

Carmarthenshire Riders

Newsletter 1

June 2006

- Want a local meeting? Can you offer a free venue? Give me a call. 01269 843796

Inside this issue:

Survey of all routes	1
What you can do	2
Slippery Tarmac	2
Mountain Riding	3
FC Open Access	3
Map Reading Event	3

Committee/Decision Makers

I would like to thank the riders who have agreed to be decision makers for the group. In addition Howard Court is undertaking the position of Treasurer and Linda Court (Talley) is Membership Secretary.

Lucy Osborne(Trimsaran)-
Forum Moderator

Jackie Watson (Laugharne)

Mandy Jones (Cynghordy)

Jamilah Samuel (Burry Port)

Sarah Williams
(Llandybydder)

Currently we have vacancies for a rep from Trelech/
Newcastle Emlyn and Carmarthen if anyone would like to volunteer.

Carmarthenshire has been divided into areas and

members will be notified of the meetings by email or by phone if members do not have an email address.

Meetings will not be routinely held , unless requested by the members, but consultation will be made on line and by phone although we will have an AGM once a year and the local group meetings. Updates will also be posted on the forum at <http://carmsriders.clicdev.com> . If you havent joined please do so and check out what is going on. Local events will also be posted here.

The first local group meeting was held at Fairfach for riders in the Llandeilo area. The issues raised at this meeting involved low flying aircraft and lack of

bridleways. The MOD in Partnership with the BHS are offering free Hi Viz tabards and sheets to those riders requesting them. Email modviz@bhs.org.uk with your name, address and the size of your horse or call 01926 707737. Preference will be given to those in flying areas.

The next meeting will be with the Carmarthen group. Anyone wishing to attend the meeting on the 17th July at 7.30. You will be very welcome.. Fox and Hounds PH at Bancyfelin. On a40 towards St Clears, take the right turn to Bancyfelin. Pub is near the school. If you reach the hospital you have gone too far.

Survey of all Routes

Many riders have been busy surveying local byways, bridleways and unclassified roads (UCR). If you wish to be involved in this exercise please let me know. I have some more routes to be looked at. They must be walked/ridden and not done from memory, the last time you used the route.

Currently, of the routes I have had returned, there is only 20% of the network open and easy to use. We have obtained an undertaking from the Highways Dept at C.C.C to look at maintaining the byways and UCRs if funding becomes available. Following this survey we will

be submitting an application for European and external funding to get a number of routes cleared/improved. This is with a view to get a regional trans Carmarthenshire promoted route created. We have to do this by December . This is our opportunity to get things improved locally, don't waste it!

What can YOU do?



The membership of the Carmarthenshire Riders spreads across the whole of the county. Unfortunately we are unable to monitor all the local news papers and community Mags for local news that affects riders. Please assist us by keeping us informed of any articles that appear that may impact or riders or where there is an opportunity for application to be made for consideration of improved routes. Postings can be made on the forum at <http://carmsriders.clicdev.com> or you can send a copy to me at Fernside, Black Lion Road,

Gorslas, Carms, SA14 6SB. The Council Council advertise modification orders for public rights of way, including bridleways, in the local newspapers. Please inform us if there are any reported in your area. Once these have been approved they cannot be opposed.

Come to the local meetings or keep in touch by keeping us up to date on issues that affect you.

SURVEY

The results of the survey will be published on the forum in due course along with details

of bridleways that are open and available and those that are closed. Please check out the forum regularly. Members without internet access will receive a report on the status of the network when the survey is complete to keep postal costs down. If anyone has any unsurfaced highways or tracks in their area it would assist if they could either email me or write to me giving a report on their condition and whether they are rideable. Most of these routes are marked as green dots on an Ordnance Survey map although some are not.

*Reported in the
Carmarthen Journal
and has been
acknowledged as a
problem by Street
Scene.*

Slippery Tarmac

At the original meeting in Cwmifor slippery tarmac was raised as an issue. The County Council have agreed to test areas of new laid tarmac that is proving dangerous with a view to top dressing it. Please inform us through the forum or by phone if you have any new slippery tarmac in your area. It is only by raising this issue that the council will

review its materials.

Old tarmac is also an issue and should also be brought to our attention. If you are able to describe clearly the location—giving a serial number of a street light or a house name or number, or junction details, this will assist the council in testing the right area.

Mountain Riding



We have had a meeting with the Brecon Beacons National Park (BBNP) as a result of a query from a rider regarding stallions grazing on the Black Mountain. Enquires have been made with the council Commons Officer, Neil Evans, who keeps a register of grazing rights in the County. In the Black Mountain area the BBNP is keen to encourage

ponies on the mountain for environmental benefit. Therefore, even if a grazier does not have rights for ponies, they are prepared to issue written permission for their location. This means that riders must be careful when in mountain areas. I have written to the Chairman of the Graziers asking if we can be notified when the stallions are

present possibly by way of a notice as they are not there all year. Education seems to be the only solution in this situation and riders should stay as far away from grazing ponies as possible.

Mountain Riding Cont..

The BBNP do not allow riders off the rights of way in the park, although, where a rider sees grazing ponies they can take what ever avoiding action is necessary. This means taking a very wide berth and if you can tell the sex of a pony you are definitely too close. I am seeking advice from the graziers re suggested actions when coming across the ponies and aim to publish an advice sheet.

Riders riding on any mountain area should use the undergrowth and hills in the land to avoid the ponies seeing them and stay at least 800metres away at all times.

