

LWSC March Newsletter 2017

HKEF Interschool Challenge

Congratulations to all riders who have competed in the lower division Interschool heats that we have held here, at LWSC. For many of the riders, it was their first time competing and should therefore be over the moon with their performance. We would like to say a special well done to the following schools; ICHK, AISHK, CIS B2 & BISHK 2 who have made it through to the final which will again, be held here at LWSC on April 21st & 22nd. Also, well done to the higher division teams; KGV, HISHK, RCHK & CDNIS who have also qualified for the final. We look forward to seeing you all then for a great few days of competition!

Please feel free to come along and support the riders, there will be many things going on as well as the competition including a BBQ, shopping stands etc. It is sure to be lots of fun!



FEI Show Jumping



On the weekend of the 4th & 5th March, BREC held the first round of the FEI World Jumping Challenge. We had 4 combinations of horses and riders competing at this event. We'd like to say a huge well done to Luci Friend & Macaroon, Nicolas Yu & Bentley and Gabby Thomas & Fun Faster who all rode at this level for the first time. All 3 riders did an exceptional job taking young, inexperienced horses around a very testing track! The horses also rose to the challenge and performed very well! Also, a big well done to Christina Dyson & Koenigsberg who finished 5th!



Horse Of The Year Show Eventing

On Saturday 18th March, BREC held the HOYS event, the final One Day Event of the season. As it was the final show, there were only 2 classes, the 80cm and 100cm. For some horses, it was their first time competing at the level and they all competed very well! We'd like to say a HUGE well done to Nicolas Yu & Bentley who finished 1st in the 80cm class. It was both Nicolas' & Bentley's first time competing in an 80cm event, so a fantastic result! Also, a big well done to Luci Friend who finished 3rd on both of the horses she rode; Young Supreme in the 80cm class and Macaroon in the 100cm class. Well done also to Christian Allderidge & Happy Eagle who finished 4th in the 80cm class. Great result for everyone!



Coming up in April...

HKEF Interschool Challenge

On Friday 21st April & Saturday 22nd April, LWSC will be host to the final of both the higher and lower divisions of the HKEF Interschool final! We would like to wish all the teams the best of luck, we're sure it will be a very exciting day for all taking part. Unfortunately, all lessons on the Friday afternoon and lessons on Saturday will be cancelled. We're very sorry for any inconvenience caused! As well as the competition, there will be many other things going on, please feel free to come down and show your support.

Summer Activities

We are starting to arrange all of our summer activities so that you can have the dates as early as possible and add them to your diary. Keep an eye out for upcoming activities.

HOYS Dressage & Show Jumping

As we start to come in to the summer months and the weather starts to heat up, the competition season sadly has to come to an end. BREC will be hosting both the HOYS Dressage & Show Jumping in April, which will be the last competitions of those disciplines until the new season starts again, after summer. The Dressage competition will be held over the first weekend in April, the 1st & 2nd. The Show Jumping competition will be held over the last weekend in April, the 29th. Good luck to all horses and riders that will be competing.

BHS Training

We are going to be starting a BHS stage 1 & 2 training course that will run for 12 weeks on Saturday mornings. The syllabus will be split and taught over the 12 weeks covering all of the content. The sessions will last 1.5 hours each and will run from 11:30 – 13:00. The course will start its 12 week block on Saturday 6th May. If you are interested, please get in touch with the office as soon as possible.

LO WU PONIES – WE LOVE THEM ALL!

Written by Melissa Troup

They're all gorgeous! We all share a love of ponies. They teach us to ride. They proudly share moments of triumph and rosettes. They teach us humility. They teach us to fall off and get back on with a smile. They have a sense of humour, and responsibility and generosity.

Their personalities are generally bigger than those of horses. Ponies play together in the field, whereas horses have a run around and settle to graze. Ponies are super interested in who is bringing their tack to the stable, because they're super intelligent. They want to know if they have to step out wearing a halo, or if it's time to have fun and practise cross country. If anyone will figure out how to escape from the stable, take off their own rug if they're too hot or turn on the hose pipe for a drink, it will be a pony.

And of course, they are mad about food. I'm not sure if 100% concentration goes on thinking about food, dreaming about grass, or fantasising about polos, but it must be pretty close. Ponies would eat until they burst, and can be quite ingenious at telling us humans that their rations are *never* enough.

So, I hear you asking, 'What about the Lo Wu ponies?' Here's a behind the scenes look at the characters filling the stables.



Blondie and Daisy enjoy their field time.

Timmy

Timmy pretty much has life sussed. Opinionated, older and wise, oh so very wise, he has discovered his perfect role is to be the babysitter. He is the ideal turn out companion. Anti-social, when the horses want to run around, he doesn't, which makes him the calming influence.

Hot Gossip

An original from the old Lo Wu, in his youth, Hot Gossip was a speedy, competition jumping pony. Older now, he's the perfect 'just off the lead rein' pony, considerate of his passengers. When the children wobble, he's right there, assisting them to find their balance. But, being seen by the vet is a traumatic experience, no matter what the reason. If there's somewhere to hide to avoid the dreaded flu jab, he'll find it.

