



Southlands Riding Club News & Events **May 2007**

# Ring Use During 2007 Show Season

## SOUTHLANDS SPRING DRESSAGE

Our first big show of the year is the Southlands Spring Dressage Show, which takes place from May 4-6. It's a qualifier for the Pan Am Games, so come out and see the region's top riders in action over the weekend. The Freestyles will take place on Saturday afternoon in the Covered Arena.

Preparations will begin on Tuesday, May 1, when Zoltan and David will start taking out the jumps from the Indoor and McCleery Ring. On Wednesday, jumps will be removed from the Big Ring, and the dressage fences will be set up in the in the Big Ring and Covered Arena. Competitors will be arriving on Thursday, though the grounds are still open to members. Lessons cannot be scheduled on May 3, 4, 5 or 6 (Thurs-Sunday).

While the show is on (Friday-Sunday), the Carnarvon ring and the West side of the track will be open to members. You'll be able to enter the grounds at either the 53rd or 55th Avenue gates, and some rails will be removed to allow access to the Carnarvon Ring. The track will be flagged off with signs that say "Numbered Horses Only Beyond This Point", and you should not go past this point unless you're a competitor. After the final class each day (around 6:00 p.m.) the track, McCleery Ring and Indoor (warmup rings) will be open until Club closing.

Following the show, courses will go back up on Tuesday and Wednesday in the usual rings.

There has been some debate in the past about allowing access to the competition grounds to non-competing members. The Spring Dressage Show is an Equine Canada sanctioned National show, and as such it has to abide by Equine Canada rules. The relevant EC rule states: "Any horse arriving on the competition grounds but not competing will be subject to all EC and competition rules and must be assigned a number that must be worn when outside the stable."

This means that in order to ride beyond the flagged area (the "competition grounds") during show hours, a member must enter at the office, pay the administration fee (\$37 + GST) and

abide by all EC rules – i.e. hold an EC membership and horse licence, be willing to be subject to drug testing, abide by the rules governing tack at a dressage show, etc. Any member who still wishes to ride on the show grounds under these conditions is welcome to contact the office and obtain a number.

Our situation at SRC is different from that at places like Maple Ridge or Thunderbird which have permanent on site resident horses. There is an exception to the rule which states that "horses stabled permanently on the competition site are exempt", so you may see non-competing horses on the grounds at other facilities.

Please don't hesitate to contact the office if you have any questions or concerns.

## WHAT'S GOING ON: May

**04** **Southlands Spring Dressage** May 4-6. The Carnarvon Ring and West side of the track will stay available for members to use throughout the weekend; McCleery and the Indoor (warmup rings) will be open after classes finish each day.

**27** **Dogwood Dressage #1** Check the SRC lobby and website for entry forms and details of the expanded classes offered this year.

### **And coming in June ...**

You'll have the chance to try out those new cross country jumps when the 2 3/4 Phase Event returns on June 16. Check the Clubhouse lobby and SRC website for entry forms later this month.

# Member Complaint Policy

The Board of Directors has developed the following policy for member-to-member complaints. This policy would be applied in situations where no SRC rules have been broken.

## Step 1

Members have the option of calling the office with their concerns or complaints. The office will document the conversation and keep a record on file. No further action will be taken, unless the member, after being advised that if they want further action taken then Step 2 will come into effect, decides to proceed.

## Step 2

A member may submit a written, signed and dated letter of the complaint to the office. At this point the office will further investigate the complaint by contacting the other party and any witnesses.

## Step 3

The members involved will be advised that the letter will be reviewed by the Board of Directors at the next scheduled board meeting. At the AGM 2007 a committee of three members will be elected from the membership to deal with member complaints. The committee will then replace the review by the Board of Directors. The members will have the choice of either having their complaint heard by the committee or an outside mediator (there will be a fee attached to this)

## Step 4

Upon review by the Board of Directors, committee or mediator, both members will receive a letter outlining the Board/Committee/Mediator's thoughts and advice.

## GROUNDS REPORT

Thank you to all our members for their patience during the resurfacing of the Covered ring. The rider response to the footing has been very positive. If you've been wondering, the new material is a fiber/felt/rubber product called *Airfoot* and *Lightfoot*, combined with new sand. The felt and fiber holds moisture to give a less dusty surface in the summer, and a more secure riding surface during the wetter months. Due to time constraints, the contractor was unable to complete the round pen – there is still further work to be done on it. The product that was removed from the covered arena will be spread on the east side of our grass field when weather conditions allow.

Once we get into some consistent spring weather we will be starting our annual grass field work. Farmtec will once again be working on the spring treatment for our field. This year we are including the warm up area for the Grand Prix Field so that both surfaces are consistent.

We are still looking at options for resurfacing McCleery ring. The north side of the track will be completed in the month of August. The work has to be scheduled for that time due to cost effectiveness and facility events.

Remember, if you have any concerns or questions about grounds, you can now email [grounds@southlandsridingclub.com](mailto:grounds@southlandsridingclub.com).

Your email will be received by the Manager and staff.

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# RULE REMINDER: Instruction at the Club

In 2005, the Club introduced a new policy designed to clarify exactly what is “instruction”, as opposed to merely “helping” a fellow rider. According to our Club rules, SRC Instructors are those who have been designated as such by the Board of Directors, and only SRC Instructors may give instruction on Club premises, except as authorized from time to time by the Board of Directors for clinics and other special events.

A number of issues highlighted the need for a clear definition and policy regarding instruction:

- unauthorized instruction is unfair to those instructors and students who abide by SRC rules and pay ring fees for properly scheduled lessons – fees which help support SRC and keep all members’ dues lower than they otherwise would be;
- unauthorized instruction presents a liability issue for SRC, as SRC has no way of knowing whether people engaged in unauthorized instruction have liability insurance and SRC’s insurance could be adversely affected;
- members may feel unwilling to ride in a ring where instruction is taking place. In the case of unauthorized instruction, a full paying member may therefore be inconvenienced by someone who is not abiding by the rules and is not paying their fair share of the costs of SRC.

So, what is instruction? To be considered “instruction”, an activity must meet both of the following points:

**1) instruction is regular and fairly continuous commentary and/or direction (i.e. more than an occasional comment),**

**2) instruction takes place while the student is in the act of riding a horse, as opposed to observations and comments made after the ride is completed.**

This means that based on the rationale for the policy outlined above:

- it is irrelevant that the student is riding the instructor’s own horse;
- it is irrelevant that the instructor is teaching his or her own child;

- it is irrelevant whether or not the instructor is receiving payment from the student, and
- it is irrelevant whether or not the instructor is riding a horse while the teaching is taking place.

***It is still “instruction” if it meets points 1 and 2 above!***

Note that the word for word reading aloud of dressage tests, with little or no additional commentary, is not considered to be instruction under this policy.



## Keep an Eye Out ...

The Office has been told of a couple of incidents in the neighbourhood over the past month where (presumably) well meaning people have put grass clippings and kitchen scraps in horses’ paddocks. Just a reminder to be alert for this potential hazard if your paddocks are accessible from the street.



### Contact Us

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### Bulletin

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### Deadlines

Summer Horscope: July 31, 2007  
June Bulletin: May 21, 2007