



CORBITs

While the world has yet to turn into a winter wonderland, with the ending of November I think it is safe to say that winter is upon us. Some in the equine world are getting ready to head down south to the states and warm weather. The rest of us, myself included, are getting ready to hunker down for another winter. After a summer of riding through fields, preparing for shows and testing, t-shirts and generally spending time with our good friend the sun, the winter months can seem like a never ending stretch of long nights and indoor arenas ... not to mention frozen toes. Winter has its own fun though. A ride through the fields after a fresh snowfall, a hack under the full moon, sleigh bells on the reins, Santa hats on your helmet, not to mention those colourful sweaters. Maybe it's the dressage enthusiast in me, or maybe I am just a nerd, but I have always seen the winter as an opportunity to do some homework. Perhaps it's time to work on your theory or horsemanship and read that manual that you have been meaning to read but the good weather always got in the way, or to go watch a clinic. The best thing about clinics is it is the perfect opportunity to learn about a different discipline or to get to hear some advice from a different coach. We can't always bring our horses for a clinic, and some clinics can be really expensive, so auditing is a more convenient and affordable way to learn. Some of the best advice that I have ever been given was to watch riders that were better than I was – their position, how they warm up and how they work through problems. Even without an explanation, just watching great riders ride makes you better.

Sometimes the winter weather keeps us inside and we can't go out and play with our equine friends. When that happens, I turn to the internet to watch the best there is. Clinic reviews and training articles are a great way to get some free information. There are also videos galore of shows and training seminars to watch. Here are just some of the links that I have found interesting in the last few months. Whether you are a rider, a trainer, a coach or a parent who wants to learn more, these are some great links and lead to some fantastic web sites and blogs. And they aren't all about riding either. We all know that Pony Club is more than just riding and horsemanship. It is also about learning to cheer at the little things that we don't give ribbons for, supporting each other when the attempt is not successful but it is still made. Pony Club is about working hard, having fun and forgetting who got the rosette at the end of the weekend but remembering who had the biggest smile.

Feel free to send me links to things that you have read or watched online and found inspirational, useful, education or just plain fun, and I will be happy to include them in CORBITs.

(Disclaimer: while Pony Club does encourage everyone to read these articles, it does not encourage you to emulate what is occurring in all of the videos. For example, there are multiple videos of riders in top hats rather than helmets ... WEAR YOUR HELMETS!!!!!! Also, if you are watching a video and are asking yourself why would someone do that or your first thought is ouch, don't try it)

<http://eventingnation.com/home/2011/11/parents-perspective-lessons-learned-as-an-eventing-parent.html>

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5895K-Xjupk&feature=player_embedded

http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=dwKzSimSVAU

http://www.equisearch.com/news/nancy_jaffer/2011-dansko-fair-hill-international/2/

<http://cartereventing.com/parenting/>

<http://www.chronofhorse.com/article/smile-says-it-all>

<http://www.chronofhorse.com/article/power-light>

<http://eventingnation.com/home/2011/11/the-atkins-diet-for-eventers.html#comments>

<http://www.eurodressage.com/equestrian/2011/10/26/training-happy-horses-riegler-and-schneider>

<http://eventingnation.com/home/2011/09/your-most-embarrassing-moment-at-an-event.html>

<http://eventingnation.com/home/2011/09/the-finalists---your-most-embarrassing-moments.html>

<http://www.chronofhorse.com/article/over-prepare-then-go-flow>

<http://eventingnation.com/home/classroom-1/>

<http://eventingnation.com/home/sunday-jog-up/>

<http://eventingnation.com/home/2011/07/team-fredericks-eventing-clinic.html>

<http://eventingnation.com/home/2011/12/boyd-martin-is-on-a-roll-in-area-five.html>

<http://www.eurodressage.com/equestrian/2011/08/31/sophie-wells-ability-counts>

<http://www.dressagetrainingonline.com/debbie-mcdonald-usa-july-28-2011.html>

<http://eventingnation.com/home/2011/11/a-parents-perspective-needs-photo-permission.html>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=frbETD7Eh74>

<http://eventingnation.com/home/2011/08/what-is-pony-club.html>

http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=npJP5VJ1B7I

And when I really miss the summer and the grass, I turn to ... BURGHLEY!!!!!!

(the below list are some of my favorite riders to watch - Spoiler: I always pick the rides where they don't fall off, so every one of them makes it through to the show jumping)

Mary King - no matter the rails or the ride on the ground - check out the smile

Mark Todd - the greatest ... and oddly enough he and his horse are built exactly the same

William Fox Pitt – he has won the biggest event in the world 6 times and somehow make it look easy

Sinead Halpin

Andrew Nicholson

Pippa Funnell

Lucinda Fredricks - makes it all look like a schooling exercise

Jessica Phoenix

Laura Collett

Hawley Bennett-Awad - one heck of a talented horse - very safe cross country position

Colleen Rutledge

Caroline Powell

Boyd Martin - great rides ... even better story

(If you don't know the unbelievable story of Boyd Martin and the super horse Neville Bardos, check out these links for a short summary before you watch his rides. While the beginning of the articles are a little hard to read, I dare you not to cheer at the end of his cross country after you have read them.)