Stay quiet and observe their direction of travel. Generally they will keep moving. Wait for them to move on or divert. Riding off the path can be dangerous so follow the small sheep tracks which will avoid bogs and marshy ground but look out for rabbit holes. Watch the ponies constantly.

Should a pony break away from the group and take chase, move as fast as you can in the opposite direction to distance yourself from the group. This may be basic advice but many riders have no experience of mountain riding and are unaware of the dangers that a stallion poses. There have been incidents and riders have been seriously injured.

VENUE REQUIRED

We are Looking for a venue for a local meeting in the Whitland/Trelech/Newcastle Emlyn area. Anyone able to offer a free venue please let me know. You can chose the date!

GROUP FUND RAISER

We are running a fund raiser for the group where entrants are asked to send £1 per entry guessing the company logos provided. There will be one prize of a percentage of the funds raised. You do not have to guess all of the logos to enter as some are particularly difficult. Those with the same number correct will be pulled out of a hat. These logos will be emailed to group members with an email address and posted with this news letter to those that do not. Please support the group and have a go. Get your families to help you! Entries must be received by 30 July with £1 entry fee.

Forestry Commission Open Access


The Forestry Commission has designated most of its land as open access land under CROW 2000(there are exceptions). This means that **walkers** can access it freely and do not need to keep to footpaths. They have also given riders open access although there are some restrictions on parking. Abergorlech in Brechfa Forest is one of those restricted areas. Cycle tracks have been laid in

the area and the car park is considered too small for multi user parking. If any of these restrictions cause you inconvenience I will take the matter to the Forestry to see if we can resolve it.

Check out the Forestry Commission web site for areas of small woodland under their control in your area. You have free access in most of them. This can be checked by contacting the FC on

0845 6040845

Pembrey is a restricted forest and access can be obtained on set paths and the beach by paying £5 to Dave at the riding school there. I have spoken to him about producing a map and possibly a marked route but this is still under negotiation.



“Are there more places to ride than you think?”

Map Reading Event

At the start of this group whilst talking to Ed Saunders at the Forestry Commission it was suggested that riders need some tuition involving maps as many undertake riding in the forestry without a map and get lost and those reporting problems cannot give suitable map references to assist in the maintenance of the routes. Given that Brechfa Forest is

such a large place with few land marks and a risk nightmare, I decided to start small and offer an event to local riders/members and Pony/Riding Clubs. My intention is to introduce maps to the group with a view to running an event at Pembrey. I have decided on Ammanford as I had hoped to get access to the Black Mountain. This is

still under discussion but will include some instruction to be read prior to attending the event, some instruction explaining the reading provided and a short ride out to put new found skills into practice. Maps will be provided and riders will have to ride in 3s for safety. Clues will be collected along the way for a quiz at the end for which

Carmarthenshire Riders

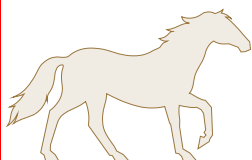
Fernside
Black Lion Road
Gorslas
Carmarthenshire
SA14 6SB

Phone: 01269 843796

Email: karen.birch@homecall.co.uk

The Carmarthenshire Riders Group is representing the views of all riders in Carmarthenshire in lobbying local and National government to provide better and safe access for riders and to promote riders safety both on and off road. This incorporates consultation in planning applications for development of business premises, local leisure improvements and the road network. It also includes issues such as road surfaces and the maintenance of all available routes for riding both for local exercise and to promote tourism and equestrian businesses in the County.

We are on the web at
[http://
carmsriders.clicdev.com](http://carmsriders.clicdev.com)



Map Reading Event Cont...

there will be a prize. It is hoped that riders will, after the ride, be able to give a map reference to report an obstruction to a bridleway, know how rights of way are recorded on an OS map, have an idea of distance between points and the terrain of the route, and how to follow a compass bearing. Anyone wishing to ride with friends can choose their riding partners. Under 10s must be accompanied by an adult who will take responsibility for them. The ride will take place from Dynefwr Riding Centre, Llandyfan, between Ammanford and Trap

on 13th August 06. Application forms enclosed must be returned to Karen Burch Fernside, Black Lion Road, Gorslas, Carmarthenshire, SA14 6SB with an SAE before 30 July. Please contact me well before then as if the interest is low it will be cancelled. Cost will be £13 adult £10 child and includes membership of the Carmarthenshire Riders Group. (members deduct £3).

Other News

Talley Woods has paths available for non commercial riding, opposite the church, but no space for parking. Permissive routes currently being looked at in Talley and Llangunnor.

Bridleway in Tumble

I have just been informed that the riders from Capel Seion have just achieved the upgrading of a footpath in Tumble to a bridleway. Congratulations to you all who wrote a statement and did the running around collecting evidence. It has taken a number of years and an appeal but we now have another bridleway. It runs from Cwm mawr, Tumble, on the bend leading to Drefach.

Thank you for your support and I hope we can continue to be successful in obtaining safe riding in Carmarthenshire.

As a group we can only exist and be effective if we have members. We have achieved much in the short time the group has been up and running. We have established communication and respect from a number of council departments, the Forestry Commission, National Park, Dyfed Powys Road Safety Department, Welsh Assembly, Community Councils and many other local groups. We are keeping the problems that riders have in the spotlight by advertising in The Carmarthen Journal, Welsh Rider, Horse magazine and local Community Newspapers.

Do your bit by telling your friends about the group and encouraging new members. Our strength is the numbers we represent. Currently I have a list of interested parties with over 100 names on it who have not joined the group. Most are waiting to see if its just another meeting or whether we can get things done. We can achieve if we stop complaining as individuals and work together. Contact me with local issues and we can fight them together.