



Offa's Dyke Group of Endurance GB

Newsletter- January 2024

www.egboffasdyke.co.uk



Chairman's Comments

Dear all

Happy New Year everyone!

We have enjoyed the Christmas fun ride on New Years Eve which was kindly organised by Belinda Stewart and Cecilia Lindberg. The weather driving there in the morning was dreadful but by the time the majority of people had arrived the rain had eased and some people even managed a dry ride! The new route rode lovely and seemed to be thoroughly enjoyed by all riders! Thank you!

We have lots of rides planned for the year; you will find dates for some of them on the back page and others are still in the process of being organised. We have a brand new fun ride being organised at Monnington by Amanda May; some of you did the pony club fun ride there last summer and said it was a super ride so we have this new ride to look forward too. We also have the new Crucorney ride which first ran in 2022 which this year is being run as 'The Piers Geddes Memorial Ride at Crucorney' in memory of treasured Offa's Dyke member Piers Geddes. We also have Maryland, Courtfield, Forest of Dean, Wye Valley and Michealchurch.

We are always looking for new rides. Do you have a lovely route near you? Would it be suitable for a short group fun ride? If so, please get in touch with me.

Please don't forget to help at, at least one of the Offa's Dyke rides this year. Remember without helpers these rides can't run, plus the added bonus it counts towards the Offa's Dyke Loyalty Scheme and you have to have helped for some of our annual trophies. There are already rides looking for helpers if you don't plan on riding- details can be found in the newsletter.

In our previous newsletter we asked for volunteers for the Courtfield Cup (non OD event). The organising team have changed how they are organising volunteers and we are no longer needed but thank you to those who had already volunteered.

And finally, as some of you may already know the Home Internationals are being held in Ireland this year which is going to be a costly trip. The Christmas ride and the Govilon Training Rides are fundraising for the Wales Endurance Team with 50% of profits going to them. A fun Quiz has been organised in February to continue with the fundraising while also raising funds for the Offa's Dyke group. It will be lovely to see as many of you there as possible to catch up before the season kicks off (and without a horse in tow). Please bring along friends, it is open to everyone. The quiz is being held at Wernddu Golf Course, just outside Abergavenny which has very easy access, loads of parking, a bar and serves food.

We wish you all a successful season!

Nicola Davies

Committee Contacts

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Other Roles not on the Committee

Young and Junior Rider Representative **Andrea Champ**
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Website **Cecilia Lindberg**
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National Awards Winners



400km Distance Award

Ruth Ferris and Puzzle

800km Distance Award

Sue Rich and Oakleazefarm Czelecta

ARAB HORSE SOCIETY PREMIUM PERFORMANCE SCHEME ENDURANCE AWARDS

Top ten horses sired by AHS Premium Stallions

6th Oakleazefarm Czelection- Louise Rich

LEADING PREMIUM PERFORMANCE SCHEME ENDURANCE STALLION 2023

Chatanz- Lesley Dunn

Jeffmaur Trophy- Awarded to the horse and male rider combination gaining the most points in all types of rides

3rd Peponi- Chris Wray

Senior Championship- Awarded to the champion horse / pony, ridden by senior member(s) gaining the most points in all types of rides

4th Penny Clawd- Belinda Stewart

Team Trophy Nominations

It's time to enter a team for the Offa's Dyke Team Trophy which will be presented at the awards evening at the end of the year!

Team Trophy –

Highest Points for teams of 3 combinations (3 riders, one horse each) in all types of ride except CERs. No limit to numbers of rides or distances. To be eligible, team names, riders and horses must be provided to Trophy Secretary (Mary Stubbs mary@woodsideendurance.co.uk) by 1st April

You've got to be in it to win it!

QUIZ

Fundraising for the Wales Endurance Team

Saturday 10th February

7:30pm

Venue: Wernddu Golf Course, Abergavenny, NP7 8NG

WhatThreeWords///erupt.boomers.reduce

Teams of up to 4
£2.50 per person
Prize for the winning team!

The golf course serve food if you want to arrive early and make an evening of it.

OPEN TO EVERYONE!

