

# *The Winter Newsletter 2025*

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2025, we look forward to bringing you four newsletters again this year showcasing the Society and the Show.

**The 2025 show date is Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2025**

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## **2025 Advance Ticket Prices**

Advance ticket sales will open shortly. We are pleased to announce that we have not increased our ticket prices for 2025.

The prices are available now on our ticketing webpage, with adult tickets starting at £20 each.

Don't forget children 11 years and under go free (no ticket required.)

[www.romseyshow.co.uk/the-show/buy-tickets](http://www.romseyshow.co.uk/the-show/buy-tickets)

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## **Membership & Premium Parking are available to purchase now**

Payments for membership are due now. This can be done online via our Showing Scene Portal. For Life Members wishing to purchase premium parking only, please email [info@romseyshow.co.uk](mailto:info@romseyshow.co.uk).

[www.romseyshow.co.uk/membership](http://www.romseyshow.co.uk/membership)

**Membership price** until 31<sup>st</sup> May 2025: **£35** (After May: **£40**)

### **Benefits of membership include:**

- To receive a membership badge which provides admission to the Romsey Show (Saturday 13th September 2025).
- Entry on show day to the Members' Enclosure. This includes access to the members' bar, café, VIP loos and seating around the Main President's Ring and within the marquee.
- Entitlement to Members' forward parking near the main admission gate at the Show.
- The option to purchase guest badges to introduce friends to the members' Enclosure (show admission tickets still required).
- To receive a copy of the Annual Report and Accounts and vote at the Annual General Meeting.



- Be entitled to reduced class entry fees for equine and livestock classes.
- Priority to apply for a Members Premium Parking space (these are strictly limited in number).

### Premium Parking

Premium parking is available to Members and sponsors only. Cars must be parked by 11am and cannot leave until 3pm. Please see the benefits of having a premium space below.

**Premium Parking price** until 31st May 2025: **£20** (from 1st June 2025: **£40**)

#### Benefits of Premium Parking include:

- Guaranteed reserved parking bay within the premium car parking area on the show ground.
- Arrange to meet and greet friends / families at your vehicle. Non-members can access the car park on foot from the show ground.
- Generous parking bay with room for picnics at rear of vehicle.
- Adjacent to the Members Area.
- If a member of your party enjoys a “retail “ experience, you are able to easily access your vehicle to store purchases.
- Worried about the weather? No problem bring as much alternative clothing / footwear as you want.
- There is a dedicated Premium Parking show ground vehicle entrance / exit, which allows for easy exit from Broadlands at the end of the day.

Please note: Vehicles are restricted to cars and 4 x 4s.

All vehicle occupants will be required to have valid show ground entry tickets/badges that must have been purchased in advance of coming to the showground.

### Main Ring Exclusive Hospitality

We are considering introducing a small number of exclusive hospitality areas facing onto the Main Ring. This would include a private area with outdoor and inside space including seating, tables and catering service availability. If you are interested, please contact the Show Office.

### AGM – Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2025

Thank you to all our members who joined us for our AGM in Romsey Town Hall on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> March. We hope you enjoyed the evening. We also extend our thanks to the Social Events Group for providing the canapes, they were delicious.



#### 2025 President, Harry Redknapp

We were delighted to announce at our AGM that Harry Redknapp is our 2025 President. Many of you will know of Harry as he is a former football manager and player with links to the area. Harry lives locally in Bournemouth with his wife Sandra and he supports several charities. Harry was unable to join us at the AGM as he had a horse running at Cheltenham Festival, however we are thrilled that he will be joining us on show day and he is looking forward to meeting lots of you on the day.

### **The Mike Nokes Memorial Award**

Congratulations to Margaret and John Moody who were awarded the Mike Nokes Memorial Award at the AGM, presented by Trish Nokes. This award is given to stewards who have given a significant contribution to the Show for that year, in this case the 2024 Show. Margaret and John contribute not only on show day but also helping with the set-up of the showground and post-show litter pick and tidy. They often assist at the Winter Fayre in November as well. On show day they have a very important task behind the scenes overseeing processes for the main gate, a crucial element of the Show. Thank you to both of them for all they have done and continue to do for the society.



### **The Presidential Award**

We would also like to congratulate Sean Rowlandson for winning a new award, The Presidential Award. This award has been introduced to recognise those who have given a huge amount of their time and expertise to the society over a considerable period of time and for one reason or another they have now taken a back seat.

Sean Rowlandson's attachment to the Show goes back to his childhood and his parent's involvement in many aspects of Romsey life including The Romsey Show. Sean assisted with the cattle penning for many years and for the past 10 years Sean has been responsible for the grounds team through his role as Grounds Chairman and co-ordinator. During the two weeks before the Show Sean has unpacked the storage sheds, overseen all the contractors on site, moved mountains of posts, rope, crowd barrier and much more. Along with his small team he has ensured that the showground is ready and safe for the Show to take place. And then, of course, after only one day he has had to dismantle and store everything again in less than one week. After all the years supporting the Show Sean has decided to call it a day. We thank Sean for his dedication to the Show. The showground has always looked fantastic on Show Day, no matter the weather and the society are so grateful to him for all his expertise and support. Sean will be missed, but we hope he will now be able to catch up with friends and enjoy a relaxed Show Day.

