

Horsham & District Riding Club

National Riding Clubs Dressage to Music Championships 2007

LOCATION:

Addington

DATE:

7th October 2007

National Riding Clubs Dressage to Music Championships Sunday 7th October at Addington

This is the first time that Horsham has managed to qualify for these championships, we had entries in the Pairs, Novice and Elementary sections.

The pairs, Marilyn Turner on Copperfield Graffiti and Caroline Exley on Copperfield Reuben had an early start in this section at 9.15am. Carol Beaby-Williams, who owns Reuben and very kindly lets Caroline compete on him, came with us as to calm nerves and offer support. The arena was beautifully set out and the horses all coped really well with the atmosphere. Nerves did take their toll on the riders though, at the beginning of the test, which was definitely more fluent in the second half. Despite this, they came joint 3rd on points but were moved down to 4th as the musical interpretation of the other pair just beat us.

Next up for Horsham was Michelle Mallinder on Gracious Knight in the Novice section. As there were so many this had been split into horses with BD points and those without. This was still a big section and Michelle did well to come 14th after riding a lovely test.

Finally, it was a long wait until 5pm for the Elementary class to start. Marilyn Turner (Copperfield Graffiti) was the third to go and did a wonderful test to classical music which really complimented Graffi's paces. They achieved a really good score and it was just now a case of waiting till the last horse went at 7.40pm. They finished 2nd, just 2 points behind the leader, a great achievement at their first attempt!

The standard of the riding, musical interpretation, atmosphere and helpfulness of all the stewards and officials made this a memorable first outing to these championships. Already planning our tests for 2008!

Report by Caroline Exley