

# Cudham Riding Club

**Skulduggery, adultery, coercion and death set amongst the horsey set of Rural England. Saddle up for a murder!**

A plot with as many twists, turns and tangles as the best of Jilly Cooper, Joanna Trollope and Dick Francis. In this gripping detective game, everyone plays a character connected in some way to an awfully English riding club. Its Chairwoman has died after falling off her horse. The police suspect foul play but no one seems to have a reason for wanting her dead.

Besides unriddling who or what killed her, characters have other important club business to attend to: electing a new Chairwoman, buying and selling horses, trying to prevent anyone finding out what they are really getting up to. Bets are taken, too, on the Isle of Man Handicap. This is a race for horses owned by club members which takes place before the mystery ends.

Apart from making lots of money and not being shamed or arrested, everyone's main aim is to identify the murderer. Unless, of course, you did it - in which case you'll try to put the blame on someone (or something) else.

Homicide, horse-trading and horrid goings-on: this is a murder mystery in which it's not just the horses which get taken for a ride!

## **When is this whodunit set?**

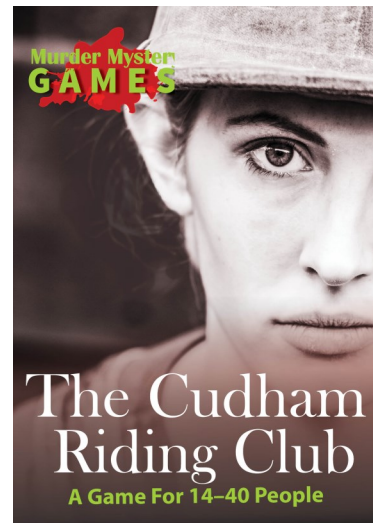
You can choose. Cudham Riding Club has a timeless feel about it which makes it fit pretty much any era you fancy. There are a couple of modern-day references in it, but these can easily be explained away on the night. It lends itself particularly well to being re-set any time in the early-to-mid Twentieth Century.

## **Age Rating/Content Rating**

The behaviour of some of the characters in "Cudham Riding Club" is appalling: they take drugs, they gamble, they cheat on their partners, they kill. As a result, we consider the plot to be suitable only for people aged 15 and over.

## **Hire an actor**

If you are in or visiting the UK and would like a professional actor to run your game for you, please look at Option 2 on this link: [www.mayhem.org.uk/plots/best-value/](http://www.mayhem.org.uk/plots/best-value/). If you'd like a professional events company to put together the whole party for you, please go to Option 3 on the same page.



# Welcome to Cudham Riding Club

Thank you for taking the time to download this document. Most of the information you need to put the plot together is contained in the main game, for which you will have to pay. Before you do that, please check that your software and hardware are compatible with ours by printing out this whole document.

## *What is in this section?*

- A summary of what our murder mystery is about.
- A list of all the character parts.
- An invitation. Please don't send this out until you have bought the rest of the plot, where you will find out which characters to include in your version of the plot.
- A copy of the Cudham Courier.
- Notes on how to buy your game.

## *What is included when you actually buy it?*

- Character information for each guest.
- A step-by-step guide on how to run it.
- A chart which shows how to allocate the characters: which to keep and drop.
- Paper money and all the other essential paper props: Horse Ownership forms, Wills, Voting Slips, etc.
- The solution!

## *How does Cudham Riding Club work?*

Designed for groups of 14 to 40 people, this murder mystery runs for up to 4 hours and works particularly well over dinner. One person acts as co-ordinator, responsible for making sure everything goes smoothly. They, like all the other guests, also have a character to play in the mystery.

The co-ordinator plays the Club's social secretary, Oakley Smith (Oakley's gender isn't specified). One guest is the murderer; everyone else is trying to identify them.

Characters are also given their own, personal objectives to pursue. There are horses to buy and sell, rumours to spread or suppress, and fortunes to make - especially if your horse wins the prestigious Isle of Man Handicap. Everyone has a good reason for speaking to everyone else in the plot, and people can involve themselves in it as much or as little as they want to.

