



Bev Higgs (chairperson)
07760308056
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bev.higgs@yahoo.co.uk

Dear Member,

ESRC Shows 2019

You will all have heard by now that we have a fabulous new showground at Church Farm, Tong! See below quote from our wonderful secretary, Sue Bullock, as I couldn't put it better myself! ☺

"...Our shows for 2019 at our lovely new showground at Tong Riding Centre, just off the M54. Our Dressage Arena is now on a surface and indoors so we have reintroduced Novice classes to the schedule, many of our classes now have sponsors so there are a few prizes up for grabs as well as our usual wonderful rosettes, Clear Round Jumping will be in the main arena starting at 9.30am and over lunchtime, so gives riders the opportunity to have a practice round before the classes, Lead Reins will have their own championship after classes 1 and 2 in Showing, Carole 'Best Baps' and hubby Mike will again be providing the catering and our Parking Steward Extraordinaire Gerry will be there to help everyone get settled at our new venue. Enjoy the read and we hope to see you there, with or without your neddies - it'll be a blast!!"

The schedule is almost the same as last year's and can be found via the website or Facebook page. We no longer have a separate course for Clear Round show jumping but competitors will have two chances to practice at the start of the day and at lunch time.

We are anticipating a big turn-out for dressage and will be asking all entrants to pay via bacs to the ESRC account when they make their entry via the email address esrcshow@yahoo.com, or send by post to Liz Mills. This will not only avoid extra work on show days, but also save you a long walk – the entries caravan is a LONG way from the dressage arena! Usual details for payment - account no. is 30378224 and sort code 20-53-22, for payment by bank transfer.

The showing rings and the show jumping will take place on grass, dressage on a surface.

Parking for boxes will be near the stables and for trailers, down in the cross country field, so via a separate entrance further along the lane from Tong itself.

Please make a note of the changed costs for showing (multi-class discount) and dressage.



We have acquired a new caravan for entries, AKA 'Misty 2' which has already moved in to Church Farm along with the commentary box for company. Chris, Sue and I had quite an adventure moving them up there. The photo shows us changing the wheel in the pouring rain on the A41 as the tyre exploded on route!

We have also purchased some new radio controlled timing equipment from Penkridge Show, which operates without cables everywhere and means we can build jumping courses with fewer constraints. Sadly though, Penkridge Riding Club Show no longer exists, after running for more than 40 years.

We are very fortunate to have secured Church Farm for our shows and we ask all visitors to be respectful of this when attending. Please do not drop litter or muck out boxes on site and keep dogs on leads at all times. Bin liners and doggy poo bags can be collected from the entries caravan if you find you have forgotten to bring your own.

There are bound to be teething troubles – especially on day one as we get to grips with the new venue, parking arrangements, location of entries and catering, etc, and we thank you for your co-operation and patience with this.

Equine Influenza

We will assess the flu situation and biosecurity arrangements in place at Church Farm nearer to May 12th, the date of our first show. Obviously, we highly recommend that all horses be vaccinated against flu throughout their lives.

Programme

A full programme of clinics from your favourite instructors is brought to you by your hard working committee, running from April to early August.

The 'New Girl' on the committee, Patsy Pyke, has taken over the organisation of the Ticky Fletcher clinics at Church Farm, Tong.

In this photograph we see how Ticky is 'going the extra mile' in demonstrating 'engagement and hind leg activity!' 😊



MOUNTED GAMES We hope to be sending a team to Rodbaston on April 27th to take part in the adult mounted games. Cath Westwood is now in charge of this. Thanks Cath.

CAMP

We have decided to have a year off organising camp at Lincomb. We are aware that the same format has been used for the last six years and might need refreshing. It will be back in some form in 2020. Any ideas gratefully received, although the venue is hard to beat. Lincomb do their own camps if anyone can't bear to keep away!

Area 5 and Competition

Thanks to those who represent the club and many, many thanks to Jenny Millman, Louise Green and Lauren Hickman for organising teams. This is never an easy task even when everybody entered turns up when they say they will!

Show Jumping at Solihull, 17th Feb

Linda Anderson and Jenny Millman were the only two people that actually got to Solihull and jumped on the day, even though we originally had two teams! No ribbons this time but all went well and both riders were pleased with their horses.

Winter Intermediate Dressage at Aston Le Walls, March 24th is our next qualifying competition. Tina Smith, Harriet Fox-Davies and Sally Wainwright will ably represent ESRC.

**Wishing you all happy and safe riding
Bev Higgs**