Please bring along your horsey friends 🐾

Raffle prizes welcomed

Booking available at [Event: Quiz Fundraising for the Wales Endurance Team \(endurancegb.co.uk\)](https://endurancegb.co.uk)

Non-members can pay on the night



2023 Award Winners

Pleasure Ride Rosettes

Ally Knight

Lindsay Williams

Nicola Davies

Shadpwcroft Pagan Princess

Alleka Shareen

Took His time

Clear Card Rosette

Andrea Champ

Druimghigha Lantana

Grade 1 Rosette

800 km

Andrea Champ

Druimghigha Lantana

1200 km

Chris Wray

Peponi

240km Pandora Distance Award

Philippa Lowen

Chris Wray

Nicola Davies

Jellaby Bahar

Kamili

Took his time

320km Pandora Distance Award

Cecilia Lindberg

HS Jacinto

400km Pandora Distance Award

Belinda Stewart

Penny Clawd

Bilbo's Rainbow Rosette

Louise Rich

Oakleazefarm Czamak

Native Rosette

Ruth Ferris

Puzzle

Thoroughbred Rosette

Louise Rich Oakleazefarm Czelection

Bonanza

Cecilia Lindberg HS Jacinto
Louise Rich Oakleazefarm Czelection



Associate Members Trophy

Ally Knight Shadowcroft Pagan Princess

Freda Waycott

Ally Knight Shadowcroft Pagan Princess
Lindsay Williams Alleka Shareen



Chador

Elsie May Burkaan bin Tuissaan, Shaika Bin Krayaan, Julius Caesar
Lucy Edmunds Captain America BV

Cindy

Belinda Stewart Penny Clawd
Katherine Milne/
Abbi Tennant Barik



Pandora

Katherine Milne Barik
Lucy Edmunds Captain America BV

Starlight

Chris Wray Kamili
Maureen Langham Office flirt

Open

Philippa Lowen Jellaby Bahar



Amanda Caldicott Smooth Artist

Belstar

Mary Stubbs Sachiya

John Caldicott Oliver



Warrens Hill Arabians

Louise Rich Oakleazefarm Czelection

Mary Stubbs Sachiya



Mitchell Arab

Amanda May Ma'ase bin Krayan

Katherine Milne/

Abbi Tennant Barik

Offa's Dyke Challenge

Lindsay Williams Alleka Shareen

Nicola Davies Took his time

Rough Close Lady

Cecilia Lindberg HS Jacinto

Madoc

Belinda Stewart Penny Clawd

Cecilia Lindberg HS Jacinto



Shimara Cup

Nicola Davies

Belinda Stewart

Offa's Dyke Hero Award

Abbi Tennant

Christmas ride

Having done my last ride in October I`m always itching to get out again and the Christmas ride at Symonds Yat is perfect.

The wet weather has been a challenge for all of us to keep our horses ticking over, some people gave up and gave horses a complete rest.

We keep Pagan on tick over as that is what suits her best and she gains too much weight if she has time off.

We only live 15 mins from the venue so a Sunday lazy lie in was still achieved !!

Woke up to drizzly rain, so with dogs exercised and Pagan fed we loaded up and set off.

It`s a lovely venue with hard parking and a choice of distances, we chose to do the 20km.

I had arranged to meet up with friends at 10am

I had just finished tacking up and the rain started, I always remember to take a waterproof sheet for Pagan as you never know what the British weather will throw at us.

I had a lovely new Equicoat Pro as a Christmas present from hubby, which is great for wearing over a body protector as there is plenty of room in the coat, it has zips in all the right places for riding.

We all met up and headed for the start, we were a foursome and had ridden together before.

By this time it was raining heavier and I was glad for my new coat, Pagan wasn`t impressed as she was newly clipped out .

She set off with gusto, too polite to buck but showing her enthusiasm by letting out a few screeches.

We were one of the last groups to leave the venue so we pushed on ahead, the tracks were riding lovely, Pagan is used to riding forest tracks.

We caught up with some riders and passed them with care, I assume they headed for home when the ride distance split as we didn`t see them again.

The river was full and flowing fast as we trotted along side of it, it always looks so cold at this time of year.

Then an uphill track away from the river to where the distances split again, we all continue on the 20km route, by this time one of our party had ridden ahead as her pony was keen to go.

The three of us left, kept up a good pace and there were brief spells of dryness as we rode along.

We were soon back at the venue, untacking and collecting our rosette and a carrot for Pagan, which she appreciated !!

Andrew had gone home to keep the dogs company while I rode the route, he was back, hitched up and patiently waiting with a cup of tea for me.

Me and Pagan thoroughly enjoyed this ride and we both left with a smile, the new coat performed well as I was kept completely dry.



Ally Knight & Pagan

Maryland Fun Ride

Sunday 4th February

Venue: Trelleck, halfway between Chepstow and Monmouth off B4293, NP25 4PQ

The route consists of mainly forestry tracks connected by quiet country lanes. Some moderate hills with some fantastic views over the Wye Valley. The South loop (16km) includes some of the new tracks that were used in October.

There will be route options of approx. 7km, 13km, 16km, 20km and 28km.

