

Presidents Report 2014 Horse Trials PEI

As we find ourselves at the end of 2014 already, it is time for the president's report. We had a great year. Two Horse Trials, one training event, two clinics, a jump building day etc. We started with regular monthly meetings to plan our activities. With a small but faithful group of board members the job got done!

The first event was our Annual Cleanup/ Jump building Day held at the park on May 17th.

Mike Gallagher was there to supervise and help build a set of 3 steps. A welcome addition to our Cross Country Course! It was a long day as it was also the day to get ready for the Training event held the following Monday. With 16 riders attending in Dressage, Jumping and Pace, this show was a success.

Then as tradition has it, there was the Alex Beaton clinic June 14/15th. This is always a great prep for the June Event. Alex is well loved especially by our younger and new to eventing riders. She is very positive and encouraging. The clinic was well attended with 18 riders.

June 28th we held our first Horse Trial! Always a bit of anxiety and a lot of sweat, will we pull it off? But our organizers Liz Spangler and Kara Grant did a great job. We had 25 riders. This is down from previous years, and without our off Island riders we would not be able to make ends meet, thus very happy to have our off Island competitors!

The first weekend of August there was the David Wilding-Davies clinic. Wilding-Davies an avid eventer himself, was very well received! So well, that another clinic for next year is planned. There were 17 riders attending this clinic.

September 13th was our Fall Horse Trial. Not as intense organizing wise as the spring one, we usually use the same cross country courses, but still a lot of work! Kelly Watts and myself were in charge this time. The weather was great, and with some new to us jumps and shrubs from sponsors, Purina and Red Oak Landscaping, the Stadium Course looked great! There were 26 riders attending and a great time was had by all. Very positive comments received from various competitors which are always good to hear.

On September 25th-28th there was a Course Design Clinic in Manitoba where Deborah Smith, Liz Spangler and Pearl Macgregor went to learn lots and have some fun.

Our membership has declined slightly with 26 members. It would be nice to increase the amount of local riders participating in the Horse Trials. A fun/educational night is in the works with the hopes of drawing in some new members.

That was it for club activities. On another note, the Strathgartney Equine Park is in need of repairs. Especially the fencing. We are looking into various fundraisers to see what is available. There are lots of plans for the park; one of them is another arena. This would be a real benefit for Horse Trials PEI to ensure a separate dedicated warm up ring during our horse trials. And last but not least, due to the highway realignment construction, the park had a new entrance way this year. This new entrance way was reason for concern as there is no proper turn off lane and trailers had to cross multiple lanes of traffic right after a passing zone to enter the park. After meeting with the Department of Transportation, it has been agreed to revert back to the old entrance way we had last fall, on the old highway coming off McManus Road. This is very good news.

I hope you keep enjoying the sport of eventing and remember, we are nothing without volunteers! Many thanks to our volunteers from the past year! And a warm welcome to new volunteers! Please help by becoming a board member, helping out at shows or with show prep. All and any help is always welcome!!

Thank you all for a great year.

Anna Osinga,
HTPEI President 2014