

## **'MERLIN' THE MECHANICAL HORSE**

On the evening of Monday 15 April 2013 an intrepid group of Breakspear members went to Shardeloes Equestrian Centre to meet 'Merlin' (the riding simulator).

He is a very well mannered and willing liver chesnut who is happy to be ridden in a virtual field or arena.

Seven members rode him and a number of spectators took an active interest.

The Centre provided a knowledgeable and experienced instructor, Gemma who is a BHSI and also has interests in biomechanics. She was excellent at explaining how to ride Merlin and also in improving the riders' position.

Whilst Merlin can walk, trot and canter and has a medium trot and canter, he is able to do shoulder in leg yield and flying changes, he does not however, jump, although some riders seemed to lose their steering and attempt to jump out of the field resulting in refusals and the need for the instructor to intervene and persuade him to start work again!

This was a good fun evening and a number of people expressed an interest in having further sessions. Anyone who is interested should approach a committee member so another date can be arranged. We would also encourage those who did not apply this time to give this a go as it is fun and a brilliant way to meet other members.

