



AREA  
**3**

**(Cornwall, Devon, Somerset, Wiltshire)**

**Area Representative:** John Calder - 01934 751258 e-mail: [john@themendipstud.com](mailto:john@themendipstud.com)

**County Representatives:**

Cornwall - Sophie Cotton tel: 07917 398830 email: [cheekyfloyd@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:cheekyfloyd@hotmail.co.uk)

Devon - Judith Hubbard tel: 01409 221537 email: [jhubbard66@gmail.com](mailto:jhubbard66@gmail.com)

Somerset - Lou Talintyre tel: 01934 751258 email: [lou@themendipstud.com](mailto:lou@themendipstud.com)

Wiltshire - Felicity Gerhardt tel: 01373 832233 email: [Felicitygerhardt@aol.com](mailto:Felicitygerhardt@aol.com)

**WES Approved Instructors:** Lisa John - 07977 070084 (Somerset);

Sophie Cotton - 07917 398830 (Cornwall); Judith Hubbard - 01409 221537 (Devon)

Welcome to the Area 3 Spring Newsletter with news from your local reps and a calendar of events. Please use it to let other interested parties know what you are doing. Pictures, articles, etc are always welcome. I would also like to start a "For Sale/Wanted" section so you can advertise in this if you wish. Copy date for the next Newsletter is the 30<sup>th</sup> June

*Felicity Gerhardt - editor*



**WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS** A very warm welcome to our new members in Area 3 since the production of our last newsletter:

Mark Baker

Ruth Baker

Genevieve Baker

Martina Drabkova

Sarah Hamlin

Will Masters

Liz Schaad

Charlotte Woodland

and any others who have joined since 1st March.



**AREA REP'S REPORT** – John Calder

I am pleased to report that the 2011 year has started off with a good deal of interest in developing the Area and its WES interests. The AGM, although not as well attended as last years meeting, had a good turnout. Thanks to all those who contributed and attended.

Thanks to Felicity for taking on the role as editor of the newsletter and for producing this edition. The next Newsletter will be available to members in the first week of July. Please send all information and items for inclusion directly to Felicity at [felicitygerhardt@aol.com](mailto:felicitygerhardt@aol.com)

Our county reps all have plans afoot and these are covered in other parts of this newsletter. With other non WES affiliated western clubs and societies now active in our area including the existing DWRC and the new WRFF, both of whom are putting on events and activities, we need to ensure our message is getting out there and that the benefits of WES membership are clear and well communicated. Work is currently in hand on how to improve our appeal and better our communication. There have already been a few events put on by our County reps that have been well supported. A big 'thank you' to them all for all their work.

It was suggested at our own AGM in January that I should once again raise the idea of free trial membership at the national AGM. I took a plan to the AGM which was briefly discussed and was advised by David Brindley that the suggestion would be discussed further at the next Council Meeting.



## Western Equestrian Society Area 3 Spring Newsletter 2011



Membership in WES nationally has seen a dramatic fall this year which is a very disappointing, and, for some, a very worrying development. Latest figures show that membership has fallen from 880 in 2009 to 760 at the beginning of 2010 and is now at around 540. Membership in Area 3 has increased over the past year, from just 58 at the end of January 2010 to currently stand at 69 members, and that despite losing a few members which would indicate that we are gaining a little more ground than we are unfortunately losing. When viewed against the downturn for WES on a national basis this is a very respectable result. Some Area's reported a greater than 50% reduction in their membership at the AGM. It's really incumbent upon all current members to try and attract new folk to our society and also to keep alive the interest of those who we do not see regularly at shows and other events. In these times of recession and austerity it is even more important for us to carry the message and benefits of WES to those who are already involved as well as attracting new and fresh blood to our society.

It was also decided at the Area AGM that we should have quarterly get-togethers of the County reps. Our first meeting is scheduled for the beginning of April. There will be a report on the meeting and any initiatives arising in the next newsletter.

All the Counties are hoping to have at least one member attending the show manager's seminar on April 2<sup>nd</sup> which when combined with the other Area members who have already attained this qualification will help ensure that shows can take place throughout the area.

