in our recent competitions and have therefore earned points towards the Club League.

We would like to thank Centaur Biomechanics for their generous sponsorship of our season league and the donation of the winning prizes.

Date	Comp	Horse/Rider	Place	Points
12/06/10	TB P1	Jennifer Taylor - Skylark	2nd	7
12/06/10	TB P1	Irene Warren – Bally's Dream	1st	10
12/06/10	TB P14	Irene Warren – Bally's Dream	5th	2
12/06/10	TB P14	Charlotte Jones – Once in a Lifetime	3rd	5
12/06/10	TB N20	Charlotte Jones – Once in a Lifetime	4th	3
12/06/10	TB N36	Laura Kennedy – Harry Potter	4th	3
20/06/10	BD N36	Felicity Ho – Go Donny Ho	5th	2
20/06/10	BD E44	Su Millington – Himmel	4th	3
10/07/10	Intro A	Frances Pigott – Grey Lady	3rd	5
10/07/10	Intro B	Frances Pigott – Grey Lady	3rd	5
11/07/10	BD P15	Katherine Wood – Linton	5th	2
11/07/10	BD P 19	Katherine Wood – Linton	3rd	5
11/07/10	BD N22	Felicity Ho – Go Donny Ho	2nd	7
11/07/10	BD N37	Felicity Ho – Go Donny Ho	1st	10
17/07/10	Intro A	Nicola Wells – Moonshine Fabroile	6th	1
17/07/10	Intro A	Sharon Ward – Penascal	2nd	7
17/07/10	Intro A	Sue Lee – Vanquisher	3rd	5
17/07/10	Intro B	Sharon Ward – Penascal	1st	10
17/07/10	Intro A	Sue Lee – Vanquisher	6th	1
29/07/10	BD N27	Sue Lee – Daisynski	5th	2
29/07/10	BD N36	Sue Lee – Daisynski	2nd	7
29/07/10	BD E44	Lizzie Webb – WS Dominic	4th	3
29/07/10	BD E50	Lizzie Webb – WS Dominic	3rd	5
29/08/10	BD N22	Felicity Ho – Go Donny Ho	3rd	5
29/08/10	BD N38	Felicity Ho – Go Donny Ho	6th	1

### Current Leaderboard

Horse/Rider	Pts
Sue Lee – Daisynski	55 =
Felicity Ho – Go Donny Ho	55 =
Emma Beswick – Dulverton Jungle	20
Georgie Oxnard – Pumpkin =	17 =
Sharon Ward – Penascal =	17 =
Kelly Grimm - Naxos de la Lande	12 =
Irene Warren – Bally's Dream	12 =

### Points Awarded

Place	Pts
1 <sup>st</sup>	10
2 <sup>nd</sup>	7
3 <sup>rd</sup>	5
4 <sup>th</sup>	3
5 <sup>th</sup>	2
6 <sup>th</sup>	1

Points are awarded for a horse and rider combination and are not dependant on level of competition.

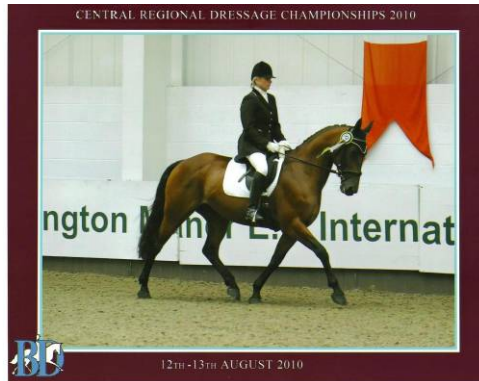
**Congratulations to Sue Lee and Felicity Ho who have tied for first place in our season's league table.**

**These results are still provisional and will be confirmed in the next newsletter.**

## Members news

At Swallowfield we know that our competitions invite some of the strongest competitors in the region and we are always delighted to hear success stories from our members.

- ✦ Our provisional joint league winners, Sue Lee and Daisynski, contested the Preliminary Regionals at Addington and came away with a fabulous 6<sup>th</sup> place.



The combination have also been busy outside british dressage as they are one half of the newly crowned Le Trec British L3 pairs champions. Le Trec is one of the fastest growing equestrian sports, gaining huge popularity and international recognition. L3 is the highest level that can be achieved as a pair competition, and often can be harder than individual classes as there can be a lot of argument about which way to go on the orienteering phase! Both horses also have to perform well for the next day with a control of paces (slow canter/fast walk) and obstacle/hunter trials course. Fitness is also a major factor in the competition, with the horses being vetted three times over the weekend.

Daisy was one of the highest scoring horses over both phases over all the levels.