The mystery concludes with the election of a new Chairwoman followed by the unmasking of the murderer. (Yes: sometimes it's the same person both times...)

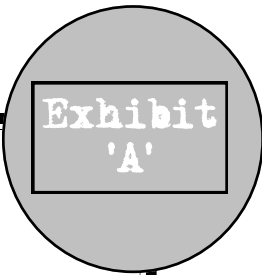
## *Who has booked our murder mysteries before?*

We have been running murder mysteries professionally in the UK since 1989. Hundreds of blue-chip businesses have booked us, and a list of satisfied corporate customers is on this link to the web site of our Murder Mystery and Mayhem sister company:

[www.mayhem.org.uk/about-us/](http://www.mayhem.org.uk/about-us/)

Please do not think, however, that you can just download the game and let it run itself. By getting it at a much lower price than it usually sells for, you will obviously have to put in some work yourselves to make it a real success. But rest assured that thousands of people all over the world have done so before - and been very happy with the result.

PLEASE BRING THIS INVITE WITH YOU  
IT CONTAINS USEFUL INFORMATION



## CUDHAM RIDING CLUB

Following the tragic death of Lady Amanda Cudham, our beloved Chairwoman, you are cordially invited to attend an Extraordinary General Meeting of the Cudham Riding Club. The meeting will take place at:

address: .....

.....

on [date]: .....

starting promptly at [time]: .....

Please confirm whether or not you will be attending by phoning or emailing:

[organiser]: .....

on [phone/email]: .....

A complete guest list accompanies this invitation. The character we would like you to play is:

.....

Please wear any clothing you consider appropriate for this character. If their gender isn't clear, you can decide for yourself which gender you want them to be.



## CUDHAM RIDING CLUB

### Club Committee Members

**Lee Green:** Honest and reliable, Lee is the club treasurer and a partner in a small firm of local accountants, Green & Goodheart.

**The Hon. Agatha Collingsdale:** Agatha is a frightful snob and has had her initials embroidered onto her saddle in gold. Her sister, Rachel, is much nicer than she is.

**Miss Delia Thompson:** Estate agent Delia was recently elected onto the committee, just three months after joining the club. Outspoken and pushy, she already expects to become the new chairwoman!

**Mrs. Belinda Shipley:** The wife of local P.C. Brian Shipley, Belinda is the club secretary and will be in charge of today's election.

**Butterworth Platt:** Butterworth looks after the club's bar and also runs a pub down the road called "The Colt".

**Oakley Smith:** Oakley is the flamboyant social secretary of the club. Although not keen on horses, Oakley is wonderful at organising social events.

### Non-members invited to the meeting

**Garfield Goldwater:** Also known as "G.G.", Garfield works for the horse traders, Shatterstalls, and arranges most of the buying and selling of livestock within the club.

**D.C.I. Dawdley:** The inspector is here to investigate the strange circumstances behind the death of Lady Amanda and no doubt intends to question most of the club members.

### Ordinary Club Members

**Robin Jones:** Robin was Lady Amanda's solicitor and is the executor of her will. Suave, eloquent and meticulous, Robin rarely loses an argument to anyone.

**Jonathan Cudham:** Jonathan is the only child of the late Lady Amanda. Highly excitable, he joined the club only yesterday to look after his mother's horses Kingsley, Spotty and Triumph.

**Gerald Madagan:** Gerald is the headmaster of Hawkhurst School for Girls and rules it with a rod of iron.

**Rachel Collingsdale:** Agatha's sister, Rachel is quiet and sweet-natured. Ill with kidney disease, she tires easily but enjoys sitting in the club bar, sipping mineral water.

**Jo Carpenter:** Jo is Rachel's dearest friend. She lives with her father and stepmother and enjoys being horrid to both of them.