John Rudd from Dorset has taken on responsibility for youth development in WES and to help John get this off to as good a start as possible and to represent our area's needs and wishes, we are looking for someone to act as Youth Liaison Officer. John has sent his vision for the future in an open letter which can be found below. The importance of this role cannot be stressed enough and we hope someone will volunteer to take on this position. Any interested parties are asked to contact me by e mail at [WES@themendipstud.com](mailto:WES@themendipstud.com)

Chris Cole was elected to be our Area 3 Team Captain at the National Championships this year. Anyone interested in being part of that team should get in touch with Chris directly on 07843 380843.

Judith Hubbard will be launching a brand new WES initiative in April, the Western Rider Development Programme. This is a unique and exciting scheme that provides WES members with the chance to follow a progressive training programme at home whilst having access to regular assessments and recognition of achievements. If you are interested in hearing more about the programme please contact Judith directly on either 01409 221537 or by email to [jhubbard66@gmail.com](mailto:jhubbard66@gmail.com)

I'm sure all in Area 3 will join me in thanking Jean Villiers for her generous sponsorship to the Area of £100.

Wishing you all a great season's riding.

*John Calder - Area 3 Representative*

*(Note from editor: The WRDP website is now up and running and you can keep up to date with all developments at [www.westerntrainingonline.co.uk](http://www.westerntrainingonline.co.uk) If you want to find out more, you can leave a message on the website's guestbook and someone will get back to you.)*



## COUNTY REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORTS

### Somerset - Louise Talintyre

A WES in Somerset Pub Quiz evening has been organised for the evening of the 28<sup>th</sup> of April – the night before the Royal Wedding. Hopefully many will be able to attend with the Bank Holiday the following day. Would all members please invite anyone interested in western riding to attend – all are welcome whether from Somerset, all other Area 3 Counties and any other WES members together with **non –members and their guests**. Weather permitting we will have a bring your own BBQ and a pub quiz. If the weather turns against us it will still happen but it will be an inside bbq ☺



The idea is to get together and plan together activities that members and potential new members would like to see put on in Somerset.

Some suggestions for activities have been trail rides, clinics, lectures by vets on equine care, talks by well know equestrians. Please let me know of any other ideas or activities that are of interest, ridden or non-ridden. I will be writing to all Somerset members with a Q&A sheet in the next couple of weeks and hope all members will take the opportunity to respond.

Thanks – Lou (lou@themendipstud.com)

### Devon - Judith Hubbard

The WES in Devon Western Evening was a great success with over 20 people coming from all over the county. There were old friends to catch up with and some very welcome new faces. The evening started with tea, coffee and biscuits before Judith gave a presentation on the Western Rider Development Programme. There was much interest in this new scheme, especially as WES members in Devon will have an opportunity to access the training and assessments face to face if they wish. Everyone had fun filling in a "Preferred Learning" questionnaire – not at all as daunting as it sounds – this highlights how each of us takes in information best. That may be by hearing instructions, watching something, doing a task or being able to talk yourself through a procedure. Judy Jones explained the results to everyone as she had recently become a Certified Practitioner of Neuro Linguistic Programming specialising in Equestrian Sport. After a break for coffee and cake, there was a chance to watch some of the World Equestrian Games Reining from Kentucky last year. The evening ended with some further discussion on the WRDP and general comments on the planned activities for the coming months. Thanks to all those who came and look forward to seeing as many people as possible though the summer.



### The Western Rider Development Programme

As you will all have seen in the last issue of WES News, this is an exciting and unique programme. In that article we asked for volunteers to be part of a pilot scheme. Well the inbox was jammed full with people asking to be considered and everyone was amazingly enthusiastic about the programme. We chose five members, all from different areas and over the next few months they will work part of the way through the seven level syllabus. Because of the interest from just that one article, we are hopeful that the WRDP will be open to all members by the Autumn. There will be further information in the next issue of WES News.



### Judging Seminar with Bob Mayhew on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> July 7pm

Bob has kindly agreed to attempt to condense a two day seminar into one evening! This is the first time an event like this has been held in Devon and gives the chance for competitors, curious spectators and would be judges to listen to the UK's most experienced international judge. It will be held in Northlew, West Devon and we really need to have an idea of numbers asap to book the right sized hall and arrange catering. So please, please let me know if you are interested in coming along. It will be a fascinating evening and only £5 per person – not to be missed. Contact Judith on 01409 221537 or email [jhubbard@gmail.com](mailto:jhubbard@gmail.com) for more information.

