

Recreation

R.A. budget under control

The Russell Recreation Association held its annual meeting three months early this year. The move was to bring in line the term of office of a newly elected Board of Directors with the realities of budgeting for RA activities. With budgets due in December, previous boards, elected in December too, found themselves responsible for a budget they did not create.

In a further constitutional change, the RA dropped the position of Treasurer from the Board of Directors. The post is replaced by a three member Financial management Committee.

Speaking for the Financial Management Committee, Peter Romme reported that the RA budget, though far from balanced, is under firm control. While the building debenture payable remains at \$136,500 and the deficit with Township is over \$56,000, the current operating position is encouraging. Certainly RA's "hold the line" policy adopted last spring is having an effect but newly elected chairman Baird McNeil says a great deal of continued effort and resolve is necessary to bring finances into the block.

Outgoing RA Chairman, Lorne Wade, expressed his pride in the arena and his gratitude to its manager Paul Wylie and his staff

for their efforts in maintaining the facility. Lorne will continue his involvement by serving on the three-member RA Management Committee.

Marilyn Savage reported on the activities of the Arena Auxiliary committee which, since 1978, has raised nearly \$12,000 toward costs of operation. Volunteers are always welcome.

All positions up for election were contested in a welcome display of concern for the community's recreational needs. The newly elected members to the Board, each for a 2-year term are:

Chairman — Baird McNeil
Vice-Chairman — Peter Romme;
Secretary — Jean Millaire; Directors — Jean-Paul St. Pierre; Peter Vantol and, Greg Rokosh.

Jumping clinic held

A group of hardy souls, true horsemen all, braved the wind and rain Saturday, October 3 to attend a jumping clinic at Pine Tree Stables given by Ruth Koch.

Ruth, fresh from a John Lassetter clinic, put sparkle and vigor into what could have been a hard day's work. She introduced the participants to a gymnastic preparation to jumping involving cavalletti.

By the end of the afternoon a

decided improvement could be felt by everyone. Even a certain mischievous Quarter Horse was doing things his owner thought impossible.

The real pet of the clinic was Katie O'Connor who rode Shawn; her very second time on a full-sized horse. She looked like a real pro and rode like one too.

This will probably be the last clinic here until spring, but we are already planning big things.

Pony Club

Everyone interested in forming a Pony Club, either as an assistant or a member, please call 445-2976.

An Apology

We apologize to Suzanne Veh for omitting the credit for her interesting photo of the ponies last issue.

Horse Bits

All about eventing

By Lola Wood

When I talk about Eventing most people give me a blank (but politely concealed) stare. It goes by several names: Combined Training, Three Day, One Day, etc. depending on how advanced you are. The rules, of course, change as the game increases in difficulty.

Basically, eventing is a test of the training and endurance of the horse and rider. It consists of dressage, endurance and jumping competitions.

Here at Pine Tree Stables we divide our training into two distinct parts. A month or so at dressage and an equal amount of time at jumping well. In between we gallop them to improve their wind. Then we put it all together.

This year we have been very unlucky in that our cross-country course has been flooded most of the summer. Maybe we should add another competition — swimming. When we can get out there though the horses just breeze around the course, jumping every thing we put them at.

The dressage training came early in the summer. This improves the obedience, suppleness and impulsion of the horse as well as the riders accuracy, balance and rhythm in co-operation with the horse. The test is timed with a prescribed number of movements performed in a ring 20mx40m. Even Redwing did the test with a few personal touches!