Entries close: Tuesday 30th January

PONIES/HORSES MUST MEET THE ENDURANCE GB FLU VACCINATION REQUIREMENTS

Enquiries: 07968 928870 or n.davies91@yahoo.co.uk

To enter: [Event: Maryland Fun Ride - Local Group Ride \(endurancegb.co.uk\)](https://endurancegb.co.uk/event/maryland-fun-ride-local-group-ride)

ENTRIES IN ADVANCE ONLY

**** HELPERS NEEDED ****

I have lots of roles to fill so if you don't plan on riding please do volunteer to help. Remember every time you help it counts towards the Offa's Dyke Loyalty Scheme where after 6 full days help you receive a free group fun ride voucher.

If you can help please contact Nicola on n.davies91@yahoo.co.uk

Offa's Dyke Loyalty Scheme

You will remember in 2019 we introduced our Loyalty Scheme to reward those who help at Offa's Dyke rides. Once you have completed 6 days help you will receive a free group ride entry voucher or a shopping voucher for non-members.

Congratulations to the following members who were awarded a free ride voucher during 2023 as a thanks for their help

Heather Evans
Barbara Rees
Cecilia Lindberg
Kim Davies
Belinda Stewart
Gill Talbot



Rules to note:

- ❖ Ride Organisers will not get a Helping Occasion under this scheme as they will still receive a free Group ride entry as previously.
- ❖ Each volunteer giving at least a full half day will be recorded as a helping occasion.
- ❖ For those that give a full half days volunteering prior to or after the ride (e.g. route marking or setup etc) will also receive a helping occasion (an additional one if they were also a volunteer on the day).
- ❖ The consideration of what is required to be "a full half day" will be at the ride or event Organiser's discretion.

There is no expiry date on these volunteer occasions so they will continue with a Reward every 6th occasion until the scheme is terminated by the OD committee. We hope this new initiative will benefit and incentivise volunteering, and demonstrate how much we appreciate you giving up your time for everyone's pleasure.

A massive 'Thank you' to all those that have helped in 2023, keep it up in 2024!

Forest of Dean Fun Ride Sunday 17th March

**Mainly forestry woodland and tracks.
24km**

Venue: Speech House Fields, Speech House Hotel, Speech House Road, Coleford GL16 7EL

Entries open Friday 26th January

There will be loos and catering, but you will need to bring your own water.

Details can be found at [Event: Forest of Dean - Group Pleasure Ride \(endurancegb.co.uk\)](http://endurancegb.co.uk)

Forest of Dean National

Sunday 17th March

Venue: Speech House Fields, Speech House Hotel, Speech House Road, Coleford GL16 7EL

Mainly forest tracks and paths.

1. 65km GER
2. 57km GER
3. 41km GER
4. 41km Novice GER
5. 33km GER
6. 33km Novice GER
7. 24km Novice Foundation GER

Entries Open on Friday 26th January

There will be loos and catering, but you will need to bring your own water.

*** Helpers needed for Forest of Dean ride on Sunday 17th March***

If you are able to help, please contact Mary Stubbs on 01594 529100 or mary@yewtc.demon.co.uk - she will be completely delighted to hear from you! We promise to look after you well.

Remember: no volunteers - no rides!

WINTER SCHOOLING

I have organised some schooling sessions over the next few months with Tash Smith (Classical Dressage Trainer and Enlightened Equitation Trainer). They are very kindly going to be held at Rupert Humphreys, Castle Farm, Usk, NP15 1SD. Directions will be provided after booking.



Castle Farm has a lovely indoor arena which is ideal for the cold, wet winter months.

There will be groups (2 in each group) available to cater for all abilities and needs. You also have the option of incorporating some polework or small jumps within your lesson if you desire. You can do whatever you like 😊

The sessions will be in groups of a maximum of 2 and cost £27.50 for an hour or you can have 1 hour private for £36.00

Dates are:

Saturday 20th January 2024

Sunday 11th February 2024

ALL BOOKING MUST BE MADE VIA CLUBHOUSE <https://egb.myclubhouse.co.uk/>

For more information please don't hesitate to contact me.

Nicola- 07968 928870 or n.davies91@yahoo.co.uk

The Christmas Cracker

It was New Years Eve, I was only just recovering from the indulgences of Christmas and the weather was yet again forecast to be wet! Did I really want to clean all that mud off Puzzle and head off into the forest for a wet ride my husband asked? People on my yard seemed to revel in asking me 'have you seen the weather forecast for today?!' But I had the faith, the forest would deliver and I was rewarded with a fantastic ride.