### Wiltshire - Felicity Gerhardt

Greetings from the far northern reaches of Area 3! I recently sent out a questionnaire to find out what events members would like locally. Nine replies were received which isn't bad considering there are only eight members in Wiltshire! (Although I did include many of the Somerset folk). Thank you very much to all who replied.



Members were mostly interested in WES clinics, shows and trail rides and were prepared on average to travel about an hour to an hour and a half with their horses. Social events seemed less popular.

I am going to attend the WES Show Manager's Seminar on 2<sup>nd</sup> April. Although I would like to organise a clinic or a show, it may be a struggle to get enough support to pay for a venue and a WES Approved Instructor. If you are interested, please do contact me and, should you know of a reasonably priced venue or could host a clinic or show, please also let me know.

In the meantime there's plenty going on within reach in Somerset. See the Events Diary.

Felicity - 01373 832233 [felicitygerhardt@aol.com](mailto:felicitygerhardt@aol.com)

### Cornwall – Sophie Cotton

Its been a busy start to the year for me but am planning great things for Cornwall! We had a successful 'Get ready for Spring' clinic at Treliver Equestrian Centre in February with eight riders attending, all of whom have gone home with enthusiasm for the approaching show season.



We have another clinic in planning for Sat 14th May at Degibna near Helston. There will be a BBQ afterward too so a great chance to meet other WES members as well as potential new WES members. Places are limited so please call Sophie Cotton on 07917 398830 or e-mail [cheekyfloyd@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:cheekyfloyd@hotmail.co.uk) for more details, times, cost etc.

I am now settled in Falmouth and have superb facilities including a round pen, ménage and off road riding facilities.

I welcome feedback from western riders in Cornwall, let me know what clinic / practice show formats / get-togethers / quiz nights etc you would be interested in and we can start arranging.



I look forward to meeting everyone and pulling together all those western riders in Cornwall!

Sophie Cotton (07917 398830 or [cheekyfloyd@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:cheekyfloyd@hotmail.co.uk))

## **MEMBERS NEWS**

You may have seen the article by Janey Wilks in a recent WES News, she writes this for us in Area 3....

"I am a recent convert to the awesome world of Western riding. In the last year I've had some great lessons with Western trainers and attended a small and friendly show



(in which Slip and I discovered that we like Western Pleasure but are rubbish at barrel racing) but best of the lot for me is trail riding. Riding out on a Western horse with the full Western kit just does it for me, and Slip tends to agree.

It's not just the gear (the chaps! the bling!), it's the expectation of comfort and enjoyment out on the trail that wasn't always my experience of hacking an English horse. Take the saddle, for example. An English saddle has two seams seemingly carved out of granite exactly where you wish it didn't. My Continental Western saddle was pretty comfortable in the first place, but since I added a sheepskin seatsaver it is seriously cosy. Slip was originally a professional reiner, and still finds the wide open spaces a bit surprising. In many ways he is a pre-set computer horse, the like of whom I have never ridden before. I think the proper Western term is 'dead broke'. He picks up his feet for the hoof pick. He lopes at a walking pace on a loose rein which leaves me with a silly grin on my face every time I experience it. Yet sometimes he turns into a sensitive flower with enormous eyes and quivering ears, ready to leap in the air at any monster he might spot – plastic bags, puddles, his own shadow, the list of Slip's monsters is endless

We are fortunate to live in a lovely corner of Wiltshire, and are surrounded by miles of bridlepaths leading through farmland and the remnants of great estates. Whether ambling happily through it chatting with friends, or jolting through in six foot bounces on one of Slip's more spontaneous days, the Western aspect means that I am never bored and in fact I enjoy every second. I am often the tag-along cowboy to a band of friends riding pampered sports horses, but I never envy them their jodhs and tiny saddles. I am happy and comfortable in kit designed to be ridden in all day, and feel that Slip in his tassles and patterned saddle pad lights up our shadowy rural lanes. As a bonus, we have signed up for the WES Trail Awards scheme so every hour I ride, whether Slip is having a smooth-as-cream day or is in pogo stick mode, is bringing me a few hours closer to that Montana Silver belt buckle. Yup, this Western riding sure is awesome!"

