

Summer fun at Uist Community Riding School – both home and away

Sue MacDonald

UIST Community Riding School (UCRS) started its summer off with a trip to the Royal Highland Show and a visit to Mountains Animal Sanctuary near Forfar.

Hoffman, a long standing horse who was part of UCRS in the 1990s, now enjoys his retirement in Mountains. It was lovely to see him. Those of you who were part of the club over ten years ago will remember Amber, who was also at the sanctuary but sadly passed away this April. We all have fond memories of her and she taught hundreds of children to ride.

In spite of dreadful forecasts and the threat of the Royal Highland show being cancelled, we made our way to a concrete parking lot at Inglestone and the day stayed dry. We camped the first night in Glen Clova and the second in our Bothy near Plockton. The crowd we took all enjoyed the weekend, apart from the early morning midge attacks.

Congratulations to Nina Wren, Rosie Blaney and James Buckley who have all finished

and passed their SVQ Level 2 in Horse Care and Management. UCRS thanks them all for their commitment to the yard and wishes them the best of luck for their future and hope all three stay in touch and connected to the yard in some way.

Ponies and riders have continued to enjoy superb weather once again this summer here. A packed schedule of events and activities has run throughout the holidays and an autumn activities list is also on display in the yard for anyone interested. Dressage, Show Jumping and Cross Country competitions have run over the summer and a Mini Show was held at the end of July, which drew big entries in each class.

Summer camp this year was held at UCRS. Day one was blighted by wind and rain and any pre-existing tent enthusiasm was flattened. However, by 8pm on the first night the sun shone and we kept dry for the rest of the week. The children enjoyed tuition from a variety of instructors and all rode several different ponies. Highlights of the five-day camp were swimming in the sea on a baking

Friday afternoon, taking the ponies swimming, a speedy

Flodda Ride and chilling out on their bikes.

The yard has been busy every day, accommodating tourists and local riders' requirements. All our horses have faithfully taken riders of all ages and abilities onto the beach; we have also been packed with own-a-pony days and hands-on pony handling sessions.

Culla, Balivanich School's adopted pony, has come on in leaps and bounds this season and is now trained to pull cart. We will work with him over the winter, ready for backing him next summer. He turns three this September.

Our yearly summer show is to be held on Saturday 1 September. Schedules can be collected in the yard.

I would like to thank everyone who has helped us in the yard this summer – it has been busy. As always we rely hugely on voluntary help and we had so many willing helpers this summer: some young, some old and some home from college and uni; new faces, old faces and many in-between, all helping UCRS live up to its uniqueness and popularity.



Duncan Rossi (pictured above) was one of the participants at the UCRS summer camp.



One of the highlights of the UCRS summer camp was taking the ponies swimming.

UCRS Show results 28 July 2012

Shetland

- 1 Pickle (Jenny Ross)
- 2 Sheltie (Laura MacKay)
- 3 Harris (Hannah MacDonald)

Eriskay

- 1 Shem (Jenny Ross)
- 2 Patrik (Joan MacKay)
- 3 Culla (Duncan Rossi)

Highland

- 1 Torrin (Hayley Maclay)
- 2 Rollo (Laura MacKay)
- 3 Ceilidh (Sophie Fox)

Coloured / Any height

- 1 Jack (Fern MacDonald)
- 2 Donald (Nina Wren)
- 3 Harris (Hannah MacDonald)
- 4 Tonto (Ellie Keegan)

Heavy horse

- 1 Donald (Nina Wren)
- 2 Grundy (Simone Marshall)
- 3 Torrin (Hayley Maclay)
- 4 Webster (Fern MacDonald)

Fine/light horse

- 1 Billy (Jessica Thompson)
- 2 Cludo (Sophie Fox)
- 3 Teddy (Jenny Ross)
- 4 Jinty (Hannah MacDonald)
- 5 Chester (Chloe Mannix)

Native pony

- 1 Pickle (Hannah MacDonald)
- 2 Shem (Jenny Ross)
- 3 Rollo (Laura MacKay)
- 4 Abbey (Joa)
- 5 Chester (Chloe Mannix)

Veteran 20 years and over / Horse or pony

- 1 Rollo (Laura MacKay)
- 2 Patrick (Joan MacKay)
- 3 Jinty (Hannah MacLennan)
- 4= Webster and Grundy (Chloe Mannix and Simone Marshall)
- 5= Shem and Abbey (Jenny Ross and Hannah MacDonald)

Champion in hand / 1st placing from classes 1-8

- 1 Shem (Jenny Ross)
- 2 Billy (Jessica Thompson)
- 3 Rollo (Laura MacKay)
- 4 Pickle (Hannah MacDonald)
- 5 Donald (Nina Wren)
- 6 Torrin (Hayley Maclay)

Ridden small pony up to 13hh

- 1 Shem (Ellie Keegan)
- 2 Mouse (Duncan Rossi)
- 3 Icky (Tilly Roper)

Ridden pony 13'1-14'2

- 1 Jack (Fern MacDonald)

- 2 Billy (Jessica Thompson)
- 3 Patrick (Joan MacKay)

Ridden horse 14'3 and over

- 1 Grundy (Simone Marshall)
- 2 Donald (Nina Wren)
- 3 Teddy (Jenny Ross)
- 4 Jinty (Hannah MacLennan)
- 5 Ceilidh (Sophie Fox)

Ridden champion / 1st placing from classes 10-12

- 1 Jack (Fern MacDonald)
- 2 Grundy (Simone Marshall)
- 3 Shem (Ellie Keegan)

Best matched pairs

- 1 Fern and Joa on Jack and Harris
- 2 Hannah and Laura on Donald and Tonto
- 3 Chloe and Sophie on Chester and Cludo
- 4 Jenny and Nina on Teddy and Icky

Fancy dress

- 1 Jenny on Pickle (Rastafarians)
- 2 Laura, Hannah and Hannah on Ceilidh (The Olympians)
- 3 Fern MacDonald on Jack (Cowgirl)