

**Rhonda Noble,  
Mentone Horse Riders Club President 2005 - 2008**



Whilst being involved in the Pony Club for many years and holding the position of District Commissioner, a few of us parents used to comment on what a great time the kids had with their lessons and how it would be great if we could form a club for us adults. Hence, the beginning of Mentone Horse Riders Club. I was a riding member for a few years and competed in TTT horse trials on my old horse Charity (who is now 39, and still a bitch to catch in the paddock). I knew she would take me around the cross country safely, which she did.

Due to children needing to be floated to competitions almost every week I let my membership lapse. A few years later when my girls decided that they were no longer going to compete Sovereign and that he should be sold on, I decided to ride again. My kids didn't believe I would ride. So they put me on three months probation. If I didn't ride regularly, Sovereign was to be sold, as they couldn't bear to see him go to waste.

I rejoined riders club. It wasn't long before Jill Wilcox talked me into attending a competition with her up in Smythesdale. We had a great weekend and that was the beginning of my competition life. Over the past few years I have moved from level 5 to level 3 in dressage. But what I really like to do is Horse Trials in which I ride at level 4. I am keen to work my way up to level 3 but not so keen to go beyond that (I don't bounce like I used to).

I have enjoyed many weekends away at competitions with other members, some times coming home with prizes, sometimes coming home with scrapes and bruises, but always with great memories and smiles.

Over the years I have seen the club change quite a bit, from just a group of parents having fun, to quite a competitive club. But always members supporting each other and having a laugh. I am proud to be a member of such a friendly and supportive club. I have met many lovely people through the club and made some wonderful friends that I'm sure will remain in my life for many years to come.

*Rhonda*