On arrival I was given last minute instructions on a tricky path with a fallen tree and then I was good to go. We set off alone in damp and chilly conditions and were very soon joined by Fiona on Goofy who were happy to ride with us. 10 minutes in from teaming up I realised why Fiona's horses name was familiar. I was momentarily star struck to be riding with a Team GB rider but Fiona immediately put me at ease with her friendly nature. This fortuitous encounter turned a lovely training ride into an amazing tutorial for me, still inexperienced in endurance riding. Fiona set a steady pace perfect for so early in the season. We talked about winter training and how she brings her horses back into work as we rode the first section of the ride which took us through lots of steady forest tracks before dropping down next to the river. I'm not sure I've ever seen The Wye so full or running that fast. By coincidence this was where I was in deep conversation with Fiona on all things to do with water and cooling horses at vet gates and at the end of events.

The next section of the ride became more nadgery with grassier tracks leading up to some beautiful views. There were frequent opportunities for some steady canter work which the horses really enjoyed and Puzzle practiced her collected canter behind Goofy. Despite the now falling rain it was surprisingly good ground with very little deep or slippery conditions. Just as we were beginning to feel decidedly damp the rain very helpfully stopped and it even started feeling a little warmer.

The final section of the ride took us back down towards the river where the discussion turned to the fallen tree. Where exactly had Cecilia and Belinda said it was? Were we going to try getting under it? Were we going to dismount? With Goofy being the same height as Puzzle but Fiona a little less rotund than myself, I decided if she got under safely I just needed to hang off the side of Puzzle a bit to avoid a 'Winnie the Pooh stuck moment!' As we came up the track the offending tree appeared suddenly from around a hidden corner. I had no time to think really before Fiona disappeared under its hanging foliage. I was slightly perturbed that she appeared to have squirmed under with virtually no room for error. I breathed



in (as if that'd help 🙄) wishing fervently that I'd eaten a few less mince pies over Christmas but it was fine - Puzzle was calm, I leaned precariously and we emerged safely the other side. It was a short hop home from there and we arrived back almost dry with happy horses. A perfect ride in great company.

Once again I would like to thank the people in our group who tirelessly organise and marshal rides for us to enjoy. And this one really was a 'cracker!'

Ruth Ferris



EPITAPH

IANTO

1999?- December 2023

I did everything you asked of me

Nothing did I owe

Endurance? I adored it

Oh, I did so love to go!



Ianto at Breamore

Barbara Rees

Govilon Guided Training Ride

Fundraising for the Wales Endurance Team



Thursday 15th February

Sunday 3rd March

More dates TBA

Venue: Govilon, (Govilon fun ride venue), Near Abergavenny, Monmouthshire, NP7 9PT

A guided ride in a group of no more than five. The ride will be approximately 8 miles (aim for 10 miles in March) and consist of quiet country lanes, local bridlepaths and mountain. This will most definitely not be a fast ride and will be a great training ride incorporating the local climbs. Ideal for novice horse and riders.

10:30am start

Come and have a new year catch up or meet new like minded people in a relaxed atmosphere with the added bonus of training your horse at the same time

£8 for members and £13 for non-members

50% of the profits from the ride will go towards the Wales Endurance Team

To book a place-

February ride [Event: Govilon Guided Training Ride \(endurancegb.co.uk\)](http://endurancegb.co.uk)

March ride [Event: Govilon Guided Training Ride \(endurancegb.co.uk\)](http://endurancegb.co.uk)

Other Group Fun Rides

<i>Date</i>	<i>Ride</i>	<i>Group</i>
Sunday 28 th January	Talybont Guided Training ride	De Cymru
Sat/Sun 17 th /18 th February	Brynffo Valentine's ride	South & West Wales
Sunday 18 th February	Bury Down Fun Ride	Cotswold
Sunday 25 th February	Snowdrop ride	Wessex
Sunday 25 th February	Libanus Guided Training ride	De Cymru
Thursday 7 th March	Kenfig Guided Training ride	De Cymru

Dates for your Diary

Saturday 20th January

OD Schooling @ Castle Farm, Usk

Sunday 4th February

Maryland Fun Ride

Saturday 10th February

Quiz

Sunday 11th February

OD Schooling @ Castle Farm, Usk

Thursday 15th February

Govilon Guided Training Ride

Sunday 3rd March

Govilon Guided Training Ride

Sunday 17th March

Forest of Dean National & Fun Ride

Sunday 14th April

**The Piers Geddes Memorial Ride at
Crucorney**

Sunday 12th May

Courtfield Fun Ride

Sunday 23rd June (TBC)

Wye Valley National & Fun Ride

Sunday 8th September

Michaelchurch National & Fun Ride

Date TBA

NEW Monnington Fun Ride

Maryland Fun Ride

More info on the Offa's Dyke website under 'Rides and Events'

www.egboffasdyke.co.uk