**Georgina Broadbent:** Georgina has a wide and colourful collection of friends. No-one has quite worked out what she does for a living, but there is little she can't afford.



## CUDHAM RIDING CLUB

### Ordinary Members (contd.):

**Ninian Chambers:** Ninian works part time in the stables, cleaning up after the horses, and also works behind the bar.

**Dr. Head:** The local G.P., Dr. Head was out riding with Lady Amanda when she died. The good doctor believes that medicine is as much about guesswork as it is about science.

**P.C. Shipley:** Belinda's husband Brian is the local policeman. He considers "on-the-spot" fines an excellent idea.

**Hegarty Roebuck:** Hegarty owns a betting shop in Cudham and will be taking £100 bets on which horse will win today's Isle of Man Handicap.

**Pat Black:** Psychiatrist Pat only recently joined the club. Both of Pat's horses were imported from South America.

**Dibbling Bradshaw:** Dibbling is a trainee nurse and works in Dr. Head's surgery at the moment.

**Fingers Flannagan:** Tipster Fingers knows everything there is to know about horses. If you are thinking of buying or betting on a horse today, seek Fingers' advice.

**Doyle Marbles:** Doyle is a renowned crime novelist and likes to help the police investigate local crimes, even when no help is needed.

**Mrs. Charlotte Carpenter:** Charlotte is Jo Carpenter's stepmother and married Arthur a year ago. She insists on being a member of the club because Arthur's first wife Delilah was. She is not much older than her stepdaughter.

**Delilah Carpenter:** Delilah is Jo's mother. She divorced Arthur two years ago and openly detests his new wife.

**Arthur Carpenter:** Jo's father, Charlotte's husband and Delilah's ex-husband, Arthur would give anything for a bit of peace and quiet.

**Laura Broadbent:** Georgina's sister, Laura is the editor of the Cudham Courier. Her powerful personality ensures the club always gets lots of publicity. She also makes sure her paper has all the local gossip...

**Budgie Lyons:** Budgie lives for horses and is employed full time by the club as a stable hand. Budgie gets help on Tuesdays and Saturdays from Ninian Chambers.

**Mrs. Rose Grantham:** The local Conservative M.P., Rose has been criticised in the past for arguing that some drugs should be legalised on a controlled basis.

**Anthony Grantham:** Rose's son is a social worker and shares none of his mother's political views. His "significant other" (i.e. live-in lover) is Prudence Trotter.

**Prudence Trotter:** Prudence stood against Anthony's mother Rose in the last general election as a candidate for the Be Nicer To People party. She was heavily defeated.



## CUDHAM RIDING CLUB

### **Ordinary Members (contd.):**

**Glee Saunders:** Glee owns a small craft shop in the village called "Glee's Gewgaws" and has lately been seen driving a smart new car.

**Sam Sharpe:** Despite having an important job in the City, Sam still takes a great interest in local matters.

**Mrs. Audrey Pembleton-Smythe:** Mrs. Pembleton-Smythe is wealthy and highly respected in the community. Now divorced, she lives in luxury at Boreham Manor.

**Miss Sarah Pembleton-Smythe:** Sarah is a bit of a "wild child". Her mother has kicked her out of the house and she is now living with a dustman.

**Reggie Knock:** Dustman Reggie is the love of Sarah's life. He likes fighting, drinking and posh birds.

**Lady Sharon Chardonnay:** Lady Sharon is a new but very keen member of the club. Married to Lord Kevin, she lives in the largest and ugliest house in the area.

**Lord Kevin Chardonnay:** Lord Kevin is a millionaire who made his fortune in the petfood business. He likes to impress and wishes people would take him more seriously.

**Midge Trimble:** Next to the late Lady Amanda, Midge is Cudham's greatest do-gooder. There is no person or animal Midge won't offer help to - whether they want it or not.

**Caroline Fentham-Fletcher:** Caroline only joined the club two weeks ago, but clearly has a huge passion for horses. She doesn't seem to share the same enthusiasm for people.