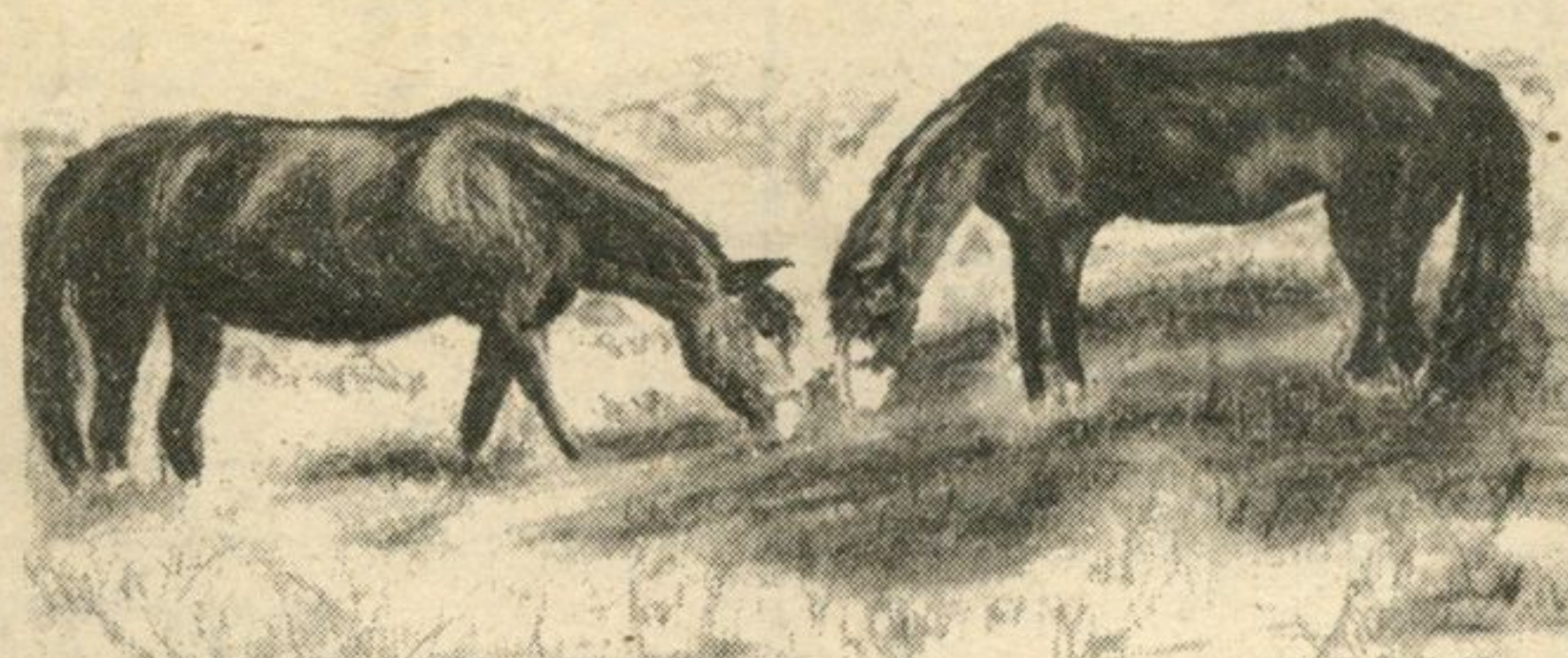
Our jumping training up to now has been mainly exercises to improve the rider's "base of support" (that is what keeps you on regardless of what may occur) plus equitation type courses over fairly small jumps. The horses can jump big if they want to, but now we are aiming for style and consistency. The big stuff can come anytime.

The one difference which is most noticeable in the two phases is the change in tack. The dressage saddle has a very straight flap and deep seat which encourages a long leg and a more erect position, while the jumping saddle has forward flaps and often knee rolls which enable the rider to sit forward over the horses shoulders and not interfere with him. Your stirrup length is shorter with this seat as well. We are still making do with our all-purpose saddles (maybe it cramps our style a little) but it doesn't spoil the fun one bit.

Notes

Mrs. Dimy Achtereekte and Mrs. Bertha Walsh hosted the September meeting of the Russell Village Women's Institute held in the R.C. Hall. The roll call was answered by 21 members and three guests.

Mrs. Ina Henry reported on the fairs and Ottawa Exhibition prizes. Mrs. Cherry Bekkers thanked everyone for helping with the exhibits.



Pastoral painting of grazing horses was executed by Desirée Pernas of Embrun.

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