



# *Side Saddle Association Area 8*

## **April News Update 2023**

Dear Members,

We certainly hope you have all survived the recent unprecedented weather - what rotten conditions we have experienced - especially for those working outdoors either doing horses, attending to livestock or outdoor work. I know many of you have lost power, water, telephone lines and internet, over the past months, I do hope you are soon back to normal service. I also hope your horses, homes and stables are all unscathed.

Fortunately for Area 8 the sun came out just in time for our ever popular Spring show, traditionally held on Good Friday: The Valerie Lewis Memorial Spring show. We had a glorious day at Bedbury EC in Kent, it was great to see so many Area 8 members taking advantage of the chance to get out on such a lovely outing, so early in the season and especially welcome due to the very long Winter. Members gathered for a variety of classes suitable for those beginning in side saddle, right up to qualifiers for the Equitation Championships held at the National Show, together with a well supported entry in the JVJ Costume qualifier for the Championship to be held at Kent County show this July 2023. Entries were good and everyone came away with a huge smile on their face, including the Easter bunny who had been very busy with plenty of Easter eggs being awarded all round, together with the usual rosettes and prizes. It was also really good to see members on foot enjoying the show from the side - basking in sunshine - looking and learning and thoroughly enjoying the show, so much can be learned from the ringside, together with catching up with friends. Special thanks goes to Claire Lewis and her family Jon Lewis and Ian Evans, for their sterling work in organising and running this event, to Sarah and Catherine Hislam for judging, Helen Black for secretary duties, thanks also to Iain and Linz Cadle and a very large thank you to those members who supported the show.

### **Upcoming Area 8 events:**

Saturday 22.4.23: SSA 8 Equitation Side Saddle Show and Clinic, Frensham, Surrey.GU10 3DP. This is a great opportunity to get out and enjoy a pre – season show. Entries taken on the day.

Sunday 30.4.23: SSA 8 Demonstration: We have been invited to demonstrate our beautiful art of side saddle riding at the South Eastern Shire Horse Association show in their main arena, which will take place at the South of England Showground, Ardingly, West Sussex. RH17 6TH Thank you to those who have been in touch expressing interest in taking part, if there are any other members who would like to be considered as part of this demonstration, please do get in contact with me. We open all our demonstrations to members to be considered, we only asked that you have attended a ridden Side Saddle Association event in the last twelve months. Anyone with an interesting habit or costume is also invited to get in contact if you would like to display your costume or habit on foot – all welcome. Please come along to support our members and be sure to drop by to say hello. The SESH show is a lovely show, why not bring your family and friends for a thoroughly enjoyable day out in the company of magnificent heavy horses, ridden, in hand and driven, it really is a fabulous spectacle.

Saturday/Sunday 20/21.5.23: Area 8 is delighted to announce we have the honour of organising the first National Side Saddle Camp in Oxfordshire in between the M4, M40 and near the M25 for easy access. There are a limited number of spaces, so it is first come first served for all Side Saddle Association members. This camp will run for two days and one night, there is opportunity to stay Friday and Sunday night if needed, but this will be arranged separately. There will be both group and individual lessons on

Saturday, followed by an informative talk and entertainment in the evening. On Sunday there will be a lesson in the morning and a practice show/ring craft in the afternoon. During this camp, there will be the opportunity to have side saddles, habit and overall turnout checked by affiliated judges. Please send me an email at Sarah.clune@yahoo.co.uk to register interest and, more information with the booking forms will be sent out in due course.

Saturday 17.6.23: Area 8 Open Summer show: Classes to suit all levels of side saddle riders from absolute beginners to those wishing to gain Equitation Championship points. There will also be affiliated VHS classes for astride/aside riders, together with affiliated CDSGB classes in hand and ridden both astride/aside. Schedule out soon. East Byshe Showground, Newchapel, Surrey. RH7 6LF. Enquiries: wealdenlimousin@gmail.com

Don't forget we have various National events members are encouraged to enter and attend:

There is the online Equitation event which can be found on our National Website: <http://www.sidesaddleassociation.co.uk/events.asp>. Last month was great fun and members really enjoyed this event, do try and enter if you can.

