

HORSE TRIALS SUPPORT GROUP

Backing Britain's Three-Day Event Teams



Newsletter, February 2010

www.htsg.co.uk

Dear Support Group Member

The start of the 2010 horse trials season is fast approaching, with the first competition on March 6-7 being at Moreton in Dorset – 2010 looks like being a busy season, both at home and abroad. I understand that BE membership and horse registrations are holding up remarkably well, so our sport will, hopefully, continue to buck the trend and not be hit too hard by the recession. We hope you will find the enclosed information about key issues and events useful.

MITSUBISHI BADMINTON HORSE TRIALS

Friday-Monday, April 30-May 3 (**N.B.** change of days)

Badminton's box office closes on April 19. Please help the office by ordering your car passes (paid-up HTSG members are entitled to one four-day car pass which admits all occupants), and any other tickets you require in good time.

The HTSG Tent will be in the usual place behind the Grandstand and open for all four days of the main event, but not on the April 29, which is the first day of the Badminton Grassroots Championship which is being partly sponsored by the HTSG's accountants, Saffery Champness. Entrance to the Tent on Show Jumping Day (Bank Holiday) will be FREE to HTSG members' guests. Please remember to book your lunches for all days, including Monday, to help with the catering.

Rosemary Barlow and her merry band of helpers will, as always, be looking after us all and ensuring that the HTSG Tent is the preferred meeting place for all our Members and their guests. Sally Armstrong, surely one of the best cooks in Gloucestershire, will once again be providing the catering. I would urge all our members to bring their friends and make use of this unique facility.

Yogi Breisner has agreed to conduct a course-walk at a time to be advised – details will be published on the notice board in the HTSG Tent.

LANDROVER BURGHLEY HORSE TRIALS

September 2-5

The Burghley Office will be writing to all HTSG Members in due course with booking details – paid-up HTSG Members are entitled to a four-day car pass and a pair of members' season tickets.

A number of members have requested that we consider having a tent at Burghley which, in fact, we did many years ago, but it was hardly used, most members preferring to make use of the excellent Burghley Members' Tent facilities. Your Committee recently discussed this and were of the opinion that the costs of a tent at Burghley would be prohibitive and require a substantial increase in the membership fee, which was not justified in view of the facilities already provided in the Burghley Members' Tent.

BLenheim PALACE INTERNATIONAL HORSE TRIALS

September 9-12

In recognition of HTSG's support of the sport, the organisers have kindly offered to extend their 'Early Bird' discount savings (normally available only to previous Blenheim customers who book before the end of January) and free programme offer to members of the HTSG until the end of March. HTSG Members can get savings off the gate price and further savings off the advanced discount prices by just entering the code "**HTSG2010**" in the *promotional code* box on the website www.blenheim-horse.co.uk. Savings of £3.00 to £5.50 per admission ticket can be made on gate prices and each booking gets a free programme (select *free programme* option under *programmes* when booking). A form is enclosed.

WORLD EQUESTRIAN GAMES, KENTUCKY

September 30–October 3

The three-day event competition of the World Equestrian Games (WEG) takes place in Kentucky this year. Besides the Eventing Team, the British Squad will include Dressage, Show Jumping, Reining, Endurance, Vaulting and possibly Driving, which means that GB could be fielding a full team. It is expected that there will be an International Supporters' Pavilion, but we have no details at the moment, apart from the fact that Rosemary Barlow will be helping but not organising, so at least there will be one friendly face there for our members.

The Ultimate Travel Company, who have organised our tours for many years now, have decided not to organise a group tour because of the cost, particularly of hotels and transport, but they will be arranging individual trips for anyone interested. If you are thinking of going to WEG, I recommend you contact Richard Appleby-Brown of Ultimate Travel on 0207 386 4646 or via their website www.theultimatetravelcompany.co.uk.

Ultimate Travel will be running an organised tour to the 2011 European Championships at Luhmühlen, Germany.

200 CLUB

The 200 Club was so successful last year, raising £4,500 for British teams, that we are running it again in 2010, although with cheaper tickets at £25 each. There will be three prize draws, with three good cash prizes each, at Barbury International, The Festival of Eventing at Gatcombe and Blenheim Palace. A form is enclosed for those who would like to reserve their favourite numbers early, otherwise tickets can be bought from HTSG Committee members and in the Tent at Badminton.

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND NEW MEMBERS

A few subscriptions (£200 single, £250 joint) are still outstanding and we would be grateful if those members who have not paid would do so via our hard-working Membership Secretary, Jan Martin. Cheques should be made payable to "HTSG" and sent to:

Jan Martin, 1 Field View Cottages, The Green, Oaksey, Malmesbury, Wiltshire SN16 9TP (01666 575304).

We are delighted to welcome new members and would encourage existing members to invite others to join – the HTSG is a great band of people, who have raised over £2 million during the last 30 years. No other equestrian sport has such a respected and well established supporters' club.

FUNDING FOR THE SPORT

This year, we plan to commit circa £18,500 to the support of Juniors, Young Riders and Pony Teams, and also prizes of £250 to the highest placed under-25 British riders in the CCI*** or CIC*** or equivalent at Withington, Chatsworth, Houghton, Barbury, Gatcombe and Blenheim. Our support for teams is directed at those teams not in receipt of Lottery or UK Sport funding. Yogi Breisner advises the Committee as to how best to use the funds raised by the HTSG. The letters of thanks from riders and officials, some of which we post on the website, are testament to the appreciation of your support. The HTSG continues to fill an important gap in the funding of these teams.

COMMITTEE CHANGES

Mary Hambro has decided to step down from the Committee, due to her many other commitments, and we are very grateful for all her work over the last four years. However, we are delighted to report that we have co-opted Jane Hamilton to join the Committee. Jane and her husband David own an eventing yard near Marlborough and have a part-share in Rodney Powell's good four-star horse *Zin Zan II*. In addition, Alec Lochore has had to step down because of other commitments and I would like to thank him for his input during his brief tenure on the Committee. His place has been taken by Nigel Taylor as BE representative and we look forward to working with him.

At the end of this season, I intend to step down as Chairman, a role that I have held for some 20-odd years, so it is time for a change. Your Committee will be appointing a successor in due course, but I will continue to be involved as a member and at the various events and functions.

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible around the circuit this year.

Tim Holderness-Roddam