*Editor's Note: Janey is enrolled on the WES Trail Award Scheme where you can earn awards for just doing what you enjoy – riding your horse! For full details see the WES website or WES News. Contact is David Hudspeth 01159 119356.*

Also, if you would like to join Janey riding the trails of Wiltshire, or just want to chat about the scheme, she would love to hear from you.

01249 783263 [thewilkstream@btinternet.com](mailto:thewilkstream@btinternet.com)



### **DIARY OF EVENTS (AREA 3)**

Thurs 28 <sup>th</sup> April 7.00 pm – 10.30pm	WES in Somerset member's pub quiz and Bring your own BBQ	The Mendip Stud
Sun 8 <sup>th</sup> May 11am to 1pm	WES Approved Mounted Clinic with Judith Hubbard	Leawood Stud Riders £20 Bridestowe
Sat 14 <sup>th</sup> May	WES Approved clinic with Sophie Cotton (contact Sophie Cotton)	Degibna near Helston. Cornwall
Sun 22 <sup>nd</sup> May	WES Area 3 Spring Show (Contact: wes@themendipstud.com)	The Mendip Stud
Sun 3 <sup>rd</sup> July	WES Area 3 Summer Show (Contact: wes@themendipstud.com)	The Mendip Stud
Fri 8 <sup>th</sup> July 7 pm	Judging Seminar with Bob Mayhew (Contact: Judith Hubbard)	Northlew, Devon
Sun 14 <sup>th</sup> Aug	WES Area 3 Championship Show (Contact: wes@themendipstud.com)	The Mendip Stud

### **DIARY OF NATIONAL WES EVENTS**

April 2 <sup>nd</sup>	WES Show managers Course	Coventry
Apr 29 <sup>th</sup> to May 1 <sup>st</sup>	WES National Clinic	Moreton Morrell, Warwicks.
Fri 26 <sup>th</sup> to Sun 28 <sup>th</sup> Aug	National Show WES	Moreton Morrell, Warwicks

See the National WES website or WES News for details of all other events. Also don't forget to check out the links to other areas which border on ours which may have events within reach (eg Area 6 and Area 13)

### **OTHER EVENTS**

These events are organised by WES members but are NOT WES APPROVED and therefore not covered by the Society's Public Liability Insurance.

David Gray will be holding Pre-Show Clinics at the Mendip Stud before each of the shows – Check out his website for more information and details of other clinics and events which may be of interest. [www.davidgray.biz](http://www.davidgray.biz)

Christopher Cole is also organising pre-show clinics at Woolverton, nr Frome (nr the Wilts border.) The cost per rider for the day will be £35. Proposed dates: 10 Apr, 8 May, 19 Jun and 31<sup>st</sup> July Contact Chris direct for details on 07843 380843.



## Western Equestrian Society Area 3 Spring Newsletter 2011



The Mendip Stud has a variety of events arranged including unaffiliated shows, Clinics, Western Week, Play Days and Educational Courses. [www.themendipstud.com](http://www.themendipstud.com)

Western Riding for Fun organises event for riders who may be new to western or who are not interested in competing. A good thing to mention to your English riding friends who might want to give western a try! (One member attended as driver for his other half and got hooked!) [www.westernridingforfun.co.uk](http://www.westernridingforfun.co.uk)

Devon Western Riding Club also have a website: [www.dwrc.co.uk](http://www.dwrc.co.uk)

Please let me have details of any events or news for the summer newsletter by the middle of June and don't forget anything you want included for sale or wanted. If you are looking for transport sharing or a 'show buddy', I can advertise this as well and don't forget you can sign the guestbook on the Area 3 Website.

And finally.....don't forget that you can keep up to date with everything you need to know on the Area 3 Website [www.wes-area3.com](http://www.wes-area3.com) and for National and other area news visit [www.wes-uk.com](http://www.wes-uk.com). Devon also has its own website [www.wes-devon.com](http://www.wes-devon.com)  
If you are on Facebook, also check out the various WES Groups, including WES in Devon which now has over 100 members.