The National Show will be 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> August, Bury Farm, please put this date in your diaries. If you are interested in sponsoring or helping out please contact the Show Organiser: Sam Stephenson: <https://www.nationalsidesaddleshows.co.uk/>

The Mid Surrey Farmers Drag Hunt are running a side saddle Dash at their Point2Point on Saturday 29.4.23. Anyone interested in entering this, please contact Angela Wells for more information: [angela.wells.horses@gmail.com](mailto:angela.wells.horses@gmail.com).

It is a really good way to prepare for the forthcoming season by getting your saddles out way before any of our events take place. Now is a really good time to think about any repairs, saddle fitting, flocking, conditioning and or thorough cleaning. Five minutes spent in the side saddle at this time of year cannot be underestimated, it really is a great way to blow away any cobwebs, refresh your side saddle riding and fitness and get yourself going again.

**SSA Equitation points 2023**

Don't forget the points have changed. Members need to accumulate 9 points this year. 1<sup>st</sup> = 5 points, 2<sup>nd</sup> = 4 points, 3 points are awarded for any further placings. Members must complete the class to be awarded 3 points. Details can be found on page 43 of the hand book.

Jane Pryor would like to hear from any members who know of fellow members who might be struggling at this current time. In particular if you know of any members who are lonely, feeling anxious or you think would like to hear from a friendly person. Jane is keen not to leave members struggling alone in this really difficult time. Jane's contact details can be found in the handbook or via the National website.

## Members may find the below interesting:

On 6th April 2023 British Equestrian (BEF) released a response to the comprehensive #HorsesForAll report, a research study into the lived experiences of underrepresented communities in equestrian activity. Undertaken by AKD Solutions on the federation's behalf, the report is the result of four months of research across interviews, forums, experience days and a nationwide survey with over 800 respondents which gave a huge amount of data and insight. The resulting 89-page document highlighted nine key themes and set out 11 recommendations for BEF to consider. In consultation with member bodies, BEF has published a response document which addresses the recommendations with commitments which will be incorporated into an equality, diversity and inclusion strategy. Details can be found on the National SSA website.

Please support the upcoming shows and events which affiliate to the SSA, sadly if these events are not supported we will lose these classes and we all know there is nothing better than to ride at these prestigious events. Thank you.

<b>SSA Area 8 events for 2023</b>		
<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>
April, 22.4.23	Area 8 Equitation Show	Priory Equestrian, Frensham Road, Frensham, Farnham, Surrey. GU10 3DP Enquiries: ssa_area_8@outlook.com
April, 30.4.23	Area 8 Demonstration	South Eastern Shire Horse Association, South of England showground, Ardingly, West Sussex. RH17 6TH Enquiries: angela.wells.horses@gmail.com
May 20/21,5,23	Area 8 National Open Camp	Rose Hill EC. RG9 3EB Enquiries: Sarah.clune@yahoo.co.uk
June 17.6.23	Area 8 Open Summer Show	East Bysshe Showground, Newchapel, Surrey. RH7 6LF Enquiries: wealdenlimousin@gmail.com
<b>SSA National events for 2023</b>		
<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>
15 <sup>th</sup> of each month	Virtual Equitation Competition	Please see National SSA Website: <a href="http://www.sidesaddleassociation.co.uk/events.asp">http://www.sidesaddleassociation.co.uk/events.asp</a>
August 4 – 6,8,23	National Side Saddle Show	Bury Farm, <a href="https://www.nationalsidesaddleshows.co.uk/">https://www.nationalsidesaddleshows.co.uk/</a>

Thank you to those members who keep in touch. It is always lovely to hear from members and we enjoy hearing your news, thank you. Finally we hope you are all keeping safe and well. Very much looking forward to meeting up with Area 8 members this coming season.

Best wishes,  
*Angela*

Angela Wells - Chairman  
Side Saddle Association Area 8