<http://www.pennsylvaniaequestrian.com/news2011/july/Boyd-Martin-Looks-Ahead-After-Deadly-Barn-Fire.php>

<http://www.chronofhorse.com/article/millbrook-marks-milestone-martin-and-two-old-friends>

<http://www.youtube.com/user/BurghleyTV> - The actual Burghley link

Before I hand the rest of the issue over to our contributors, I would like to include a send-off note. Many of you know Kyra Holmes. You will know her as one of CORs biggest quiz nerds, an avid show jumper and eventer, an active voice in education and sat on both regional and national boards. Well, Kyra is going to join the ranks of those Canucks who have abandoned their parka wearing fellows for warmer pastures. She has a fantastic opportunity as a working student with Mogie Bearden-Muller. She has promised us a blog detailing what she does and what she learns. I will be including the link to the blog as soon as she sets it up. So bookmark it, read it, and comment often.

BOB'S CORNER

Bob Inglis is the fearless voice of most of our COR qualifiers and was the previous editor of CORbits for ... we'll just say for a long time. I was sent this wonderful little tale a few weeks ago, and now I get to share it with you. So this is the first installment of what I hope will become a regular contribution now known as ... Bob's Corner

The Little Birdy Who Didn't Want to Go

The lovely weather this Thanksgiving weekend reminds me of the story of a little birdy who lived not too far north of here, not so long ago. Thanksgiving weekend that year was just as nice as in 2010, but the rest of this little birdy's flock decided it was time to fly south, before the weather turned unfriendly. But the little birdy thought they were silly to leave when the weather was so beautiful, so he stayed behind.

Soon, as often happens, the weather did turn unfriendly, with a cold rain and plenty of north wind. The little birdy tried to fly south, but soon he got too cold to fly on, and fluttered down to earth in the yard of a horse barn. A group of pony clubbers were getting ready for their lesson. They saw the little birdy and ran over to it, wondering what they could do to help. Then one of their ponies solved their problem for them by producing a nice, steaming pile of manure.

Their lesson was about to start and they didn't have time to do anything else, so they picked up the little birdy and stuffed him into the pile of manure. Then they ran in to their lesson (well, one of them ran to wash her hands).

Soon the little birdy did get warmer. In fact, he felt so nice and cozy that he started to sing. Unfortunately this attracted the attention of the nearby barn cat, who promptly ate him, so the little birdy's story does not have a happy ending after all.

There are four lessons to be learned from this sad tale.

First, and most important, don't put off things until it is too late (parental units, if you don't already have winter tires on your vehicles, you should do it NOW).

Second, it isn't always your enemies who put you in the poop.

Third, it isn't always your friends who get you out.

And fourth, if you do find yourself in the poop, don't make a song about it!

The End

A Special Place

Skye Barnes

A special place will always be, in my heart for my Princess
She has given me the best lessons and led me to success
She knows when I am scared to death and looks after me with care
But when I get too comfy she's the first to give a scare
Corners cannot be cut by me but often are by her
I need to pay attention or the jump she will defer
If she decides that she won't go, ask nicely is a must
Or all four feet stay planted or in reverse she'll thrust
At ppg's you'll see her backwards dance as I try to place a prop
Mounting games are always fun, as backwards I have learnt to hop
She loves to hack on trails and carries me along
Over logs and through the trees, this is where we belong
Cantering through fresh white snow and in the summer rain
Alone on a cross country course she looks after me again
Many a love bite I've received while trying to get on
If I shorten up the other rein the spinning has begun
She is the smartest pony that I have ever met
Her calm nature and soft muzzle snuggles I will not forget
Everyone loves Princess but for some she is too slow
But for me she is an angel and has made my confidence grow
She has taught me patience, skills to help me live
At twenty seven years she has plenty left to give
I am only one of many who have been taught by such a champ
Many more will have the chance to learn just as I have
Thank you Princess for putting up with me

For teaching me to ride despite my anxiety

You truly are a saint and I will always think of you

As the spotty Prinny “baby girl” that always took me through



Year End Awards – Dressage

Final Year end awards for Dressage are as follows:

Entry Horse Placing

Lily Solomon Tango 1 CH
Skye Barnes Princess 2 RES
Rosalie LaClerc Maggie Muffins 3

Starter

Bryson Strickland Blue Suede Shoes 1 CH
Katie McCoy Licorice 2 RES
Natasha Austen Reeses Pieces 3
Daniel Cragg Daddy Did the Laundry 4

Starter Freestyle

Bryson Strickland Blue Suede Sh 1 CH

Pre- Training

Rachel Stewart Ferris 1 CH
Emily Fraser Cobalt 2 RES
Kaisha Barber Adara 3
Jessica Laws Stelco 4
Amy Westland Picasso's Masterpiece 5
Kaitlyn Henderson Razzel Dazzle 6
Grace Stelmachowicz Sonny 7

Pre-Training Freestyle

Kaitlyn Henderson Razzel Dazzle 1 CH
Amy Westlund Picasso's Masterpiece 2 RES

Training

Lindsey Weber Rae-A- Sunshine 1 CH
Janel Semple Zeus 2 RES
Brigid Goulem Sans Souci 3
Nicole Russel Everybody Loves Raymond 4

Affiliate - Training Level

Karen Foell Serene Dream 1 CH

First Level

Jennifer McKeen Regal's Inferno 1 CH
Alexandra Sprague Santorini's Legacy 2 RES

First Level Freestyle

Ali Sprague Santorini's Legacy 1 CH

Prix Caprilli – Level 2

Lindsay Weber Rae-A-Sunshine 1 CH

Wes Goff Award - High Point overall

Lily Solomon Tango Avg. 71.11