Happy Riding!

Felicity Gerhardt - 01373 832233 [felicitygerhardt@aol.com](mailto:felicitygerhardt@aol.com)

### **WES NOVICE RIDERS - WIN A \$200 CUSTOM HEADSTALL AT THE EAST COAST CIRCUIT SHOWS**

Western Horse UK will sponsor the WES Novice Rider Hi Point at the East Coast Circuit Championship and present a custom headstall by Gail Travis worth \$200. This prize will be awarded to the WES member who collects the most points over the two East Coast shows in Novice Rider classes. In order to encourage more non-AQHA riders to compete at larger shows, the East Coast Circuit has announced that a full slate of WES classes will feature at this year's two events. These will include Novice Rider, Novice Horse and Open classes in all disciplines, and will be held on the Saturdays of the Spring and Summer show weekends – 27-29 May and 24-26 June. Along with the custom headstall, a trophy will also be awarded to the Champion and medals and sashes to the top three horse and rider combinations. Gail Travis is a custom tack maker based in Wisconsin, USA. She has customers worldwide and has produced trophy pieces for many American National Champions in all disciplines. Gail works exclusively with high quality Weaver leather and has a limitless supply of semi precious and precious stones, intricate buckle and concho sets, Native American pendants and sterling silver adornments. Gail is famed for her customer focus. She consults clients by phone and email and keeps them up to date with step-by-step photos. Visit [www.redturfranch.com](http://www.redturfranch.com) to see Gail's creations or visit Facebook and search 'Inspired Turquoise Tack. 'Western Horse UK is the UK's only magazine dedicated to western riding and American horses across all disciplines and breeds. Western Horse UK is available from WH Smith and independent newsagents as well as by subscription. Visit [www.westernhorseuk.com](http://www.westernhorseuk.com) for more.

*The East Coast Shows will be held at the Bodiam International Arena, East Sussex, TN32 5UJ on 27-29 May and 24-26 June and will include AQHA, BR, NRHA, NSBA and WES classes. For more information and to download a schedule visit [www.eastcoastcircuit.net](http://www.eastcoastcircuit.net)*



## **OPEN LETTER FROM JOHN RUDD – WES YOUTH OFFICER**

Dear Members of Area 3

As the Youth Officer for WES I am of the mind that we need to promote Western Riding as a fun thing to do and attract as many youth members into WES and Western Riding as possible.



One of my aims is to set up a jointly or wholly a combined youth effort and thought it would be great if there was a national 'YOUTH WESTERN RIDING CLUB' within WES that riders 18 and under would automatically be able to join for free so long as they held youth memberships in one or more of the following organisations; WES, ApHC, AQHA, BR, WPPA, WHA, BRCA, UKPHA, BHS, RDA and others.

In time we would ask these associations if they don't already, to hold special classes for youth riders in the scheme at their shows either under their own Society or affiliated to WES. The details would need to be ironed out but the aim is to offer as much scope as possible to as many youth riders as possible and be open to young riders with disabilities.

There should be no barriers for entry except a desire to ride horses and want to better understand how to ride using the Western methods and principles.

To get things rolling I am exploring the practicalities of putting on a Pre-WES National Show Youth Clinic at Morton Morrell. I am looking at the possibilities of getting a distinguished clinician (possibly from Europe or the US if available) to help us give the Youth a fresh approach to training and also pointers and tips on what the judges look for when they are taking part in competitive classes.

Tally Wade has offered to provide a regular bit in the Western Horse magazine to assist with reporting on and promoting a youth initiative, which having spoken to a few WES area reps and AQHA youth officers, we could have the makings of something that is realistic and achievable

Initially this would all have to be financed by the youth members and their parents together with bursaries from the associations. In the interim I will be looking to see if there is any form or grant money available from Sport England or other national bodies.

I am hoping to set up a youth liaison team in all of the WES areas and would ask that if anyone from the WES Area's are willing to help to please contact me at the address below.