### **Society & Show Roles**

The Society continues to evolve, and we offer thanks and appreciation to Sharon Hillman, Annie Carder and Stephen Kibbey who have been Trustees of the charity for six years and have retired from their trustee positions at our recent AGM. Annie will continue to support the society on the Social Events Group and as the head steward for the Stockman's Breakfast on show day. Sharon is also continuing her role within the Show Office as Finance Officer and supporting our Secretary.

Whilst on the subject of volunteers we are always looking for new volunteers. If anyone is interested in a trustee role on the board of the charity or would like to help on the showground, please email the Show Office to find out more. We have volunteers covering every aspect of the Show from the main ring and trade stalls to the ticket gates, show set-up and more. The society couldn't put on the Show without our fantastic hard working volunteer stewards.

## Trade applications are open

If you are interested in promoting your business or selling products to a large audience at the Show we would love to hear from you. We welcome a range of existing and new exhibitors to the show every year.

Please visit our website for more information or to book a space. We have several areas including the outside stands, Shopping & Craft Marquee and Food Zone. For food and drink related products please email the show office before applying.

[www.romseyshow.co.uk/trade-stands/booking](http://www.romseyshow.co.uk/trade-stands/booking)

### The Spotlight on a Trade Exhibitor – Armchair Dogs



Jessica from Armchair Dogs has been supporting The Romsey Show as a visitor for many years and more recently as an exhibitor. We are delighted to feature Jess' business Armchair Dogs in our newsletter today as we learn more about the brand and showcase the people running businesses attending the Show. You can visit Armchair Dogs on show day in Block K opposite the Countryside Ring.

"Armchair Dogs has been run by Kev since January 1994, I joined as a partner in 2005. We run pet dog training classes in West End, Southampton, and Kev does 1:1 behaviour consults as well. We sell a wide range of treats, some natural and enrichment products such as lickimats. For all our training we use positive reinforcement, so

rewarding the dog when it does what we want. We also encourage owners to let their dogs think for themselves which helps to tire them out mentally rather than physically. We use clickers when training our own dogs and in classes and find it's a really effective way to speed up the process of giving the dog accurate feedback.

Each year we do as many events as we can, but we both also work full time. I'm a headteacher in a SEN (Special Education Needs) school and Kev is a warehouse manager for a flavourings company. We have six events in our calendar this year so far and I've just enquired for another. We have been trading at The Romsey Show for around 9-10 years now, however I've been coming as a visitor ever since I was a child, so over 40 years. It was always a family outing, and we would meet my aunt, uncle and cousins in a layby on the road into Romsey as they came from Bournemouth, and we would travel in convoy. I remember collecting free goodie bags and stickers from exhibitors as child!

Our best selling items at shows are probably our meaty sausages. They are around 30cm long and only cost £1 each, but they smell amazing and on a warm day with a gentle breeze you can see the dogs' noses going up in the air and then they bring their owners to us! If we get the chance to go for a walk about, even we can smell them as we come back, so it must drive the dogs crazy. We also sell a lot of Yak Snacks and antlers at shows. It's lovely now that we've been trading for so long as there are people that come and see us every year. We get lots of customers past and present from classes who come and say hi too and we get to see their amazing dogs as well!

The Romsey Show has always been a part of my life and I was so excited the first year we were successful in our application, we've been there every year since (excluding covid) in the blazing sun of 2023 when it was over 30 degrees, and in the ankle deep mud of 2016 when they were using tractors to tow exhibitors onto the ground and at 8am I had an empty stall!

My favourite bit of the show has always been the heavy horses, I don't often get a chance to see them now as we are always busy on show day, but if I do have time, that's where I'll head."

**Written by Jessica Wrigley, Armchair Dogs**

## **Plans for the 2025 Show**

Planning is well underway for the 2025 show. We are thrilled to have already confirmed some show favourites, including the following areas:

Hampshire Fare will be back at the 2025 Show running the Skills Kitchen featuring a variety of local chefs and producer talks throughout the day. Watch the demonstrations and enjoy a taster too. We will be announcing the chefs and producers taking part in due course.

We are in the process of exploring some final options for our Main Ring and special events marquee, hopefully we will be able to update you further on this in our next newsletter.

We are pleased to announce that the coaching class and marathon will be returning to the Main President's Ring for the 2025 Show, featuring up to five teams of magnificent horses and coaches.

The Countryside Ring will feature the classic displays including South Wilts Falconry, Misselchalke Gun Dogs, the local Flyball team, Rare Breed Spaniels and the family dog Show. Join us and enter your dog on the day. There will be prizes!



## **Junior Ambassador Role for 2025**

Following the introduction of the Junior Ambassador role in 2024, we are seeking applications again this year. We encourage anyone aged between 18 to 30 years who can demonstrate an interest in The Romsey Show to apply, including previous applicants. The Ambassador will accompany the president on Show day morning and attend the President's reception. They will receive two members badges to bring a guest on the day and act as an ambassador for the society throughout the year encouraging visitors of similar ages to support and attend the Show. Applications to info @romseyshow.co.uk please.

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Thank you for taking the time to read our newsletter. If you have any questions or would like to contribute towards our newsletter, please email info@romseyshow.co.uk. Thank you.