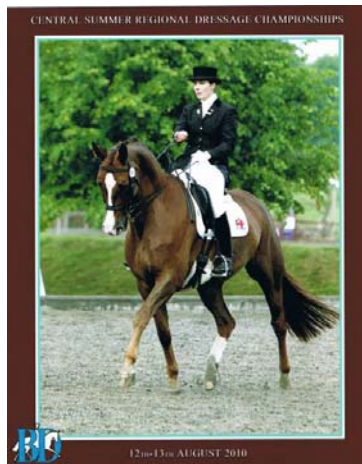
This is Daisy's last competition in Le Trec as Sue will now concentrate on dressage with her, but another of Sue's younger horses, Jet, will now carry on with a view to L4 individual (highest level) next year and ultimate aim of the British team the year after.



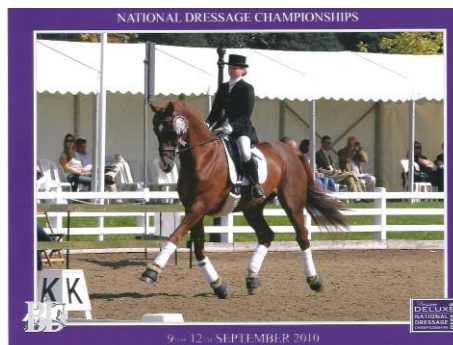
- ✦ One of our newest club members, Sharon Ward with her grey gelding Penascal, has stormed onto our leader board. Penascal is not only new to dressage, but also to a British equestrian way of life as he was only recently imported from much warmer climates. Penascal has settled in well and is now a regular presence at our dressage competitions and other local venues.



- ✦ Pippa Bishop, SEC member and part time member if staff, has had a great season with her horse Bobby Briar. She has regularly won or been placed in Advanced Mediums and Para tests. Sadly Bobby wasn't quite right the day before the Nationals and she made the difficult decision to withdraw.



- ✦ Congratulations too to member of staff Emily Richards with Karbiet who were 5<sup>th</sup> in the Advanced Medium Restricted championship at the British Dressage Nationals.



## Swallowfield Loyalty Card – Again!

Just a friendly nudge - as you know, at Swallowfield we run a lot of shows and finding helpers is an ongoing challenge for Lucy as the show secretary.

Surprisingly, one of our main challenges is finding writers for dressage. Those of you who have written for dressage judges know how beneficial it can be. It helps you understand what a judge is looking for in a test, why some marks are higher, and others lower than you expected and some specifics you can incorporate into your own riding to improve your marks.

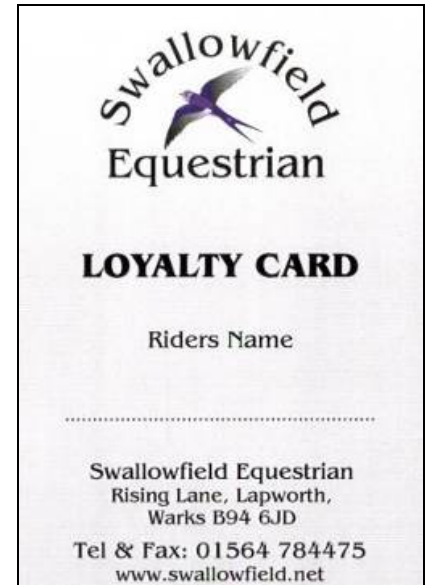
In addition to the competitive benefits of writing for dressage judges, we also have our Swallowfield Loyalty Card, designed to reward our regular volunteers.

All members and helpers should have a loyalty card, if you have not received one (or you have lost it), please see Lucy for a replacement.

In its simplest form, for every hour you help us, we will stamp your card. When you have 5 hours, we will give you a free £10 voucher to spend at Swallowfield towards entries or lessons. If you are competing in a class, it would be fabulous if you could help us earlier or later in the day.

Don't forget our one day events and show jumping competitions. These also need helpers as stewards, fence judges and arena party. Make sure you get your Loyalty Card from the office and earn loyalty points in return.

Check our schedule online at [www.swallowfield.net](http://www.swallowfield.net) and either contact Lucy in the main office or email [club@swallowfield.net](mailto:club@swallowfield.net) with the dates you could help us.



## Club Stickers

Please remember to collect your club sticker for your lorry, car or trailer from Lucy. Use them to "find a friend" in show car parks, as they can be easily identified.



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### Yes I would like to renew my membership!

Rider Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Name of horse \_\_\_\_\_  
Email Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone No \_\_\_\_\_

Please remember to enclose a stamped address envelope and a cheque for £50, made payable to Swallowfield Equestrian Ltd, and send them to Swallowfield Equestrian, Rising Lane, Lapworth, B94 6JD.

If you have any questions, please call the office on 01564 784475 during office hours or email [club@swallowfield.net](mailto:club@swallowfield.net)

**Thank you for your continued support, we look forward to seeing you at Swallowfield.**