Youth members are the life blood of any society or sport and I hope everyone will get behind the initiatives so as to give us the best possible start and impetus.

All the best,

John Rudd  
WES Youth Officer

Brook Barn, Leigh Road, Wimborne, Dorset BH21 2BZ



**Minutes from WES Area 3 AGM 30/1/2011**

Present - Jemma Gunning, Jonathan Gunning, Judy Jones, Judith Hubbard, Nick Marshall, Julia Marshall, Jean Villiers, Chris Cole, Nancy Wagner, Felicity Gerhardt, Lou Talintyre, John Calder, Liz Schard, Debbie Burns, Claire Gates, Sarah Davies, Jayne Lerwill.

Apologies - Vicky Young, Chris Neeld-Leslie, Sophie Cotton, Bob Cox, Di Wilson, Lisa John, Andrea Weare, Katie Parfitt, Annette Frampton.

Bank Account Balances as at Dec 31<sup>st</sup> 2010  
Area opening balance £1862.16.  
Reserve account £300.19.

County reps to meet 4 times a year to discuss how things are going and any initiatives in their county. County reps to receive £250 budget to organise WES events in their county.

Felicity Gerhardt offered her services to assist in area newsletter. Help still required for photos at shows and clinics. Judith Hubbard announced her rider development programme is being put forward to the WES council.

WES council has awarded each area 2 free places at show managers seminar. This will be held on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2011 at Hinkley nr Coventry. Price of the day is £30

Lou Talintyre to organise a hack/trail day, dates and location to be confirmed at later date.

Sponsorship - Area 3 Thanks Chris Neeld, Mendip stud and Tailgator for their sponsorship during 2010. Mendip Stud to continue their sponsorship in 2011. Any others wishing to sponsor in anyway please contact John Calder.

Possible team competition was raised by Jane Lerwill, Chris Cole to liase on practicalities and interest.

Hard Hats to be worn by all 14 and under, 19 and under must have consent form signed by parent or guardian.

John Calder to bring up suggestion of Years trial membership at the WES AGM  
Third party insurance must be held whilst at WES approved events, as WES insurance does not cover.

Discussion took place on how to attract members to join WES and what WES had to offer members.

Chris Cole nominated as Area 3 team captain for inter team versatility, anyone interested please contact Chris.

Devon County over the last year ran a quarterly newsletter, clinics and social events.

Nancy Wagner received the annual novice rider hi-point trophy.

**Minutes prepared by Chris Cole.**



**WES Area 3 Financial Statements 2010**

<b>Current Account</b>				
	<b>Income</b>	<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>£ 936.27</b>	<b>Opening balance</b>
Jan-Mar '10	£ 2,500.00	£ 1,435.00	£1,065.00	
Apr-Jun '10	£ 989.00	£ 838.40	£ 150.60	
Jul-Sep '10	£ 1,873.00	£ 1,682.75	£ 190.25	
Oct-Dec '10	£ -	£ 479.96	-£ 479.96	
	<b>£ 5,362.00</b>	<b>£ 4,436.11</b>	<b>£1,862.16</b>	<b>Closing Balance</b>
<b>Shows &amp; Clinics</b>	£ 4,065.50	£ 3,952.36		
<b>Sponsorship</b>	£ 1,000.00	£ -		
<b>Interest</b>	£ -	£ -		
<b>Other</b>	£ -	£ 514.31		
<b>Inter Account</b>	£ 296.50	£ -		
	<b>£ 5,362.00</b>	<b>£ 4,466.67</b>		

<b>Reserve Account</b>				
	<b>Income</b>	<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>£ 596.53</b>	<b>Opening balance</b>
Jan-Mar '10	£ 0.04	£ 296.50	-£ 296.46	
Apr-Jun '10	£ 0.04	£ -	£ 0.04	
Jul-Sep '10	£ 0.04	£ -	£ 0.04	
Oct-Dec '10	£ 0.04	£ -	£ 0.04	
	<b>£ 0.16</b>	<b>£ 296.50</b>	<b>£ 300.19</b>	<b>Closing Balance</b>

**Bank**

**Balances at 31/12/10**

Reserve £ 300.19  
Current £1,862.16

Funds available £2,162.35