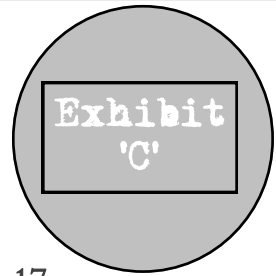
**Maureen Bissell:** Lady Amanda's Irish cleaner Maureen shared an interest in horses with her late employer. She claims the only thing that keeps her sane is her daily ride.

**Chris Watts:** A freelance investigative reporter with a very irritating style. Chris regards village hacks like Laura Broadbent as "a joke".



# THE CUDHAM COURIER

Vol. 83, Issue 17



## Tragic Death Was No Accident

Further sad news has just reached us about Lady Amanda Cudham. Latest indications are that her death was no accident. The esteemed chairwoman of Cudham Riding Club died a few days ago after coming off her horse. She landed on a fallen tree trunk after a saddle-girth broke and the horse reared.

### Dead

The fall broke her back and, although a doctor was present at the scene, nothing

could be done to save her. At the time, the death was believed to be accidental but the police now suspect foul play. Locals have reacted to this news with astonishment as Lady Cudham was a very popular local figure. When the



Lady Amanda Cudham, R.I.P.

tragedy happened, she was out riding with three other members of the Cudham Riding Club, including the Honourable Agatha Collingsdale. Her Ladyship founded the club ten years ago and has set aside a proportion of her estate for the sole benefit of the club.

### Elections

Following her death, members will elect a new chairwoman to replace her soon. Some candidates have already put forward their names forward.

## Obituary

Lady Cudham was a fine woman and one of the finest this country will ever produce. Always kind and generous, she had a love for animals which was second to none. Married at the age of 18 to Colonel George Cudham of the Irish Guards, she

was sadly widowed just one year later. Two days after her husband's death, her only child, Jonathan, was born. Despite her deep love for Jonathan, she gave a great deal of her large fortune to her riding club. She also carried out many good works

in Cudham village, for which local people will always fondly remember her. That our village and this newspaper are both named after her family indicates its impact on us all. It is here and not in "The Times" that she will be best remembered.

### OTHER NEWS IN BRIEF

#### *Drugs Warning*

Police are advising young people to be on their guard against evildoers peddling narcotic substances in the local area.

Several youngsters have already been approached and offered various drugs by ne'er-do-wells, all guaranteed to render those who take them debauched and insane. Avoid, avoid, avoid!

#### *Drink Shame*

A drunk woman spent a night in the cells recently after driving into the back of a car. The car, it turned out, belonged to P.C. Shipley! The driver has not yet been publicly named but is believed to be married to a respected local figure. Let us hope she has learned a valuable lesson and refrains from such folly in the future. Put the glass down, dearie!

### *Also in this week's issue*

***A village mourns:*** local people remember Lady Amanda, pages 2-8

***Pet portraits:*** an artform reborn, page 9

***Flower arranging:*** ten marvellous things to do with wire, pages 12-14

## HOW TO BUY YOUR GAME

THANK YOU for getting this far. Now please buy the game!

Available from anywhere in the world, the game is only available by download from the Internet. When buying a game from us, you must respect the copyright terms as set out on our [www.murdermysterygames.net](http://www.murdermysterygames.net) website and to abide by our [Terms and Conditions](#). In particular, you agree not to run your game commercially or for profit unless you have received our **specific, written consent** to do so.

### To buy online

The payment system is very secure. We don't receive or store any of your bank details ourselves. Instead, your payment will be processed via PayPal which encrypts and protects your personal details using SSL.

Please go to [www.murdermysterygames.net](http://www.murdermysterygames.net) and follow the instructions you find there. When we receive your payment, we will e-mail you a password which will enable you to download the main game. Yours for around US\$45. (We are based in the UK and prices may vary slightly according to the latest exchange rate changes.)

### Disclaimer

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