Roy

Beautiful, sensitive Roy. He's one of those remarkable ponies who can switch off for a beginner and light up to strut his stuff and be placed in the Children's FEI Dressage, although the flowers surrounding the arena at competitions might make him reconnaissance for monsters before he's convinced he's safe.



Playing with Toffee in the field, you might occasionally spot him brushing up on his cross country, popping the little logs out there for fun.

Tosca

Dear Tosca. Again, in his youth, he was a speedy pony, and has taught many children to ride. But he now has a quieter life. He's earned his right to retire.

Brandy

Brandy polishes his halo nightly, and replaces it proudly each morning. Exceptionally food orientated, every morning, having finished his breakfast, he takes his bucket between his teeth, and scrapes it for eternity over the stable floor in an effort to encourage us idiotic humans to refill it. It's white noise, and he knows it's hard to ignore.

He gets turned out with Toffee and Roy, his friends, but prefers to get his head down and nibble at the grass than to play.

Toffee

Toffee is another pony who deserves a halo. Older and wiser, he's perfected the art of balancing the rider over jumps by trotting over them. For a small pony, it's quite remarkable how high his legs can fold in order not to dislodge his rider and provide confidence when jumping.

He's not so food orientated, and enjoys playing in the field.

Topper

The World's Best Pony, I introduce you to Topper. He loves it all - dressage, show jumping, cross country. He wants to be in charge, and in control because he's competitive and wants to win, and he's so experienced, he really does know how to do it better than anyone else. He's helped many children achieve competitive success.



Topper and Toffee polish their halos

His only naughtiness is to kick the walls at feed times, and his precious legs are protected from damage with kick bags in his stable.



Blondie

Blondie needs her low lights doing again, because although she looks grey, she's actually appaloosa. She loves her stable, and will have a little siesta every morning, stretched out completely, emitting the occasional snore.

She enjoys the competitions at Beas, and becomes excited. I think she's a party girl at heart.

Daisy

Daisy has a surprisingly shy nature, which you might not guess from the faces she pulls in the stable, but if you're quiet and sensitive around her, she's a loving little pony. She has great fun in the field, running around with Blondie at high speed.

Monty

There's always one real character on the yard, and Monty's it. He has an opinion about everything. He rattles his door for food, pulls the cutest face if there are treats around, and would love to be everybody's playmate. It's always playtime for Monty. Woe betide anything that is left within reach of his stable, because it's obviously been positioned for his entertainment. Twenty times a day, that includes the hosepipe. Within reach, he drags it into his stable and wraps himself up in it like a Christmas tree.

Smarties

Sweet Smarties. He has a bespoke stable door in order to be included in the goings on of the yard, and his own little ramp so that he doesn't need to step down. He adores attention in the stable as he has a very personable nature. He has no idea he's a small pony, just like a terrier dog. He and Ernie go out together in the field, and his time is spent bossing beautiful Ernie around.



Smarties – a big personality for a small pony.

Anthony

Anthony is minimalist - he likes to conserve energy, except if there is a vet present, at which moment, he will sprint the wall of death around the stable. He dislikes being clipped, and requires sedating to have a hair cut. He practises yoga daily, stretching his head around to scratch the itchy heels of his hind legs, which is pretty impressive.



Anthony, stretching beautifully over the fence due to yoga?

Another one who is food orientated, if there is a feed bucket on the floor, child, adult or bear would not stop his steady progress towards it.

Jigsaw

Show off Jigsaw. He's a special pony in dressage, and he knows it, returning with rosettes from winning regularly at competition, including the Children's FEI Dressage. Gabby is his livery owner. Their initial relationship was challenging, and she regularly bit the dust, but now they have both matured, they have a strong relationship and work well together.

In a previous life, he was a Lipizzaner of the Spanish Riding School. He's another one fearful of the vets and will rear on his hind legs in perfect balance during injections.

Trevor

The rocking horse who was removed from his rockers. Gentle and sweet in the stable, he is surely everyone's dream pony. He desperately wants to help his riders, and is patient and kind.

His playmate is Monty, and they run around the field together, occasionally rearing up and boxing each other in a make believe game of being stallions.

Jacob

Good pony Jacob likes his special box because it's bigger than the other ponies' and tucked away. He's a bit of a pipe and slippers man, and enjoys his alone time. Having once been allowed to race at Lo Wu, one fun Christmas games, he owns the title of the fastest pony, which he wears with pride.



Jacob – “Good taste?”

Toby

Cutie Toby. Exceptionally food orientated, once replete after breakfast, he has a sleep in his horse sized stable (in which he luxuriates), curled up with his ball, like a teddy bear. His livery is Sammie, whom he loves dearly. Competitions are growing on him.

His mummy is Blondie, and he has come all the way to Hong Kong to be with her. Although now here, he has discovered Blondie has made her own life, and is keen for him to be independent, so Sammie has become surrogate.